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Principal's Message

We are soaring into second quarter... **parent/teacher conferences** are underway and we are gearing up to start our first round of **HSA testing Nov 1st – 8th**. This important reading and mathematics test is a standards-based test that measures how well our students are meeting the state's grade-level expectations. Our **4th grade students** will also be taking an online science portion of the HSA. Additionally, Hawaii also uses the Stanford 9 to test students in **grades 3 through 8 and 10** in reading and math. The Stanford 9 is a national test that measures how students are performing compared to their peers nationwide. With that being said, our students will need all the home support they can as studies show a good night's sleep and a healthy breakfast increases test scores.

Our **PTSA & PCNC** office have made it a goal this year to provide various family involvement events that are fun while incorporating math, science and reading elements. I realize several parents work conventional hours and are unable to be involved during the regular school day so I hope you are able to take advantage of these after work events.

"When parents are involved in their children's education at home, they do better in school. And when parents are involved in school, children go farther in school and the schools they go to are better."

-A New Generation of Evidence: The Family is Critical to Student Achievement.

One of our school's landscape maintenance responsibilities is the drainage ditch behind A Building. I would like to recognize the **Boy Scouts** for cleaning our drainage ditch. Attached is a picture of the proud boys and all that they cleaned up. The importance of cleaning this ditch is far reaching in that this drainage ditch empties into our ocean. In addition, this drainage ditch detours water from flooding our classrooms during heavy rains. I want to give them a Principal Recognition for their hard work to keep our environment clean and our school safe from flooding. **Big Mahalo to our Boy Scouts and their Scout Leader, Mr. Bennett.**



Mr. Bennett's Boy Scout Troop

As many of you know, the **Turkey Trot** (and the holidays!) is just around the corner. This energetic **20th anniversary event** will be hosted by the **PTSA** and our **Navy Partners VP-4** this year. It is a school wide day of athletic challenges including obstacle courses, calisthenics and relay races. **PTSA** also uses the event to raise money directly to teachers to spend for classroom needs. It is a great opportunity to support our teachers who spend so many "off the clock" hours planning, preparing and grading papers to name a few.

Thank you as always for your involvement with your keiki at home and school. I look forward to seeing you around campus!

Gay Kong
Principal
Aikahi Elementary School

Upcoming Important Dates

Oct. 22	5th Grade Playground Cleanup	Jan 21	2nd Grade Playground Cleanup
Oct. 24-Nov. 1	EARLY RELEASE 12:30pm Parent/Teacher Conferences	Feb 18	We Love Aikahi Event 5-10pm The Ko'olau Golf Course 4th Grade Playground Cleanup
Oct 26	NO ENRICHMENT CLASSES Make-up classes are scheduled	Feb 20	NO SCHOOL President's Day
Oct 26	SCC Board Meeting 3pm	Feb 29	3rd Quarter Ends
Nov 11	NO SCHOOL Veterans Day	March 8	NO SCHOOL
Nov 16	PTSA Meeting 7pm	March 9	NO SCHOOL
Nov 19	1st Grade Playground Cleanup	March 12-16	NO SCHOOL Spring Break
Nov 23	Turkey Trot	March 24	3rd Grade Playground Cleanup
Nov 30	SCC Board Meeting 3pm	March 26	NO SCHOOL Kuhio Day
Nov 24-25	NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving	April 6	NO SCHOOL Good Friday
Dec 14	LATE RELEASE 2:05pm Principal's Coffee 8:30am Academic and Financial Plan SCC Board Meeting 3pm	April 21	Stu. Council Playground Cleanup
Dec 15	EARLY RELEASE 12:30pm 2nd Quarter Ends	April 25	SCC Board Meeting 3pm
Dec 16	NO SCHOOL	April 27	Yellow Ribbon Day
Dec 17	Community Playground Cleanup	May 7-11	Teacher Appreciation Week
Dec 19-Jan 2	NO SCHOOL Winter Break	May 9	LATE RELEASE 2:05pm
Jan 3	NO SCHOOL Teacher Work Day	May 11	May Day Program
Jan 16	NO SCHOOL Dr. MLK Jr. Day	May 19	EARLY RELEASE 12:30pm
		May 23	Community Playground Cleanup
		May 24	LATE RELEASE 2:05pm EARLY RELEASE 12:30pm
			Last Day for Students

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- Go to www.aikahi.net
- Bookmark this site!
- Go to "School Website"
- Click on the "Sign Up Today" email update link
- Enter your name and address

That's how easy it is to receive the latest Aikahi email updates!



