

Ed Team Newsletter



St. Ann's Model Schools

"Given the right conditions, all children can learn"

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From the Desk of The Parish Director of Education

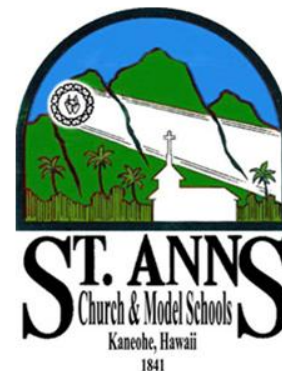
Aloha and welcome back to a new school year! The year is well under-way for all three educational entities of our parish. Before teachers got ready to meet their students for the first time this school year, all programs started off with a faculty and staff retreat, praying for God's blessings for all of our programs. The Religious Education and Youth Ministry programs gathered for their retreat on August 14, 2011 at Pa'ewalani. The School and Early Learning Center's faculty and staff retreat took place on August 15th at St. Anthony's Retreat Center.

All programs have been hard at work, acclimating students to their new environments. Mrs. Victoria DeSilva continues on as principal of the Elementary and Junior High school and Mrs. Mandy Thronas-Brown as the Early Learning Center principal. Mr. Bob Noguchi, who was hired in January began his first full year as the RE Principal.

Everyone is excited and energized for the new school year as there are so many things to look forward to. Our newly renovated Parish Center opened this summer and the faculty and staff of all three entities have already begun utilizing the facility.

The School and Early Learning Center are gearing up for an accreditation visit this school year in February. The faculty and staff have been busy this past year working on the self-study. We are currently editing our document and gathering evidence for our visiting team. The WASC accreditation process aids in developing and sustaining effective educational programs and assures the educational community, the general public, and other organizations that an accredited school has met high standards of quality and effectiveness. St. Ann's Model Schools has proudly received three six-year accreditation terms since 1994. We hope to achieve the same status with the new cycle that will take place in 2012.

We look forward to a great and wonderful school year!



*SSCC Core
Values for
October*

*Trust
&
Respect*



The faculty, staff and students of St. Ann's Model Schools gather and release rainbow pigeons as a symbol of the journey we embark on as we begin the new school year.

Meet the Bears

Here at the ELC we have two Kindergarten classes, the Blue Bears and the Green Bears. The Blue Bears are led by Ms. Audrey Tim and aided by Ms. Napua Bagano. The Green bears are led by Ms. Kauai Dalire and aided by Mrs. Lisa Bastatas. Floating between the two classes is Mrs. Margaret Aton who works with those children who might need just a little extra care. Ms. Tim has been with St. Ann's for many years and is one of the first teachers to help open the ELC 22 years ago. Mrs. Dalire comes with a multitude of experience in various age groups. Mrs. Bagano, Mrs. Bastatas, and Mrs. Aton have all been with us for several years. They are undoubtedly very important to our program and without them Kindergarten would not be the same. We are looking forward to working with the Bears and watching them bloom in God's beautiful garden, THE ELC.



Meet the Dinosaurs



Mrs. Yamada and Mrs. Chun are very excited to begin a brand new school year with our Dinosaur 'ohana. Aiding the teachers are Mrs. Goodhue and Mrs. Lar-rison. This will be a

monumental year of growth for both you and your child. We look forward to partnering with you in this new chapter of your child's life. Know that we are always here to answer any questions that you may have, so please feel free to come and see us.

Meet the Dolphins

Our 4 year old program has the most amazing and talented individuals. Mrs. Elena Navarro, Mrs. Cindy Achong, and Mrs. Kimberly Funn have been teaching for many years. Together we've been nurturing children for a total of 74 WHOPPING YEARS, 33 years of which were spent here at St. Ann's. By our sides are Mrs. Brooke Forbes, Ms. Jenna Aton, and Ms. Rosary-Joy Saavedra who support us in our daily adventures. Together, we form the most unique and "FUNN-loving" team any school could ask for.



Kupuna Day Celebration

St. Ann's Model Schools was a busy, fun, and energetic place to be on Wednesday, Sept. 14th. The day started off with giving praise to God at Mass. The students sang with joy as they sat next to Kupuna who graciously and lovingly assembled among the students. Proud expressions and loving smiles were shared.

After Mass, Kupuna were treated to morning refreshments while the students returned to their classes to get ready for the launching of the new school year. On the mound, colorful pigeons lay in wait for their release so they could fly home over the Ko'olau mountains. Students readied themselves for the countdown with bubbles and blowers in hand. In a moment's glance, rainbow wings hovered over-



head as bubbles floated lazily below. Excitement and laughter made the launch of St. Ann's new school year a chicken skin moment—the new school year was launched.

