

THE SCHOOL NEWS

1 EWA BEACH

Our Lady of Perpetual Help School

We continue to give thanks for the many blessings we receive from God and from those who support us in so many ways. On Nov. 15, **students, faculty and staff** gathered in fellowship to celebrate our **Annual Thanksgiving Baskets** sponsored by the student government. A Thanksgiving canned goods service project called **"Operation Love, Peace, and Hope"** (OLPH) encourages students, families, faculty and staff to help others and realize that we should take care of each other. The school-wide project involved all grade levels; students donated specific canned goods assigned to each grade. The student government officers recorded how much each class donated. Overall, we had an over-whelming response of 1,276 cans collected. By doing this food drive, or something like this every day and not only on Thanksgiving, we make other people happy. We give thanks for all that we have and all that we can share. Mahalo nui loa for sharing your treasures. Happy Thanksgiving! (Reported by Emma C. Lacar; photo by Kahae Maikai Iakopo)



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rolling their children and our parish ohana to find out more about our school. ... The school's **Christmas program** is Dec. 15 at 10 a.m. inside the church. Students dressed in aloha wear will perform Christmas music from around the world. The Nativity scene will also be told by students representing the Holy Family. All are invited. For more information on these events, please call the school office at 261-4651. The students pictured are, from left, **Jordan Bonney, Maeva Picken, Tyler Beissel and Greyson Wakabayashi.** (Reported by Earl Walker)

9 AIEA

St. Elizabeth School

On Nov. 16, our school celebrated its **feast day** with a **cultural celebration**. Each class from **preschool to seventh grade** was assigned a country. They practiced and performed on stage a song and dance from that country. Following the performances, a yummy potluck lunch with food from the various countries were enjoyed by the students, parents and staff. Pictured are our **preschool class** all decked out in attire from India, performing an Indian song and dance using sticks. Everyone did a great job! Thank you to all our parents for their generosity and help during this event. (Reported by Sharon Nagasawa)



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2 HONOLULU

Sacred Hearts Academy Lower School

Our lower school robotics **FLL (First Lego League)** team, **The Iconic Alert Squad**, competed Nov. 11 at the Kalani District Robotics FLL Tournament. The team won an award for **Core Values Teamwork** and was selected to advance to the Dec. 2 Hawaii Tournament. Our team competed against 12 teams scoring well on the overall project, robot design and performance. The sixth graders are coached by **Jennifer Arthur and Kana Takahashi**. Girls from left are, **Madison Iwashita, Victoria Fang-Yee, Abigail Aguirre, Cadence Kasprick and Reese Machida.** (Reported by Hayley Matson-Mathes)



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10 HONOLULU

St. Theresa School

Our **first graders** began learning about **stewardship**. Stewardship starts with prayer. Praying is spending time with God and experiencing different spiritual activities. One spiritual activity is the labyrinth, a winding pathway leading to a center. Unlike a maze that aims to confuse, a labyrinth has only one path that leads to the center and only one way out. The goal is to follow the path to the center and out again and in the process hear the voice of Jesus in one's heart and find peace. While waiting for their turn to proceed on their prayer walk, the first graders reflected on ways to be closer to Jesus. When they were signaled to enter the labyrinth, they slowly walked to the center and silently asked Jesus for forgiveness for all the times they made wrong choices. Pausing at the center they chose a special pebble and imagined walking into the warm, strong, loving arms of Jesus and hearing him say, "Let the little children come to me!" Walking out of the labyrinth, they could feel stillness and peace. Feeling more relaxed and focused, they thanked Jesus for meeting them there. Upon exiting, they returned to their places to record their reflections in their journals. In closing, everyone recited a prayer of thanksgiving and sang, "Jesus, I Adore You." (Reported by Marvin Macadangdang)



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EDITOR'S CHOICE

3 KAILUA

St. Anthony School

We sadly say aloha to **Mrs. Winnie Benzon**, pictured, who has been helping to shape the minds and hearts of our youngest students for over 18 years. Her presence will truly be missed as she moves on to a full-time career with the City and County. ... Our **student council** has been collecting donations of canned goods for the **parish outreach programs Thanksgiving distribution**. Donations were blessed at the morning assembly and distributed before Thanksgiving. ... Our **annual book fair** was a huge success with many students purchasing books as gifts for Christmas. ... Our **PTSG Holiday Fest** on Dec. 15 will have trolley rides to see the lights, snow (need we say more) and a craft fair. Call our office for further information. ... **Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year** to all of our Catholic schools across the state. (Reported by Patricia Barros)



