

Ed Team Newsletter



St. Ann's Model Schools

"Given the right conditions, all children can learn"

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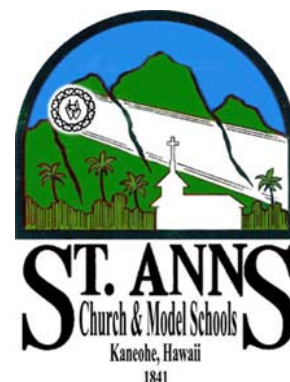
From the Desk of The Parish Director of Education

Aloha and welcome back to a new school year! The year is well underway 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 15, 2010 at Pa'e-walani. The School and Early Learning Center's faculty and staff retreat took place on August 16th.

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. We welcome Mrs. Mandy Thronas-Brown as the new Early Learning Center principal. The Religious Education principal, Mrs. Malulani Kamanu, moved to the part-time position of Youth Ministry coordinator. The position of RE principal will be filled as soon as we are able. However, the elementary program continues to run smoothly because of the competent and capable expertise of Ms. Renee Fung, our RE programs assistant and Sylvia Makainai, our RE Elementary Co-ordinator.

One of the major changes our programs have had to adapt to is the renovation of the Parish Center. During its reconstruction stage, classes have been moved to other areas on the school campus. Music and PE have learned to share one classroom in the school program. All, but one of the Religious Education and Youth Ministry classes, are now housed in the main school building. The Confirmation II group is housed in the Food Court. They will make adjustments when parish functions, such as Fellowship Sunday, is scheduled. Everyone has learned to be flexible and adaptable if and when the need arises. We are all looking forward to the completion of our new Parish Center, hopefully by the end of this year.

The Early Learning Center and School are gearing up for an accreditation visit in the 2011-2012 school year. The present school year is our accreditation work year. The annual school calendar has been adjusted to accommodate three full accreditation workdays so that faculty and staff and other stakeholders can have the opportunity to focus on the areas that need to be addressed as part of



SS.CC. Core
Values for
October

Trust
&
Respect

this self-study. 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!

Meet the Bears

There are two kindergarten classes at the Early Learning center, the Blue Bears and the Green Bears. The Blue Bears are led by Ms. Audrey Tim, aided by Ms. Napua Bagano. The Green Bears are led by Mrs. Kehau Bugado, aided by Mrs. Lisa Bastatas. Floating between the two classes is Mrs. Margaret Aton who works with those needing 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 21 years ago. Mrs. Bugado comes with a wealth of experience in various age groups. Together, with their aides, these talented women make up our successful kindergarten program. They look forward to working with the children and watching them bloom in God's beautiful garden — St. Ann's Early Learning Center!



Meet the Dinosaurs



Mrs. Michelle Yamada, Ms. Kau'i Dalire and Mrs. Jennifer Chun are very excited to begin a new school year with our dinosaur 'ohana. Aiding in the 3-Year-Old's classrooms are Mrs.

Liz Goodhue and Mrs. Robin Larrison. This will be a monumental year of growth for both parents and children. Our teachers look forward to partnering with them as they begin this new chapter in their life. Parents are always encouraged to speak to their child's teachers should they have any questions.

Meet the Dolphins

Our 4-Year-Old program has the most amazing and talented individuals to guide our little ones. Mrs. Elena Navarro, Mrs. Cindy Achong and Mrs. Kimberly Funn are all experienced teachers. Collectively, they have been nurturing children for a total of 71 years, 30 of which were spent at St. Ann's. Supporting them in their daily adventures are our aides for the Dolphins, Ms. Jennifer Haili, Ms. Jenna Aton and Ms. Rosary Saavedra. Together they form the most unique and "Funn-loving" team!



Meet our New Faculty!



Ms. Rosary Saavedra is a recent graduate of the University of Hawaii with a BA in History. She was an assistant student helper at Kaneohe Library and is excited to be joining our faculty. She will be working with Mrs. Funn.