For lunch families enjoyed chicken long rice, lomi tomato, and pineapple tidbits. Capping off a long but enjoyable day, Kupuna sauntered off campus tired but thankful.

Counselor's Corner

School can occasionally be a challenging place for some students and they may display some behaviors that on the surface may seem like constant squirming and fidgeting when doing math homework or insisting on listening to music while studying for a history test. Take them to heart. Although it appears that your child may be trying to avoid their homework he or she is probably just using strategies that help them learn. Education is not a one size fits all process. some children learn by hearing the teacher, some learn by seeing and some learn by doing hands-on activities.

Servant Leadership Retreat



St. Ann's 8th grade class went to Pa'ewalani, the Sacred Hearts Sisters Kaneohe residence to take part in a servant leadership retreat. The students were guided by Mr. Robert Noguchi, St. Ann's Principal of Religious Education and Mr. Ochoa, the 8th graders' homeroom teacher.

Upon their return to campus, a commissioning ceremony was planned and took place in Church to recognize and give blessings to the 8th graders as the leaders of the school. Mrs. DeSilva placed a blessed cross around their necks and congratulated each one to acknowledge that they are the ones to whom we look upon to be the role models. We ask the Lord to guide and guard them.



Decisions! Decisions! Decisions!

By Bob Noguchi, Religious Ed Principal

Each day we are faced with a multitude of choices and decisions: Should I hit the snooze button for the third time? What do I wear today? Should I eat a Pop Tart or wheat toast? Coffee or orange juice? Do I have time for a little morning cardio? So many decisions, and that's only in the first ten minutes of the day!

Throughout our day we are bombarded by more and more choices and decisions to make, some trivial and some quite important, with serious consequences. The modern media does not make things any easier, presenting us with an ever widening variety of choices in the form of entertainment and advertising, often taking a serious toll on our time and pocket-book.

With so many options out there and decisions to make each day, how does a Christian navigate through such a troubled sea of choices? Well, if we take our lead from the One who calmed the turbulent sea, I think we would find that the waters of life, although stormy and rough at times, are very much passable. Jesus assures us time and time again throughout the Gospels, "Be not afraid!"

If we only place our trust and focus on him, we too may find ourselves walking peacefully across stormy seas. This year's theme song for RE/YM is "I Will Choose Christ". The focus is choosing Christ-like behaviors, values and principles that lead us to a deeper relationship with our Lord. Amidst all the choices we are confronted with every day, the most important decision we can make is to *choose Christ*. With that as our first and foremost decision, the rest of life's options take on a new and proper perspective. Allowing Jesus to be at the helm will always make for a more peaceful and joyous voyage.

Parents, I thank you for your *decision* to enroll your child in the St. Ann's RE/YM program this year. Together, let us continue to pray for the guidance and strength of the Holy Spirit to choose Christ in our lives, and to nurture that faith in the lives of our children. May you and your family have a blessed and joyous new school year!

*Jesus, I will choose you, I will choose love,
I choose to serve. I give my heart, I give my life,
I give my all to you!*



They decided to say YES! Pictured above are St. Ann's RE & YM Program's newest young adult Catechists and their adult Leaders. After attending a weekend-long training retreat, these teens have committed themselves to be Youth Leaders and Classroom Aides for our 2011-2012 Year. Here they are shown after being commissioned as Youth Leaders at the July 25th 11:30am Mass (Teens L-R: Ryan Chun, Micah Halemano, Tyler Zeilenga, Nicole Condon, Gierra Nascimento & Richard Hernandez. Adults L-R: Lyliia Ishihara, Robert Noguchi, Malu Kamanu, Carla Simao & Kuulei Halemano).

Relationships, Reverence, Respect...

By Malulani Kamanu, Youth Ministry Coordinator

On Saturday, August 20th, Windward Vicariate youth gathered at St. George to celebrate our community and also to learn about Theology of the Body, and how it pertains to their lives as teenagers. Meanwhile, that week, millions of youth were gathered in Spain celebrating World Youth Day. At our local event, Guest speaker, Marcos Brackins, inspired the youth with not only Church teachings, but also with his personal stories. Following the presentation, the teens had a chance to simply "hang out" and enjoy their time with one another, primarily at Sherwood beach. Mass with presider, Rev. Gary Secor, concluded our time together. Fr. Gary meshed the theme of relationships, respect, and reverence into his homily, making it very relevant to the youth. A big mahalo goes out to the Heldt Ohana for helping lifeguard that day and to the St. Ann's YM staff and students who were in attendance that day!