



Principal's Message

We are finishing second quarter on December 15th, midway through the school year and the year is coming to a close. The unanswered question never changes: Where does the time go? Luckily, 'Aikahi has been using its time wisely...

I want to congratulate our **3rd grade students** and coaches (aka **Mrs. Pierce, Mrs. Olkowski, Mrs. Piercy**) for our inaugural entry into the **7th Annual Hawaii First Lego League Challenge**. 56 teams from across the state competed in four areas that address many facets of science, technology, engineering and math. This year's theme, Food Factor, had teams researching their chosen food all the way from harvest to safe handling and storage. In-school judges awarded one team from each class to go to Districts based on interviews and the completion of detailed checklist items. Teams represented their food creations out of Legos. One project representation on how to make fruit roll ups included the farm where fruit was grown, transportation vehicles to get fruit to the assembly line, the building that housed the assembly line complete with refrigeration and working fans to keep the product at the correct temperature. The children learned valuable lessons of teamwork and responsibility within a very complex multi-faceted project. Great job... way to bring education and fun together! I can't wait to see next year's entries!

It seems this time each year we find ourselves saying goodbye to many transferring military families. I would like to take a moment to say thank you to them for their dedication to our school. As with all parents in our school it is your support and involvement that makes 'Aikahi be the best. At the same time, we will be welcoming new families in the new year to our school ohana. It is my hope that they will feel the welcoming spirit that embraces our island and graces our school.

On that note, I would also like to thank each of you for your contributions to the **Helping Hands Hawaii Giving Basket program**. The aloha felt and given for these families from our families is heartwarming. You are making their holiday season truly one to celebrate.

I have an upcoming **Principal's Coffee** community meeting on **Wednesday, December 14th at 8:30am** in the Library. Please join me as I share **'Aikahi's Academic Financial Plan**. This topic covers items such as next year's achievement gains outline, the 2011/12 budget, and a current snapshot of where we are academically. It is a great forum to be a part of and ask questions. Refreshments and light pupus will be served.

Big mahalos to all those who supported the **6th grade fundraiser at Boston's Pizza in Kaneohe**. They were able to raise over **\$1,200** that they will put toward their Spring Musical. **Thank you Boston's Pizza!**

We had the pleasure of hosting the **Kailua Intermediate School Band** for a short holiday musical assembly. It was a delight to see seven former students playing for us as Advanced Band Members. They sounded great!

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Principal's Coffee and/or around the campus. Have an aloha-filled holiday break and a safe new year!

Happy Holidays!

Gay Kong
Principal
Aikahi Elementary School



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Upcoming Important School Dates

Dec 14	LATE RELEASE 2:05pm Principal's Coffee 8:30am Academic and Financial Plan SCC Board Meeting 3pm	March 8	3rd Quarter Ends
Dec 15	EARLY RELEASE 12:30pm 2nd Quarter Ends	March 9	NO SCHOOL
Dec 16	NO SCHOOL	March 12-16	NO SCHOOL Spring Break
Dec 17	Community Playground Cleanup	March 21	PTSA Meeting 7pm
Dec 19-Jan 2	NO SCHOOL Winter Break	March 24	3rd Grade Playground Cleanup
Jan 3	NO SCHOOL Teacher Work Day	March 26	NO SCHOOL Kuhio Day
Jan 16	NO SCHOOL Dr. MLK Jr. Day	April 6	NO SCHOOL Good Friday
Jan 18	PTSA Meeting 7pm	April 18	PTSA Meeting 7pm
Jan 21	2nd Grade Playground Cleanup	April 21	Student Council Playground Cleanup
Feb 15	PTSA Meeting 7pm	April 25	SCC Board Meeting 3pm
Feb 18	We Love Aikahi Event 6-9pm The Ko'olau Golf Course 4th Grade Playground Cleanup	April 27	Yellow Ribbon Day
Feb 20	NO SCHOOL President's Day	May 7-11	Teacher Appreciation Week
Feb 29	SCC Board Meeting 3pm Career Day	May 9	LATE RELEASE 2:05pm
		May 11	May Day Program
		May 19	EARLY RELEASE 12:30pm Community Playground Cleanup
		May 23	LATE RELEASE 2:05pm
		May 24	EARLY RELEASE 12:30pm Last Day for Students

