

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

In 2002, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops developed the Charter for the protection of Children and Youth. Safe Environment programs have been implemented in parishes and schools throughout the country as a response to the Charter.

The main learning objective for the Safe Environment program is to ensure our children and youth that their school and parish is a safe place to learn. Other objectives of the program are to:

- Recognize that every person is created in the image and likeness of God and our bodies are sacred and holy.
- Recognize that each person's body, mind and spirit must be treated with dignity and respect.
- Know what is child abuse and neglect.
- Differentiate between good touch and bad touch.
- Recognize potentially dangerous situations and name ways to get away or avoid these situations.
- Identify trusted adults to go to for help.

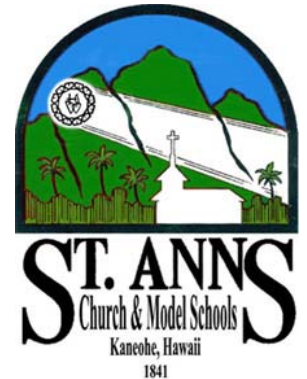
Here at St. Ann's, we have designated October as our Safe Environment month. All teachers, staff, catechists and administration undergo background screenings and Safe Environment certification sessions. Students in our Early Learning Center, Grade School and Junior High and Religious Ed and Youth Ministry programs

are given the Safe Environment curriculum. Each grade level uses resources that are appropriate and specific to the age and development of the learner.

Parent workshops are also offered for parents and guardians in all three entities. Guest speakers and experts have been brought in to touch upon topics such as recognizing abuse, supporting children during life's challenges and transitions, Internet safety and parenting solutions.

This year, we were fortunate to have officer Candace Montgomery speak to our parents about Juvenile Law and Bullying. Officer Montgomery has been with the Honolulu Police Department for 20 years. She has been a DARE officer for the past four years and teaches and does presentations at over 20 schools across the state.

Officer Montgomery is a mother to three boys, one of whom was bullied at school. Even as an officer of the law, she did not readily recognize the warning signs that her child was being bullied. In her presentation, she defined bullying and its impact on today's youth. She clearly defined how to identify the warning signs and what parents should do if they recognize them in their child. She also



SS.CC. Core
Values for
November

Compassion
&
Sharing

cause of today's technology through cell phones and computers. Officer Montgomery also spoke about Juvenile Law and the rights of parents and the rights of children.

By designating a month specific to Safe Environments, our children and youth can feel confident that St. Ann's Church and Model Schools is a safe place to learn and pray.

A Special Visitor

On Monday, October 4, 2010, the Early Learning Center celebrated the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi by bringing in their favorite stuffed animal. The children listened as Mrs. Navarro read a story of St. Francis that told of how he cared for all God's animals. The children were able to see an actual statue of St. Francis. After the story, Fr. Benny went to each classroom and blessed it along with all the stuffed animal friends. Every class ended the celebration in a prayer to St. Francis. Other special guests included Fr. Herman Gomes, Mrs. Barbara Honda and Mrs. Louise Barr.



Kinder loves the Pumpkin Patch

On Tuesday, October 12th, the Kindergarten class made its annual visit to Aloun Farms in Kunia. The pumpkin fields were ready; stocked with pumpkins of various shapes and sizes awaiting the children's discriminating eyes and preferences.

The weather was typical—hot, dry and dusty, but with a wonderful breeze. Each kindergartener gazed over the pumpkin patches, banana patches and onion fields as they passed by on the hayride. By midmorning, the children had made their choices and a myriad of photos were taken by our parent chaperones. After a respite of juice and cookies, the tired pumpkin pickers boarded the bus and headed home.

The visit to the Aloun Farms Pumpkin Patch in 2010 was a success! Thank you to all the chaperones who helped to make this excursion truly memorable!



Happy Pickin'!

The 3 and 4 -Year-Olds also visited the pumpkin patch at Aloun Farms. Prior to the excursion, they learned about the life cycle of a pumpkin, listened to stories, sang songs, and did fun activities involving pumpkins. Their visit was a culmination of everything they had learned in the classrooms. Each child returned to the ELC content that they had found the perfect pumpkin to take home and share with their families.



Junior High Retreat

Students in grades 6, 7, and 8 spent a day in recollection and prayer as well as getting to know their fellow schoolmates. On the green and lush property of St. Anthony's Retreat Center in Kalihi, students filed off the bus and walked the short distance to the chapel to say prayers from the "Liturgy of the Hours".

