



# CROSSROADS

*Holy Family Catholic Academy  
February 2021*

Aloha families and friends of HFCA!

Like the entire State of Hawai'i, we experienced an increase in Covid-19 cases at HFCA during the month of January. We'd like to thank all our parents, students and staff for their understanding and support as we navigate this surge in cases. Like most of our health officials, we are hopeful the omicron variant peaked in January, and we will continue all our mitigation efforts to help keep our school community healthy for as long as we need to.

We are excited to celebrate Catholic Schools Week with our students, and a few other February activities to share love and aloha with our local community. Our annual Kid's Heart Challenge wraps up on February 11, and we are also thrilled to partner with Our Lady of Good Counsel to help some of our brothers and sisters who are experiencing food insecurity right now.

February is also Hawaiian Language Month, and we feel especially blessed to now offer Hawaiian Language Club as an after-school activity for students in Grades 3-8. Hau'oli Mahina 'Ōlelo Hawai'i! (Happy Hawaiian Language Month!).

Take care and God bless,

Celeste Akiu, Principal



**Catholic Schools  
Week 2022**  
**January 30–February 5**

[www.NCEA.org/csw](http://www.NCEA.org/csw)

#CSW22

## **February Service Project**

We will be collecting donations of nonperishable food for the Our Lady of Good Counsel (OLGC) food pantry from February 14 - 28, and invite all our community members to join us. The OLGC food pantry has been serving Pearl City families in need for more than 25 years; let's show them some HFCA aloha! They are happy to accept any nonperishable food, and can especially use the following items:

Beef stew  
Breakfast cereals  
Boxed macaroni & cheese  
Canned chicken  
Canned fruit  
Canned spaghetti sauce  
Canned vegetables  
Canned chili  
Corned beef  
Corned beef hash

Dried pasta  
Jams and Jellies  
Peanut butter  
Pork & beans  
Ramen  
Rice  
Spam  
Soup  
Tuna  
Large paper bags

## Making God's Goodness Known. Educating for Life.

### JANUARY COVID-19 CASES AT HFCA

During the month of January, our school community had **20** positive Covid-19 cases reported.

If a HFCA student tests positive for Covid-19, or comes in close contact with an individual who tests positive for Covid-19, parents must notify the Principal AND Health Room Coordinator via phone and email immediately: [cakiu@hfcahawaii.org](mailto:cakiu@hfcahawaii.org), 808-780-8786 and [abonilla@hfcahawaii.org](mailto:abonilla@hfcahawaii.org), 808.423-9611, ext. 305.

All Covid-19-related questions should be directed to Principal Akiu.

Mahalo for making our first annual Pancakes with Santa event a success! Your generous support helped us donate \$2568.34 to Catholic Charities Hawaii'i.



American Heart Association.

**KIDS  
HEART  
CHALLENGE™**

**AMERICAN  
HEART  
CHALLENGE™**

Our annual Kid's Heart Challenge was a tremendous success this year. During the past month, our students have learned about heart health, exercise, pledged to be active and/or kind, and solicited donations from family and friends to benefit the American Heart Association. Our goal is to raise \$19,500 this year, and as of February 3 we have exceeded this amount with \$19,684 raised and counting. Mahalo to all our families for pitching in to help this wonderful cause! Online donations will be accepted until February 11, so please visit [heart.org/KHC](http://heart.org/KHC) if you'd like to donate.

### Re-enrollment Deadline

All current families received an email from TADS with instructions on how to begin the re-enrollment process on December 20. Please contact Luana DeSoto if you did not receive an email with these instructions, at: (808) 423-9611, ext. 306.

