

# THE SCHOOL NEWS

**1 KAILUA**

**St. Anthony School**

Students took to the shores of Kailua Beach for a hands-on environmental lesson, partnering with **Sustainable Coastlines Hawaii** and **Kailua Beach Adventures** for a beach cleanup focused on microplastic removal. From preschool to eighth grade, the entire student body participated in the effort, using sand sifters to sort through debris and remove tiny plastic fragments polluting the coastline. Guided by experts, the students learned about the impact of plastic pollution on marine life and the importance of protecting Hawaii's beaches. "It was good to help the community," reported eighth grade student **Carter Ke-a**. "It's important to clean up to sustain the beaches and the population." Teachers and volunteers praised the students' enthusiasm and teamwork, highlighting the cleanup as a way to live out their faith by caring for God's creation. Sustainable Coastlines Hawaii and Kailua Beach Adventures provided education and tools to make the event successful. Organizers hope the experience inspires students to continue advocating for cleaner oceans and a healthier planet. *(Reported by Bernie Camuso)*



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EDITOR'S CHOICE

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**2 KAILUA**

**St. John Vianney School**

Our school congratulates **Mrs. DeMello** our school principal! She was honored and recognized for 30 years of service to Hawaii Catholic Schools. The ceremony was held at the **Annual Conference for Catholic School Educators** on Jan. 31. Mrs. DeMello is a product of Hawaii Catholic Schools, having attended **St. Anthony School, Saint Francis School** and is a graduate of **Chaminade University**. She taught and served as vice principal at St. Anthony School in Kailua for 20 years. In 2013, God blessed us when she joined our school as our amazing principal! Our school has a long-standing tradition of providing a quality education for the youth in our community. This is because we nurture the

whole child, thereby fulfilling their potential as contributing members of society. Every child in our early learning center for 3- and 4-year-olds through our eighth grade is given an exceptional education that combines academic excellence with our Catholic faith and teaching. We do this through a challenging curriculum focusing on math, science and technology. With the support of their parents, we also emphasize moral development and instill the value of service to others. The **St. John Vianney School Board** is revisiting the school's Strategic Plan with a view to charting a course over the next 10 years.

We especially invite former students, parents of former students and those who support Catholic education to share their thoughts as much as possible. *(Reported by Earl Walker)*

**3 MAKAWAO**

**St. Joseph Early Learning Center**

We began our Lenten season with **Ash Wednesday** distribution of ashes to all the students and staff. Pictured is **Father Edison Pamintuan, MS**, placing ashes on students' foreheads on March 5. The students also got to reflect in the class on their **Lenten Tree activity** what will be their goal

to work toward this Lent to be more like Jesus. The season will come together in April when they will enjoy the fruit of their labor through special Easter treats and egg hunting at the end of the season. We look forward to a blessed **Resurrection Sunday**. *(Reported by Helen Souza)*

**4 AIRPORT AREA**

**Holy Family Catholic Academy**

We recently completed our annual **Kid's Heart Challenge** and presented a check for \$16,854.01 to the **American Heart Association** on Feb. 14. This is our 24th year participating in the Kid's Heart Chal-

lenge (formerly Jump Rope for Heart) and HFCA hit a big milestone this year with a cumulative donation of \$304,625 since 2001. Mahalo to our school community for helping us support a great organization and helping our keiki understand the importance of being active and kind. Pictured from left, **Jocelyn Burch**, Holy Family Catholic Academy assistant principal; **Nichelle Torno**, American Heart Association development director; **Father Dario Rinaldi**, Holy Family Catholic Academy head of school; and **Brian MacMaster**, Holy Family Catholic Academy assistant principal. *(Reported by Julia Hudson)*

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