



Aikahi Wind Riders

www.aikahi.net

October 2009 / 2009-2010 School Year / No. 2

PTSA Newsletter

HAWAII EDUCATION MATTERS! MARCH



**October 23, 2009 (our first furlough day) 10:00am to 1:00pm meet at Father Damien Statue
All Public School Parents, Children and Supporters are invited**

Join together at the Hawaii State Capitol to tell the political establishment that education and the stewardship of our keiki's future are the highest priority.

Be sure to wear sunscreen, bring hats/umbrellas, and bring your own sign, snacks and drink.
(website soon to go active) www.HawaiiEducationMatters.org (check back regularly when online for updates)

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

Oct. 2	First Quarter Ends
Oct. 5 – 9	No School – Fall Break
Oct. 12	No School – Teacher Inst. Day
Oct. 13	No School – PC Day
Oct. 20	Make-Up Picture Taking Day
Oct. 21	SCC Meeting 6:00 pm PTSA Meeting 7:00 pm
Oct. 22 -30	Teacher Conf. 12:30 RELEASE
Oct. 23	No School – Furlough Day MARCH ON CAPITOL 10am – 1pm
Oct. 30	No School – Furlough Day
Nov. 6	No School – Furlough Day
Nov. 11	No School – Veteran's Day
Nov. 20	No School – Furlough Day
Nov. 26 – 27	No School – Thanksgiving Holiday
Dec. 4	No School – Furlough Day
Dec. 11	No School – Furlough Day
Dec. 18	No School – Furlough Day Second Quarter Ends
Dec. 21 – Jan. 1	Winter Break
Jan. 4	No School – Teacher Work Day
Jan. 5	No School – PC Day
Jan. 15	No School – Furlough Day
Jan. 18	No School – MLK Jr. Day
Jan. 29	No School – Furlough Day
Feb. 5	No School – Furlough Day
Feb. 12	No School – Furlough Day
Feb. 15	No School – Presidents Day
Feb. 19	"We Love Aikahi "Auction night
Mar. 5	No School – Furlough Day
Mar. 12	No School – Furlough Day Third Quarter Ends
Mar. 15 – 19	No School – Spring Break
Mar. 26 -	No School – Kuhio Day
Apr. 2	No School – Good Friday
Apr. 5	No School – PC Day
Apr. 23	No School – Furlough Day
Apr. 30	No School – Furlough Day
May 7	No School – Furlough Day
May 14	No School – Furlough Day
Mar 26	Fourth Quarter Ends

PRINCIPAL NEWS by Gay Kong

Principal Coffee:

We had a great turn out at our September 23 principal's coffee. The hot topic of the day was the teacher furlough days. I want to thank parents for being supportive in understanding the sacrifice that teachers need to make to help the state balance its budget. Parents brought up many questions and suggestions in regards to furlough days and its impact on our students' education. Please visit www.aikahi.net to view the questions and answers about furlough days that were brought up at the principal's coffee.

Parent Survey:

We are concerned about the loss of instructional time due to furlough days. With this in mind, our school will need to prioritize our school activities to ensure that essential standards are taught. We would like to have input from our parents about our school activities that we currently offer. We sent a survey home to all parents on September 29, 2009. Since time is of the essence, we are asking parents to return surveys by October 2, 2009.

Office Staff Member Retires:

We would like to offer a warm aloha to Chris Soares, our school SASA, who retired at the end of August. Gail Taketa is temporarily assigned as our school SASA. We thank Gail for her willingness to take on this new challenging position.

Gay Kong
Aikahi Elementary Principal

PTSA News

One of the functions of PTSA's is to advocate on behalf of parents, teachers and students. Now is a time when our advocacy efforts are really needed. The Aikahi PTSA Board has spent the last few weeks immersed in the Friday Furlough issue. We have attended DOE and school meetings, contacted other PTSA's, spoke to the media, legislators, school administration, and parents. This Newsletter is primarily dedicated to sharing with you the information we have learned and providing many ways for you, your family and neighbors to get involved. Our goal is to get our students back in their classrooms, with their teachers on Fridays. We are not alone in this effort. This is the goal of PTO's, PTSA's and schools statewide. We hope this helps our families and staff. Please contact us if you have questions or ideas. We strongly encourage you to voice your opinion. Until other interim alternatives are investigated, here is what you can do in the meantime:

- **Write Letters and Call:** We have included contact information for many state leaders and the media. We have also included ideas for you to include in your letter. Please take the time to write letters and send them in. Your children should write letters. Don't forget letters to the editors. Phone calls work too.
- **March at the Capitol:** Friday October 23 (the first Furlough day) a rally and March is planned at the State Capitol. We have attached the flyer. The PTSA is looking to secure a bus. Sign making will be held at school Wed. Oct. 21 at 6:00 pm prior to the PTSA meeting.
- **Meet our Legislators:** Representative Cynthia Thielen will be a guest at our Oct. 21 meeting. She will help us understand the legislative and budget process and possible remedies.

