



Aikahi Wind Riders

<http://aikahi.net>

August 2011 / 2011-2012 School Year / No. 1

PTSA Newsletter



Find us on **Facebook!** Be the first to hear about important school updates! Network with other involved parents! Post questions, comments, etc! Simply search for **Aikahi Elementary** in the search box at the top of Facebook.com. Click on “like” and any updates posted to the Aikahi Elementary Facebook page will be visible from your own News Feed

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES:

Aug. 24 Open House grades 1-6 5pm-6pm
 Aug. 31 Catalog Fundraiser Forms Due
 Sept. 1-30 Parent Lunch Invitations by Grade
 Sept. 5 **NO SCHOOL** Labor Day Holiday
 Sept. 14 Picture Day
 Sept. 24 JK & K Playground Cleanup Day
 Sept. 30 1st Quarter Ends
 Oct. 3-7 **NO SCHOOL** Fall Break
 Oct. 8 Rummage Sale Fundraiser
 Oct. 10 **NO SCHOOL**
 Oct. 14 Family Science Night
 Oct. 22 5th Grade Playground Cleanup Day
 Oct. 24-Nov.1 **EARLY RELEASE 12:30**
 Parent/Teacher Conferences
 Oct. 26 SCC Board Meeting 3pm
 Nov. 11 **NO SCHOOL** Veterans Day
 Nov. 19 1st Grade Playground Cleanup Day
 Nov. 23 Turkey Trot
 Nov. 30 SCC Board Meeting 3pm
 Nov. 24-25 **NO SCHOOL** Thanksgiving
 Dec. 14 **LATE RELEASE 2:05**
 Principal’s Coffee 8:30am – sharing
 of academic & financial plan
 SSC Meeting 3pm

Dec. 15 **EARLY RELEASE 12:30**
 2nd Quarter Ends
 Dec. 16 **NO SCHOOL**
 Dec. 17 Community Playground Cleanup
 Dec. 19-Jan 2 **NO SCHOOL** Winter Break
 Jan. 3 **NO SCHOOL** Teacher Work Day
 Jan. 16 **NO SCHOOL** Dr. MLK Jr. Day
 Jan. 21 2nd Grade Playground Cleanup
 Feb. 18 4th Grade Playground Cleanup
 Feb. 20 **NO SCHOOL** President’s Day
 Feb. 29 SCC Board Meeting 3pm
 March 8 3rd Quarter Ends
 March 9 **NO SCHOOL**
 March 12-16 **NO SCHOOL** Spring Break
 March 24 3rd Grade Playground Cleanup
 March 26 **NO SCHOOL** Kuhio Day
 April 6 **NO SCHOOL** Good Friday
 April 21 Student Council Playground Cleanup
 April 25 SCC Board Meeting 3pm
 May 9 **LATE RELEASE 2:05**
 May 11 **EARLY RELEASE 12:30**
 May 19 Community Playground Cleanup
 May 23 **LATE RELEASE 2:05**
 May 24 **EARLY RELEASE 12:30**
 Last Day for Students

Get the latest updates and eBlasts by signing up for eNews at www.aikahi.net

To receive the latest Aikahi email updates please do the following:

1. Go to www.aikahi.net
2. Bookmark this site!
3. Go to “School Website”
4. Click on the “Sign up Today” E-mail Update link
5. Enter your name and email address

MAHALO TO THE FOLLOWING GENEROUS SUPPORTERS OF AIKAHI PTSA:

Dreyer’s Foundation – Grant funded Back to School Night

KOSC (Kaneohe Officer Spouse’s Club) – Grant to fund Fall Family Science Night

IECA (Independent Educational Consultants Association) Foundation – Grant to fund Spring Family Science Night

PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE

Welcome back new and returning 'Aikahi Families! I hope everyone had a chance to have some R& R this summer. It is good to have all the smiling children back at school. We have a fantastic academic year ahead of us.

First, I wanted to thank all the parents for coming to the Principal Coffee on August 10th. It is a good way to find out what's happening around the school. I appreciate your input and value your commitment to education. One of the topics of the coffee was the students HSA scores during the last school year. The results were impressive; the teachers and I are dedicated to continuing the school-wide effort to keep the numbers climbing. Test scores show that the students understand what is being taught. Our teachers and parents work very hard to teach each child the best he/she can and it shows through academics and behavior. I have included the previous and current year Assessment Scores in the graph below.

I also would like to invite you to attend our Open House on August 24th from 5 to 6:00 pm. We want every parent to know their child's classroom, what the class schedule is and get to know their child's teacher. This is an excellent opportunity to do just that. We hope to see you there!

The beginning of the year is always a busy time and one of adjustment. I thank you for taking the time each evening to look through your child's assignment planner, checking homework and providing the support they need. Every minute makes a difference!!

