



## Head of School Letter

Happy New Year, everybody. Hauoli Makahiki Hou. あけましておめでとうございます。

In my December article, I showcased our P.E. teacher, Mr. Troy Kimura. It is difficult to single out any individual at HMS. Everybody at HMS makes a difference for all of our children.

I would like to tell you a little bit about our Librarian, Mrs. Lori Okamura. She has been our librarian for the past 5 ½ years.

She takes care of ALL of the Scholastic book fairs that we have at HMS: Fall fair in October, Spring fair in March, and the Summer fair in June. These very successful book fairs have allowed her to purchase additional books for our library.

She is responsible for the Digital Media Grant that we have been receiving for the past few years. The students use the grant money to create a video that represents the theme assigned by the grantor. The grant has allowed us to purchase digital cameras, video cameras, scanners, and other equipment for the students to use.

She created the Family Library time. On Tuesday afternoons from 2:30 to 5:00 p.m. parents are welcome to browse, chat and enjoy our library facilities. The parents can check out additional books for their children. On any given Tuesday, you will find many parents and grandparents chatting and enjoying fellowship in our library.

Mrs. Okamura was also instrumental in starting the afterschool LEGO Robotics classes so that our students could compete in the LEGO robotics competition. We participated in an exhibition for a few years and this year we competed and did quite well at the first LEGO league competition.

Finally, she is the person who has been sewing all of the costumes for our after school drama club. I am sure most of us have been to the drama production and have seen the costumes that our children wear.

Thank you, Mrs. Okamura, for making a difference for all the children at HMS.

A hui hou,  
In Gassho,  
Teddi Yagi,  
Interim Head of School

**Please join us at our Open House on Thursday, February 2, 2012, at 5:30. Come and meet the teachers in the next grade level! Invite a friend that might be interested in our school! Please RSVP to Ms. Charlyne at 532-0522.**

## The Ornament

**Craig P. Wagnild, PTO President**

Happy New Year! 2012 - Wow! The year 2011 is over... already. So now I am one of those old guys who sit around and talks about how the years are flying by faster and faster? Might as well start picking out tennis balls for the end of my four-poster cane. I am not typically one to wax nostalgic, but some times of the year seem to bring that out of me and New Year's is one of them. So is Christmas for that matter.

When Debbie, my unquestionably better half, and I had our first Christmas together, we started a tradition. We didn't know it would be a tradition at the time, we were just doing stuff. But it turned into one. Every year we got a new "special" ornament for the tree. It would be something that symbolized that year, something that we picked up on a trip, or found at a unique shop. Sometimes it was a gift or something as silly as a prize given out at a restaurant. After we had Parker (and then Zach) the annual ornaments came to include pictures and even hand-made items. I am a Type A guy, so I always used to think that a beautiful Christmas tree had symmetry, with matching balls and ornaments evenly placed all over the tree. It should be balanced and have complimentary colors and a theme. I don't think that anymore.

This year was the first year the boys were old enough to really hang the ornaments on the tree themselves. In truth, by my Type A standards they did an exceptionally poor job. Nothing was hung above their eye-height and ornaments were bunched into odd, randomly located groups centered primarily on the side of

### **Important Dates to Remember**

- Wednesday, January 11th – Hoonko Service
- Monday, January 16th – Martin Luther King Jr. Day/St. Shinran Memorial Day (School Closed)
- Friday, January 27th – End of fall session for Fort Gakuen (report cards go home on 2/7/11)
- January 20th and 21st – HMS Performing Arts presents "Beauty & the Beast Jr."

the tree closest to the ornament boxes. It was as if expediency had been more important than ensuring even coverage. But here's the thing - I loved that tree. It had a character all its own. As the boys were decorating it, I found myself planning how I was going to fix it later when they went to bed. I never did that. Instead, I walked around it and just lost myself looking at each ornament and remembering when and where we got it, remembering that year and that Christmas, remembering all the joy and anticipation that we had at that time. It was a wonderfully nostalgic and beautifully romantic romp through the years that have led up to our happy family looking forward to Christmas 2011.