I would like to start off by thanking all the families who attended **Math & Movie Night** on **September 30th**. It was a huge success and I can't wait to plan another one for second semester! We had over **225 people** come to enjoy dinner, play some math games together and watch a movie. It was good family togetherness!

As you know, parent teacher conferences are coming up so that means the Book Fair is as well! While the **Book Fair is open everyday October 24 – November 1 from 7:30 to 2:30**, Mrs. Fong & I are teaming up to provide special space-themed days for the students and parents.

Tuesday, October 25th between **2:05 and 2:45pm** it is "**Over the Moon with Mom.**" Bring Mom to the Book Fair and enjoy a muffin and some juice while you shop the superstar Book Fair!

Friday, October 28th between **7:15 and 7:50am** land your rocket ship in the library for "**Donuts with Dad.**" Bring Dad to the Book Fair and enjoy some kryptonite (coffee) and a donut while you shop!

This year you (or even your mainland ohana) can buy early Christmas presents or a good report card reward at the **Online Book Fair** by visiting the following link: bookfairs.com/homepage/aikahi. Online orders will ship to the school for free!

The **PTSA & PCNC** are working hard to provide more free family school involvement events. For example the **Math & Movie Night** and, most recently, **Family Science Night** that was brought to us by the **Bishop Museum**. These events are great family building blocks to being more involved and knowing what your child is doing in school.



"Research indicates that when parents are involved in their child's education the results are improved student achievement, a reduction in drop-out and juvenile delinquency rates, an increase in the graduation rate, and more students continuing on to attain post-secondary educational and career goals. This is true for all parents, regardless of economic, racial or cultural background."

Joyce L. Epstein, Director, National Network of Partnership Schools

Another great example of helping your child succeed during **HSA Testing week (Nov. 1- 8)** is to ensure a good night's sleep the night before as well as a hearty breakfast the morning of. For those of you that don't know, our cafeteria sells **student breakfasts every morning from 7:15 to 7:45 for just \$1.00.**

If your child(ren) missed Picture Day, **Picture Retake Day is October 26th**. **If you plan to take advantage of this opportunity, please call me** so that I can send a retake packet home with your child(ren) in preparation for that day. Also, the **Flu Shot Clinic is November 22nd** for those of you who signed up for your child(ren) to receive the flu shot or mist. Not to worry, we will have extra sweet parent volunteers on hand to comfort all the keikis!!

We have 70 people signed up for the **Run & Read** event to be held at **Windward Community College** on **November 6th**. It will be a great time as families participate in a 1-mile fun run that supports reading! I'll see you after the run at the 'Aikahi table to hand out your loaded-up goodie bags!

Also next month is **Geography Week (November 14 – 18)**. Our **Geography Team** will have daily questions for upper and lower grades to answer during recess outside the PCNC office. We will pick winners each day. Things to be on the lookout for next month are: the **Turkey Trot** (and accompanying 100% directly-to-teachers fundraiser) on Nov. 23 and information on grade level **Giving Baskets** which will support those less fortunate.

That is a lot of information but that's my goal: communication, communication and more communication! Your thoughts, feedback and ideas are always welcome! You can reach me at **254-7944 x235** or at robyn_nagli@notes.k12.hi.us.

Robyn Nagli
'Aikahi Elementary PCNC



Friends of 'Aikahi
PLAYGROUND



SATURDAY IS Clean Up Day!

5th Grade
Playground
Clean Up Day
is this
Saturday,
October 22nd
at 9am!