Local Businesses Support 'Aikahi Elementary

Please show your support for the following local businesses who have so generously donated fantastic offerings to be auctioned at our **We Love Aikahi** event and silent auction this **February 2012**. **The proceeds of this great event and silent auction directly benefit the educational needs of 'Aikahi Elementary students and classrooms.** In turn, let us all show these local businesses how much we appreciate their generous support by shopping and dining with them this holiday season and throughout the year . . . and, while there, be sure to thank them on behalf of 'Aikahi Elementary for their gracious support!



AinaKai Photography
Baby Showers Hawaii
Big City Diner
Bishop Museum
Bookends
California Pizza Kitchen
Clear-a-Lot
Glow Putt Productions
India Cafe
Island Paddler

Kailua Racquet Club
Kailua Wellness Center
Kokua Communications
Pilates Training Center
Oahu Portrait Photographer
Polynesian Cultural Center
Soul de Cuba Cafe
SoulTrex
The Oahu Club
Wet 'n' Wild



Grade level **Giving Baskets** are in full swing and I am overjoyed to see the outpouring of support for these families. Donations of new and gently used clothes and toys are steadily coming in. These families will have a plentiful Christmas thanks to our wonderful, caring school community.



The **light bulb exchange program** has been extended. If you have any incandescent bulbs at home bring them in to exchange for 60-watt equivalent **CFL** bulbs. It is **free!** If you'd like to call me with the number of bulbs you have I would be more than happy to meet you in the parking lot to exchange in the morning or afternoon. We still have about **200 bulbs** so **please ask your friends and neighbors** to exchange theirs. The community is welcome to take part in this program. The second graders have put the old light bulbs to good use by making ornaments out of them.



Our **Catch-A-Wave program** keeps getting better! Many thanks to the **Naone Family** for securing **Macaroni Grill coupons for FREE keiki dinners!** Each weekly grade level drawing winner now receives the Macaroni Grill coupon in addition to the **Baskin Robbins FREE ice cream cone coupon** and an assortment of other items.

There is a great artistic writing opportunity available through the **Star Poets program at Windward Community College**. This poetry contest is available for grades 3 thru 12. I would like to make an extracurricular, at-home **request for students to write a poem for submission**. 'Aikahi has not had a strong submission showing in recent years and I know we have some fantastic writers here who deserve recognition. The website for more information and entry forms is: windward.hawaii.edu/poets. Did I mention there is a **\$50 prize** to the top 5 poets in each grade? You may turn the poem(s) into me or mail them directly to the address shown.

There will be a **Principal's Coffee** parent/public forum this **Wednesday, December 14th** in the Library at **8:30 am**. Hear the answers to questions such as: What is our school's focus next year to help our children make achievement gains? What is our school's progress this year? How is our \$2.8 million budget going to be spent next year? This informational forum is not to be missed if you want to know what the framework is for making decisions and establishing direction to achieve the school's goals, all to be followed up with time for Q & A. Refreshments, fruit and light pastries will be served along with door prizes for attendees.

Our flu clinic vaccination day went smoothly. Thank you for joining in the fight against germs to keep our school healthy! A big thank you to the volunteer moms who transported the children from and back to class (**Haidee Storms** and **Rebecca Cruz**).

Career Day is coming up on **February 29, 2012**. We have some very interesting careers represented but are always looking for even more. This 2-1/2 hour commitment is a great way to show our keikis that the future is full of career possibilities! It is a rewarding day that can open new possibilities in a child's mind.

And, please don't forget that **Wednesday, December 14th is a LONG day**, as students will be released from school at **2:05pm**. And, **Thursday, December 15th is a SHORT day**, as students will be released from school that afternoon at **12:30pm** for their long **Winter Break**. School will be out from **Friday, December 16th through Tuesday, January 3rd**. Our first day back will be **Wednesday, January 4th with the regular 12:30pm dismissal time**. Have a relaxing, aloha-filled holiday break. It has been my pleasure working in this position this year and I thank you now and every day for your support!

