



CROSSROADS

*Holy Family Catholic Academy
March 2024*

Making God's goodness known, educating for life.

Aloha families and friends of HFCA,

March is here, and we can't wait to celebrate Read Across America week and Week of the Young Child, in addition to many activities that are happening on campus as we prepare to finish our third quarter and enjoy our Lenten Break.

We are also simultaneously planning for the 24-25 school year to ensure we have a healthy enrollment and are eager to welcome new and returning students. Mahalo to the families who have met our re-enrollment deadline to help us plan for personnel needs and to the many referrals we have received for new students!

We wish you a peaceful and thoughtful season of Lent.

Take care, and God bless,

Celeste Akiu, Principal



A huge mahalo to everyone who donated to the Kid's Heart Challenge this year. With your help, we proudly raised \$21,565.20 to donate to the American Heart Association on behalf of HFCA. This is a new school record! In addition, we had more than 87 families learn hands-only CPR, and 211 HFCA students pledged to be active and kind!



AHA Representative Brittany Raz pictured with Kassidy (KA), the HFCA student who raised the most donations!

Making God's Goodness Known. Educating for Life.



UPCOMING
PTG
EVENTS

GENERAL MEETINGS FOR THE YEAR
THURSDAYS AT 7:00 PM ON ZOOM
03/21/2024
04/11/2024

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO LEARN
MORE ABOUT THE PTG, PLEASE
EMAIL PTG@HFCAHAWAII.ORG

Did you know that we have a referral program? We offer a one-time \$350 tuition credit for each family you refer who completes the school year. The credit is applied to the final tuition payment in FACTS. Please call Luana DeSoto with any questions on our referral program, and be sure to have your friends include your name on their applications!

HFCA Strategic Plan

HFCA established a Strategic Plan in 2020 with four primary “pathways” to organize our priorities: Family, Maintenance and Modernization, Learning and Nurturing Environment, and Enriching Experiences. Over the past three years, we have added numerous programs and special projects in these four areas and will highlight our progress in our monthly newsletters.



March Spotlight: Mahalo to the parents who joined us for our PTG Parent Social in February. We had a wonderful time getting to know you all a little more and enjoying a charcuterie board together. We hope to make this an annual event and thank our PTG for organizing an evening that perfectly supports our family pathway.



2024 Aloha Festival

Friday, April 19, 2024

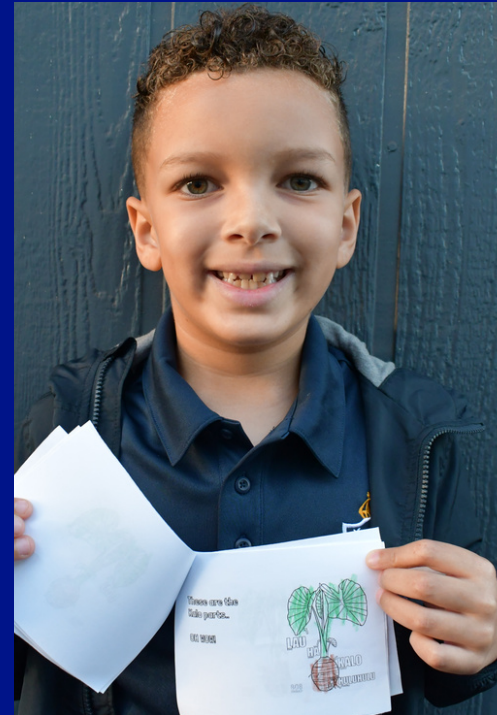
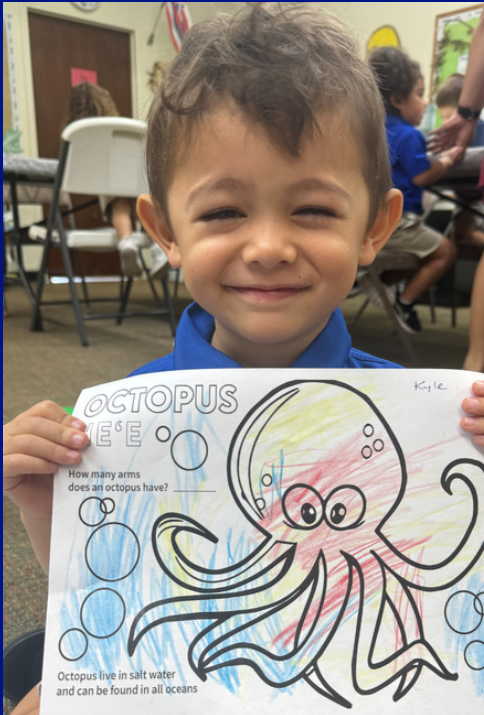
Food Trucks & Vendors: 4:30 – 8:30 pm
Keiki Carnival Games: 4:30 – 6:30 pm
Student Performances: 7 – 8 pm
Family Bingo: 8 – 8:45 pm
Student Art Gallery: TBA

Celebrating our Holy Family 'ohana!

