



CROSSROADS

Holy Family Catholic Academy
November 2021

Aloha families and friends of HFCA!

November kicks off such a wonderful time of the year! And while fall may be subtle in Hawaii, I still look forward to the brisk morning air and the many opportunities we have to give thanks. We are especially thankful for all of our students, parents, and wonderful staff. And most recently, for the incredible support we received through Give Aloha, Foodland's annual community matching gifts program. HFCA was the top donation recipient out of hundreds of organizations! A total of \$51,377 was donated to our school, and the Give Aloha matching funds added \$12,212.57 for a grand total of \$63,589.57! Mahalo nui loa for your generous donations and we wish you a safe and happy November.

Celeste Akiu, Principal

November Service Project

In honor of Veterans Day, our middle school students made greeting cards for the Veterans currently residing at the VA Community Living Center located on the Tripler campus. Mahalo to Mrs. Fukuda for coordinating, and to all the students who worked so hard on these creative cards!



Veterans Day evolved from Armistice Day (celebrated from 1919 - 1954.) Armistice Day recognized the end of WWI when hostilities ceased on November 11th at 11 am, 1918. The holiday was expanded and renamed to include American veterans of all wars in 1954. We hold Veterans in prayer on this special day of peace, and honor their many sacrifices. Mahalo for your service!



Pride in Helping

Students in grades K-8 are rolling up their sleeves and helping to clean the Holy Family Church each week. The Parish manages the regular, professional cleaning of the Church, so the students are helping with special projects identified by Father Rheo.

HFCA homerooms are taking turns spending around 30 minutes a week in the Church, and the students have helped to dust, sweep leaves and clean the large glass doors. Even the House of the Lord gets kid prints! This idea was suggested by teachers during a staff meeting as a way to kokua (to help) and to instill pride in taking care of our facilities. So far the kids are as quiet as little church mice while they go about their task, and thrilled to be helping. Mahalo Wildcats!

Making God's Goodness Known. Educating for Life.

OCTOBER COVID-19 CASES AT HFCA

Total Reported: 0
School Spread: N/A

During the month of October, our school community had zero positive Covid-19 cases reported.

To date, our campus has not experienced any cluster spread of the virus.

CONTACTS FOR COVID-19 EXPOSURE:

If a HFCA student tests positive for Covid-19, or comes in close contact with an individual who tests positive for Covid-19, parents must notify the Principal AND Health Room Coordinator via phone and email immediately:

cakiu@hfcahawii.org, 808-423-9611, ext. 302
abonilla@hfcahawii.org, 808.423-9611, ext. 305

All general Covid-19-related questions should be directed to Principal Akiu.

NEW HIRES AT HFCA



Bethany Messer
Kindergarten Teacher Assistant, KA



Jing Rasay
Kindergarten Teacher Assistant, KB

No Surprise Here!

The number one reason new families join our wonderful school community is word of mouth. If you know a family that may be interested in attending HFCA, please let them know that we accept applications year-round.

Our K-8 classes still have some room, and as of November 1, there is one spot in our preschool for a school day (7 am to 3 pm) 3-year-old student. Mahalo for your help!

Class Spotlight - 5th Grade Science

Our 5th Graders have been studying chemical reactions in Ms. Ng's science class, and created some very fun Halloween-inspired experiments. And as a bonus, the preschoolers were invited to watch these experiments as a wonderful way to connect two classes of different ages. 5A students shared their DIY lava lamp and 'exploding Frankenstein' experiments, and 5B students came in strong with a 'dissolving witch' (I'm melting, melting!) and 'blowing up a 5-legged spider' experiment.



Staff Spotlight: Our Preschool Team!