And then I saw the ornament. It seemed just one of many and nothing special. But it held the date - 2003. Less than a month later, Parker was born and our family began. I remember that Christmas because I knew the holidays would never be the same again. I can recall, as if it were yesterday, how I felt, and all that we were thinking, all the excitement, all the fear, all the hope and dreams of becoming a dad and a mom. And that one ornament took me back to a time I almost thought I had forgotten. A time when I could sleep in as long as I wanted, I could go to the gym whenever, and weekends were a time for Debbie and I to play. That was a time we looked forward, nervously and somewhat apprehensively, to being parents and having a family. How fortunate we have been to have Parker and Zachary come into our lives and join us on this road. How thankful we are for our family and the love that we share. How funny that we were so worried and scared about what would happen. How wonderful that one ornament could bring all this out.

The year 2011 went awful fast. I am not as old as I may look, but I have come to appreciate the beauty of reliving times past. I am not obsessively caught up in it and I don't want to try to change it. I just enjoy the chance to remember the great Christmases of the past. Hopefully you do too. As we start 2012, may I say "thank you" and "best wishes for a happy and successful year." Aloha my friends.

## 2011 HMS Annual Campaign Donors

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have made monetary donations to Hongwanji Mission School. Donations are being allocated in our endowment support fund, the special project funds, or in the general capital improvement funds.

### \$500 - \$4999 Donors

Shigeaki & Mary Fujitani  
Hawaii Federation of Buddhist Women's Association  
Norman & Amy Hirohata-Goto  
Kenneth Kadomoto  
Tricia Kamikawa  
Thomas Paule  
Carol Riley  
Minnie Sakuma  
Lena Suzuki  
Ann Togioka  
John Toguchi  
Alan Tomita

### Up to \$499 Donation

Kristy Aono	Laurie Minami
Adah Askew	Hyun Sun Miyamoto
Scott Bowling	Davin Miyamura
Karyn Bunch	Morris & Ann Moribe
Cliff Burigsay	Judy Morishige
Whitney Cabasag	Yukiko Motoyoshi
Bonita Chang	Yuki Muraki
Lori Chinen	Leslie Nagata
Kristi Chong	Irene Nakagawa
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Kimberly Click	Lori Okamura
Ethan Cochran	Kevin Oshiro
Victoria Conley	Nora Oshiro
Barbara Ellis	Merle Racoma
Sheldon Fukamizu	Mitsuyo Saito
Lori Furuta	Jerel Saito
Robyn Furuta	Sherri Sakamoto
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Michael Harman	Amy-Michelle Shiraishi
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JoAnn Jacobs	Charlyne Tom
Dawn Kakuni	Jeffrey Tom
Baron Kaneshiro	Allison Toma
Jan Kanno	Randy Tomoyasu
Jacqueline Kedrowski	Ann Tsubota
Wendy Kikuno	Nicki Uechi
Violet Kim	Sean Umetsu
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Allyson Kuwana	Kathryn Wong
Daniel Laraway	Teddi Yagi
Wendy Lee	Matthew Yagi
Francis Lee	Deanne Yoshioka
Kris Maeda	Traci Yoshiyama
Sharlyn Makabe	

## Student Council News

### By Cole Horita

During the first week of January, Student Council held a HI-5 recycling drive. The Student Council Executive Board decided to make a positive difference in the environment by conducting the recycling drive. Recycling alone helps the environment, but in addition, we decided to help the environment further by donating half of the money raised to Foster Botanical Gardens.

Another goal that we had as a Council, which was to make a positive difference in our school and community. Our contribution to Foster Gardens helps our community and to help our school, the other half of the money raised from this drive will go towards the 8th grade Korea-Japan study tour. Student Council decided to give to the 8th grade, as they kindly allowed us to

conduct our recycling drive during their year-round recycling fundraising for the study tour.

The Student Council would like to thank the parents, students, and HMS staff for bringing in cans and bottles to support this drive. We would also like to thank the 8th grade class and their families for helping and allowing us to conduct our recycling activity.

Mahalo for your support and continue to...Go Green!

