



Principal's Message

Aloha Aikahi Families! I have enjoyed reconnecting with many of you as well as meeting so many of our new Aikahi families since beginning this 2011-2012 school year together. I would also like to introduce to you a recent addition to our administrative support team, **Mr. John Finley**. You may have already seen him helping to direct the flow of traffic in the mornings and afternoons as you bring and pick up your children. Yet, he does much more than that and has already proven to be a tremendous asset to our dedicated, administrative support team. He and his family recently moved here from San Diego and I hope you will join me in welcoming Mr. Finley to our Aikahi O'hana!



Also, you may have recently heard about several new mathematically focused learning opportunities coming up on campus (i.e. two additional Math Enrichment Classes, Math & Movie Night, etc.). These are just a couple of the unique learning opportunities the **SUPER-M Math**

Project, which recently began here at Aikahi, has brought to us. The **SUPER-M Math Project** is sponsored by the **National Science Foundation** and partners graduates and graduate students of the **University of Hawaii's Mathematics Department** with K-12 teachers to actively engage K-12 students in fun, interactive, hands-on, math and science integrated instruction. **Mrs. Batungbacal's** and **Mrs. Campbell's** 2nd Grade students will be collecting, graphing and analyzing data as part of their participation in this project.

Also, be sure to join us on **September 30th at 6pm for Math & Movie Night**, as the same dedicated UH graduates and graduate students will help to facilitate that evening's learning activities as well! With so many unique, engaging and fun opportunities to learn, both during and after-school, our 2011-2012 school year is already proving to be a very productive and fun one! I look forward to seeing you soon!

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Upcoming Important Dates

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



'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**.



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

Aloha! 'Aikahi is full steam ahead into the school year. In fact, 1st quarter is already wrapping up on September 30th and scheduling for conferences is underway for the end of October. Coinciding with conferences is our **Book Fair**. Books are always a great reward for good grades! The dates for both run **October 24 thru November 1**.

The **September Lunch Grade Level Invitationals** are a huge success! We have welcomed well over 250 parents and grandparents to our school. It has been a delight for both the students and myself to see everyone! I have tried to personally thank each person for coming but if I didn't get that chance to say it to you, “**Thank you for coming!**”

Come celebrate the end of the quarter and kick off the Fall Break with our **Math & Movie Night on September 30th**. It is a completely **FREE event** (with the option of purchasing a \$5 pizza dinner complete with chips and a drink). I sent a flyer home with detailed information and also have it posted on our website. Because we haven't had a night like this for a while, we are at a loss as to what the turn out will be. **So, please, RSVP if you can.** I think it will be a fantastic night and we want to be prepared! I have purchased (15) \$10 to \$20 gift cards to local restaurants and have several Waikiki Submarine tickets as door prizes for those who RSVP and/or preorder dinner. It will be a great evening and I am looking forward to seeing you there!

Picture day went smoothly and there were pressed outfits and combed and ringlet haired children everywhere! **Picture retakes are October 26th** so you will be receiving your packets approximately one week prior to that. I would like to thank **Martial Arts Company (MAC)** for donating school supplies to students who were not financially able to purchase the required items. It is this community support that strengthens the ties for everyone. Mahalo!

Our school is a success because of the balance between great teachers, great parents and a supportive community. Your involvement at home with your children and volunteering at school makes such a positive difference in everyone's lives: the teachers, students and hopefully yours!

Have an aloha-filled Fall Break: whether you are working and your child is going to A+ or you are heading to some exotic destination I hope the week is easy-going and enjoyable!

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

Sincerely,

Robyn Nagli
'Aikahi Elementary PCNC



Want to learn more about **CYBER SAFETY** for your child(ren)?

Be sure to attend our PTSA Meeting scheduled for **October 19th at 7pm**, as **Chris Duque, a retired HPD Detective**, will be speaking to parents about cyber safety and how to better protect our children from online dangers. Mr. Duque is an engaging speaker and offers a wealth of important information on this relevant and timely topic!



'ĀINA In Schools Garden and Nutrition Lessons are off to a great start! Thank you to the parent and community volunteers who are dedicated to supporting this program at Aikahi Elementary.