We are so blessed to have bridged our preschool with HFCA this year, and would like to take this opportunity to introduce the staff! Our preschool was previously called the "Early Learning Center" or "ELC" for short, but now that they are officially part of Holy Family Catholic Academy, we have retired these two terms. Our preschool has three classes (Noah's Ark, Angels and Lambs) and the talented staff includes:



Mrs. Burch supports the HFCA preschool as an Assistant Principal focused on preschool - 2nd grade. She is especially passionate the preschool, having earned her first degree in Early Childhood Education, and has plans to continue to make improvements to curriculum and the overall experience. Recently Mrs. Burch worked with our cafeteria coordinator to expand the food options for the preschoolers; they now have more nutritious breakfast items for their morning snack. She coordinates all preschool tours and is available to answer questions for families who may be interested in learning more about our preschool!



Ms. Casey is the lead teacher in our Noah's Ark class and has worked at Holy Family for 21 years. She enjoys being able to see children grow each year and building relationships with the families as well. The pure joy on the children's faces when they learn something new or they are able to do things on their own makes this age the perfect fit for Ms. Casey. Now that the preschool is officially part of HFCA, Ms. Casey is excited to participate in more Academy activities and help students more smoothly transition from preschool to kindergarten. In her spare time, Ms. Casey loves going to the beach, watching Netflix, and the beach (haha).



Ms. Chelsea is the lead teacher in our Angels class and has worked at HFCA for 8 years. She loves how family-oriented and caring the environment is at Holy Family, and enjoys all the fun to be had working with the preschool age group because it helps to keep her young at heart. She also enjoys watching her students learn and grow along the way. Ms. Chelsea's hope for the school is to continue to thrive and grow in the community. In her spare time she enjoys time with my family, going to the beach, or relaxing at home watching movies.



Ms. Mary is the lead teacher in our lambs class and has worked at HFCA for 3 years; she spent her first year here as the assistant to Ms. Casey. She loves how amazing, creative and hard- working all our students are, from preschool through 8th grade. Ms. Mary loves the flexibility, and creativity in class work and activities she is able to teach her students through hands-on learning and playing. She hopes every single student and staff member is always having a safe, fun, and great learning experience. When she's not at work, Ms. Mary likes to workout, spend time with family and watch new movies and shows.



Ms. Kiara is a teacher assistant in our preschool and also teaches Hawiiana to the students. This is her third school year at Holy Family, and she loves how it feels like a small community. Preschool students are an ideal age for Ms. Kiara because it reminds her not to take life too seriously, and connects to her stress-free inner child. Her hope for HFCA is for our students to feel stronger as a school family with support at every level. In her spare time her heart is the fullest when she spends time with loved ones.



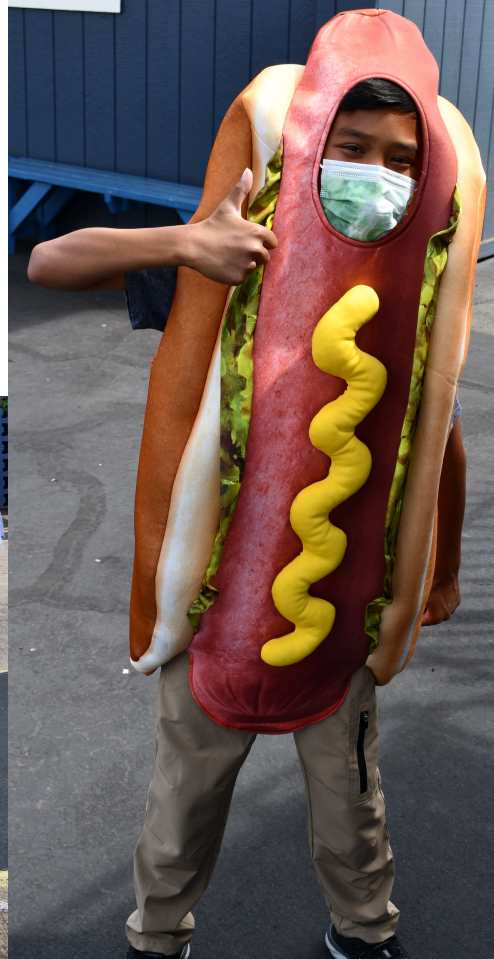
Ms. Kim is a teacher assistant who joined us this year! The students in the preschool are keeping her on her toes, but she thinks they are all pretty polite and sweet kids. She also appreciates how friendly the staff has been since her arrival. Ms. Kim enjoys the outdoors, playing basketball and crafting in her free time.