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



Friends of 'Aikahi
PLAYGROUND



Saturday is Clean Up Day!

Community
Playground
Clean Up Day
is this
Saturday,
December 17th
at 9am!



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!

Playground Clean-Up!

Calling all volunteers for a playground clean-up **Saturday, December 17 at 9am**. Help keep our playground looking great. Also this month's maintenance/improvement project will be to fix the leaky roof on the storage container. **We need 2 or 3 volunteers that have some carpentry skills and are comfortable working at a height of 10' on a ladder.** If you have a cordless drill with socket attachment, please bring it along. We thank you in advance for your support!

Playground Committee Meetings

Starting in **January 2012** the **Playground Committee** will hold monthly meetings to discuss various projects for the playground and school grounds. The Playground Committee will meet for ½ hour immediately before every **PTSA Meeting** each month. Our first order of business will be to appoint a **Vice Chair** of the Playground Committee. Anyone willing to serve should contact **Greg Thielen** via e-mail at greg@ccs-hawaii.com. Meetings are open to anyone willing to participate and help out. Again, thank you for your support!

November Playground Clean-up

Thank you to the following 1st grade students and their family for coming out to help with the November Playground Cleanup:

Curren Yen Sophia Sansonetti
Elianna Cruz Aiden Mortiz
Nolon Tschirgi

**Thank
You!**

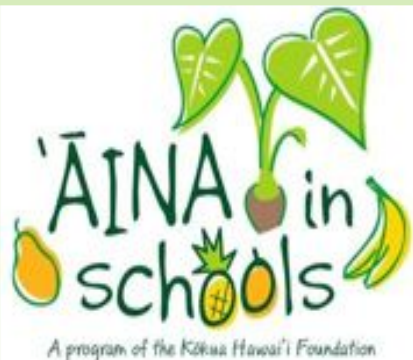
Student Council Sales Singing Telegrams!

Congratulations to the following classes for winning our **Canned Food Drive Construction Contest!** In the Lower Elementary division, **A6** won for most complex, **A5** for biggest structure, and **C6** for most creative. In the Upper Elementary division, **C25** won for most complex, **C6** won for biggest structure, and **B22** won for most creative! Thank you to all parents for supporting our Canned Food Drive and **The Hawaii Food Bank** with your canned food donations.

From **December 7th—14th**, the **Student Council** will be selling **Singing Telegrams** in front of the PCNC room before and after school. **Singing Telegrams**, which

can be addressed to any student or staff member, **cost only \$1.00** and include a Christmas Carol as well as a hand-delivered candy cane. The Student Council will deliver your Singing Telegrams to their recipients on **December 14th**. Please stop by to purchase one or more, as a Singing Telegram is a great and inexpensive way to say, "Merry Christmas" to those you care about!

Also, please don't forget that the **Aikahi School Store is open every Wednesday before and after school in front of the office**. We have a variety of novelty school supplies that would make great stocking stuffers!



This month 'AINA IS Nutrition Docents taught **6th graders** about the importance of a high quality breakfast and how it helps them learn and feel great all day. Students were treated to a delicious whole grain breakfast cereal.



Aikahi Elementary **2nd graders** learned about the protective benefits of fruits and vegetables by exploring edible plant parts. They tasted a high quality protective snack called a "Bird's Nest" Salad (lettuce, red cabbage, carrots, tomatoes, and grapes).

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Many Aikahi Elementary families have **blue bins** at their homes in which to place recyclable items, but please remember that our school benefits financially from dropping off these items in the big, white community recycling bin at our school (in the parking area by the park). It does take a little extra effort, but any assistance we receive is very much appreciated!



If any of these parent-supported 'AINA initiatives interest you, and you'd like to get involved, please email parent **Wendy Rosen** at wrosen@hawaii.rr.com for more information on volunteering with the school gardens, or parent **Lezlee McFadden** at lezleemcfadden@hotmail.com to volunteer for the 'AINA IS Nutrition Lessons or the Healthy Choices Salad Bar.