Please come to our next scheduled PTSA meeting. We will have a petition ready for you to sign. We will present the petition to the governor at the Rally on March 23, 2009.

DREAM Co. is offering childcare at the school for all Furlough Fridays. Forms are in the school office or the DREAM Co. website (dreamcohawaii.org). Other programs may become available once applications are approved by the DOE. We wish we had more answers, and that this was an easy problem to solve. We will all have to work together to make a difference. Please send us your thoughts and join us on Wed. October 21 for our PTSA meeting.

Debbie Schatz
Kathy Bryant-Hunter
PTSA Co-Presidents

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

Directory:

The digital school directory is almost complete, and will be e-mailed out soon. Those who are in the directory will receive a copy of it. If you have not signed up, a supplement will be sent out after winter break if you drop off your form to the PCNC room. Forms are on aikahi.net. Search for Parent, teacher and it will link to forms.

Festival of Giving:

Join us in celebrating the Festival of Giving. AGT will be selling \$5 tickets for the event on November 14-15 at Windward Mall. Students will have a booth there **Saturday, November 14th from 3pm – 8pm**. Location: Credit Union/Taco Del Mar Entrance (Upper Level) Bring your ticket, or purchase one at the mall, and we will give you a bracelet for all the discounts.

We highly encourage everyone concerned to write letters, email concerns, and make phone calls! Here is a list that can get you started. Along with this newsletter, posted on www.aikahi.net is a file containing a sample letter and optional phrasing to use:

The President of the United States

The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500
202-456-1414

www.whitehouse.gov/contact/

The Honorable Linda Lingle, Governor, State of Hawai'i

Executive Chambers, State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813
Phone: 808-586-0034
Fax: 808-586-0006

e-mail: governor.lingle@hawaii.gov

James R. "DUKE" Aiona, JR. Lieutenant

Governor, State of Hawai'i
Office of the Lieutenant Governor State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Phone: (808) 586-0255

Fax: (808) 586-0231

e-mail: ltgov@hawaii.gov

Fred Hemmings, 25th Senatorial District

Hawaii State Capitol, Room 221
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

phone 808-587-8388; fax 808-587-7240

E-mail senhemmings@Capitol.hawaii.gov

Cynthia Thielen, Assistant Minority Leader

50th Representative District
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 443
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phone 808-586-6480; fax 808-586-6481

E-mail repthielen@Capitol.hawaii.gov

Website <http://www.cynthiathielen.com/>

Jill N. Tokuda, 24th Senatorial District

Hawaii State Capitol, Room 218
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Hawai'i Department of Education DOE

Superintendent Pat Hamamoto

P O Box 2360, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96804

Phone: (808) 586-3349

email: BOE_Hawaii@notes.k12.hi.us

Board of Education BOE

<http://lilinode.k12.hi.us/STATE/BOE/Guestbook.nsf/Guest?OpenForm>

Use this website to submit testimony

Hawaii State Teachers Association HSTA (Teachers Union)

President Wil Okabe

1200 Ala Kapuna St.

Honolulu, Hawaii 96819

Phone: (808) 833-2711

Fax: (808) 839-7106

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Advertiser welcomes letters in good taste on any subject. All letters must be accompanied by the writer's true name, address and daytime telephone number, should be on a single subject and kept to 200 words or fewer. Letters are subject to trimming and editing. All letters submitted to The Advertiser may be published or distributed in print, electronic and other forms.

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PLAYGROUND NEWS

'Aikahi Elementary PLAYGROUND



THANK YOU EVERYONE!

We had a really good turn out on Saturday September 19th. We had very strong and hard working parents and students, Boys Scouts from Troop 228, representatives from Watts Contractors, and community members. We were successful in accomplishing our goal of preparing the perimeter for additional landscaping work, and for the interior ground cover to be installed. We backfilled all the areas around the playground, removed dozens of bags of weeds (thanks Hugh Jones for taking them to Green Waste), wrapped and prepped the drainage outfalls, installed weed barrier cloth and spread the rubber fill material in the area behind the dragon wall. We also filled the holes on the playground from the post support work. We hope you enjoyed the work and share in our enthusiasm for your accomplishments.