Ms. Genie is a teacher assistant for the preschool after care program. We are so blessed to have her!

Halloween Fun at Holy Family Catholic Academy!

Things got a little spooky and silly at HFCA as we celebrated Halloween! Students were invited to wear costumes or a Halloween-themed shirt to school on October 28, and parents sent sweet treats to share. With local farms still closed to groups, our preschool staff didn't let that stop them from their annual pumpkin patch celebration. After all, the fun hasn't been canceled! The campus was buzzing with joyful excitement as students walked to the morning assembly and admired each other's costumes while they gathered for the day.



Let Us Pray

Almighty God, we praise and thank you for your infinite goodness. Through Christ, you redeemed the human race and invited us to participate in your divine life. We thank you also for the example of the many saints whose lives were configured to Jesus Christ, and we pray that you inspire our hearts to follow their example of living a life of grace and virtue, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

- Father Rheo Ofalsa

Holy Family Catholic Church

Monday - Friday

Mass - 8am

Saturday

Confessions - 3:30 - 4:30 pm

Mass (Sunday Vigil) - 5 pm

Sunday

Masses at 8:30 and 11 am, 7 pm

Seating is limited to 250 persons with social distancing. Masks are required. We don't require reservations, and invite you to join us on a 'first come, first served' basis. We invite parents, grandparents, and friends of HFCA to join us for mass any time!

Q: What are you most thankful for this year and what is your favorite Thanksgiving dish?

"I am thankful we were able to celebrate Halloween, and my favorite to eat at Thanksgiving is cake!"

- Sawyer Wachendorf, Kindergarten

"I am thankful that we were able to dress up, sing, and show off our Halloween costumes this year, and my favorite Thanksgiving dish is turkey and desserts."

- Vanessa Gentry, 1st Grade

"I am thankful that we are all safe and my favorite thing to eat at Thanksgiving is cinnamon buns and turkey."

- Rhyse Cordero-Perucho, 4th Grade

"I am thankful for my friends and family, and my favorite thing to eat at Thanksgiving is chicken."

- Madison Eusebio, 7th Grade

"I am thankful for my friends and family, and coming back to school; my favorite Thanksgiving dish is turkey."

- Leana Abe, 7th Grade

"I am thankful that I am able to be in school this year and my favorite thing to eat for Thanksgiving is turkey. I mean, it is the best!" - Aaron Ozuna, 8th Grade

"I am thankful that my family is healthy and happy and my favorite Thanksgiving dish is homemade macaroni and cheese." - Mrs. Texeira, Hawaiian Studies

"I am thankful for our family service dog, Bennie, who works miracles for my son and my entire family! My favorite Thanksgiving food is the leftover sandwiches made with turkey, stuffing and cranberries on soft white bread with lots of mayo!" - Mrs. Motonaga, KA Teacher

"I am thankful I get to see my family in person more this year and my favorite Thanksgiving food is the stuffing!"

- Mrs. Vargas, 1B Teacher

"I am thankful that my family has remained safe during the pandemic and that we all have received our vaccine shots. I am also thankful for the support of my family, friends and peers at work, and my favorite food at Thanksgiving is the stuffing."

- Mrs. Gibo, Teacher Mentor

"I am most thankful for my loving family and my favorite Thanksgiving dish is homemade rice soup, called Jook, with turkey!" - Ms. Skylr, Title One Teacher

Holy Family Catholic Academy (HFCA) is a co-ed, parochial, private school for students in preschool through 8th grade, located near the Daniel K. Inouye International Airport. HFCA offers both on-campus and virtual learning programs, as well as before and after school care. Focused on rigorous academics in a faith-based environment that is inclusive and affordable, HFCA accepts applications for new students year-round. For more information please visit www.hfcahawaii.org or call (808) 423-9611.