Mahalo,
Gay Kong, Principal

2008- 2011 Aikahi Elementary Hawaii State Assessment Scores:

READING					MATH				
Gr	2008	2009	2010	2011	Gr	2008	2009	2010	2011
3	83%	90%	85%	81%	3	80%	71%	71%	77%
4	86%	78%	88%	89%	4	67%	76%	76%	84%
5	74%	82%	82%	90%	5	67%	67%	70%	84%
6	72%	78%	82%	87%	6	78%	64%	70%	77%
ALL	78%	81%	84%	87%	ALL	70%	69%	71%	80%

YOUR 2011/2012 PTSA BOARD:

Christina Pascua:	President	christinapascua@ymail.com
Tehani Alo:	1 st Vice President	tehani_l@yahoo.com
Kelly Anderson:	2 nd Vice President	anderson_kelly@hotmail.com
Amy Kunz:	Treasurer	askinkailua@hotmail.com
VACANT:	Secretary:	contact Christina for more information

PTSA UPDATE

Thank you to the following parents for donating breakfast items for the annual faculty breakfast:



Ashley Norcross **Meri Hoffsten**
Kyla Murray **Dania Hill**
Lezlee Weaver **Julie Himel**
Marilyn Ormande **Tehani Alo**
Kelly Anderson

And a very special thank you to **STARBUCKS ENCHANTED LAKES** for donating coffee for the breakfast. If you would like to be a part of the hospitality committee please email your request to christinapascua@gmail.com

Thank you to the following parents who have volunteered to be committee chairs/coordinators for the following PTSA committees/programs:

Tracy Watkins - eScrip Coordinator
Tehani Alo - Enrichment Coordinator
Laurie Ahlgren & Kristi Mapes - School Directory Coordinators
Mark Nakayama - Yearbook Chair
Denise Dittrich - Rummage Chair
Kate Lloyd - Turkey Trot Chair
Deb Goebert - Holiday Craft Chair
Melanie Moore & Caitlin Nagel - Parents Night Out Co-Chairs
Zsuzsa Rodgers – Parents Night Out Advisor
Cara Barber - PTSA Newsletter Editor
Kelly Anderson – Family Science Night & Yellow Ribbon Day Chair
Lezlee Weaver – Healthy Choices Coordinator

PTSA fall fundraiser with Believe catalog is under way. Packets were delivered on Wednesday, August 17th. This is a great opportunity to kick off or finish your Christmas shopping and help Aikahi raise much needed funds raise funds for field trip scholarships, enrichment scholarships, healthy choice and Christmas giving basket funding. Distribution of catalog items will be the week before Thanksgiving, plenty of time to mail things to the mainland if you need to. And remember, **the classroom that has the MOST participation rate will win a pizza party and that teacher will receive a bonus check**, courtesy of PTSA. So avoid the malls this year, let your finger do the shopping and help our childrens school raise money. Don't forget order forms are due by August 31st!

Christina Pascua, PTSA President Aikahi Elementary



PTSA SCHEDULED FUNDRAISERS FOR 2011-2012:

1. **Believe Catalog (August)** - proceeds go towards field trip scholarships, enrichment scholarships, healthy choice & Christmas giving basket funding
2. **Rummage (October)** - proceeds go towards the library
3. **Turkey Trot (November)** - proceeds go towards the classroom
4. **Parents Night Out (February)** - proceeds go towards physical education funding, yellow ribbon day, teacher and student appreciation gifts
5. **Fun Fair (May)** - money goes toward technology upgrades, legacy project and graduation

PCNC FAMILY CONNECTIONS CORNER

Happy New School Year!! I would like to introduce myself as your new PCNC Facilitator, **Robyn Nagli**. (Some of you may recognize me from being the morning parking lot drop off and afternoon pick up person from last year.) I have enjoyed meeting several new families either at Back to School Night or from stopping by the PCNC office. It has been wonderful to see all the smiling faces of returning students and families around campus.

I would like to thank all the parents who have taken the time to stop by the PCNC office. It is a community gathering place where all 'Aikahi families should feel welcome. I am here to assist, listen to and support you. Feel free to use the PCNC Room as a waiting area for your child afterschool.

We have had a great response to the **Tuesday Mom Club** and have been asked by both parents and teachers if an additional day could be added. I would like to put out the idea of a Wednesday Workers Team. I know there were several parents who couldn't make it on Tuesday but really wanted the opportunity another day. If you might be interested please call or email me. I look forward to hearing from you!

Our first **Principal's Coffee** was a huge success... 40 people attended! **Principal Kong** reviewed the most current HSA test scores, parents were briefed on Kid and Teen Biz programs from the Area Representative and our military liaison spoke about services available to our military families. If you would like more information from the meeting, please contact me.