Important Date Changes for Enrichment Classes

Due to parent/teacher conferences being conducted throughout the week of October 24-28, no enrichment classes will be held that week. Make up enrichment classes have been scheduled. Please note the updated enrichment class schedules below:

Acro Dance: 10/12, 10/19, 11/2, 11/9, 11/16, 11/30
Artistic Adventure: 10/12, 10/19, 11/2, 11/9, 11/16, 11/30
Martial Arts: 10/12, 10/19, 11/2, 11/9, 11/30
Ukulele: 10/12, 10/19, 11/2, 11/9, 11/16, 11/30
Chess: 10/12, 10/19, 11/2, 11/9, 11/16, 11/30
Spanish: 10/12, 10/19, 11/2, 11/9, 11/16
Math: 10/12, 10/19, 11/2, 11/9, 11/16, 11/30
Bricks 4 Kidz: 10/14, 10/21, 11/4, 11/18, 12/2
Clay Creation: 10/12, 10/19, 11/2, 11/9, 11/16, 11/30
Mad Science: 10/12, 10/19, 11/2, 11/9, 11/16, 11/30
Le Jardin Soccer: 10/12, 10/19, 11/2, 11/9, 11/16, 11/30

Enrollment is still being accepted for **Le Jardin Soccer Academy**. Pro-rated enrollment fee will apply. Please contact aikahienrichment@gmail.com if you are interested in enrolling your child.

Red Ribbon Week presented by the Student Council

October 24 - 28 is Red Ribbon Week at Aikahi.

During the week, the Student Council will encourage the students to live a drug-free life-style. Each day of the week there is a drug-free theme. The students are encouraged to dress up or accessorize following the theme. Each student will also receive a sticker, bracelet or some other memento that reflects the daily theme as a reminder to live drug-free. **The daily themes for Red Ribbon Week are. . .**

Monday - "Join The Fight Against Drugs" - students can wear camouflage or military-style outfits

Tuesday - "Too Cool To Do Drugs" - students may wear shades/sunglasses

Wednesday - "Give Drugs The Slip" - students wear rubber or bedroom slippers

Thursday - "Friends Help Friends Be Drug

Free" - students find a friend and plan to dress like twins for the day

Friday - "Wild About A Drug Free Life" - students wear something wild and crazy (please remember that outfits/accessories must be appropriate for school)



Also, coming in November, the Student Council will be having a **Canned Food Drive for the Hawaii Food Bank**. This year we are going to hold a contest for the drive that will include a

"Canstruction" Contest. Each class will be invited to create a "canstruction" out of their classroom's donated cans for our contest. Please start putting aside canned food items that you are willing to donate for this event. More info will be coming home soon!

Thank you,
Tammy Heupel

Turkey Trot Volunteers Needed!



Like the turkey's sign says . . .

We need your help to make **Aikahi Elementary's 20th Annual Turkey Trot** a fun success! If you can offer your time on the **Aikahi Playground** the morning of **November 23rd**, please do so as all funds raised during this fun, annual tradition directly support Aikahi Elementary's classrooms.

The date is Wednesday, November 23rd, 2011.

Please contact **Kate Lloyd** at **349-9681** or klloyd@hcf-hawaii.org to volunteer and share a fun morning with your child(ren) in support of their education.



The students at Aikahi have been very busy in the gardens this month. **Kindergarten** harvested their first crop of lettuce. Green beans will follow in 2-3 weeks. **First grade** began their unit on measuring in the garden by entering the height of their Sunflowers in their Garden Journal. **Fourth grade** planted Uala and began their recording of the height of their Taro plants. Will the tallest Taro plants produce the largest Corms?

Fifth grade has struggled with a soil problem. Two crops of carrots failed to sprout! So we added some fresh compost, tested the soils PH level and planted green beans. Wish us luck!



The **Garden Club** has harvested two crops of bananas this month and we finished dying our shirts! Our crops are growing well, however the pumpkins seem to turn yellow and fall off the vine! Prior to Fall Break, the students wrote letters to **Michelle Obama** again, telling her of our great success in the gardens. We even sent her one of our Garden Club shirts!