## Pre-K Japanese Newsletter

By Saito Sensei

“Nihongo, daisuki!”

The Preschool children are enjoying learning the Japanese Language through singing Japanese songs. They enjoy singing popular and modern Japanese songs, playing favorite New Year's games, and role playing as a vegetable or fruit shop vender, which always fills the classroom with joyful laughter. The children are always eager to learn Japanese and proud to use Japanese language whenever possible.



As the community service project, the Preschool children will be planning to visit and entertain the elderly people at the Kuakini Day Care Pali Satellite by the Hawaii Betsuin Temple.

“Yatta! I can write my name in Japanese!”

The kindergarten students enjoy learning Japanese culture and writing. They are very excited to learn calligraphy. The students will observe “Kakizome” (New Year's tradition in Japan) and write “Heiwa” (peace) and sign their name with a Japanese

brush. Also they will learn “Sumie” (Japanese Brush Painting) in January.

As a community service project, all the kindergarten students walked to the Kuakini Hospital and entertained the elderly people at Hale Pulama Mau. The students and elderly people sang together and exchanged their love and gratitude through singing.



Our 12th Annual Grandparent's day was a great success. It was nice to see so many smiling faces of their grandparents beaming down on their grandchildren. Selected students from the Kindergarten devoted their precious Sunday and performed at the Hawaii Betsuin 2nd Annual Craft Fair in November and also at the Annual Music and Dance Fest on Sunday, December 11th.

One of my favorite projects “Spam Musubi Day” will be scheduled in the spring. All the children will learn about Japanese culture, etiquette, appreciation of the rice and Japanese food items that is produced with rice.

## Music at HMS

By Ms. Barbara Ellis

The general music program is characterized by active involvement in music making through the body, voice, movement, and instruments. There are plenty of opportunities for all learning styles to feel successful by using this multi-dimensional approach.

Preschool music classes meet twice a week for twenty minutes each. Kindergarten meets twice a week for thirty minutes each. 1st – 5th grades meet once a week for forty minutes. These classes develop both skill and understanding in the basic elements of music through experiences in body percussion, speech, singing, movement, dance, games, and instrument playing. Within any one class, the activities may be mixed, i.e., beginning with a listening activity, learning a new song, adding creative movement, and/or instrumental accompaniment.

Music is a subject that can help with academic skills. Some examples include working with rhymes and poetry for music improvisation (language arts), exploring the rhythmic aspect of music (math), using songs to teach history, geography, and culture (social studies), understanding how sound works (science), and developing coordination and dexterity through movement and instrument playing (PE).

The students are involved in two performances each school year. We have just completed our winter program, "Sing of Christmas Time." There will also be a spring program on April 27th.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. You are always welcome to drop in on your child's music class at any time.

## HMS 2011 Winter Program

By Ms. Barbara Ellis

This school year's winter program, "Sing of Christmas Time" was held in the Social Hall on Friday, December 9. All the students at HMS participated in this annual special event. It was a wonderful morning enjoyed by all. Despite the sizzling temperature in the Social Hall, the children rose to the occasion and did an outstanding job!

The morning began with the preschool and kindergarten students. The three-year-olds were first to take the stage looking very cute and performing three songs. The kindergarten students also performed three songs including one featuring the kindergarten teachers on some fun instruments. The very large four-year-old class filled up the stage and entertained the audience with three songs including a delightful one about Santa getting sunburn in Hawaii! I am always delighted to have Mitsuyo Saito, our Japanese teacher, assist with the program and feature the children in singing Japanese songs. As usual, the Japanese songs were a delight to see and hear!

The second part of the morning program began with a wonderful taiko performance with a select group of 7th and 8th grade students led by Jay Toyofuku. This was followed by a very large group of lively middle school students in a skit and a crowd pleasing dance to "Party Rock Anthem" led by drama teacher, Cari Taira. The next two performances featured songs about peace and goodwill with the 6th grade chorus and also a combined group of all 5th and 6th graders. The rest of the morning brought each grade level up to the stage with two songs. There was a wide variety of instruments used as well as an entertaining assortment of holiday songs.

