



CROSSROADS

*Holy Family Catholic Academy
October 2021*

Aloha families and friends of HFCA!

We are happy to announce that we will once again have a school newsletter! This is an opportunity to highlight the great work our students and staff are doing, and compliments the communication on our website, social media accounts and ParentSquare. Please feel free to pass this newsletter on to family members and friends who may be interested in learning more about the wonderful community we have at Holy Family.

I would also like to take a moment to express my sincere gratitude for the wonderful start to our new school year. Despite the challenges of a pandemic, our students show up eager to learn each day, make new friends and grow in their faith. And we have new staff members who already feel like they've been here for years, offering even more opportunities to our students.

Thank you for being part of our 'ohana and I wish you all a safe and happy October.

Mahalo nui loa,
Celeste Akiu, Principal



OCTOBER SERVICE PROJECT



Hawaiian Humane Society
People for animals. Animals for people.

We will be collecting towels for the Hawaiian Humane Society -- an item they are always in need of. If you have any beach towels or bath towels that you are ready to part with, please send them to school with your child anytime during the month of October. The homeroom that collects the most towels will celebrate with an ice cream party at the end of the month!

October Events and Reminders:

- **October 8: Spirit Day**
- **October 11 - 15: Fall Break!**
- **October 20: PTG Zoom Meeting at 6 pm**
- **October 25: Makeup Picture Day**
- **October 29 & November 1: Parent-Teacher Conferences (no school for students)**

Making God's Goodness Known. Educating for Life.

SEPTEMBER COVID-19 CASES AT HFCA

Total Reported: 3
School Spread: None

During the month of September, our school community had 3 positive Covid-19 cases reported, which were all traced to community spread. Any close contacts to these cases were contacted by the Department of Health, so they could take appropriate action. 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:

*cakui@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



Kimberly Wong
Preschool Teacher Assistant



Noriel Pitpit
Maintenance Technician



Julia Hudson
Director of Development



During the month of September, HFCA families were invited to 'Give Aloha' by making a donation to Foodland's Annual Community Matching Gifts Program. Families who participated in this program were able to fulfill their HFCA annual family fundraising obligation.

The funds raised will be used to purchase new padding for the base of our four basketball hoops, ensuring our sport court remains safe for all our students. Mahalo to the families who participated, and to Foodland for the matching funds!

HFCA Awarded American Heart Association Grant

Holy Family Catholic Academy was selected by the American Heart Association as a recipient of the Kids Heart Challenge grant in the amount of \$3,500. These funds helped to purchase a double stack oven for the cafeteria at Holy Family, replacing a previous version that was in disrepair and needed costly, ongoing repairs. The new oven was delivered and installed on September 1.

Although numerous schools applied, HFCA was the only school in the State of Hawaii to be awarded a Kids Heart Challenge grant this year. Grants awarded nationwide ranged from \$250 to \$3,500; Holy Family was blessed to receive the maximum amount of \$3,500.

The American Heart Association is working with over 32,000 schools nationwide, to finally and forever change the course of heart disease, stroke and congenital heart defects.



Guided by Christ's teachings, HFCA inspires lifelong learners to be empowered as they serve their communities.

Class Spotlight - Hawaiian Studies Blog

Mrs. Texiera's 7th/8th Grade Hawaiian Studies class is working on an exciting project! A group of students has created their very own blog to explore local recipes, places of interest, information on native plants and animals, Hawaiian words and fun local facts and happenings.

The blog is named Ka Leo o ke Kula, which translates to 'the voice of the school'. They plan to update the blog at the beginning of each month. Blog editors include: Leana Abe, Maya Hong, Alexis Husain, Ryann Lee, Bradan Schecht, Shaley Wilcox, Aliyah Zawadi and Vanessa Zawieruszynski, with the guidance of Mrs. Texeira.

Let's show this class some aloha by reading more about all their hard work on the [blog!](#)



Staff Spotlight: Father Rheo Ofalsa



Father Rheo Ofalsa is our Head of School and Pastor at Holy Family Church, and we are so blessed to have him. Fr. Rheo grew up in Mililani, and was baptized in our Holy Family Church in 1977! He has fond memories of attending mass with his family, and was thrilled to join both our parish and school community in 2019.

When asked what makes HFCA unique, Father Rheo is quick to say he always wants our school community to feel like a family experience. He loves to watch siblings progress through HFCA, as we continue to be welcoming and inclusive to all our families. A visionary at heart, Father Rheo looks forward to making ongoing improvements at the school, and connecting with alumni and community members who know just how special this place is.

Father Rheo is a graduate of Mililani High School and the United States Air Force Academy, where he received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering. He served six years in the Air Force as a Civil Engineer Officer, while also earning a Master's Degree in Business Administration through Bellevue University in Nebraska. After separating from the Air Force at the rank of Captain, Father Rheo was accepted as a seminarian for the Archdiocese of Omaha, and studied Pre-Theology at Mount Saint Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland. He went on to study in Rome, Italy and was ordained a priest in 2011 at the Cathedral of Saint Cecilia in Omaha, Nebraska. Father Rheo returned to Hawaii in 2015 and was incardinated into the Diocese of Honolulu in 2018.

Let Us Pray

Almighty God, we thank you for the gift of the Blessed Virgin Mary, through whom you sent us your beloved Son, our redeemer. In this month dedicated to the Most Holy Rosary, we humbly ask that you increase our devotion to you through the prayerful meditation of the mysteries of Christ contained therein. 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 and 11 am, 7 pm

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

Q: What are you looking forward to the most during Fall Break?

"I am ready to take a break from school."

- William, 8th Grade

"I will be relaxing at the beach and hope to do at least one hike this Fall Break!"

- Ms. Skylr, Kindergarten Teacher Assistant

"I am looking forward to practicing sports."

- Azriel, 8th Grade

"I will be visiting my family in California, and am excited to spend time with my grandsons."

- Mrs. Gibo, Teacher Mentor

"I'm looking forward to sleeping over at my cousin's house and going to the beach."

- Shaley, 8th Grade

"I am looking forward to spending time with my family and friends and going to the beach!"

- Mr. MacMaster, Assistant Principal

"Spending time with a friend for her birthday, and time with my family."

- Kaitlyn, 8th Grade

"I am looking forward to finishing our home renovations that began last June. It has been quite a learning curve for me!"

- Ms. Motonaga, Kindergarten Teacher

"Looking forward to going to the beach and vacation. And hanging with my family and friends."

-Ilyana, 8th Grade

"I look forward to working with my new iPhone 13 that arrives the first day of Fall Break."

-Mr. Foster, Music & Band Teacher

Please follow HFCA on Instagram and like us on Facebook! When you engage with our updates, you help spread the word about how special our school is. Mahalo for your help!



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