



**HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC ACADEMY AND EARLY LEARNING CENTER**  
*Making God's Goodness Known. Educating for Life.*

# FROM OUR OHANA TO YOURS

QUARTERLY HIGHLIGHTS SY 2019-2020

ISSUE 2

JANUARY 2020



## STEWARDS OF GOD-GIVEN TALENTS

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Aloha families and friends!

Our second quarter of the school year is often blended with an array of experiences for the students, staff members, and families. Students are comfortable with their class schedules and routines, new friendships are made, teachers and students bond with each other, programs and events are enjoyed by all, and most importantly, we all experience spiritual growth as a community.

December is a time in which we are in disbelief that half of the school year is gone! This is also a time to reflect on the memories of the year and remind ourselves to slow down to allow us the time and space to be present in each moment for the remainder of the school year.

It's been wonderful to be with the students while they are praying, learning, and playing. The free spirit of children reminds me as an adult that "God is good and to remember to enjoy each moment." Each day I am reminded how special Holy Family Catholic Academy and ELC truly are and how blessed I truly am!

May your holiday season be filled with joy and peace.

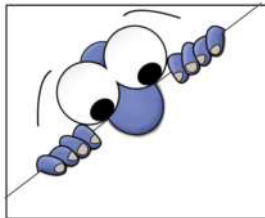
Best wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year!

With aloha,  
Celeste





# OUR MISSION IN ACTION



## PEEK IN OUR CLASSROOMS

The 2nd quarter has been exciting and busy with all different class activities, field trips and events at Holy Family Catholic Academy. Take a peek in each classroom and see some highlights from this past quarter.



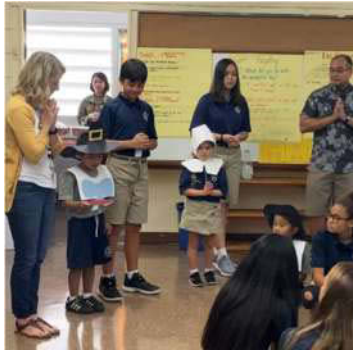
### Early Learning Center



From picking the largest pumpkin to preparing shoe boxes full of treats and spending a nice Thanksgiving picnic with their mommies and daddies, our ELC tots have been so busy having fun spending some quality time with their family, friends and giving back to the community.



### Kindergarten



The kindergarteners and their 8<sup>th</sup> grade buddies had a fun-filled 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter celebrating Thanksgiving lunch, sponsoring the school Mass, Aloun Farms field trip, Pajama Day and lots more.



### 1st Grade

The 1<sup>st</sup> graders are always camera ready whether it is just a normal fun day at school, or during a big school activity. They are ready with their poses and big smiles.





## 2nd Grade

The second graders expand their horizon by going out of their classrooms to get some inspiration for their creative writing. Early December, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Graders received their 1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation in preparation to receiving the sacraments of Confirmation and 1<sup>st</sup> Communion on Pentecost Sunday. They also had an amazing time with the 4<sup>th</sup> graders as they shared their Christmas Tree Book Review Form to inspire them to read their favorite Christmas books. Lastly, they enjoyed some cookies while watching The Polar Express as they prepared for Christmas by learning to lead, learn, rely on, count on and believe.



## 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> graders harvested their inaugural crop of radishes from our HFCA School Garden. They also enjoyed pulling weeds and even meeting a friendly and hairy critter when all the radishes were harvested. Mrs. Kaono washed and prepared the radishes, and shared them with the students.



## 4th Grade

4<sup>th</sup> Graders had a really busy 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter. They have gone to various field trips to watch Frozen at Mamiya Theater. They also had the opportunity to explore the Oahu Urban Garden in Pearl City. The fun continued in their classrooms as they were visited by Troy Osorno, the X-Ray Boy for an educational presentation. They also celebrated Advent with a retreat and ended it with community service as they volunteered to clean their very own Holy Family Catholic Church.



## 5th Grade

Our 5<sup>th</sup> graders visited the Bishop Museum in November and had the privilege to enjoy a guided tour at the "Spineless Wonders" Exhibit, Hawaiian and Pacific Hall and the Science Adventure Center.