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4 KAPAA

St. Catherine School

At the suggestion of **Mrs. Cathleen Triplett**, middle school science teacher and religion teacher, our school decided to honor veterans. Veterans in our school and parish community as well as any veterans known to our students, faculty and staff were invited to a celebration on Nov. 9. Students made cards thanking them. Some classes gave presentations and **Mr. Sean Texiera**, our music teacher, led the entire student body in singing "God Bless America" and "America the Beautiful." Middle school students provided refreshments. Two veterans got up to speak, expressing how meaningful the celebration was. Another veteran wrote a letter to our local newspaper, recognizing our school and all who took part in this celebration, offering mahalos to everyone. It was a beautiful event and we thank Mrs. Triplett for organizing it and are even more grateful to the veterans. We hope this becomes an annual event! ... On Nov. 12 at **St. Catherine Church** and Nov. 19 at **St. William Church**, our mission church in Hanalei, students participated in the liturgy in support of our **Adopt-A-Donor** appeal. After Mass, parents got up to express their appreciation of this program and how important it is for the future of our school. **Father Anthony Rapozo**, our beloved pastor and St. Catherine School alumnus, presided at both Masses, giving homilies using props, as he does at our

school Masses. At Hanalei, students were overheard saying "I can't wait for the homily to see what is in those colored boxes." Father Anthony has a unique way of getting our students to tune in and learn from his homilies. Thank you to all the students who volunteered for the liturgical ministries. And thank you to all who support our school as donors; it is truly appreciated! ... On Dec. 19, **Mrs. Wendy Shimabukuro** will take her **Helping Hands elective students** to the church to decorate one of the church Christmas trees. Our students liturgy planning elective will join them. This is another first at our school. The students are excited and happy to take part in decorating their church for Christmas Day. ... Sending everyone peace and joy as we enter our holy **Advent Season**. What is not a first but has become a tradition since Father Anthony has been pastor is students participating in a children's Mass on Christmas Eve. (Reported by Patricia Doherty and Elizabeth Sancho)

5 KALIHI KAI

St. Anthony School

Congratulations to these two young ladies for winning the school-wide **Spelling Bee** on Nov. 13! They will represent the school at the District Spelling Bee in January. **Sig-**

rid Benigno is an eighth grade student and the student council president and **Tyra Marie Reyes** is in seventh grade and the student council vice president. This is the sixth year that St. Anthony School has participated in the Spelling Bee. And the school is proud to have garnered third place and fourth place in the district level. (Reported by Tess A. Reyes)

6 HONOLULU

Sacred Hearts Academy High School

Our **VEX robotics team** won the North Shore VEX Tournament Championship Award, the Pan Pacific VEX Championship Think Award and qualified for the Hawaii State Robotics Championship. The Sacred Hearts Academy team is ranked 12 in world robot skills. The team's coach is **Peter Park**. Pictured, from left, are **Jalen Tam, Jenna Tanna, Lauren Matsukawa, Christina Dang, Kiara Flores, Katelyn Amoroso and Lesna O'Donnell.** (Reported by Hayley Matson-Mathes)

7 PEARL CITY

Our Lady of Good Counsel School

The school held a **Celebration of Veterans** on Nov. 9! We had the pleasure

of honoring **18 active and inactive veterans**. It was the perfect opportunity for students to share thanks with men and women who have committed to service. The special morning began with Mass which was followed by a program of letters, poetry and readings of essays. The event concluded with a fellowship breakfast. Our school salutes all veterans! (Reported by Chantelle Luarca)

8 KAILUA

St. John Vianney School

Our **music department** will present a concert of favorite Christmas music from the classical period to the 21st century at 6:30 p.m., Dec. 5, in the church at 940 Keolu Drive in Kailua. The concert, under the direction of **Mrs. Julia Golding**, the school's music director, is entitled "Deck the Halls" and will showcase the school's **two bands, orchestras and choirs**. Be prepared to be inspired by our talented musicians as they perform your favorite and familiar music of the Christmas season. ... This year's annual **open house** for prospective students is 8:30-10:30 a.m. Dec. 9. We will also open our doors on Dec. 10 after all the Masses to give our parishioners and families a chance to witness all the fantastic things our school has to offer! It's a wonderful opportunity for new families interested in en-

11 MAKAWAO

St. Joseph Early Learning Center

Deacon Pat Constantino celebrated with the students their annual **Thanksgiving prayer service**. Each year the students re-enact the first Thanksgiving in their classroom costumes, donate canned goods for the parish food bank and participate in a liturgical dance entitled "We are Thankful!" The **staff and family members** got to snap a group picture after the service in front of the church altar before taking home their **Pilgrims and Wampanoags** for the festivities of the Thanksgiving weekend. ... Thank you also to all that made our **Christmas craft fair** a success. May God bless you all this Holiday Season. (Reported by Helen Souza)

12 HONOLULU

Saint Louis School

Our school participated once again in the annual **Windward Mall pumpkin carving festival** Oct. 21. Competing against other high schools, students had two hours to carve their pumpkins with the theme "Malama Honua," care for our island earth. Students had to demonstrate ways to support sustainability, a practice done by our Hawaiian ancestors. Emerging from the St. Louis pumpkins were a house with a solar panel to operate the lights, a canoe, a wheel barrel and a car. As awards were presented, the Crusaders walked away with the coveted first prize trophy! The team consisted of fine arts teacher **Michael Amerino, Reece Pohaku, Jimmy Kim, Brennan Cabral, Zhiyu Ren, Collier Marquez and Alex Kelihihokai**. Congratulations on a job well done! (Reported by Colleen Nakama-Amerino)