Also, did you know that "**Healthy Choice Thursdays**" do much more than provide our students and staff with super nutritious and delicious lunches each week? "**Healthy Choice Thursdays**" also help to integrate fresh and locally grown food choices into our school lunch program, puts **AINA IS** lessons into practice and even provides a market for our local farmers here in Hawaii!

Mahalo to **Aikahi Elementary's School Food Services Staff** as well as to the many parents who volunteer their time to serve the fresh fruit and vegetables each Thursday.

If you would like to volunteer in support of either the "**AINA in Schools**" program or the "**Healthy Choice Thursdays**" program, please email **Kelly Perry** at Kelly@kokuahawaiifoundation.org.



Parent **Haidee Storm** serves



Parent **Racquel Alfsen** leads



Parent **Allyson Fairweather**



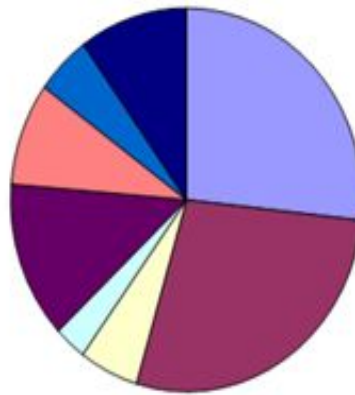
If you have not already done so, please enroll in **eScrip** and select **Aikahi Elementary** as your recipient. With any qualifying purchases you make with your Safeway club card and any credit cards you register, Aikahi Elementary earns valuable rewards! It is the easiest fundraiser ever! Be sure to enter the **Group Name: Aikahi PTA and the Group ID: 141818560**

Mahalo for your support!

PTSA Treasury Report

No fund raisers were held since the BELIEVE catalogue sales. Expenses in the last month included a down payment for **We Love Aikahi Night**, a supply of new Aikahi Elementary T-shirts, enrichment scholarships and support for **Math & Movie Night** (offset by \$5 payments from parents to cover dinners).

PTSA YTD through 10-17-11



- Teacher and Library Support
- Student Support and Enrichment
- Events (Turkey Trot, Fun Fair, May Day, 50th)
- Healthy Choice/Aina Is
- Tshirts
- Yearbook
- Playground
- Community/Military Support
- PTSA Board and Taxes
- Miscellaneous

Good Luck to Aikahi Elementary's Lego Robotics Team

Coach Gady and his **Lego Robotics Team** will be representing **Aikahi Elementary** at an upcoming **Lego Robotics Competition**. The student members of this team are **Noah Ahlgren, David Uithol, Jared Gady, Connor Barber, Patrick Leonhardt, Shiloh Arbuckle** and **Matthew Watkins**.



They have been very busy preparing for this **Lego Robotics Food Factor Challenge** by coming up with and creating a prototype for their creative solution to preventing the millions of food poisoning and/or food contamination cases experienced in our country each year! On **Saturday, November 12th** they will present their creative solution and prototype to a team of judges via a dynamic skit they have written. **Please wish them luck at their upcoming competition!**

We Love Aikahi
A Benefit for Aikahi Elementary School

Save the Date!
Saturday, February 18, 2012

Save the date for We Love Aikahi, a fun, festive benefit for Aikahi Elementary School to be held on Saturday, February 18th, 2012 at Kapiolani Ballrooms.

The event will feature dinner, entertainment, and a silent auction. Proceeds from We Love Aikahi will go to support PTSA funded programs at Aikahi Elementary such as Healthy Choice, the library, maintaining our playground, Student Enrichment, and upgrading the computer lab.

Tickets will be on sale in mid-November. Please visit

www.weloveaikahi.org
for more information.

PTSA Update

Congratulations to **Amy Kunz**, our **PTSA Treasurer**, for securing her new position with the **Department of Education** as **Assistant Superintendent and CFO** for the **Office of Fiscal Services**. We wish her the best of luck in her new position. However, due to a conflict with DOE rules, Amy can no longer hold her position on the PTSA Board as our Treasurer.

