



CROSSROADS

Holy Family Catholic Academy

April 2022

Aloha families and friends of HFCA,

As we start the final quarter of this school year, I'd like to share the transition period we are in as a school community. We are thrilled to be able to use our running water again; it means a return to normal hand washing, cafeteria operations, and resuming activities like messy art projects, which our students love. We have also updated our Safety Plan to allow masks to be optional outdoors for K-8 students; we will continue to require masks to be worn indoors on our entire campus until further notice. We are also experiencing transitions in the classrooms with the gradual setup of classroom libraries and desk arrangements to promote collaborative learning.

Our number one priority is creating a safe learning environment for the students and workplace for our staff members. We are so thankful for the trust you have in HFCA, and the grace and understanding you have shown our staff as we've navigated some very tough issues! We appreciate your continued support as we finish off the last quarter of the year.

Take care, and God bless,

Celeste Akiu, Principal

K-7 Summer Program

We will be offering summer school for our current students in grades K-7. Each grade level will be learning language arts, math and an enrichment class entitled "Our Island Home" focused on fun, hands-on activities to learn about the cultural diversity of Hawai'i. Classes are offered from 8 am - 12 noon, Monday through Friday from June 1 - July 1, 2022.

The cost is \$450 per child. More information is available on ParentSquare and at this [link](#).



Preschool Summer Program



We will be offering a preschool summer program, open to current and new students, from 7 am - 5 pm, Monday through Friday, from June 1 - July 1, 2022.

The cost is \$875 per child. Please contact Mrs. Burch at (808) 423-9611, ext. 309 or jburch@hfcahawaii.org for more information, and to register.

****Please note HFCA summer programs will be closed on Friday, June 10, for King Kamehameha Day.**

Making God's Goodness Known. Educating for Life.

MARCH COVID-19 CASES AT HFCA

During the month of March, our school community had **0** positive Covid-19 cases reported.

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, 808-780-8786 and abonilla@hfcahawii.org, 808.423-9611, ext. 305.

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

New Student Applications for 2022-2023 School Year

Applications for new families and additional students are available on our website now. Every year, the overwhelming majority of new families who join HFCA are referred by a current family, so make sure they list your name when applying! The New Student Family Referral Incentive Program awards a referring family with a one-time \$350 tuition credit for each new, referred family who enrolls and completes the school year. The credit is applied in FACTS to the final tuition payment. Please note, to apply for Kindergarten, the child must be 5 years old by December 31, 2022.



Our preschoolers will be celebrating the 'Week of the Young Child' with daily activities from April 4 - 8, geared towards our youngest learners. Mahalo to Mrs. Burch for creating such a fun opportunity for our preschool students!

Music Monday: students will create musical instruments and have a class dance party, with the option to dress up in 70's, 80's or 90's attire.

Tasty Tuesday: students will be treated to a cooking demonstration by a special guest, complete with a surprise and thematic accessory to wear.

Working Together Wednesday: students will create Easter baskets for a local care home, and have the option to dress up as a community helper for the day.

Artsy Thursday: students are invited to wear the most colorful outfit in their closet to enjoy in-class art activities and a family art walk on the preschool deck.

Family Friday: preschoolers will have a picnic lunch with our 7th and 8th grade students to celebrate the special family-oriented bond we have at HFCA.

SAVE THE DATE!

MAY 9 - 13

HFCA LIBRARY

More information will be shared via ParentSquare!

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIRS



Staff Spotlight: K-2 Teachers

We are blessed to have such a wonderful group of teachers in our kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade teachers, who all have a shared love of elementary education!



Sandra Motonaga - Mrs. Motonaga, or "Mrs. M" is one of our Kindergarten Teachers at HFCA, who joined us in November, 2020. She brings more than 25 years experience teaching for the DOE and private schools and truly believes, if you love what you do, then you never have to work a day in your life! Mrs. Motonaga earned a BA degree in Sociology (with a core focus on Child & Family Welfare Studies) and a minor, fifth year degree in Early Childhood & Elementary Education from the University of Washington in Seattle. She has two young adult sons, and she and her husband enjoy volunteering as coaches for Hawaii Special Olympics and Hawaii Fi-Do, an organization which trains dogs to become certified service/therapy dogs. The Motonaga's are proud owners of a Labradoodle, Bennie, who brings immense joy to their 'ohana, as well as those he meets in our community.



Kristen Green - Mrs. Green has taught at HFCA for three years, and is currently one of our Kindergarten Teachers, having also previously taught 1st grade here. She holds a Liberal Studies degree with an Education focus from the Azusa Pacific University in California. Mrs. Green's first teaching experience was at Annunciation Catholic School in North Carolina, where she fell in love with Catholic education, and knew it was the right fit for her. She loves watching her students arrive at HFCA fresh and eager to learn, and transform throughout the year as they become more independent and prepared for 1st grade. Mrs. Green is also a Navy spouse, and loves how family-oriented HFCA is, and also how supportive we are of our military community. In her spare time she loves hitting the beach, hiking, playing outside, and Disney adventures with her husband and three boys.