## 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade



The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students held their Fall Dance in November. The committee did an awesome job planning and coordinating the event using their creative ideas to make their Fall Dance a memorable one.

Holy Family Catholic Academy lives our mission "Making God's Goodness Known, Educating for Life." through celebration of the Liturgy of the Eucharist and prayers. Here at Holy Family, the parish that prays together stays together.

# UNITED WE PRAY



Kindergarten sponsored Mass on October 30<sup>th</sup> celebrating the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi



3<sup>rd</sup> Grade sponsored Thanksgiving Mass on Nov. 27<sup>th</sup> and offered the donations collected from the "One Can Campaign".





1<sup>st</sup> Grade sponsored the Mass on December 9<sup>th</sup> celebrating the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception



Penance Service during Advent in preparation for the Christmas season

# ELC PRAYER SERVICE



ELC's Thanksgiving Prayer Service in November sponsored by the Lambs Class.



ELC's Christmas Prayer Service in December sponsored by the Angels Class.





# WILD WILD WEST FALL FEST



Thank you to all the families that came out to our Wild Wild West Fall Fest on November 8th. We hope you had as much fun as we did!

The turnout was incredible, the weather was perfect, and lots of money was raised at our Silent Auction to fund need-based scholarships for HFCA students.

We thank each and every person that helped out with our event--from set-up and breakdown to decorations, games and rides. We hope you had fun visiting with faculty, staff and friends, enjoying our delicious food offerings, bidding at our Silent Auction, cheering on our HFCA Performing Arts department on our main stage, and participating in our raffle drawings and Bingo games.

A sincere thank you goes out to every one of you that contributed to the success of our Fall Fest Silent Auction. To all the parents, faculty and staff that tirelessly solicited items for our auction to all those that so generously placed bids that evening--we thank you! We more than doubled the number of auction items/packages compared to last year, and we raised almost \$7,000 this year. A huge, heartfelt thanks goes out to HFCA parent, Mrs. Jocelyn Burch, for cheerfully chairing our Silent Auction--from soliciting and organizing donations, to writing the silent auction catalog, to setting up and running the auction--we are so grateful to you!

Fall Fest was a memorable evening for both children and adults alike. What a wonderful coming together of our families and friends to celebrate and support all the blessings we share at Holy Family Catholic Academy & Early Learning Center.





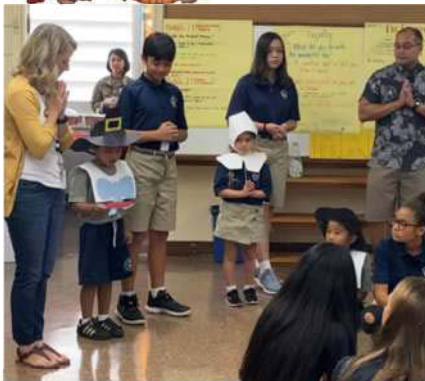
# FEATURED STORIES

## ONE CAN Campaign

The students of 3A and 3B sponsored a schoolwide canned food drive called the 'One Can Campaign'. Leading this initiative were Thomas Bento of 3A and Liam Uson of 3B. These ambassadors went to every 1st through 8th grade class to ask their fellow students to donate one canned good to HFCA's 'One Can Campaign'. A total of 512 pounds of food was collected from students across all grade levels in November. All of these canned goods were donated on behalf of HFCA to the Hawaii Foodbank, to give the gift of food and hope to families who are at-risk of hunger. Thank you to everyone who donated canned goods, and especially to our 3rd graders for leading this project and serving those in need in our community.