We are currently looking for a parent volunteer to fill her position as the PTSA Treasurer. If you are able to or know of someone who is able to balance a checkbook, please contact **Amy Kunz** at askinkailua@hotmail.com for more information. She will assist in the full transition of duties.



Aikahi
Elementary School

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**.



Find us on
Facebook

Click on “**like**” and any updates posted to the **Aikahi Elementary Facebook Page** will be visible from your own News Feed.

Aikahi Directory *2011-2012*

Mahalo to all the families that submitted their information and orders. The directory is now complete! Watch for your pre-ordered copy to come home during the week of parent/teacher conferences!

Forgot to order one? Would you like to order one? No problem! Please email AikahiDirectory@gmail.com. The cost is still \$5. Hurry, extra copies are limited!

BELIEVE Catalog Orders Have Arrived!

Believe Catalog orders have arrived early. **Distribution will begin**



Monday, October 24th. If you are able to help with distribution please contact **Christina Pascua** at christinapascua@gmail.com. Thank you for participating in the PTSA's Fall Fundraiser.

September Playground Clean Up

Thank you to the following students and their families for coming out to help clean and maintain our wonder playground during our last playground clean up day:

**Madison Schell
Kristyn Hirao
Colter Tschirgi
Eve Storms**

**Emily Coffey
Zachary Jackson
Ka'eo Medeiros
Ashlyn Anderson**

Math & Movie Night at Aikahi Elementary

Both the **PTSA** and the **PCNC** were delighted to see so many families at **Math & Movie Night** last month. What a great way to kick off the Fall Break. Thank you to the **Dream Co staff** for setting up the tables for the event. A



Creating 3 dimensional objects using marshmallows and toothpicks was enjoyed by all!



Abby Barber won a box of malasadas from **Agnes' Portugese Bake Shop!**

special thank you to the teachers who stayed to help: **Ms. Campbell, Ms. Batungbacal, Ms. Kiyohara, Ms. Ryan and Mrs. Pierce.** Thank you to all the **UH grad students** who volunteered for this event including **Bianca Thompson** who is the enrichment math instructor this year. Thank you to **Ivan & Carey Yen, Tom & Amy Kunz, Hobie & Kelly Anderson and Beth Lwin** for volunteering to help. And a very special **MAHALO** to everyone who stayed and pitched in to help cleanup. You all made this night so memorable for our students.



Kaylan Jackowski shares her 3 dimensional creation.



Fun was had by ALL!

Fall Family Science Night at Aikahi Elementary

Aikahi's Fall Family Science Night was held on **Friday, October 14th** and was a great event! We enjoyed a "**Medical Mysteries Festival**" where children and their families chose "patients" and visited various stations to try to diagnose what was ailing them. It was neat to see many children run back to the beginning, excited to choose new



patients and go through the process over and over again. This year, we were fortunate to be able to provide 2 Mobile Planetariums and we were thrilled to see nearly every showing filled to capacity! The icing on the cake for the evening



was **Bishop Museum Holoholo Science Mentors** bringing us all outside onto the field where we witnessed the **International Space Station** orbiting the skies above Aikahi...simply amazing! Mahalo to the wonderful volunteers that gave hours of their day to ensure everyone had a good time. I would like to personally thank **Christina Pascua, Christy Teachy, Deb Goebert, Greg Payne, June Cunningham, Nathan Anderson, Rebecca Cruz, Paul Oliver, Amy Kunz, Barrett Gady, Laurie Ahlgren, Zsuzsa Rodgers, Robyn Nagli, Carey Yen and Hobie Anderson** for volunteering your time, effort and expertise. Family Science Night was brought to Aikahi families **FREE OF CHARGE** thanks to a generous grant from **Kaneohe Officer Spouses Club (KOSC)**. Mahalo for your support, **KOSC!** PTSA will hold another Family Science Night in the Spring with a new exciting theme, so stay tuned!