We have several upcoming events at the school in which parents can get involved:

- First is our **Open House Night** on Wednesday, August 24th from 5 – 6:00 pm. This is a great way to meet the teachers and let your child show off his/her new classroom!
- Secondly, **September is Parent Lunch Invite Month**. I will be sending home a flier of all grade level lunch dates and Grandparents' Lunch Day. It is another opportunity to be involved, let your child share with you a piece of his/her day and support the school lunch count at the same time. Last year 2nd grade had 50 parents attend... *let's see which grade level can top that!!*
- Everyone loves **Picture Day**. This year it is September 14th. I also wanted to let you know we will be offering Spring photos this year (date tbd). The Fall pictures will be the standard school portrait pose while the Spring pictures will offer several non-traditional poses. If you have any questions, as always please call me.

'Aikahi Elementary also has an opportunity for those who wish to do even more than volunteer. There are currently (2) 17-hour a week **Part-Time Teacher (PTT)** positions available. The hours are from 11:30 to 3:30 M/T/Th/F and the pay is \$20+/hr. If you know a qualified individual that would be interested please pass the word because the faster we find qualified applicants the quicker we can be supplying more support to our keikis!

I know this will be a fabulous year. I am looking forward to communicating with each and every family. My goal is that everyone knows exactly what is going on in the school.
Communication...Communication...Communication!!

Your thoughts, feedback and ideas are always welcome! You can contact me at 254-7944 x235 or robyn_nagli@notes.k12.hi.us

Robyn Nagli, 'Aikahi Elementary PCNC



Family Science Night!

Aikahi PTSA is thrilled to announce that Bishop Museum's Holoholo Science Program will be returning this Fall to present a Family Science Night at our school! Mark your calendars for the evening of

October 14th and prepare for a fun, unique and educational experience for the entire family! This event is brought to you at NO COST thanks to a generous grant from the Kaneohe Officer Spouse Club (KOSC) and will include TWO of the mobile planetariums that were so popular last year, as

well as new hands-on science exhibits and experiences. To make this event a success, we will need plenty of volunteers to facilitate the learning centers. Volunteer obligation include during the event as well as a short training session immediately prior. If you are interested in helping this event be a success, please contact Kelly Anderson at anderson_kelly@hotmail.com



'Aikahi Directory 2011-2012

Don't get left out!!! Did you turn in your info? There's still time!
The date has been extended! Want to place an ad for your business?

There is still time for that too!!!

Please go to Aikahi.net and download the forms from the PTSA page.
By contributing your info, it makes classmates easier to contact and
brings our 'Aikahi Ohana closer together.

Please submit your info/advertisement ASAP. We want to go to print in
early September. *Remember to order your copy!!*

Rummage Sale

Great News! Change your calendars! We are moving up the date of the 'Aikahi Rummage Sale to Saturday, October 8th! Please begin filling a box with gently used treasures for the Rummage Sale. Everything that was interesting enough for you to acquire once, will be exciting and new to another!

This next month will go by fast! ...and we hate to say the word "holiday" before it's even Halloween, but that season will be here right after our days cool down! Now is the time to begin clearing out and beginning to prepare for Santa, travelling, and family arriving for the winter break.

It's time to look around your house and yard. Gather those things you no longer use and give them up! **This year's Aikahi Rummage Sale proceeds will benefit our school library.** Mrs. Fong has some great ideas, but needs some funding...so don't wait any longer! . . . start getting ready . . . drop off dates will be announced . . . Don't let any clutter or anything that could begin to clutter go unboxed for our library benefitting sale! All donations are tax deductible☺!

Please volunteer with our Rummage Crew! We need your help advertising and distributing flyers, collecting, sorting and setting up, and selling on Saturday, October 8th! Doors will open at 7am and close at 1pm.

Can't make it, but want to help?! Please email Laurie Ahlgren feyray@hawaii.rr.com. Yes! We need you!



'ĀINA In Schools, is a program of the Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation. Aikahi Elementary is one of 12 'ĀINA IS schools working to connect students to their land, waters and food in order to grow a healthier future for Hawai'i. The success and growth of 'ĀINA IS at Aikahi Elem. is due to the support of the school's administration, staff, and parent and community volunteers. Parent volunteers are always needed to teach or assist with the garden lessons for K, 1st or 5th grade, nutrition lessons for 2nd ad 6th grade, and the Fresh Choices salad bar.

'ĀINA In Schools at Aikahi is off to a great start this school year. New and returning parent and community volunteers will attend Garden and Nutrition docent trainings, lead by Deanna Moncrief the 'ĀINA In Schools Nutritionist, and Lydi Morgan-Bernal, the 'ĀINA In Schools, School Garden Coordinator.

These parent volunteers are eager to share with the students at Aikahi the once a month garden and nutrition lessons. In the first nutrition lesson docents will show students the importance of choosing a variety of foods each day from the Hawai'i Food Guide food groups, and will demonstrate for students how to make a nutritious poi smoothie with an ingredient from each food group.