## Thanksgiving Feast

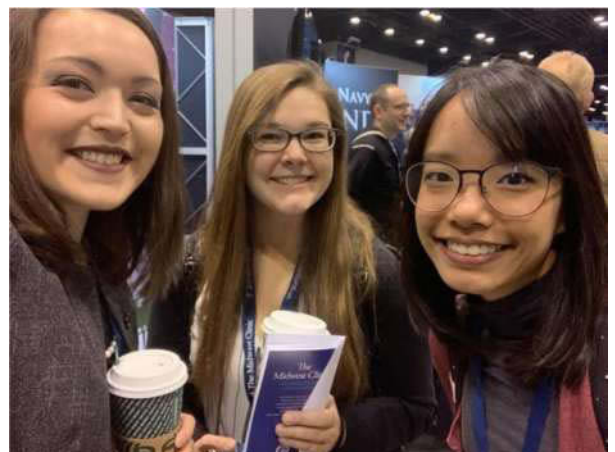


On Friday, November 22nd, a huge Thanksgiving Feast was prepared for our kindergarteners and their 8th grade buddies. The event began with a beautiful blessing from Father Rheo, thanking the Lord for all the food, our families, good health and happiness. Then our kindergarteners in their adorable pilgrim costumes settled in with their 8th grade buddies to enjoy all the delicious food.

A special thanks to HFCA parent, Mrs. Bernadette Coloma, for coordinating this potluck celebration.

## Ms. Maribelle Fernandez at The Midwest Clinic

Our music teacher, Ms. Maribelle Fernandez, is excited to have attended The Midwest Clinic's International Band and Orchestra Conference in Chicago, Illinois in December. With over 18,000 attendees, The Midwest Clinic is the largest instrumental music education conference in the world. Ms. Fernandez spent four full days at the Conference learning about music trends, research-based educational techniques, instrumental pedagogy, and student recruitment & retention strategies. She looks forward to bringing back a wealth of knowledge and methods to share with her music classes, as well as with her Concert Band and Jazz Band students. Title 2 federal funding were used to fund her attendance to this national conference.





# HFCA PERFORMING ARTS AT ALA MOANA CENTERSTAGE



On Sunday afternoon, December 1st, our HFCA Performing Arts Department held their Fall Concert at Ala Moana Centerstage. Our 5th-8th graders in Hawaiian Music, Glee Club, Concert Band and Jazz Band performed for a huge crowd of holiday shoppers. Our music teachers, Ms. Maribelle Fernandez and Ms. Lani Villanueva, did a wonderful job preparing our students for this big event. Our students looked great in their Performing Arts shirts and holiday accessories, they sounded amazing, and they got everyone at Ala Moana in the holiday spirit with their festive Christmas program!

# HFCA Robotics Team Wins Award at State Competition

Congratulations to everyone who participated in the 2019 Hawaii FIRST Lego League (FLL) State Expo on December 7th at the Neal Blaisdell Exhibition Hall. Our FLL Team 2477, Valiant Robotics, competed against 41 other teams from public/private schools & organizations all over the Hawaiian Islands. Out of 42 teams, Valiant Robotics was awarded 2nd Place for Best Robot Strategy & Innovation. Valiant Robotics team is comprised of five students from three schools: Ethan Hendricks (8th HFCA), Felton Montano (8th HFCA), Teiji Miyashiro (6th HFCA), Karin Fields (6th Iolani), and Sidney Cogswell (6th Hongwanji). The team is coached by Mr. & Mrs. Montano, with Bonnie-Lynn Montano as teen mentor.





# Kindergarten to 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Winter Performance



A beautiful night of song and celebration was held at our Winter Performance in our Church on Friday evening, December 13th. Our kindergarteners, 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th graders looked wonderful all dressed up for this very special evening! The program opened with a blessing by Father Rheo and a lovely performance by our HFCA Glee Club. Special performances included beautiful vocal solos by our music teacher, Ms. Lani Villanueva, and our pastor, Father Rheo Ofalsa. The church was decked out in holiday decor with festive wreaths, gorgeous garland and Christmas trees decorated with glass ornaments hand-painted by our HFCA art students. The evening's festivities ended with refreshments and fellowship following the performance.

Thank you to all the volunteers who made this magical night possible. We loved seeing the wonder and delight in our childrens' eyes as they performed their songs for their adoring families and friends!





# Lunch Time!

Our HFCA students showed their school spirit and class unity with fund lunchtime challenges and activities.



## CSL Div. 2 Girls' and Boys' Basketball Team



Our CSL Division 2 Girls' and Boys' Basketball Team has been working hard since the beginning of the CSL Division 2 Basketball season. Both teams have been successfully winning their games to secure a spot to play during the play-off games.