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WILL BE
ADDED TO PARENTSQUARE SOON!

Spotlight: Hawaiian Studies

Our students have been having a blast in Hawaiian Studies this quarter! The preschoolers learned about animal names and songs; first graders studied native plants; third graders focused on local foods and healthy eating, and middle school students studied traditional games and practices including weaving and kapa.



Introducing our HFCA School Board

Our school board serves as an advisory board to Father Rheo Ofalsa.



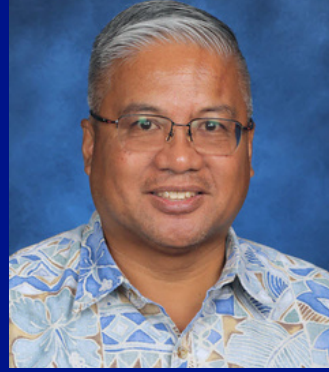
Father Rheo Ofalsa
Pastor & Head of School

Father Rheo joined our school and parish community in 2019 and has been serving as a priest since 2011. Before seminary school, Father Rheo attended the US Air Force Academy and served six years in the Air Force as a Civil Engineer. A fun fact about Father Rheo: he grew up in Mililani and was baptized in our Holy Family Church in 1977.



Celeste Akiu
Principal

Celeste joined HFCA in 2018 after serving as a teacher & administrator in Vacaville and Napa, California, for over 20 years. She grew up in Oahu, attended Sacred Hearts Academy and the University of Hawaii, and is currently earning a doctorate. A fun fact about Ms. Akiu: she is a second-generation HFCA principal, following in her mother's footsteps.



Jeff Fontanilla
Business & Facilities Manager

Jeff joined HFCA after Holy Family was temporarily clustered with St. Philomena in 2004, when staff spent the year supporting both schools/parishes. He held a similar role at St. Philomena from 1991-2005 and has served Hawaii Catholic schools for 33 years. A fun fact about Mr. Fontanilla: his most unique role on campus is DJ Jazzy Jeff.



Jocelyn Burch
Assistant Principal

Jocelyn joined us in 2020, working in various roles, including her current position as Assistant Principal. She grew up in Kaua'i and earned her degree in Early Childhood Education from Chaminade University, following a long line of educators in her family. A fun fact about Mrs. Burch: she started her career at HFCA as a Kindergarten teacher.



Kau'i Kane
Parent

Kau'i is an instructor at Hawaiian Airlines, specializing in in-flight and pilot emergency procedures, where she has 20 years of service. In addition to serving on the School Board, Kau'i also volunteers her time as PTG President. Kau'i has two children who attend HFCA, including Ka'ena (3rd grade) and Kawena (PK).



David Caneda
Parent

David retired from the US Air Force after serving 21 years, where he worked in Cyber Operations and Planning. In addition to serving on the School Board, David is a PTG Member-at-Large and runs the HFCA Used Uniform program. He has two children who attend HFCA, including Kailani (7th grade) and Malie (5th grade).



Jill Tamminga
Parent

Jill works for a defense contracting company conducting research in the machine learning and artificial intelligence space and previously served in the Navy as a Flight Officer. In addition to serving on the School Board, Jill also volunteers her time as PTG Secretary. Jill has three children at HFCA, including Max (8th grade), Tess (6th grade), and Jojo (1st grade).



Jerome Andrade
Parishioner

Jerome is a long-time Holy Family parishioner who has served on our School Board for more than 20 years. He attended St. Anthony School, Maui, and has extensive business experience working as a General Manager in the hospitality industry and as a Funeral Director, in addition to numerous leadership roles for local organizations.

Hawaii Catholic Schools 24 Game Tournament

We participated in the Hawaii Catholic Schools 24 Game Tournament again this year, and our students had so much fun! 24 Game is a fast-paced math facts game where students use four random numbers on a given card and have to add, subtract, divide, and multiply these numbers to add up to 24. The catch? Each number can only be used once.

Students in grades 3-8 competed among their classmates, and HFCA held a March Madness-style tournament to determine our top four participants. Congratulations to Michael B., who was the overall bracket winner and runner-up, Andrew W! Both students, as well as Payton A. and Duke N., will represent HFCA at the Hawaii Catholic Schools 24 Game Tournament in March. Coincidentally, all four finalists are students in 4A! Mahalo to Mr. Metzger and Mr. McMaster for organizing.



Let Us Pray

Eternal Father, in your perfect mercy you sent us your beloved Son to be our savior, who defeated sin and death through the power of his cross and resurrection. Look upon us with compassion, who have been redeemed by his blood, and wash away all of our guilt. Our sins are many and great and we have cause to fear, but we trust in your mercy which is immeasurable. Remember your Covenant and forgive us our sins. We ask this 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 am, 11 am, and 7 pm

We invite parents, grandparents, and friends of HFCA to join us for mass any time!