I would once again like to thank all the people involved in helping with the program. See you in April for our spring event!





## Taiko Newsletter

By Mr. Jay Toyofuku

Most HMS students look forward to Taiko class because it is fun and they get to bang on something and make incredibly loud noises. While this may be true, students must also learn the rules of etiquette common to most taiko dojo, from the formal opening and closing of class to the proper care of equipment. They also develop the proper attitude and spirit for training necessary to achieve success in taiko.

In addition, students are exposed to a brief history of taiko, its use in performing arts, religious settings, and historical and cultural significance. They also learn basic vocabulary of commonly used terms.

Furthermore, students develop keen listening skills for drumming patterns and ensemble playing. Creativity is also encouraged through solo playing and composition.

Finally, students practice technical skills such as basic stances and forms as well as meditation and maintaining balance, posture, breathing, and concentration.

Our goal in Taiko class is to achieve the following:

- Self Discipline
- Patience
- Perseverance
- Sense of interconnectedness
- Respect for self, others, things
- Enthusiastic spirit
- Technical proficiency

### Hongwanji Mission School Alumni Association

HMS Alumni Association invites all HMS graduates and former students and faculty to re-connect with our school. For more information please call 532-0522.

## HMS Helping Hawaii's Families

By HMS Staff

In Hawaii there are a number of families who are working but do not make enough income to have a house to live in. Very often these families need extra help that will make a difference in their lives.

This year Hongwanji Mission School and Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin will be partnering with Family Promise of Hawaii to help such families.

Family Promise of Hawaii is a community based program designed to help homeless families with children transition to independence. Family Promise of Hawaii has been working since 2006 to assist families who are motivated to improve their livelihood and better their housing situation.

We will be hosting several of these families for a week in March during our Spring Recess. They will be using our Dojo areas as their temporary homes. We will also be providing breakfast and dinner in our cafeteria for the families.

If you are interested in helping us, please call the office at 532-0522.

Hongwanji Mission School and the  
Pacific Buddhist Academy Performing Theatre Present:



MUSIC BY  
ALAN MENKIN

LYRICS BY  
HOWARD ASHMAN AND TIM RICE

BOOK BY  
LINDA WOOLVERTON

ORIGINALLY DIRECTED BY  
ROBERT JESS ROTH

ORIGINALLY PRODUCED BY  
DISNEY THEATRICAL PRODUCTIONS

DIRECTED BY  
CAROLYN TAIRA

FRI., JANUARY 20th, 2012, 7:30 PM  
SAT., JANUARY 21st, 2012 4:00 & 7:30 PM

HONPA HONGWANJI SOCIAL HALL  
1727 PALI HWY

TICKETS: \$10 General \$5 Students Ages  
3-18. Please call (808) 532--0522 or visit  
[brownpapertickets.com](http://brownpapertickets.com) for more  
information.

## Surf's Up

By Jace Kawano, 4th Grade

On most Sundays you can find two 4th graders Kimberly Oshiro and Jace Kawano surfing at Diamond Head, with their dads. Dec 4th was different; this time both Kimberly and I were at Waikiki beach to give a surfing class to our fellow 4th graders Leion Van Osdol and Bryce Nishi. It was a nice day to surf at Waikiki because the swell came in and the surf was 1ft – 3ft with no wind. The lesson began on the beach with Kimberly and I showing how to get through a wave, paddle out and of course how to pop up and stand up on the surfboard to ride the wave. After the class it was time to surf. Leion and Bryce rented 9ft surfboards and Kimberly and I grabbed our 7ft boards. To make sure everyone was safe paddling out, I paddled out in the front, followed by Leion and Bryce, with Kimberly and our dads in the back. Out in the ocean Kimberly's dad and my dad split the group up, with each dad staying with 2 surfers. Once everyone was set on the ocean it was time to catch some waves. As the waves started to build Leion took off on his surfboard first and started cheering and with my dad yelling "STAND UP," Leion surfed his first wave ever. Then it was Bryce's turn, the wave came and off he went down the wave. We started cheering and once again my dad yelled "STAND UP" and Bryce also surfed his first wave ever. He told my dad that it felt like flying. It was the beginning of an awesome day. Leion and Bryce caught a lot of waves that day. Sometimes they got wiped out but they always got back on their boards and surfed again. They showed the true surfer spirit and never gave up. We were there for 3 hours including lunch. Bryce and Leion's parents bought us pizza, cheeseburgers and French fries for lunch. I know Kimberly's dad and my dad were also having fun helping everyone catch the waves. It's too bad they didn't get to really surf that day. Leion's dad Billy V. sent my dad an email later and he wrote "Surfing is not only about us and the ocean, it's also in many ways about us and life." I don't know what that means, I just know that I like to surf, after all "Eddie would go."