Good job to our CSAL Girls' Volleyball Team for their time, efforts and hard work. A Big Mahalo to Mr. Coloma for taking your time to coach and guide our amazing Ladycats during the entire CSAL Girls' Volleyball season. Lastly, to our supportive parents who tirelessly follow and cheer for our girls' volleyball team wherever they play.





# BEHIND THE SCENES

## Meet our NEW PTG Executive Committee Members



**Cyndie Myers**

I am a military spouse and mother to Dylan (4th grader) and Tyler (HFCA graduate, 9th grader at Damien Memorial). I am a stay at home mom.

Fun fact: I have visited 34 different countries and 43 of the 50 United States.

**Erin Trueblood**

I'm a proud military spouse and mother to Cameron (3rd grader), Emmy (Kindergartener), and Brayden (3 years old). I am a former high school biology teacher as well as a former preschool teacher. We recently moved here and we are loving every minute of it!

Fun fact: I have been to over 20 countries and lived in 3.



**Grace Montibon**

I am a military spouse and have a 4th grader (Noah) and a Kindergartener (Giuliana) at HFCA. I am a life insurance agent and my fun job is selling LipSense. I am going on my 3rd year as Committee Chairperson for HFCA's Cub Scouts Pack 186.

Fun fact: I'm in training for this year's Honolulu Marathon.

**Andrea Imazeki-Miqahara**

I am a mother to Ben (3<sup>rd</sup> grader) and a military spouse. Our family has been part of the HFCA 'ohana since 2016. This is my 3<sup>rd</sup> year as a PTG committee member. I volunteer at the NMCRS Pearl Harbor Thrift Shop, am a Den Leader for HFCA's Cub Scout Pack 186, and teach Sunday School.

Fun fact: I am an USTA National Tennis Champion.



**Jayna Spahn**

My 'ohana has been a part of the HFCA family since 2012 and my son Brady is currently a 5th grader and my other son Brennan is a 3rd grader. I work for the Federal Government as a Civil Engineer. This is my 4th year as a PTG committee member.

Fun fact: I own an Etsy shop





**Kendra Fujii**

Aloha, alongside my husband, Shelton, we have three children: Liam, Shelby, and Triston. Liam is currently a 3rd grader here at HFCA. Our ohana has been with the Holy Family community since 2014 and I have been on the PTG committee since 2016.

Fun fact: I went to culinary school for baking and pastry.

**Justine Soria**

Mother to Ava (5th grader who has attended HFCA since ELC). I work in the legal field and love serving the community. I am on my 2nd year as a Board member for AYSO 769.

Fun facts: I love to plan parties and am a proud soccer mom.



## Meet our NEW Staff



**Richard Krekel**  
Facilities Manager



**Benny Quintanilla**  
Maintenance Technician



**Michael Miles**  
Cafeteria Support

Please share your warm aloha should you get the chance to meet the new addition to our Holy Family Catholic Academy Ohana.



# CAUGHT ON CAMERA

Enjoy some happening caught on camera this past 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter. Lots of smiles, heart-warming moments, and behind the scenes here at Holy Family Catholic Academy.



Well over 400 participants walked at our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Susan G. Komen Walk for the Cure this morning including students in grades preschool through 8<sup>th</sup> grade, faculty, staff, and parent volunteers. A check in the amount of \$3,123.00 was presented to the Susan G. Komen Hawaii chapter represented by Kat Young and Greta Henson. HFCA's Wildcat mascot made an appearance for the check presentation at the wrap-up assembly.



Every year, the students at HFCA celebrate Halloween in their colorful costumes and visiting the rectory for "Trick or Treat".



Students of HFCA presented the leis made by our HFCA students and paid tribute to the men and women who have served and fought for our country, active duty servicemen and their families during the 8:30 AM Mass.



Faculty and staff gets ready to share Christmas cheers to our students during their weekly meeting. Congratulations and good job Coach Darwin and Ms. Lai Yin Ng for winning the Staff Gingerbread Competition judged by our After School Care students. What a great way to break away from the busyness of the holiday season and finals and just enjoy the company of each other.