Garden Educator and parent Wendy Rosen will be planting a butterfly garden with the kindergarteners, a Sunflower house with the first graders and a scientific garden with the 5th graders. Extra hands are always appreciated, parents are welcomed to assist with these garden lessons, garden maintenance, or the after school garden club.



The school gardens have been prepared for planting at the 'ĀINA IS Fall Garden Party. Many Aikahi families, and volunteers from the community spent the morning weeding, amending, and mulching. Highlights included the construction of a new Garden Club garden bed and the preparation of a 4th grade taro garden bed.

To learn more about this program and how to get involved at Aikahi Elementary, contact PCNC **Robyn Nagli** in the PCNC room, or **Wendy Rosen** the Garden Educator at 220-5691, or for more information about the nutrition lessons, parent **Lezlee McFadden** (lezleemcfadden@hotmail.com). Or visit the our website at www.kokuahawaiifoundation.org/aina

SEPTEMBER LUNCH INVITATIONAL

Please help support 'Aikahi's school cafeteria during the month of September by coming to eat lunch with your son/daughter on their grade level day.

**** Calling all grandparents... we have a day just for you, too! ****

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Main Dish</u>	<u>Arrival Time</u>
6 th	Friday Sept. 2 nd	oven baked chicken	11:35
5 th	Tuesday Sept. 6 th	chicken sticks	11:35
4 th	Wednesday Sept. 7 th	sloppy joes	11:30
Grandparent's Day	Monday Sept. 12 th	chicken patty	11:05 or 11:35*
3 rd	Wednesday Sept. 14 th	creole macaroni	11:30
2 nd	Wednesday Sept. 21 st	beef stew	10:50
1 st	Wednesday Sept. 28 th	corn dogs	10:50
K	Friday Sept. 30 th	kalua pork and cabbage	11:05

** For Grandparent's Day, if the student is in:
grades K-2 please arrive at 11:05
grades 3-6 please arrive at 11:35*

PLAYGROUND UPDATE

We're looking for a few good people! Aikahi PTSA is committed to keeping our wonderful community-built playground clean and safe for our keiki. Maintenance of the playground is a priority and cannot be accomplished without a collaborative effort. If you are interested in working with our Playground Committee to help organize and run

Playground Cleanup Days, please contact **Christina Pascua** at

christinapascua@gmail.com

Here is a list of the playground cleanups scheduled for this school year. They are all scheduled for Saturdays at 9am. (dates are tentative and may change, depending on events going on around school or weather):

Sept 24th: JK & K
Oct 22nd: 5th grade
Nov 19th: 1st grade
Dec 17th: community
Jan 21st: 2nd grade

Feb 18th: 4th grade
Mar 24th: 3rd grade
Apr 21st: student council
May 19th: community



Please remember to register your Safeway cards with eScrip at www.eScrip.com. Remember to shop through eScrip for all your online purchases. This is the **EASIEST way to raise money for Aikahi! You can even have family sign up too!**



Safeway Tiered Contribution Structure	
1%	on monthly purchases up to \$300
2%	on monthly purchases between \$300-\$500
3%	on monthly purchases between \$500-\$600
4%	on monthly purchases over \$600

TREASURER'S REPORT:

PTSA Income

50th Anniversary Celebration	4,759
Donations	1,984
Enrichment Income	680
eScrip	9,759
Fun Fair Income	14,207
Fund Raisers	6,177
Interest Inc	5
Membership Income	1,480
Rummage Sale Income	2,714
School Store	3,386
Turkey Trot Income	7,109
Yearbook Income	6,680

TOTAL INCOME 58,940

PTSA Expenses

Teacher and Library Support	10,584
Student Support and Enrichment	6,761
Events (Turkey Trot, Fun Fair, May Day, 50th)	13,541
Healthy Choice/Aina Is	1,601
Yearbook	4,998
Playground	2,227
Community/Military Support	443
PTSA Board and Taxes	3,513
Miscellaneous	654

TOTAL EXPENSES 44,322

The Aikahi Elementary PTSA is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Aikahi PTSA is an all-volunteer membership organization comprised of families, teachers, staff and friends of Aikahi Elementary. Aikahi PTSA's role is to support the mission of the school through advocacy, volunteerism and fundraising. A volunteer board elected annually leads the PTSA. One of the main areas of focus is to promote parent and community participation in the programs and activities of the school. A key function of the PTSA is to raise funding to support programs the school cannot fund. Additionally, Aikahi PTSA strives to support our extensive enrichment program and to be a liaison with our military community. Becoming a member of Aikahi PTSA is a KEY way to becoming involved in your child's education and creating a successful and memorable school experience! Contact PTSA President Christina Pascua to get involved!