

# THE SCHOOL NEWS

## 1 HONOLULU

### Mary, Star of the Sea School

Our **back-to-school planning team** has worked extremely hard to design a plan that models socially responsible decision making in accordance with **HIPAA, CDC, HDOH, AAP** and the **Hawaii Catholic Schools office**. As a community, we have prioritized the safety and health of everyone. Our decision to offer a hybrid platform took into account both the physical and the social and emotional needs of our students. Eighty five percent of our student population is currently in-person and the remaining 15% have selected the virtual option. Our plan is designed to create a normal learning environment and to minimize stress and anxiety for students, teachers, staff and parents. We are blessed to be entering our seventh week of in-person school. We are tremendously proud of our **students** who have impressed us with their ability to adapt to the school's new health and safety protocols. We could not have gotten this far without our **supportive pastor and the Catholic schools superintendent**, our school community PPE donors, committed parent volunteers and, most importantly, dedicated and hard-working **faculty and staff**. Pictured are our **kindergarten students** starting their day off with their yoga stretches. A strong foundation matters at Mary, Star of the Sea! (Reported by Margaret Rufo)



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EDITOR'S CHOICE

## 2 HONOLULU

### Holy Family Catholic Academy

We held our first-ever **Scholastic Book Fair Drawing Contest** the week of Sept. 14. Students in three age categories were invited to draw and color a picture of anything related to the Book Fair — like their favorite book or character in a book. The rules were just to be creative. The students were very excited and over 70 entries were received from both in-person and virtual students. Winner in the fourth grade category (top photo) was **Averick Agbunag** with runners-up **Analise Newkirk** and **Kelly Sakai**. Winner in the kindergarten/first grade category (bottom left photo) was **Skylar Jaena** with runners-up **Evelyn Boyle** and **Sophia Carlos**. Winner in the second/third grade category (bottom right photo) was **Aryanna Arcano** with runners-up **Gabriela Andrada** and **Brandon Margo**. All photos include principal **Ms. Celeste Akiu**. The winners all received free dress passes and will have their little works of art featured in HFCA's Scholastic Online Book Fair Flyers for their respective grade levels. (Reported by Suzanne Carlos)



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country. He constantly strives to uphold the scout's law of helping others, keeping physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight. It takes dedication, years of hard work, love of community, and mental discipline to attain scouting's highest rank. Matthew Pila has succeeded and soared to the rank of the Eagle Scout. (Reported by Dan Nagami)

## 5 HONOLULU

### Holy Family Early Learning Center

Preschoolers **Brant Epperson**, left, and **Melika Cleveland** proudly hold up their **quarter drive donation jars**. The center is celebrating its 25th anniversary with fundraisers, community outreach and festivities planned throughout the school year. The month of September featured a fundraiser involving what else ... quarters! **Ms. Mary-Anne McMillin**, lead teacher for the ELC's **Lambs class**, worked with her students to coordinate a school-wide quarter donation drive. Everyone in the school community has been invited to participate — faculty, staff, students and families of both the academy and early learning center. All quarters collected will be donated to **HUGS Hawaii**, a local non-profit organization, whose mission is to strengthen Hawaii's families and improve their quality of life as they face the emotional and financial hardships of caring for a seriously ill child. The ELC's goal was to raise \$225 by Sept. 25. They exceeded that goal in the first week alone! They've raised over \$500 so far and will continue to collect quarters through the end of the month. We look forward to this opportunity to share our faith, compassion and aloha with HUGS Hawaii children and their families. (Reported by Suzanne Carlos)

## 6 KAILUA

### St. John Vianney School

The **first quarter of this 2020-2021 school year** concludes on Oct. 2, and we are so thankful that we have been able to have in-class instruction with our students. Using evidence-based science, along with government recommendations, we adjusted our campus and curriculum and created an extensive plan and rigorous protocols that are keeping our students safe during this pandemic. Together with our supportive families, we understand the importance of **preparing our youth for a bright and faith-filled future**, in what seems like a dark time. Our school is truly an example of providing God's light in this world. "We are truly blessed this year," says principal **Caryn DeMello**. "Our teachers are with their students from the moment their classroom opens until they close at the end of the day. Disinfecting, hand-washing, sanitizing and protecting the integrity of their bubbles have been important. Each year our school selects a Scripture passage to focus on, and this year we selected Romans 12:12 — 'Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer,' which is most fitting." Pictured with a plumeria behind her ear is preschooler **Emalia Alencastre**. (Reported by Earl Walker)