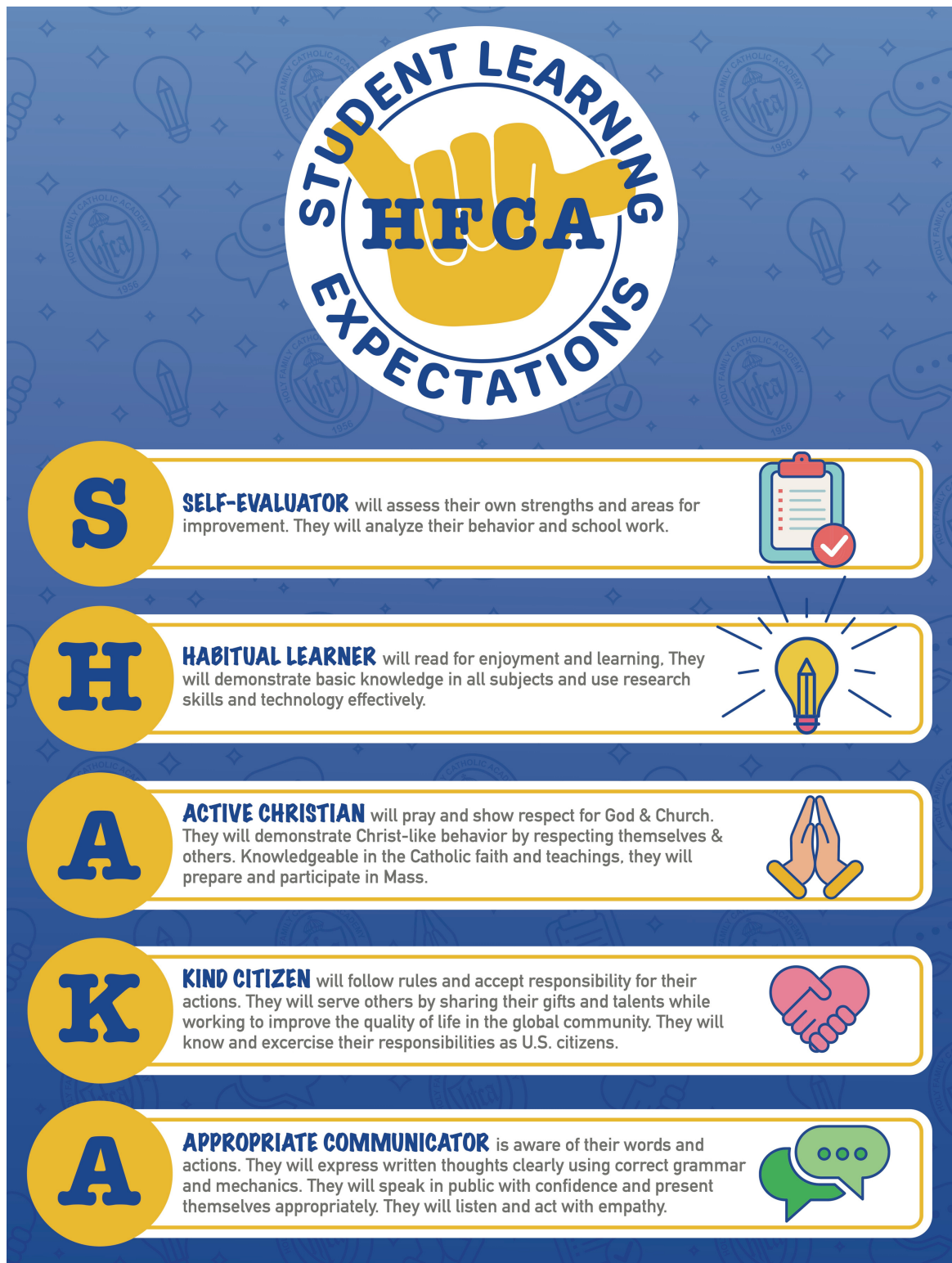
The re-enrollment deadline is Tuesday, February 15 for returning families. Mahalo nui loa for all your support in this process; it helps us so much to know how many students will be returning to school so we can adequately plan for staffing needs. Any students who are re-enrolled after the deadline may be placed on a waiting list, depending on class size.

### New Student Applications for 2022-2023

Applications for new families and additional students are available on our website now. Every year, the overwhelming majority of new families who join HFCA report that they learn about the school through word-of-mouth, so if you refer a family, make sure they list your name when applying! The New Student Family Referral Incentive Program awards a referring family with a one-time \$350 tuition credit for each new, referred family who enrolls and completes the school year. The credit is applied in FACTS to the final tuition payment. Please note, to apply for Kindergarten, the child must be 5 years old by December 31, 2022.