Ms. Jennifer Haili is a 2008 Castle High graduate. She was the long term substitute last school year and also worked in our summer program. She will be working with Ms. Navarro this year.



Community & Acceptance

St. Ann's Model Schools' faculty and staff attended the Mass of the Holy Spirit on August 25th along with fellow Catholic School personnel to celebrate the beginning of the 2010-2011 school year. Bishop Larry Silva presided and in his homily, praised the good work that teachers do on a daily basis. With one voice in song and prayer, teachers, staff and administrators offered to God their intentions for the new school year. It was a day that was spent in community where hugs and well wishes, smiles and acknowledging nods upheld the meaningful visitation of faculty and friends who see each other perhaps once a year. We wish St. Ann's faculty and staff a successful and blessed school year.



Second Grade Shares their Summer

A week before school started, our second graders received a welcome letter from their teachers. In the letters, they were asked to bring in items that represented something they did over the summer. These items were used as a sort of cue card to jog summer memories.

It sparked excitement on the first day of school. It was a great way to get our students interested and talking to one another.



Welcome!!

This year we welcome to our school five new faces!



Ms. Jeessica Afable is the new aide in 1A. She is happy to be entering the field of education and feels blessed to be working here at St. Ann's.

Mrs. Kealani Riturbin is the new aide in 2B. On weekends, she is the Religious Ed Coordinator at St. George Parish in Waimanalo. She is the proud parent of five children.



Mrs. Gerri Kelly returns after 20+ years as the Junior High Language Arts teacher and 8A homeroom teacher. We are delighted to have her back after moving home from California. She brings a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to her classes.

Ms. Jill Luber comes to us as a music teacher with a life enriched with music and fine arts. She has over 15 years of teaching experience. She is excited with the possibility of what God has in store for her this year.



Mrs. Lisa Mahla is the science teacher for grades 5-8. She is excited to be introducing students to a wide array of science concepts. She has taught in the Catholic School system for 4 years.

RE & YM Kick Off the Year!

By Daphne Kauhane, Parish Director of Education



Welcome back faculty, staff, students and parents! All Religious Education and Youth Ministry classes are already in session. Teachers and leaders have been working with their students to build community and lay the expectations for the new year. The theme for this school year is **“Go, Make a Difference!”** It is our hope that the students in our programs will be able to take what they learn in class about living their lives as Jesus wants us to and to actually apply these lessons to their own life experiences. The goal of our programs this year is to guide and encourage our students to make a difference in their own families, in their interactions with their peers and within their community.

There are a lot of hands, hearts and love that make the RE/YM programs successful. We have many volunteers who share their gifts and talents with the youth of our parish on Sundays. Some come to be teachers and others offer their support to these teachers in the classrooms. There are also those individuals who help make sure that the teachers' needs are met by running off lessons, keeping track of attendance, greeting parents, handling inquiries, delivering supplies to the classrooms, preparing snacks for the pre-kindergarteners, assisting at parent sessions, providing music for liturgies and tutoring students needing special sacramental preparation. The administrative team of Sylvia Makainai, who oversees the Elementary program, Malulani Kamanu, the Youth Ministry Coordinator and Renee Fung, our RE/YM Programs Assistant are instrumental in making sure all programs are running smoothly and meet the religion curriculum and guidelines of St. Ann's Parish.

As Jesus commissioned His disciples to “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you,” (Matt 28:19) so do the catechists in our Sunday programs. Have a great year everyone!

Youth Leaders Make A Difference!

By Malulani Kamanu, Youth Ministry Coordinator

St. Ann's Youth Ministry has much to be proud of. Not only do we boast a thriving educational program, but we also provide service to our community and social opportunities to our youth. We provide a safe place for youth to gather - to worship, learn and fellowship with each other. Each year, we train a handful of teens and young adults to help us with this endeavor.

Pictured here are our newly trained Youth Leaders and Training Team engaging in an outdoor activity while at our August Leadership Training Weekend at St. Anthony's Retreat Center.

