

THE SCHOOL NEWS

1 MAKAWAO

St. Joseph Early Learning Center

Students, staff and families partook in a **Thanksgiving prayer service** Nov. 22 in the church center celebrated by **La Salette Father Edison Pamintuan**. The students presented the prayers of the faithful, donated food for the parish food drive at the offertory and performed a liturgical dance at the end of the service. Pictured are the students dressed in their Wampanog and Pilgrim costumes in front of the altar with Father Edison. Blessings and Happy Holidays to all! (Reported by *Helen Souza*)



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6 HONOLULU

Maryknoll School

Our 24th annual **Noblesse Oblige Award and Scholarship Dinner** Oct. 28 at the Sheraton Waikiki Hotel celebrated recipients of the Maryknoll School Noblesse Oblige Award for Service and the Noblesse Oblige Endowed Scholarship. This year's spotlight shone on individuals embodying service and community values. A distinguished figure in mathematics, education and mentorship, **Dr. Aaron Tamura-Sato** exemplifies unwavering dedication in nurturing young minds, fostering a love for mathematics, and illustrating its practical applications. **Paulette Laanui**, an esteemed educator for over three decades, is an invaluable cornerstone of Maryknoll's teaching community. Rooted in Catholic values, her influence extends beyond the classroom. **Peter C.K. Fong**, a distinguished attorney, community leader, philanthropist, and chairman of the board at Maryknoll, was recognized for his remarkable contributions to the community, including his roles with the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii and the Hawaii State Senate Judiciary Committee. The Noblesse Oblige Scholarship was awarded to **Rissalyn Hara '24**, for her outstanding academic achievements and remarkable community contributions. "These honorees shine brightly as inspirations to others through their passionate contributions to community service," said Maryknoll president **Shana Tong '83**. Pictured, from left, **Father EJ Resinto**, pastor of Sacred Heart Church and Maryknoll School, Dr. Aaron Tamura-Sato, Rissalyn Hara 24, Peter C.K. Fong, Paulette Laanui, Shana Tong. (Reported by *Lori A.K. Carlos*)

2 HONOLULU

Holy Family Catholic Academy

Our **third-grade team** hosted our November community outreach project, celebrating **members of our military** past and present. All students made patriotic paper leis for veterans attending Mass on Veterans Day weekend, created Veterans Day cards for the residents at the **VA Community Living Center**, and displayed hero cards on walls throughout the campus. Our third-grade class hosted "visit with a veteran" to welcome family members who have served and to learn about their experiences. Pictured is student **Ania Vollstedt** reading a blessing for veterans during Mass. (Reported by *Julia Hudson*)



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3 HONOLULU

St. Theresa School

The **seventh-grade class** sponsored the 8:30 a.m. Nov. 26 Mass at the Co-Cathedral of St. Theresa. The students did the readings, managed the collection, brought up the offering, and sang a meditation song in Tagalog after Communion. Best of all, they greeted parishioners entering the church with 270 individually designed cards, each bearing an inspirational word for the day. Twenty-seven words were presented, including "Humility," "Grace," "Play," "Pray," "Persevere," "Joy," and "Gratitude." The students smiled and shared a motivational spark to all as they passed out their special gift." (Reported by *Doc Fran Wong*)



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EDITOR'S CHOICE

4 HONOLULU

Mary, Star of the Sea School

Middle school students were excited to assist the parish **Peace and Social Justice Ministry**, which meets monthly to prepare meals for the **Keauhou Homeless Shelter**. In a heartwarming display of compassion and service, students prepared and distributed toiletry bags, dessert plates, and delicious homemade bread. Taught how to bake by parishioner **Joe Leonardo**, the students made 200 mini loaves. Many lessons were learned, but the most important one was that it

5 KEKAHA

St. Theresa School

We continue toward our goal of funding a **new playground**. The cost is \$125,483, and our latest fundraiser was another step toward meeting that goal. The morning dawned clear, crisp and bright as 86 runners stretched and prepared for the challenge ahead — the first **STS Great Turkey Trot** in history! Family, friends and community members turned out to cheer the runners on! A short warm up and welcome by principal **Wendy Castillo** and PE teacher **Melissa Moreno** started the day, then the runners were off! Congratulations to

does not take a village to make a difference, it just takes a good heart. (Reported by *Lorena Vogeler*)

our 1K top finishers: **Kaikea Miyashiro, Aina Miranda** and **Aya Miranda**. A shout-out to our 5K top finishers: **DJ Adams, Noah Balmores, Peyton Siliado III** and **Keith Perry**. After the run, local crafters and food trucks gathered on campus for relaxation, shopping and ono lunches! **Susan Ines** won the beautiful Thanksgiving **lucky drawing basket** filled with goodies. Thank you to all who made this event a success. ... Expressing gratitude to our **Kauai community service providers** is a tradition at St. Theresa. This year, each academic department highlighted one service organization, created thank you cards, and collected donations for care packages. Middle school learners thanked the **Kauai Police Department**. **Officer Resinto** and **Officer Kahahawai** offered sage advice: stay kind, stay in

school, show respect for your community. Preschool, kindergarten, first and second grade learners presented care packages to the **Kauai Fire Department**. Preschoolers sang "Yes, Jesus Loves Me" and the firemen joined in! Elementary classes showed their appreciation to the **American Medical Response team**. **Eric Ishida**, from AMR, emailed, "Please thank all your wonderful kids, families, and teachers for the generous gifts. It reminds us why we love doing what we do." Principal Wendy Castillo is proud of the students, "Community outreach is so important in solidifying the values we strive to impart each day. The act of showing gratitude is incredibly powerful for our learners. They experience firsthand that the act of saying 'thank you' begets more to be thankful for." (Reported by *Chantal Duarte and Wendy Castillo*)

KAILUA

St. John Vianney School

We were visited by **Santa's elves** on Dec. 6. Students in our 3-year-old **Early Learning Center through grade five** were asked to bring new, unwrapped toys or gift cards to give to these Santa's helpers, who presented them to our parish **Giving Tree** and **Toys for Tots**. Older students also participated, bringing gifts to the school office. Our school gave a **Holiday Concert** also on Dec. 6 at 6 p.m. in the church. The concert featured our bands, orchestras and choir performing traditional holiday selections. ... On Dec. 15, the last day of our second quarter, we will present our **Christmas Pageant** at 10 a.m. in the church. The entire student body will participate in this very musical celebration. All are invited to join us as we joyfully celebrate the birth of our savior **Jesus Christ**. Guided by God's grace, our parish school offers its students the tools they need to shape their futures and to become their best selves. Our curriculum intertwines education and faith to provide children with a solid foundation in academics and a sound spiritual foundation. (Reported by *Earl Walker*)

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