**Aloha Parents,  
Please join us for our first Technology Break-  
fast Wednesday, January 25  
from 7-8 in the Cafe.  
Hope to see you there!**

# Breakfast Menu for Hongwanji Mission Schools

Revised 7/22/2011

Menu subject to change without notice

9-Jan	10-Jan	11-Jan	12-Jan	13-Jan
Portuguese Sausage, Egg and Fried Rice	Pancake with Bacon	Vienna Sausage, Egg and Fried Rice	Grilled Cheese Sandwich and Portuguese Sausage	Spam, Egg and Rice
Spam Musubi	Spam Musubi	Spam Musubi	Spam Musubi	Spam Musubi
Cereal with Milk	Cereal with Milk	Cereal with Milk	Cereal with Milk	Cereal with Milk
Milk, Juice, or Coffee	Milk, Juice, or Coffee	Milk, Juice, or Coffee	Milk, Juice, or Coffee	Milk, Juice, or Coffee
<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>
16-Jan	17-Jan	18-Jan	19-Jan	20-Jan
	Pancake with Bacon	Vienna Sausage, Egg and Fried Rice	Grilled Cheese Sandwich and Portuguese Sausage	Corned Beef Hash, Egg and Rice
school closed	Spam Musubi	Spam Musubi	Spam Musubi	Spam Musubi
	Cereal with Milk	Cereal with Milk	Cereal with Milk	Cereal with Milk
	Milk, Juice, or Coffee	Milk, Juice, or Coffee	Milk, Juice, or Coffee	Milk, Juice, or Coffee
<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>
23-Jan	24-Jan	25-Jan	26-Jan	27-Jan
Portuguese Sausage, Egg and Fried Rice	Pancake with Bacon	Vienna Sausage, Egg and Fried Rice	Grilled Cheese Sandwich and Portuguese Sausage	Spam, Egg and Rice
Spam Musubi	Spam Musubi	Spam Musubi	Spam Musubi	Spam Musubi
Cereal with Milk	Cereal with Milk	Cereal with Milk	Cereal with Milk	Cereal with Milk
Milk, Juice, or Coffee	Milk, Juice, or Coffee	Milk, Juice, or Coffee	Milk, Juice, or Coffee	Milk, Juice, or Coffee
<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>
30-Jan	31-Jan	1-Feb	2-Feb	3-Feb
Portuguese Sausage, Egg and Fried Rice	Pancake with Bacon	Vienna Sausage, Egg and Fried Rice	Grilled Cheese Sandwich and Portuguese Sausage	
Spam Musubi	Spam Musubi	Spam Musubi	Spam Musubi	
Cereal with Milk	Cereal with Milk	Cereal with Milk	Cereal with Milk	school closed
Milk, Juice, or Coffee	Milk, Juice, or Coffee	Milk, Juice, or Coffee	Milk, Juice, or Coffee	

