



Aikahi Wind Riders

www.aikahi.net

Sept 1, 2009 / 2009-2010 School Year / No. 1

PTSA Newsletter

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

for additional information visit: www.aikahi.net

All Sept.	-	The Lunch Game: eat with your kids one day this month!
Sept. 11	-	Catalog Sales Due
Sept. 15	-	Picture Taking Day
	-	Directory Forms Due
Sept. 16	-	SCC Meeting 6:00 pm
	-	PTSA Meeting 7:00 pm
Sept. 16-18	-	GR 6 to Camp Erdman
Sept 19	-	Playground Workday 8-2
Sept 22	-	Lock Down Drill
Sept 24-25	-	Rummage Drop Off 2-7 pm
Sept 26	-	Rummage Sale 7 am – 1 pm
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	-	Parent Teacher Conference 12:30 RELEASE
Oct. 30	-	Halloween Parade 8:15 am

PRINCIPAL NEWS: By Gay Kong

Playground - We are moving forward with plans to resurface our playground. We have secured a \$50,000.00 grant from Hawaii 3R's. In addition, Castle Foundation will contribute matching funds of up to \$15,000.00. In addition to funds for the playground, Watts Constructors has volunteered to provide free labor and expertise in laying down the substructure. The icing on the cake is that our military partners have offered us free airfreight for our playground surfacing materials. We never cease to be inspired by the community support we receive. We are exploring some very exciting options for the surfacing. We will keep our parents and community informed on our progress as we move towards reopening the playground.

Parking Lot Safety - Please help us with keeping your child safe during our drop off, pick up time by having your child exit, and enter from the right side of the vehicle. Thank you for your cooperation.

AINA IS Garden Party - A big mahalo to Wendy Rosen for coordinating the garden party on Saturday August 29, 2009. We had a wonderful showing of volunteers to help with preparing our classroom garden beds for planting. Our gardens are used as avenue to teach nutrition and science lesson. Thanks again to Wendy Rosen for enriching our curriculum.

PRINCIPAL NEWS: By Gay Kong CONTINUED

Aikahi H.S.A. Scores - We are proud to share our Hawaii State Assessment scores for school year 2008 – 2009. Below are the percentage of students who meet proficiency in reading and math.

H.S.A.	RDG.	MATH
Grade 3	90%	71%
Grade 4	78%	76%
Grade 5	82%	67%
Grade 6	78%	64%
AIKAHI ALL	81%	69%

Federal Survey Cards - Soon you will be receiving a Federal Survey card. The amount of money our school receives for Impact Aid is calculated through the Federal Survey Cards. It is vital that all of our students who have military parents be counted. Please help us by filling out the Federal Survey Card and returning with your child.

PTSA NEWS

Sign-up for E-News at www.aikahi.net : To receive Aikahi email updates please do the following:

- Go to www.aikahi.net (Bookmark this site!)
- Go to "School Website"
- Click on the "Sign up Today" E-mail Update link
- Enter your name and email address

PTSA Membership, Projects and Volunteers:

Please visit the website and go to the PTSA page under "School and Community Groups". The PTSA supports the school in many ways through projects, fundraising, and volunteerism. Your participation is critical to our success-so please join us!

PTSA Board:

Our 2009-10 PTSA Board includes three 6th grade parents. We will hold elections in December to ensure a smooth and easy transition for the new Board. If you are interested in serving let us know and we can work together now. We would like to welcome our new PTSA Secretary, Kelly Anderson and our new Treasurer, Angela Kung. We are still looking for a Vice President. If you are interested please let us know. We would also like to welcome and thank all the parents that have volunteered to help on projects, committees, and fundraisers. We can't do it without your involvement. Thank You!!

PTSA NEWS CONTINUED.....

AINA IS:

Aikahi is one of the first schools in Hawaii to implement 3 of Kokua Foundation's AINA IS Programs. They feature the Healthy Choice Lunches providing fresh fruits and vegetables every Thursday, Garden Program, classes participate in some function of growing a garden, and the Nutrition program – Docent volunteers teach nutrition to 2nd and 6th graders once a month. Our Garden Party was a great success due to the generous help from parents, staff, students, and community volunteers. Congresswoman Mazie Hirono and four members of her staff joined us to dig, pull weeds, and add mulch to the walkways. The summer crop of Sun Hemp (those giant plants you've been seeing!) was removed, ground up and mixed back into the soil for added nutrients and we built compost bins for recycling the campus yard waste.