Announcing the 2012-13 Kokua Calendar Art Contest

This year's **Kokua Hawai'i Foundation** calendar contest theme is **How do you Kokua Hawai'i?** The contest asks student artists to depict ways that they Kokua our island environment. **Kokua** is the Hawaiian word for help - How do you help Hawai'i's environment and your community?



Students should reflect on the ways they kokua the environment and use paint, crayons, pastels, fabric, collage, or mixed media from reused materials (even plastic) to put your vision on paper or canvas. The possibilities are endless! **Deadline is February 11, 2012.** Winning entries will be included in the 2012-13 school year Kokua Calendar.

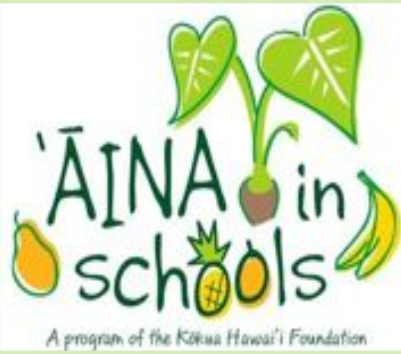
Who can participate? Hawai'i school-aged children grades K-12. (May be submitted by a Teacher, Parent, or Organization). Visit <http://kokuahawaiifoundation.org/> for more information and complete guidelines.



DID YOU KNOW?

Farm to School Programs: Contribute positively to students' knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors toward local, healthy food and promotes healthier dietary choices and increase consumption of fruits and vegetables

Source: "Bearing Fruit: Farm to School Program Evaluation Resource and Recommendations" (National Farm to School Network)



Simplify the Holidays (Via the Kokua Hawaii Foundation)

THE 12 DAYS TO A GREEN HOLIDAY GUIDE

Fun tips to make your holidays more meaningful!

The holidays are a time of celebration with family, friends, and the community. Every family celebrates the season in different ways and for different reasons, but there is a universal act in which most participate: Giving. This once-simple holiday tradition has led to consumption practices that can have serious impacts on our environment-and the family budget! Please see our 12 Days of a Green Holiday guide below for ideas to help simplify your season and make a commitment to start a new tradition today!



DAY ONE - One Lovely Christmas Tree

When buying a Christmas tree, consider live potted trees that you can keep. If you do get a cut tree, try to find one that's locally grown instead of imported. Remember to recycle it with your green waste after Christmas.

DAY TWO - Two Unwanted Catalogs

Reduce waste by calling the toll-free numbers on unwanted holiday catalogs and having your name taken off of their mailing lists. You can also visit www.CatalogChoice.org or www.GreenDimes.com. I will simplify the holidays by... getting off junk mail lists to save paper, trees, and our climate.

DAY THREE - Three Holiday Parties

Reduce party waste by choosing reusables instead of single use plates and utensils when hosting your holiday party. After your holiday party, recycle your bottles and cans. I will simplify the holidays by... using reusable or biodegradable products instead of disposables for my holiday party and setting up recycling bins at my holiday parties.

DAY FOUR - Happy Teachers

Give teachers, coworkers, and friends edible gifts, plants, or gift certificates instead of "stuff" that will get stuck in a drawer somewhere. I will simplify the holidays by...giving four gifts of plants or food instead of buying other items as well as giving three gifts of time (for example, certificates for 'ukulele lessons, concert tickets, or a massage) instead of buying items.

DAY FIVE - Five Children Singing

Start eco-friendly traditions. For example, when you go out caroling in your neighborhood, take an empty trash bag and pick up any litter you see along the way. I will simplify the holidays by...starting an eco-friendly holiday tradition.



DAY SIX - Six Well-Wrapped Packages

Reuse wrapping paper and bows or try repurposing newspapers, brown paper bags, maps, or art work to make your own unique, eco-friendly packages. Reusable grocery bags are also a good gift-wrapping option, and then it's a gift inside a gift. I will simplify the holidays by...reusing materials like newspaper, paper bags, maps, etc., for gift wrapping and packaging gifts in reusable bags.