Regina Flores - Mrs. Flores has taught as a First Grade Teacher at HFCA for seven years, having also taught 2nd grade during her first year here in 2014. She is a 30-year teaching veteran with experience ranging from seven years at St. Joseph Parish School in Waipahu, a brief experience within the DOE system, and 14 years at Cathedral Catholic Academy prior to their closing. Mrs. Flores holds a Bachelors of Science degree in Elementary Education from Chaminade University of Honolulu, and her love of teaching is grounded in her own experiences in Catholic education. When she describes her passion as a teacher, her enthusiasm is contagious; she remembers vivid details of her own experience as a child, and loves the awe and wonder 1st-graders have each and every day in her classroom. Mrs. Flores makes learning fun and wants her students to feel the sheer joy of being at school. HFCA is a good fit for her because of the family feeling and the staff commitment to taking care of each and every student as a team. When she's not at HFCA, she loves to be home with her family and three fur-babies, spending time with her 2-year-old grandson, and attending church at St. Jude's in Makakilo.



Melyssa Vargas - Mrs. Vargas is a First Grade Teacher at HFCA, in her second year teaching at HFCA. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Healthcare Administration from the University of Hawai'i - West O'ahu and a Master's in Elementary Education from Concordia University. She loves playing a part in the growth and progress of how her students learn each year. Mrs. Vargas has a good sense of humor and is constantly cracking up at all the funny things students from her 1B class tell her. HFCA is a good fit for her because of the religious focus and how welcoming her colleagues have been, welcoming her warmly as a new teacher; she love how staff members help each other out as a true team effort. In her free time, Mrs. Vargas loves to spend time exploring new restaurants, going to the beach and enjoying time with her family.

Staff Spotlight: K-2 Teachers Continued



Juanita Miguel - Mrs. Miguel joined the HFCA family two years ago as a Second Grade Teacher shepherding 2A. She previously worked at St. John the Baptist School, which closed its doors in July 2020; and fortunately, HFCA's door opened for her. She has been an educator for 32 years and specialization is in Montessori education and Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. Mrs. Miguel has taught various grades ranging from preschool to sixth grade in the Philippines, Florida and Hawaii. She loves sharing both the joys and difficulties that the children experience, and the constant practice of patience when their progress is slow, then cheering in gladness when they successfully achieve their goals. Mrs. Miguel especially enjoys teaching at HFCA because of the strong connectedness and support among the parents, administration, staff, and students. She likes to spend her free time gardening, singing, playing Candy Crush, and watching Star Wars with her family.



Hailee Paulos - Ms. Hailee is a Second Grade Teacher at HFCA, leading 2B as her very first year teaching. She is an HFCA graduate, and happy to return to the school she loved so much as a student. In fact, her family has a long history of attending HFCA as she shares "My family is and will always be a Wildcat-raised family." She holds a degree in Elementary Education from Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, AZ and has been volunteering her time in both preschool and elementary schools for six years prior to joining HFCA. Ms. Hailee loves the surprise each and every day brings with second graders; no two days are ever the same and the students make her laugh a lot. If you ask her students what she is most likely to do when she's not working, their response is eerily accurate: grab a coffee from Starbucks and shop at Target. She also enjoys napping (editors note: teachers deserve endless naps!), watching Netflix and adventuring with friends.

Class Spotlight - 7th Grade

Two of our middle school teachers recently collaborated on a cross-curricular, project-based learning opportunity that is so neat! Our 7th & 8th-grade math and science classes collaborated to research, design, and create a model of a sustainable home. They were given a 50x50 square foot plot of land (they could pick any area on the island to build) and a budget of \$250,000. For the math portion, they needed to have a breakdown of all of their costs, including the rates of all materials used, the total amount spent on each type of material, and the total cost for the entire structure. They also needed to create a scale drawing and model. For the science portion, they researched sustainable appliances, furniture, utility systems, and building materials, in addition to exploring options like gardening and raising chickens. Selecting materials that were both sustainable and affordable was a challenge! And it just so happened that our preschoolers were studying buildings as well, so it offered the perfect opportunity for our middle-schoolers to present their projects to our youngest learners, who voted for their favorite house with a smiley face sticker. Mahalo to Ms. Abordo and Mr. Torio for coordinating this wonderful project!



Let Us Pray

Almighty and ever-living God, as we approach the annual celebration of the dawn of our redemption, the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, fill our hearts these last days of Lent with the fervent desire for true repentance, urgent conversion, and radical discipleship. May we be so disposed towards the Resurrection that we welcome the Easter season with utmost joy and ardent gratitude. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

- 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! Masks are optional.

2022 Lenten Season

HFCA families received a Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl on Ash Wednesday; this simple cardboard box is a tool for collecting Lenten alms—and comes with a calendar that guides families through the 40 days of Lent with activities, reflections and stories. Lenten alms donated through the Rice Bowl supports the work of Catholic Relief Services in more than 100 countries each year, and 25% percent of our donations stay in the Diocese of Honolulu, supporting hunger and poverty alleviation efforts.

Please return any Rice Bowl donations in the form of cash or check made out to 'Catholic Relief Services' to HFCA by April 8th.

