

THE SCHOOL NEWS

1 KAILUA

St. John Vianney School

We celebrated our **first school Mass** of the year on Aug. 25 hosted by the **eighth-grade class**. Mahalo to our readers, gift bearers and altar servers who did an amazing job. We are very appreciative of the love and support of several people who helped with the planning and preparation for such a beautiful Mass. ... We are very proud of several of our students for their recent achievements. Three siblings, one a current student and two former students, were commissioned as **parish lectors** and will serve at parish weekend Masses throughout the year. We thank them for their service to our parish. ... Another student, **Siena-Grace Tufaga**, represented the Aloha State at the **2023 Miss Elementary America National Pageant** held in Little Rock, Arkansas, and won the title of **Miss Elementary America Sixth Grade**. Congratulations, Siena-Grace. ... Our **fourth-grade class** is excited to begin a **mini-Christmas tree project**. They will be repotting, watering and nurturing 50 trees until December, when they will go on sale during the holiday season. Many thanks to the parents of two of our students who donated all the necessary materials needed to set up a hothouse behind Father Vincent's house. With the support from several wonderful people, we are able to engage in this awesome project. (Reported by Earl Walker)



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EDITOR'S CHOICE

2 HONOLULU

Maryknoll School

These Maryknoll School **seniors** are members of the **Maroon and Gold Society**. These students have represented Maryknoll proudly since they became Spartans in Pre-K or Kindergarten. From those early steps into the school to this remarkable milestone, their journey together has been filled with countless memories, laughter, and growth. These seniors exemplify resilience, friendship, and the power of shared experiences. Here's to senior year and the bright futures that await them! Pictured: **Lifers of Maryknoll School's Class of 2024**. (Reported by Lori A.K. Carlos)

lic Communities. Pictured, **Rainbow, Ladybug and Butterfly classes** along with teachers **Renette Koa** and **Cassandra Comer**. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all. God bless. (Reported by Helen Souza)

4 HONOLULU

Mary, Star of the Sea School

At the beginning of every school year, our **teachers** collaborate to establish a year-long **essential question**. This special question is the overarching theme that is intended to guide most lesson plans, provoke conceptual thinking, inspire personal growth, and add coherence to all learning. Inspired by the journey of the **Hokulea**, and in connection with our faith, our essential question this year challenges students to ponder: **"How do you navigate to become a shining star?"** Teachers and students have al-

ready conducted journaling, coloring activities and dynamics in which students become part of a class journey. Pictured below are three intermediate students alongside the middle school student-made replica of the **Hokulea**. (Reported by Lorena Vogeler)

5 KEKAHA

St. Theresa School

In 1946, the **sugar mill** was the hub of life in Kekaha. The town grew around the mill — a gas station, store, movie theater, churches, schools, and even a racetrack were in place. Families took hold and made Kekaha their home. St. Theresa School was born as a mission of **St. Theresa Church**, bringing Catholic education to the westernmost sugar town in the world. Today, St. Theresa School thrives. While the town has changed around it, the school's mission remains the same: to provide high

quality education with a foundation in faith and ohana. St. Theresa School is a vibrant reminder of Kekaha's past, and a shining beacon of light for Kekaha's future. Join us in perpetuating the tradition of Catholic education on Kauai. This year, we are embarking on a **Playground Renovation Project**, which requires unbudgeted expenditures. We must procure means of funding to complete this project while sustaining the programs already in place. We invite you to be a part of continuing our legacy. Sponsorship has rewards, not only in name recognition, but in being a part of an institution which actively contributes to a bright future. We ask that you consider sponsoring this capital project. **Principal Wendy Castillo** is available to discuss the project in detail, don't hesitate to call! Our current playground structure is 17-years-old. It has deteriorated due to age and exposure to elements. The structure will

be removed and replaced to improve the safety and quality of outdoor play on campus. Our equipment upgrade will accommodate over 15 learners at a time (as opposed to five learners at a time in our current structure). This will greatly expand the opportunity for learners to engage with each other in cooperative play. The proposed equipment is attractive to grade levels K-8, offering different levels of play accessible to all learners. The school website (sttheresakauai.com) has many details on the project, pictures, and ways to get involved with the exciting things happening at St. Theresa Kauai! From concerts to bake sales, we are committed to raising funds to provide this improvement for our learners. Pictured: **Avery and Kamahina** love the slides on our old playground. They can't wait to play on the new equipment! (Reported by Wendy Castillo)

3 MAKAWAO

St. Joseph Early Learning Center

Students and staff created a supportive sign for the all people effected by the **Lahaina and Kula wildfires** on Maui. The sign was hung near the **Emergency Kokua** distribution center on campus provided by **Maui Catho-**

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