Great news! The installation of the playground turf will occur over Fall Break from Monday Oct. 5 - 15. As always our corporate partners have been incredible with their in kind support. Watts Constructors has generously donated their time and equipment to do the site preparation on Oct. 5- 6. Hawaiian Cement has donated sand and a conveyor belt to assist with the distribution of the sand. Horizon Lines has donated a container to store the material and one of our parents, CDR Hobie Anderson, coordinated with the US Navy to fly the turf rolls, rubber fill, and foam material over to Hawaii from California savings us over



\$3,500 in shipping costs!!! Very Awesome! NyLawn Hawaii will complete the turf installation from the 6th to 15th. The playground will remain closed during this time. Please come by during fall break and thank the companies for helping us out (bringing some fresh baked cookies and cold water would be great!!!). We could not have finished the ground cover installation this quickly



without their generous support. Once the ground cover is installed, the school will do walk throughs with the students to review the rules and instructions for the apparatuses. We will plan a Grand Re-opening Celebration toward the end of October, possibly in conjunction with Halloween.

Also, great news: Tom Stoddard, Steve Meckler and Jill Butterbaugh met to go over the process to complete the Dragon wall. They have come up with an exciting plan to complete the head and the remaining mason work. Once the mason work is finished, Jill and other parent artists will work with the 6th grade who will paint the dragon as the 6th Grade Legacy project. We have received a \$500 grant from the Lani-Kailua Outdoor Circle to support that project.

If you weren't able to stay until the end of the day on Sat. please stop by and marvel at the improvement.

We will still be making and selling tiles to decorate the playground, so stay tuned for more information regarding this!

Finally, we ask that if you ever see anyone playing on the playground during this time, that you kindly ask them to leave. We have people on the playground every day despite the orange fence. We want everyone to enjoy the playground, but not while it is closed and considered unsafe. Also, once the interior site work is completed and the sand compacted, we really don't want anyone on the site while we transition to the turf installation. So please, take the initiative and ask them to be patient and leave.

Again, great job and thank you!!!

Kathy Bryant
Bill Pierce
Playground
Committee



RUMMAGE SALE NEWS



Kate Lloyd & JessAnn Peterson) & the PTSA Board (Kathy Bryant, Debbie Schatz, Melanie Bailey, Angla Kung, Zsuzsa Rogers & Kelly Anderson). Without all of them none of this would have been possible. You're all awesome! Thank you for all your hard work! Its not too early to start saving your donations for our next Rummage Sale this Spring!

Christina Pascua
Rummage Committee Chair



PCNC NEWS

Parents Mark Your Calendars for the upcoming Run & Read for Literacy Event! Sunday, November 1, 2009 8:30 AM at the Beautiful Campus of Windward Community College.

This is one of the BEST fundraisers of the year. It's fun! It's only \$10/entry! Our school receives \$7 for every \$10 entry fee to support literacy efforts.

You'll also receive A Run and Read T-Shirt, a goodie bag and a read aloud book, and a Pizza Hut Carryout for Literacy Card (worth \$10)

Let's help support our school's library by raising funds. If we get 100 participants that's \$700! I'll be there, I hope you will be there, too!

ENTRY FORMS WILL BE SENT HOME TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2009. Make sure you return your entry form to the PCNC BEFORE Fall Break. Late entries might not receive the T-Shirts. Questions? Contact Amy Solomon amy_solomon@notes.k12.hi.us or visit:
<http://www.readtomeintl.org/display.cfm?storyID=75>

Thanks,

Amy Solomon
Parent Facilitator

NEWS FROM AINA IS

The first Aina IS lesson has been completed and all the garden beds have been planted. Grade K is growing a Butterfly garden with Marigolds, Cosmos and Zinnias. Grade 1 has planted Sunflower houses and a Teepee. Look for the Teepee made from bamboo poles with Snap Peas growing up the sides! Grade 5 planted a carrot experiment, with space being the variable. Will carrots grow larger, smaller or stay the same, if given more space? What do you think?

The Aikahi Garden Team (previously the Garden Club) has completed their new logo, and with the help of Mrs. Mah, will be printing their new shirts on Oct 19 and painting them the following week. Keep an eye out for the green shirts! Planting is almost completed with corn, sweet potatoes, green onions, cucumbers, beets and cabbage. Our first crop of green beans didn't make it through the hot, hot weekend, so we will have to try again after the break!

