



# CROSSROADS

*Holy Family Catholic Academy*

*January 2025*

*Making God's goodness known, educating for life.*

Aloha families and friends of HFCA,

The holiday season invites us to reflect on our blessings, reminisce about the past, and ponder the future. My hope for each of you and your families is that you had a memorable Christmas and a wondrous welcome to 2025.

It's hard to believe it's January, and half of our school year is over! I knew time was flying by when one of our elementary students commented that he couldn't believe half the year was over. "Too fast!" was his comment—truth, from the mouths of babes.

We look forward to a great second half of the year and an eventful January that includes Catholic Schools Week and our annual American Heart Association Kids Heart Challenge.

Mahalo for your continued support of HFCA!

God bless,

Celeste Akiu  
Principal

## American Heart Association - Kids Heart Challenge

Holy Family Catholic Academy has supported the American Heart Association Kids Heart Challenge for over 20 years, and we are excited to support this great cause again this year! The Kids Heart Challenge helps our students learn about heart health and raise funds to protect all hearts—especially other keiki! Through fun activities, we'll discover ways to care for our hearts and brains while practicing kindness and gratitude and learning to de-stress. Plus, we have the chance to earn PE equipment for our school! Our Kids Heart Challenge event will be held on January 29, as part of our Catholic Schools Week celebration, but don't miss out on the fun incentives along the way, which include:



- Register by January 8 to earn Crazy Sock Day on January 10!
- Register and donate by January 15 to earn a Crazy Hat & Free Dress Day on January 17!
- Complete Finn's Mission by January 22 to earn a Crazy Hair & Free Dress Day on January 24!
- Raise \$50 by January 27 and wear your Kids Heart Challenge shirt to our event day!
- Raise \$250 by January 27 wear your Kids Heart Challenge shirt AND socks to our event day!
- Raise \$300 to Slime a surprise teacher!

*Mahalo for your generous support!*

# Oregon's Dillon Gabriel is an HFCA Wildcat!

If you are a college football fan, you know what a great season the University of Oregon Ducks had. Did you know quarterback Dillon Gabriel is an HFCA Wildcat? He recently shared a story about his time at HFCA and participating in our annual Kids Heart Challenge as a source of inspiration on a video produced by the Big Ten Network. HFCA is mentioned at the 3:30 mark, and the entire video is about a ten-minute watch, [available here](#). For the eagle-eyed viewer, you may recognize a student jumping rope who now teaches at HFCA!



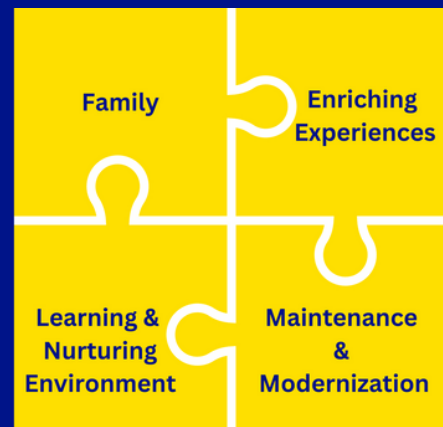
*Pictured as an HFCA 6th-grader*



*University of Oregon Ducks, Heisman Trophy Finalist*

## 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. We will update our strategic plan after our goals are solidified as part of our accreditation process in February 2025.



### Recent Initiative: Awakening Wisdom Workshop for Grades 4 - 8

Students in grades 4-8 recently participated in a workshop with a facilitator from Awakening Wisdom, a transformative school culture solution that emphasizes joy and humanity through teaching and learning. This workshop began with the assumption that trusting relationships are the foundation for any effective organization, school, or classroom. With more trust, students are unafraid to make mistakes, raise their hands, and participate fully. Each homeroom created its own Trust Agreements at the beginning of the year, and an October survey found about 50% of students thought they were working well, while 50% said they could improve. Therefore, the focus of the Awakening Wisdom workshop posed the following questions: How can we create a more trusting classroom, and what actions can students take to support an environment where everyone feels emotionally safe?

Students participated in this two-day workshop via Zoom, which included group discussions, relevant videos, breakout sessions, and individual activities.



## Next Coffee Chat with Admin



Friday, January 10, at 8 am.



Please join us for our morning assembly and sign in at the Main Office after we sing our school song.



We will meet in the Laulima Room, located by the flag pole.

## Early Release on February 21, 2025

Due to our accreditation process, we have amended the student dismissal time on Friday, February 21, 2025, as follows:

- **Preschool:** 12:00 - 12:30 pm
- **Grades K - 3:** 12:15 pm
- **Grades 4 - 8:** 12:30 pm
- *No after-school care will be offered.*

*Mahalo for your support as we complete this important process for HFCA. We appreciate your understanding and kokua (help)!*

**SAVE THE DATE:**  
**JANUARY 10, 2025!**  
**5:50 – 8:30 PM**

## STARGAZING AT HFCA!

Our HFCA PTG is happy to host Astronomer and NASA Ambassador Nick Bradley of Stargazers of Hawaii [@stargazersofhawaii](https://stargazersofhawaii.org) for an evening of food, family fun, and stargazing!

Views through the telescope can include the moon, planets, and other various deep sky objects up to 600x magnification. Come and learn the science and history of astronomical objects.

**Please bring your beach chairs, blankets, and a picnic dinner for your 'ohana. Drinks and desserts will be available for purchase.**

Questions? Please email [ptg@hfcahawaii.org](mailto:ptg@hfcahawaii.org)

## Uniform Supplier Update

We are happy to announce our new uniform supplier: Pueo Print Co!

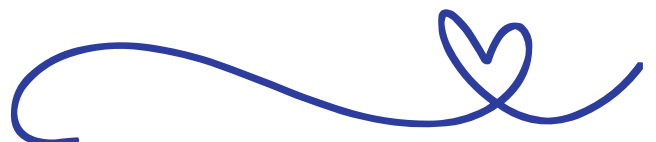
To shop online, please visit [www.pueoprintco.com](http://www.pueoprintco.com) and enter School Code HFCA96818.

A welcome letter from Pueo was sent home with all students on December 13th, posted on ParentSquare, and added to the ParentSquare Resource Hub - please see one of those sources for additional information.

If you have any questions or concerns about uniforms, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Akiu directly, at: [cakiu@hfcahawaii.org](mailto:cakiu@hfcahawaii.org).

## Mahalo Salvador 'ohana & NAVFAC

We'd like to offer a huge mahalo to the Salvador 'ohana and Brian Osterman of NAVFAC (Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command) for filling in the potholes in our HFCA car line. They utilized excess materials from paving projects on base to make a huge difference for all our families. Mahalo for helping care for our campus community; we appreciate your thoughtfulness!





# *Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception*

*Mahalo to students from 5B for providing readers, gift bearers, and a reflection after Mass, to celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. It is heartwarming to see 3rd - 8th homerooms take their turns serving alongside our keiki choir, altar servers, and liturgical team, highlighting one of our most important Student Learning Expectations: being active Christians.*

## **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

HFCA students attend Mass each Wednesday.  
We invite parents, grandparents, and friends  
of HFCA to join us for Mass any time!