The **'ĀINA In Schools Garden Educator** (parent **Wendy Rosen**) and volunteer parent volunteers have planted carrots, lettuce and beans with Kindergarteners in the freshly amended

garden beds. Kindergarteners learned about plant parts during their "Tops and Bottoms" garden lesson.

First graders will grow a **Sunflower House** and **Bean Teepee** to study the life cycle and chart the growth of their plants, 4th graders are growing taro (Kalo) a Hawaiian food staple, bringing Hawaiian Studies to the garden, and 5th graders will practice the scientific method in their garden.

Parent and community nutrition docents will teach 2nd and 6th graders how to choose a variety of foods each day that are "close to the source", topping off the lesson with a sample of a fresh poi smoothie.

It's not too late for parents to join the 'ĀINA IS garden or nutrition team to assist with monthly garden lessons for K, 1st, 4th or 5th grade, or nutrition lessons for 2nd or 6th grade.



The Garden club has gotten off to a great start this year, thanks to the numerous parent volunteers that are really "digging in!" At the beginning of the year, the kids voted on which vegetables to plant. Corn and carrots won by a landslide, followed by cucumbers, watermelon and asparagus! By the end of September, we will have planted corn, carrots, eggplant, soy beans, pumpkins, cucumbers, zucchini, and green onions. I am always amazed at how much food can be grown in our school! We'll conduct an experiment with the corn to determine whether adding mulch to a garden will produce more food! Our bananas are getting huge and, after harvesting, we'll be selling them after school to help fund the Healthy Choice lunches! I'll post a notice by the drive-through, but you'll have to be quick ... they'll sell fast! We are always out in the gardens on Monday afternoon. Come pay us a visit. The kids would love to give you a tour!

If you'd like to see an 'ĀINA In Schools garden or nutrition lesson in action in your child's classroom, please contact your student's teacher or the **Garden Educator, Wendy Rosen** for dates and times. If any of these parent supported 'ĀINA In Schools initiatives at Aikahi Elementary School interest you, and you'd like get involved, please email **Kelly Perry** at Kelly@kokuahawaiifoundation.org and your volunteer interest will be directed to the appropriate point person at the school.

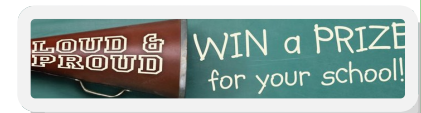
Math & Movie Night!

Don't forget to mark your calendars for **Friday, September 30th** for the Math & Movie night event. Fliers have already been sent home. Pre-order your dinner by September 26th and be entered for a chance to win a door prize! **Papa John's** will be serving pizza. We need parents to help with setup, the chip and beverage station as well as cleanup. If you are able to help us, please contact christinapascua@gmail.com.



Loud & Proud Contest

Voting for the Windward Mall "Loud & Proud Contest" held on Facebook is over and **Aikahi Elementary** came in **SECOND PLACE!** YAY!!! Thank you to all who voted for our school. And thank you to **Amy Kunz** and **Kelly Anderson** for helping to promote this on **Aikahi Elementary's Facebook site**. Let's keep the motivation going. Be on the lookout for more free contests you can participate in.





Turkey Trot Volunteers Needed!

Gobble, Gobble, Gobble . . .

A call for volunteers for this year's Turkey Trot, one of Aikahi's favorite annual traditions.

Come help with this fun, morning event on the playground to raise money directly for Aikahi's classrooms!

The date is Wednesday, November 23rd, 2011.

Please call **Kate** at 349-9681 or email at klloyd@hcf-hawaii.org

Family Science Night!

This event is being brought to Aikahi by **Bishop Museum's fantastic Holoholo Science Program**. The night's theme is "**Medical Mysteries.**" Students and families will tour the fields of medical science and health in age-appropriate, interactive ways. In addition, we will be bringing in **TWO mobile planetariums** (which were VERY popular last year)! PTSA is able to bring this exciting event to Aikahi families **FREE thanks to a generous grant from the KOSC (Kaneohe Officer Spouses Club). Mahalo KOSC!**



This great event cannot happen without the help of many volunteers. We are in need of adults and/or high school students to assist before, during and after the event. A volunteer's obligation will be from approximately 4pm-8:30pm. Bishop Museum will "train" all volunteers who will be asked to help interact with students at various stations. If you (or someone else you know) would be interested in helping with this very worthwhile event, please email **Kelly Anderson** at anderson_kelly@hotmail.com Your involvement is truly appreciated!