# Lunch Menu for Hongwanji Mission School

Revised 7/22/2011

Menu subject to change without notice

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
9-Jan	10-Jan	11-Jan	12-Jan	13-Jan
Chicken Nuggets	Spaghetti	Hot Pocket	Beef Ravioli	Hot Dog in a Bun
Tater Tots	Garlic Bread	French Fries	Dinner Roll	Chips
Carrot Sticks	Tossed Salad	Carrot Sticks	Tossed Salad	Carrot Sticks
Oranges	Pears	Apples	Pineapples	Banana
Milk	Milk	Milk	Milk	Milk
Taco Salad	Chef Salad	Asian Salad	Caesar Salad	Somen Salad
<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>
16-Jan	17-Jan	18-Jan	19-Jan	20-Jan
	Shoyu Chicken	Pepperoni Pizza	Spanish Macaroni	Chili
	Rice	Carrot Sticks	Rolls	Rice
school closed	Mixed Vegetables	Apple	Tossed Salad	Corn
	Applesauce		Applesauce	Pineapples
	Milk	Milk	Milk	Milk
	Chef Salad	Asian Salad	Caesar Salad	Somen Salad
	<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>
23-Jan	24-Jan	25-Jan	26-Jan	27-Jan
Sloppy Joe	Cheeseburger	Fried Chicken	Tuna Sandwich	Fried Saimin
Tater Tots	Fries	Rice	Fries	Eggroll
Carrot Sticks	Carrot Sticks	Mixed Vegetables	Carrot Sticks	Mixed Vegetables
Apple	Oranges	Applesauce	Banana	Mandarin Oranges
Milk	Milk	Milk	Milk	Milk
Taco Salad	Chef Salad	Asian Salad	Caesar Salad	Somen Salad
<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>
30-Jan	31-Jan	1-Feb	2-Feb	3-Feb
Chili Cheese Nachos	Teri Burger	Chicken Patty in a Bun	Chili Dog	
Tortilla Chips	Fries	Tater Tos	Rice	
Tossed Salad	Carrot Sticks	Tossed Salad	Corn	school closed
Pineapples	Oranges	Banana	Pears	
Milk	Milk	Milk	Milk	
Taco Salad	Chef Salad	Asian Salad	Caesar Salad	



# January



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 No Basketball Clinic 	2	3 Spring Afterschool schedule begins	4 3rd—8th grade HMS Spelling Bee 9:30-11:00 Betsuin Social Hall	5	6	7
Student Council "HI-5 Recycling Drive". 7-8am daily Middle School Benches						
8 HMS Basketball Clinic 9:30 & 10:00	9	10	11 Hoonko Service	12 1st grade Living Art Marine Center 8:45-12:00	13 Kindergarten Foster Botanical Garden 8:45-11:30	14 HMS Varsity Basketball 20/20 Tourney
15 HMS Basketball Clinic 9:30 & 10:00	16 St. Shinran's Memorial Day/Martin Luther King Jr. Day (school closed)	17 Boys & Girls Varsity Basketball Begins HMS @ Trinity	18	19 HMS @ Pearl Harbor	20 Beauty & the Beast Opening Night 7:30 pm	21 Beauty & the Beast 4:00pm & 7:30 pm
22 HMS Basketball Clinic 9:30 & 10:00	23 	24 Our Redeemer @HMS	25	26 Our Savior @HMS	27 Fort Gakuen end of 1st semester	28
29'' HMS Basketball Clinic 9:30 & 10:00	30 Hanalani @HMS	31 HMS @St. Mark				

**Spring 2012 After-School Classes**  
Spring After-school Classes have started already.  
**HAVE YOU SIGNED UP YET?**  
Visit the office for order forms.

**No School on Monday, January 16**

**Accepting Applications for 2012-2013**  
Please go to [www.HongwanjiMissionSchool.org](http://www.HongwanjiMissionSchool.org)  
for information & applications or call the  
HMS office at 532-0522.

**Are you on Facebook? Become a fan of  
Hongwanji Mission School's Facebook Page.  
[www.Facebook.com/HongwanjiMissionSchool](http://www.Facebook.com/HongwanjiMissionSchool)**

**HMS Fun Fair 2012**  
HMS Fun Fair  
Saturday, February 18, 2012  
10:00am - 3:00pm  
HMS Campus  
Lots of Fun, Food & Games  
Please Join Us!

**Beauty and the Beast Jr.**  
Remember to get your tickets for  
Beauty and the Beast Jr.  
Friday, Jan. 20th 7:30pm  
Saturday, Jan. 21st 4:00pm & 7:30pm  
Call 532-0522 for tickets & information