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## 3 KAPAA

### St. Catherine School

On the **International Day of Peace**, Sept. 21, our parish and school dedicated our eight-foot tall hollow aluminum **Peace Pole** inscribed with "May Peace Prevail on Earth," in eight languages. Pastor **Father Anthony Rapozo** read **Bishop Larry Silva's** peace prayer, **Father William Tulua** spoke about the importance of the Peace Pole on the campus, principal **MaryAnn Bode** read **Mayor Derek Kawakami's** peace prayer, former **Mayor Bernard Carvalho** talked about the meaning of aloha with regards to peace, four **eighth grade students** helped with the unveiling and blessing, and **Terri Mansfield** gave a brief history of the Peace Pole. After the blessing, we inserted in the pole more than 1,300 peace prayers, contributed by students, staff, parishioners, the community, and **Carol Aki** and family. Peace Poles are handcrafted global symbols for peace meant to be a constant reminder for us to "Be Peace." There are more than 200,000 Peace Poles in over 180 countries. Notable locations include the Pentagon; the North Pole; the Giza pyramids in Egypt; Findhorn, Scotland; the Jordan River, Israel; The Hague, Netherlands; Confucius' burial site in Taiwan; Gorky Park, Moscow, Russia; Robben Island, South Africa; the Atomic Bomb Dome, Hiroshima; the OPEC headquarters; WTO and IMF world headquarters and the Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace in Honolulu. The message is available in more than 1,000 languages. My husband and I saw our first Peace Pole

in 1997 in Hanalei, Kauai. Other Kauai sites include Lydgate Park and Kamalani Playground, Kauai Community College, Kapaa Middle School, Matsunaga International Children's Peace Garden in Hanapepe, Anaina Hou Community Park, UCC Church in Kapaa, Hanapepe Hawaiian Congregational Church, near Bullshed Restaurant, private homes, etc. Each of the 10 University of Hawaii campuses has a Peace Pole. The **Dalai Lama**, **Mother Teresa**, **President Jimmy Carter** and **St. John Paul II** have all dedicated Peace Poles. After World War II, Japanese peacemaker **Masahisa Goi**, a poet, writer and singer dedicated his life to humanity. He said, we are facing the age where the politics of the world must be carried out by each individual. Every individual who repeats the words "May Peace Prevail on Earth" thus becomes a great force for realizing peace in the world. This phrase blossomed into the Peace Pole movement we see today. (Reported by Terri Mansfield)

## 4 HONOLULU

### Maryknoll School

The rank of **Eagle Scout** is the highest achievement attainable in the **Boy Scouts of America** (BSA). The requirements include earning at least 21 merit badges, demonstrating leadership with the troop, and exemplifying the scout spirit. To demonstrate scout spirit the BSA requires the completion of a leadership community service project. The scout must plan, organize, lead and manage the project under the auspices of troop and district leaders and review boards. Only four percent of Boy Scouts receive the prestigious Eagle Scout Badge. **Matthew Pila**, a Maryknoll senior, is a lifelong scout. He has dedicated countless hours and contributed many of his talents to scouting. This year, Matthew set his sights on the eagle scout badge. Missing school and his classmates, Matthew thought of creating a safe learning environment for students

at his school through a scouting leadership service project. Matthew wanted to set up a device that protects students and teachers during the coronavirus pandemic. After meeting with Maryknoll School staff and gaining the necessary approvals, Matthew implemented his plans. He designed, funded, constructed and installed protective classroom desk barriers for all classrooms on the grade school campus. The barriers assist teachers in creating a safe learning environment in their classrooms. He also wanted to give back to his school community, all the while demonstrating the scouting spirit. Through his service project, Matthew learned that leadership requires leading by example with humility, kindness and understanding. Matthew is a positive influence in the school community and a role model to his peers. He epitomizes the school motto of "noblesse oblige," to whom much is given, much is expected. He also honors the scout's oath of duty to God and

## 7 MAKAWAO

### St. Joseph Early Learning Center

On Sept. 18, **our staff** enjoyed a beautiful retreat day at the neighboring parish, the **Kula Catholic Community of Our Lady Queen of Angels Church** in Keokea. To begin the day the staff recited an opening meditative prayer on the theme of the day: "Follow Jesus." Then they watched the DVD movie "I Am Patrick" with a personal reflection on the life and legend of St. Patrick. To round up the day the staff celebrated Mass with **Father Anton Nyo**. The grounds was picturesque and beautiful and Father Nyo had the staff leave with fresh items from his country garden. A very relaxing and meaningful retreat day for the staff, front row, **Alicia Cordeiro** and **Helen Souza**, and back row, **Renette Koa** and **Father Nyo**. Thank you, Father Anton and the staff of the Kula Catholic Community. (Reported by Helen Souza)