Help Your Child's Teacher with TeacherWishList.com!

You can now easily help your child's teacher get the supplies they need for their classroom using TeacherWishList.com! It is a great site that



TEACHER WISHLIST
www.teacherwishlist.com

in mind for Christmas, teacher appreciation week, and end of school year gifts, etc. What a great way to get teachers exactly

lets teachers upload their classroom supply wish lists and communicate their needs directly to parents. Often times we really don't know what our child's teacher needs and this is a great tool to take the guesswork out. Especially keep this site

what they need! It is easy to do, simply go to <http://www.teacherwishlist.com/wishlists/search> enter 96734, and see if your child's teacher is listed. Some Aikahi teachers have already posted their wish lists! **Mahalo for supporting our great teachers!**



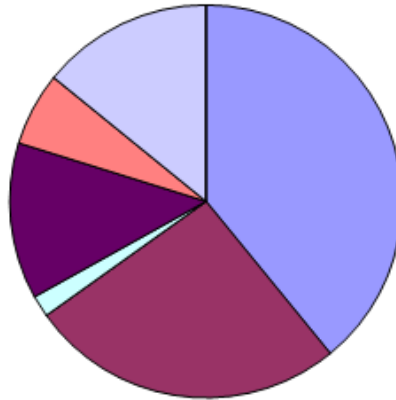
If you have not already done so, please enroll in **eScrip** and select **Aikahi Elementary** as your recipient. With any qualifying purchases you make with your Safeway club card and any credit cards you register, Aikahi Elementary earns valuable rewards! It is the easiest fundraiser ever! Be sure to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

Mahalo for your support!

PTSA Treasury Report

The Believe Catalogue Fundraiser will add about \$5,200 NET (after taxes, returned checks and fees paid to Believe). This might change slightly as online orders could continue to be processed. We also secured a \$10,000 CD for 36 months at 0.50%. This money is a portion of the \$30,000 necessary for a complete technology replacement planned in 2014.

PTSA Expenses July 1 to September 15, 2011



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

Thank You HOME DEPOT!

PTSA would like to extend a hearty **THANK YOU** to **Home Depot** for the generous donation of steeply-discounted shelving for our PTSA storage room. For those of you who have seen the storage room, you will no doubt agree that the job was LONG overdue! The room was cluttered, disorganized and the existing shelving was termite-infested and in a sad state of disrepair. As you can see from our before and after photos, Home Depot's generous donation made a HUGE difference and will ensure PTSA runs more efficiently than in the past. **Mahalo for your generosity, Home Depot** and to **Amy Kunz**, PTSA Treasurer, for making this happen!



BEFORE



AFTER



Save the Date for . . .

The **We Love Aikahi** fundraising event, formerly known as "Parents' Night Out," has been scheduled for **February 18, 2012**. It will be a fabulous evening of food, wine, a silent auction and entertainment in the **Ko'olau Ballroom at the Ko'olau Golf Course**. All proceeds benefit Aikahi Elementary. Stay tuned for more details!

We Love Aikahi

Rummage Sale Postponed!

Sadly, our **October Rummage Sale** needs to be rescheduled for the spring. Many thanks to all who offered their support. Once a date is chosen, everyone will be notified and the rummaging will begin again!

Mahalo!

Laurie Ahlgren & Denise Dittrich, Rummage Sale Chairpersons

Believe Catalog Order Update

The Believe Catalog Contest is over and the class with the highest participation rate is **Ms. Pierce's 3rd grade class with 73% of her students participating!** Congratulations!! As the winning class, they will receive a special **PIZZA PARTY!** The PTSA truly appreciates all the hard work and graciousness of Ms. Pierce's 3rd grade class and their families as well as of all of Aikahi's students and families who participated in our fall fundraiser!



Other classes with high participation rates are: **Mrs. Ryan's class with 64%**, **Mrs. Miyashiro's class with 55%** and **Mrs. Schell's class with 50%**. All four teachers received a special token of appreciation from the PTSA. Students who sold enough items to receive a charm necklace will receive their necklace shortly. What a great way to start off the new school year!