I am very happy to announce that a new Aikahi parent, Jennifer Robinson, will be helping with our herb garden this year. She is a professional chef, loves growing herbs and has generously offered to share some of her expertise with our Aikahi family. Presently, the only herbs available for harvesting are Rosemary and Chives...and there is LOTS of it! Did you know that herbs can be frozen for later use? With Thanksgiving right around the corner, this is a great time to stock up! Stop by the gardens near A building after school Sept 28-Oct 2 and Jennifer will be there to help cut herbs and share some cooking tips. We hope to continue this activity throughout the year whenever we have the herbs to share!

Happy Gardening
Wendy Rosen
Aina IS Garden Educator
Garden Team Advisor

FUNDRAISER NEWS

Many thanks to all Aikahi students and families who helped support our Great American catalog fundraiser this year! Even in this tough economic environment, we were able to make a respectable profit and are looking forward to contributing meaningfully to both the school and the playground as a result. Plus, we're all excited about receiving our great products!! As soon as our product arrival and distribution dates are set, we'll let you know! If you're interested in volunteering to help with that process, please contact Kamie Hobbs Berkey @ 263-1943 or kamiekhb@hotmail.com. Once again, thanks for your great support ... you all make a big difference!!

Kamie Hobbs Berkey

Save the date!

We Love Aikahi Dinner and Silent Auction: We have set the date for February 19, Friday. It will be at the grand ballroom of the Ko'olau Golf Club and we are planning a sit-down dinner, silent and live auctions and lots of fun for parents, grandparents, teachers and school staff.

Aikahi Elementary PTA needs Club Card numbers!



Your friends, family and neighbors – EVERYBODY'S!

Anyone may have earned from this program and Aikahi Elementary PTA can claim it – it's FREE to you and valuable to them!

Gather as many Club Card numbers from friends, family and neighbors as you can and send them to the eScrip coordinator at Aikahi Elementary PTA before October 13th!

ROBOTICS NEWS

Robotics is back at Aikahi!

The Aikahi Wind Riders Robotics Club is a parent volunteer led group focusing on technology, creativity, and team building. Students will design, build and program robots using LEGO MINDSTORMS® technology and Mac notebook computers. They will apply real-world math and science concepts and research challenges facing today's scientists. There are two levels of participation for 5th & 6th graders: an after school Fun Season and a Competition Team for experienced robotics students.

The Fun Season will be geared for beginning robotics engineers. Students will learn the basics of robotics in a fun and relaxed atmosphere. They'll learn to use a Mac to program Lego robots to go forward, turn, and perform special exercises.

The Competition Team will be an intense program affiliated with the US First Lego League (FLL) national competition, involving critical thinking, team-building and presentation skills. This year's theme is Smart Move, focusing on transportation, energy and the environment. The regional Tournament is on November 14, 2009, so we're working in a compressed time frame. It'll be a lot of hard work and a lot of fun.

Please support Aikahi's Robotics Engineers!



<http://aikahirobotics.webs.com/>

LIBRARY NEWS

Scholastic Book Fair:

All Aboard! All 'Aikahi students are invited to read around the world with us at our Scholastic Book Fair. Our destination book fair will be held in our library and begins on October 19th and ends on October 29th. Hope to see all of you there! Please check our book fair website for more information.

<http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/aikahi>

Funds raised will go to maintain our ongoing subscriptions for Renaissance Place (STAR Math, STAR Reading, Math Facts in a Flash, AR Tests) and Destiny (library system, EBSCO Host, Online Encyclopedia Britannica)

'Aikahi STAR Reader Program:

Congratulations to all of the students who have met their reading goals to get onto the red, white, or blue lists this quarter! It is awesome to see so many students wearing those ribbons on their ID tags and the bulletin boards in the cafeteria being filled with student pictures. Keep up the great work!

Also, our first 'Aikahi STAR party will be taking place as soon as we return from the October intersession. Stay tuned for more party news from Mrs. Fong!

CAFETERIA NEWS

Mahalo for your support in September for participating in our lunch program. September is an important month in determining the number of staff in the cafeteria for the school year and it is determined by the number of meals that is served in September. There has been a change in the procedure in determining staffing for the Cafeteria (starting this school year) and we will be losing one position and maybe two positions. Thank you very much for your help in September. We welcome all parents to join their child for lunch. Just remember to call the cafeteria (Ph. # 254-7951) by 8:30 a.m. so that we can include you into the lunch count for that day.

Mrs. S. Miyata & the Cafeteria Staff

YOUR 2009/2010 PTSA BOARD:

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