

School Newsletter

January 2020



Dear Parents & Grandparents,

"In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps."
Proverbs 16:9

At the start of a new year, it is easy to focus on looking forward, making plans and wishes for what we want next in our lives. We need to remember, though, that at Christmas we received the greatest instrument of help for reaching our goals, the gift of Jesus Christ. His love for us brought Him to earth to show us that He is active and present in our lives every day. As a response to His love, it is in our best interest to learn to hear His voice and be attentive to Him.

Looking back on the year, we will each likely recall accomplishments as well as "misses," and reflect on how well we listened to His voice and how we can work on hearing Him more. We may feel encouraged by successes and realize there were times that we did hear and follow His voice. Our failures may leave us disheartened and lead us to think we don't know how to hear Him at all. Our children are watching us and learn to respond to their own successes and failures based on what they see. We want to help them learn that they can hear Jesus' voice even as children, and that they can learn from both successes and "misses."

The goal and essence of the Montessori Method is just that. One of the key components of the Montessori classroom is the "Uninterrupted Work Period," where the child is given the opportunity to choose his/her work independently, and work freely without adult interruption. During this time, the child learns to reflect on his/her actions, and develops the understanding that learning is a process. While current educational best practices support the importance of free choice for the student, including the free choice of reading materials, writing topics, and project styles, it often misses out on this equally vital aspect of independent choice- independence is inconsequential without self-reflection.

This is what independent choice and reflection look like in preschool: A child takes out the Pink Tower, attempting to build the ten cubes into a tower just as her teacher demonstrated. She randomly stacks the cubes, and the tower tumbles. She tries again, and falters once more. The teacher observes this, but does not interject. Then she sees the child rearrange the cubes on the mat before stacking them. This time, the tower goes higher. Next, she sees the child try again, this time standing to place the last cube at the very top. Success! This child is learning that thinking about her work and trying different processes helps her to achieve her goal.

This is the foundation we try to build upon as the child gets older. As the years progress, we continue to give students opportunities for independence and free choice, developing

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES:

1/7, Tuesday - Students Return to School

1/14, Tuesday - Open House for Kindergarten

1/15, Wednesday - Open House for Grades 1 & 2

1/16, Thursday - Open House for Grades 3-6

1/20, Monday - **NO SCHOOL**, Martin Luther King Jr., Day

1/23, Thursday - Field Trip for Grades 1 & 2

1/31, Friday - Field Trip for K1, K2, and K3

2/13 & 2/14, Thursday and Friday - **NO SCHOOL for Preschool and Kindergarten students**, Parent-Teacher Conferences.

2/14, Friday - **NO SCHOOL** for all students

2/17, Monday - **NO SCHOOL**, President's Day

THANK YOU!

We would like to extend a huge "THANK YOU" for all the cards, goodies, and Christmas greetings. We are truly blessed to have such caring and thoughtful students and families. All of God's blessings to you for a happy and healthy new year!

Also, thank you for your generous white gift donations. The students presented their white gifts at our White Gift Assembly on December 18, 2019. The items were donated to Our Lady of Good Counsel's outreach program and they were overwhelmed by your generosity. They send their deepest appreciation to us for sharing love with those in need.

KINDERGARTEN - GRADE 6 OPEN HOUSES

As you consider enrollment for the 2020-21 school year, we would like to give you the opportunity to visit our classrooms and speak with the teachers. We will be hosting informal open houses from **January 14th to the 16th from 2:45-4:30pm**. Examples of curriculum will be available and teachers will be there to answer questions. Below are the following dates:

Tuesday, January 14th - Kindergarten

Wednesday, January 15th - Grades 1 & 2

Thursday, January 16th - Grades 3-6

their ability to reflect and make changes. We also begin holding students accountable with consequences for choices that are not-so-good. Ultimately, we want our children to learn that good choices come from accepting responsibility for our actions, reflecting on our behaviors, and seeking God's guidance to help us make changes for improvement.

"For I am the Lord your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you." Isaiah 41:13

As you and your family look to 2020, we hope you will feel encouraged that Jesus is not expecting us to "get it right" the first time, or even the second time. What He hopes for us is that we will learn the process- to accept His love for us and to be attentive to His voice as He guides us through the year.

Conference Sign-Ups for Preschool and Kindergarten Parents

On Thursday, February 13th and Friday, February 14th, our preschool and kindergarten parents will have their second conference with their child's teachers. Sign-ups will be online beginning January 27th at 7:00pm and will continue through February 7th. You will be receiving an email with instructions. Sign-ups are on a first come, first served basis. This will be an excellent opportunity for you to ask questions and learn how your child is progressing. **There will be no classes on conference days for preschool and kindergarten students. School will be in session for elementary students in grades 1-6 on Thursday, February 13th. There will be NO SCHOOL for grades 1-6 on Friday, February 14th.**

RE-REGISTRATION FOR THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

Re-registration forms were emailed to you in December. **The deadline to re-register your child is Monday, February 3rd.** If you need a printed copy of the registration form or have any questions, please contact the office. The registration fee is refundable through May 11, 2020.

Celebrating Mrs. Tom

We all know Mrs. Tom as being full of laughter and love. She had the most generous and caring heart and will be deeply missed, but has forever left an imprint on our hearts. If you would like to attend her celebration of life, it will be held on **Friday, January 17th at Mililani Memorial Park's Mauka Chapel**. Visitation for the public will be from 5:30 to 6:30pm followed by the services at 6:30pm. The attire is bright-colors or aloha attire, the family kindly requests no flowers.