All catalog orders have been sent in and will be delivered and distributed **the week before Thanksgiving**. Reminders will be sent home prior to their arrival to prepare students and families for receipt of their orders.

Enrichment Class Updates

Math Class:

The two Math classes are completely filled! What a great turnout! We are working on bringing this class or something similar back for the Spring 2012 session. Classes started on Wednesday, September 21st. If your child's application was received you were already notified by Aikahi Enrichment via email or phone call.



Bricks 4 Kids:

The two Bricks 4 Kids classes are completely filled! Thank you to everyone who welcomed this new enrichment vendor with open arms. Don't forget, classes start on Friday, September 30th. You should be notified by the Bricks 4 Kids if your child's application and payment was received.

Mad Science:

MAD SCIENCE IS BACK!! Fliers have already been sent out and classes are scheduled to begin on Wednesday, October 12th for students in grades K-2 only. We will try to bring both classes (K-2 and 3-6) back for the Spring 2012 session. You should be notified by Mad Science if your child's application and payment was received.



Soccer Academy:

Le Jardin Soccer Academy is back for the second session of Fall enrichment. Fliers have already been sent out and classes are scheduled to begin on Wednesday, October 12th for students in grades K-3 only. You should be notified by Le Jardin if your child's application and payment was received.

Etiquette Class:

Have you been looking for an etiquette class to send your child to? Well look no further, Aikahi Enrichment is bringing in a new vendor designed for grades 4-6 only. Fliers have already been sent out and classes are scheduled to begin on Wednesday, October 12th. You should be notified by East West School if your child's application and payment was received.

As a reminder, students enrolled in the A+ After School Program must first report to and sign in with A+ Staff *before* enrichment. Enrichment Class Instructors pick up students who are enrolled in the A+ Program from A+ before enrichment begins and also returns them to A+ after their enrichment class has ended.

A Letter from our Playground Committee Chairperson . . .

Dear Aikahi Elementary Ohana,

My name is Greg Thielen and I have just accepted the position of Playground committee chair. I will be taking over from Bill Pierce who I want to thank for his time and commitment to Aikahi Elementary. My goal in writing this to all of you is to explain my vision for this committee and ask for your help in seeing this through.

I was a part of the team that built the new playground and I fondly remember the broad and enthusiastic support that project received. It is truly something for our community to be proud of. Now that the project has been built it is our duty as members of this community to see that this great asset is maintained and hopefully even improved upon. This brings me to the first two missions of this committee; 1) the monthly clean-up and 2) Repair and Improvement projects.

Each month we will be performing a cleaning of the playground. Each month a different grade level will be assigned the responsibility of working on the clean-up, but we would also ask for assistance from all of you in the community. We will be notifying everyone of these clean-ups by a variety of methods. Students in the grades assigned to clean-up will receive reminder notes the week leading up to their clean-up. We will be issuing e-mail alerts, posting reminders on the PTSA Facebook page and in the monthly newsletter. Also keep an eye out for a banner on the fence announcing **“PLAYGROUND CLEAN-UP THIS WEEKEND”**.

We have also begun creating a list of repair and improvement projects. We would welcome any suggestions anyone has. Please keep in mind that we are a volunteer organization with limited funds, so be patient and understanding with our progress. Obviously anything that is a safety issue is the biggest concern and we want to address these issues as soon as we know about them.

While the two mission statements above are the core focus of the Playground committee, it is my personal goal to see this committee grow beyond this point. We will be looking into the possibility of making this the Aikahi Elementary Maintenance and Improvement Committee. The idea would be to perform some of the same functions we do for the playground within the broader campus area. We would not be “taking over” school maintenance and repairs, this is clearly the responsibility of the State. We would be seeking out and performing projects to further improve the campus for the students and the teachers. Our goal will be to bring the same enthusiasm and success to the broader campus that was brought to bear on the playground.

I look forward to your feedback and more importantly your active involvement in this process. I can be reached via e-mail at greg@ccs-hawaii.com. Please let me know if you'd like to be on our regular e-mail list when contacting me.

Mahalo and see you at the playground,

Greg Thielen



Upcoming Playground Cleanup Days

Thank you **Greg Thielen** for chairing Aikahi's Playground Committee! Kindergarten and 6th grade's playground cleanup is **Saturday, September 24th from 9am to 11am**. Looking forward to seeing you there!