The day went by quickly with activities that centered on trust and cooperation. In one activity, students paired up and sat back to back on the floor. Working together, they had to help each other stand up. They added two more people, then another two until they formed a group of 8 or 10 people. As the group got increasingly larger, the students learned that they had to rely on the cooperative attitude of everyone in order to be successful.

The retreat also included a short story about St. Damien and his life of struggle. It reminded the students that hard work, love of one's neighbor, and prayer created the powerful combination that depicted Damien's life. The Junior High Students returned to school refreshed, renewed and ready for a great school year!



Kupuna Day: Celebration of our Legacy

Over 150 Kupuna graced our campus on September 15th as a response to the invitation to spend the day with their mo'opuna. It was a great day of celebration as the young and the not so young celebrated Mass together and spent a class period with each other.

The grandparents were beaming with pride for their grandchildren and the students enjoyed having such treasured guests among them. After the class activity, Kupuna escorted their youngsters to the Food Court to enjoy a simple soup and sandwich lunch, only to realize that the food was only the formality and the company was the reward.



Thriving 3rd Graders

Did you know that our tremendously thriving third grade students have been planning and preparing to do some traveling across our great American nation?

Well...not exactly in person!

Every year in the third grade, students extensively study the geography and history of the United States. They specifically learn all the capitals and abbreviations of all fifty states and conduct research to write a report on a chosen state.

In support of this yearlong study, each student created his/her very own "Traveling Honu" (Hawaiian sea turtle) that will be doing some traveling for them. With parental support, students mailed their honu to a relative or friend in another state. Accompanying their honu was a letter politely requesting that the recipient take photos of the community in which they live. They were then asked to mail or email the photos back to St. Ann's and then send the honu on to one of their relatives or friends in another state. This "Traveling Honu" project continues throughout the duration of the year and students are able to view pictures of places all around our beautiful country. Last year, this project was a HUGE success with pictures and descriptions of over 40 locations throughout the United States. We are hoping to be just as successful this year!



Month of the Rosary

By Sylvia Makainai, Religious Ed Coordinator

The rosary, a lei of prayers offered through Mary, the first Saint. Mary, the mother of God, has appeared to fellow Christians trying to enlist us all in prayer. Today I want to personally encourage all of us here at St. Ann, Kaneohe to pray. . .pray often, and yes - pray the Rosary. Pray the rosary within your family. On October 17th, our sixth grade class led the entire Religious Education and Youth Ministry programs in praying one decade of the Luminous Mysteries.

The Rosary is a beautiful prayer that can be prayed in silence or aloud. It can be prayed anywhere and at anytime. . . standing, kneeling, walking, or even riding the bus! In the 7th century, people prayed using ropes with knots and now, in the 21st century, people can pray the Rosary on their iPods or by watching Rosary meditations on YouTube or other websites. If you want to learn how to pray the Rosary, just ask one of our students, as they have all received lessons on the Rosary in class this month.

Dear God, as we pray the Rosary, may the events of your life teach us to hear the quiet, still voice of your Spirit and guide us in your



Cyber-Bullying Presentation

On October 3rd, St. Ann's had a wonderful opportunity to have an expert on Cyber-Bullying and Internet Safety visit our Youth Ministry Programs. As part of our Safe Environment lesson, Mr. Chris Duque gave a presentation to the entire YM, grades 7 through Confirmation II. He is a retired HPD police officer with over 30 years of public service. During those years with the police department, he earned the reputation of being Honolulu's premier "Cyber Cop."

The students listened attentively as Mr. Duque spoke about the dangers of what can happen in Cyberspace and the challenge we have to be safe and responsible. He addressed online behaviors and the affects it could have on the rest of your life. He cautioned about how easy it is to get personal information and the importance of keeping that information safe and off-line. We are grateful to him for his informative and interesting presentation.

**KEEP YOUR KIDS
SAFE Online**



Youth Leaders on the Move!

By Malulani Kamanu, Youth Ministry Coordinator

In an effort to grow the St. Ann's Youth Ministry Program, we are happy to announce that we will be offering more social, spiritual and service activities to our youth this year. On October 2nd, our youth participated in the American Cancer Society's Making Strides Walk. Thirty-three teens, family members and catechists participated in the 5-mile walk to promote cancer awareness and raise funds to fight cancer.

On October 24th, St. Ann's will be hosting a YM Fun Day here on campus. Keep your eyes open for information on our upcoming Ice Palace Day in November, and other great opportunities in the near future. Let's make this 2010-2011 YM year a fantastic one! Please continue to bring your youth on Sundays and to model your faith at home. We welcome ideas and the help needed to actualize those ideas!