# Introducing SHAKA: Our Student Learning Expectations

The Student Learning Expectations (SLE's) are skills, abilities, and behaviors we require our students to practice during their enrollment at Holy Family. Consistent expectations mean our students know their directives throughout the school day, thereby allowing them to feel more confident, engaged, and connected to our school community. The clearly defined expectations also make it easier for our teachers to recognize positive behaviors, and to correct problem behaviors more efficiently and effectively. The mnemonic of SHAKA is used to help our students recall the main themes of each SLE.





*Making God's Goodness Known. Educating for Life.*

## **Class Spotlight - Preschool & Kindergarten**

We celebrated our 100th Day of School in January, with fun activities to help some of our youngest learners understand this milestone. Our Preschool classes made silly glasses and counted items that added up to 100, as a way to better understand just how much this number represents. And our Kindergartners made cool crowns, worked on counting up to 100 and writing the numbers nice and neat, and visualizing what 100 objects look like to better understand the concept of 100 days.





# Staff Spotlight: BSC/ASC Team

We have offered before school care (BSC) and after school care (ASC) at Holy Family for more than 30 years (previously through Kama'aina Kids), and just celebrated our 20th year as an independent program. Woohoo! On average around 40% of our students utilize our ASC program; our BSC is on a drop-in basis, and usually around 10% of our students. We are blessed to support our families who rely on this program.

HFCA is also proud to offer activities after school like Hawaiian Language Club, Kanikapila Music Club, and athletic camps including cheerleading, volleyball and basketball. These clubs are open to specific grade levels as an after school program for a small fee. Additionally, we have girls and boys basketball, cheerleading, track and field, and volleyball teams, competing in the Catholic School League and Christian School Athletic League after school for grades 4-8.

We currently have 13 ASC monitors and another four HFCA employees who also work in ASC and BSC positions. We recently asked them what they love about working in these positions:

**Mrs. Gay** - BSC/ASC Director: I am so proud of our before and after school care programs, and what it means for our families who utilize this service, which is a large part of our school community. I often describe it as a 'school within a school' because of how many students we serve and how many coordinators we employ. And managing all the monitors is also near and dear to my heart. Most of these young men and women are in college or parents of young children looking for flexible employment. I love watching them accomplish their goals and grow alongside our HFCA students. It's an extremely rewarding position.

**Ms. Lorna** - BSC Monitor & 2nd Grade TA: The before school care position was offered to me when I moved from my preschool position to the student support team. Since I used to open for the preschool, working for the BSC program was an easy transition. I love the quietness the early morning brings while listening to Christian music and enjoying my breakfast.

**Ms. Skylr** - BSC Monitor & Title 1 Teacher: Working in our before school care is a good fit for me because it helps to start my day bright and early! Coming in during the winter is the best because the weather is nice and cool and it's still dark out. Being with the preschool students and watching them create stories with the toys is my favorite part of BSC.

**Ms. Judy** - ASC Monitor & Librarian/Media Specialist: My favorite memories are the fun activities we have planned in years past for the very last day of ASC; games like balloon pop relay, thread the hula hoop, and playing with our giant parachute, which the students really enjoy.



**Trisha Amoguis** - ASC Monitor: This role is definitely a good fit for me because the students lift my spirits every day when I arrive to work with them. The kids all call me Ms. T, and they are just so fun to be around. Working here is a pleasure.

**Cerah Aurelio** - ASC Monitor: I love the positive work environment from both the staff and students. Every day is different from the last, and that makes this job super exciting for me.

**Leizel Costales** - ASC Monitor: The kids know me as "Ms. Lei" and my fondest memory at HFCA is Easter of 2021. Two other monitors and I helped create a Covid-friendly Easter egg hunt for the Kindergartners, and the kids had so much fun! The kids are very fun to work with and I look forward to coming in every day to see their smiling faces.



# Staff Spotlight: BSC/ASC Team Continued



**Criselda Duran** - ASC Monitor: Working at HFCA after school care is a good fit for me because it allows me to work part-time with flexible hours, so I am also able to take care of my young son.