Our garden beds are now ready for planting so keep an eye out for sprouting seedlings. Classroom lessons begin Sept 21 for grades K, 1, and 5 and the Garden Club will begin planting after Labor Day. Thanks to all for your help!

PTSA Back to School Packets:

Thanks for the great response to the PTSA membership drive, volunteer sign-up, yearbook and directory forms. If you have not sent your forms back yet, it is not too late, please drop them off at the PCNC room. Forms are available online at www.aikahi.net

DIRECTORY FORMS DUE Sept. 15!

Supporting the School:

The PTSA is a fundraising entity for the school. Fundraisers are underway, please participate in:
Great America Catalogue Sale: Holiday shopping made easy! We're pleased to announce our annual catalogue fundraiser and are anticipating great success! Aikahi students will be selling products from two great catalogues to help raise the much needed funds to finish our playground ... and they get fun prizes for doing so! If each student sells just 6 items, we'll be well on our way to reaching our goal ... but imagine what would happen if we could double that!

With your support, this can be our best fundraiser yet! All orders need to be turned into your child's classroom by September 9. Don't forget your friends and family on the mainland...they can shop online! Questions? Call Kamie Hobbs Berkey @ 263-1943
Rummage Sale: Time to clean those closets!!! The Aikahi Rummage Sale will be Sat. Sept. 26, 7:00 am - 1:00 pm. Drop off items Thurs. and Fri. from 2:00 – 7:00 pm in the cafeteria. Look for the flyer for more information and to volunteer.

E-Scrip Registration: This is the EASIEST way to raise money for school! Register your Safeway card online at www.escrip.com and earn money for the school every time you shop. Right now is the annual Safeway Back to School Campaign. We earn 10% on selected items. Even if you are not registered bring your receipt to school and we can submit the receipt for income during this campaign. If you need the forms please stop by the PCNC Room. If you would like to help organize our E-Scrip Registration and boost our enrollment, please contact us.

PLAYGROUND NEWS



The new playground construction was completed last spring. However, the pea gravel ground cover was not safe enough for the children and the playground was closed while we obtain a safer ground cover. We are pleased to announce that we have received a \$50,000 grant from Hawaii 3Rs program to help purchase and install a state of the art ground cover for the entire playground that will be safe, easy to maintain, environmentally responsible, and accessible for all children. We hope to have the project moving by mid September with installation over the October break. We will continue to use our fundraising efforts to complete the playground project. In addition to the ground cover priority, we still need to finish the dragon wall, the water fountain, bike rack, picnic tables, and the perimeter landscaping. We are pleased to announce that we have two new partners to assist in the playground completion:

Troop 228 Eagle Scout project: An Eagle Scout candidate will be working to coordinate the perimeter landscaping.

Watts Constructors: a local company who has selected our playground for their corporate community service project. They will be assisting with the perimeter work and the site preparation for the new ground cover. As always our community partners have been incredible and we are extremely grateful for their support!

Playground Work Day: Saturday, Sept. 19, 8:00 – 2:00:
We will be cleaning up the site, weeding, moving the dirt, and preparing the perimeter for landscaping. Come for as much time as you can give....we really need your help!

Playground Tile Day: Saturday September 19th, 9:00 – 12:00 pm.:
Purchase and paint a ceramic tile for \$50. Proceeds go to the playground. The tiles will be added to the dragon and the entryway. A great legacy for your family!

CAFETERIA NEWS

During September, the cafeteria sponsors "THE LUNCH GAME" to encourage students to purchase school meals. Classrooms that meet 90% participation in school lunches will be rewarded with a treat! The meal count in the month of September determines the cafeteria staffing level FOR THE ENTIRE SCHOOL YEAR, so we are encouraging as many lunches in September as possible, including adult lunches. Visit www.aikahi.net to see what day your child's "Invite Your Parent To Lunch Day" is. Parents are welcome to eat with their children on any day of their choice, but please call the cafeteria by 8:30 am to order an adult lunch. Questions? Call Suanne Miyata at 254-7951.