**Brenna Flores** - ASC Monitor: Working at HFCA has taught me a love and appreciation for working with children that I would not have learned elsewhere at another job like retail or in the restaurant industry. If I'm having a bad day there's no doubt that at least one student will cheer me up or tell me something silly/funny. I've been working with the lower elementary students for about 5 years now and I just love to see the growth and character development throughout the years.

**Christopher Gilo** - ASC Monitor: The kids all know me as Mr. Chrissy, and I have been working with ASC students for five years now. I just love it. I'm also a nursing student, so I'm often at work in scrubs and the first person they find if they've lost a tooth, scraped a knee, or even broken a bone. It doesn't happen often, but they are kids and they do love to play hard after their homework. It's a perfect fit for me to work with such great students and have a positive impact on their lives.

**Mickaella Gregorios** - ASC Monitor: My fondest memory of ASC was when my 2nd Grader, Calleigh (now in 5th Grade) went through the whole set of monkey bars quickly and confidently. When she was in 1st Grade she struggled keeping up with her classmates on the monkey bars and was always discouraged approaching it. However a few months later after a quick snack and homework time, she showed everyone she could do it, and it made my whole month!

**Taliya Hegwood** - ASC Monitor: HFCA after school care is a good fit for me because I love working with kids and helping them in any way I can.

**Raena Ho** - ASC Monitor: I enjoy working for ASC because I love interacting with the students on an almost daily basis, as well as learning about some of the great characteristics that make them such individuals! The students, faculty and administration are very friendly and altruistic. I am grateful to be part of the HFCA 'ohana.

**Soh Kinoshita** - ASC Monitor: I'm pretty new to ASC, but it already feels like home to me. I'm from a big family with lots of kids, and I've always gravitated towards taking care of them. I love how silly, funny and full of energy all the kids are.

**Charlene Magday** - ASC Monitor: I worked at ASC 10 years ago, and I just recently came back a few weeks ago. I enjoy interacting with the kids and getting to know the other ASC monitors. I like the flexibility and I love my boss, Mrs. Gay; she welcomed me back with open arms and I really appreciated that.

**Ronita St. Felix** - ASC Monitor: I'm fairly new to this position, and so far, my fondest memory was seeing everyone dressed up for Halloween. Teachers, monitors, and students all dressed up and just enjoyed the day! It was great to see everyone so full of joy.

**Justin Vo** - ASC Monitor: I don't have a fondest memory because I enjoy every day that I work here. I love working with children, seeing them grow up, learn new things, and seeing them improve; this is what makes ASC a good fit for me.





## Let Us Pray

*Almighty God, we praise and glorify your Name: Grant us the grace of gratitude for all the many blessings you have given us; give us peace of heart and consolation of spirit to persevere through our daily challenges with loving patience; inspire within us the resolve to do better each day, and to love more authentically; and deliver us from the hands of our enemies. We ask this through Christ our Lord.*

- Father Rheo Ofalsa

## Holy Family Catholic Church

Monday - Friday

Mass - 8am

Saturday

Confessions - 3:30 - 4:30 pm

Mass (Sunday Vigil) - 5 pm

Sunday

Masses at 8:30 and 11 am, 7 pm

Seating is limited to 250 persons with social distancing. Masks are required. We don't require reservations, and invite you to join us on a 'first come, first served' basis. We invite parents, grandparents, and friends of HFCA to join us for mass any time!

## Baptism at Holy Family Church

Father Rheo would like to extend a warm welcome to parents who are interested in having their child baptized at Holy Family Church. As a student of Holy Family Catholic Academy, your child already receives religious education, and any further preparation for becoming Catholic can happen during the school day. If your child is under 7 years old, we can baptize your child Catholic any day, schedule permitting. For this option, please email Debbie Gibo. If your child is age 7 or above, we must confer all three Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and First Holy Communion) at the same ceremony, which happens annually at the Easter Vigil Mass on Saturday, April 16, 202. Any parents can express that desire by completing the form linked here.

## Catholic Schools Week Fun!