Simplify the Holidays (Via the Kōkua Hawaii Foundation)

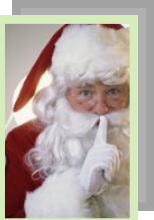
THE 12 DAYS TO A GREEN HOLIDAY GUIDE (CONTINUED)

DAY SEVEN - Seven Strands of LED Lights

Use energy efficient LED lights to light up your home or tree. I will simplify the holidays by...using energy-efficient LED Christmas lights to decorate my home or tree.

DAY EIGHT - Eight Homemade Holiday Cards

Cut out pictures and messages from last year's cards, and then put them together to create brand new cards for this year. I will simplify the holidays by...creating holiday cards from reusable materials or sending paperless greetings via e-mail.



DAY NINE - Nine Secret Santa

Instead of exchanging gifts with all of your friends and family, consider drawing names and participating in a "Secret Santa" gift swap. I will simplify the holidays by...organizing a "Secret Santa" gift exchange, instead of buying gifts for all of my friends, family, coworkers, etc.

DAY TEN - Ten Waste-Free Gifts

Give reusable or homemade gifts. Shop for gently used gifts at thrift shops or on-line at www.Craigslist.org or www.Freecycle.org. Give gifts of time like certificates for a massage or a car wash. Treat a loved one to 'ukulele lessons or tickets to a sporting or cultural event. I will simplify the holidays by...making three holiday gifts instead of buying new items, shopping for gently used gifts instead of buying new items and giving three gifts of time (for example, certificates for 'ukulele lessons, concert tickets, or a massage) instead of buying items.



DAY ELEVEN - Eleven (fewer) Trips to the Store

When shopping for holiday food and gifts, try to plan ahead and consolidate trips in order to save fuel and reduce pollution. Also, don't forget to take along your reusable cloth grocery bags to use instead of the disposable ones! I will simplify the holidays by...combining errands to use less fuel and taking my own reusable bag for all shopping purposes.

DAY TWELVE - Twelve Acts of Kindness



During the holiday season the most rewarding gift of all is giving back to your community. Make it a family tradition to donate to or volunteer for charitable causes during the holidays. I will simplify the holidays by...making at least one donation to a local non-profit on behalf of friends and family, giving three needed items to less fortunate families (e.g., donate items to food drives, Toys for Tots, Salvation Army's Angel Tree program, Lokahi Tree, etc.) and by volunteering at least three hours of my time during the holiday season.

Happy Green Holidays!



TICKETS ON SALE!

Tickets for **We Love Aikahi** are now for sale in the **PCNC Room**. Cash or checks made out to **Aikahi PTSA** are accepted. \$40 per ticket, and \$20 for Aikahi Elementary teacher and staff (teachers and staff can also purchase one additional ticket at the reduced rate for a guest). The event will be held at **Koolau Ballrooms on Saturday, February 18th from 6-9pm**, and will feature dinner, drinks, pupus, a silent and live auction as well as entertainment. **All proceeds directly benefit Aikahi Elementary.**

Thank You For Your Support!

PTSA Treasury Report

The students raised enough **Turkey Trot** money to provide just over **\$6,700** for teacher and staff payments. This is a fun and exciting event for the students and will offset some of the expenses the teachers and staff incur for classroom supplies. The top three money raising classes were: **1st place - Cheryl Ryan; 2nd place - Liane Ono and 3rd place - Desiree Piercy**. The top three classes with best participation are: **1st place - Carol Pierce; 2nd place - Julie Schell and 3rd place - Susan Miyashiro.**



We Love 'Aikahi Gift Baskets

Aloha Aikahi families,

As you all know, the **We Love Aikahi** dinner and auction is two months away. This year each grade level will donate a gift basket for the silent auction. The gift baskets will be raffled and the money raised will go toward school programs. The students and teachers are asking for your help with donations to make these gift baskets.

Please send your donations to your child(ren)'s classroom or the PCNC room. Please include the student's name and grade level with your donation. **Your donation of any listed items will be greatly appreciated and can be donated during any school day from now until late January 2012.** If you have any questions please feel free to contact me. Thank you for your support!

Banny Navarro
 Gift Baskets Coordinator
 928-550-9011
yinnab04@yahoo.com

Grade Level	Gift Basket Theme	Items
JK	Ice Cream Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Candy ice cream toppings Sprinkles Spoons Ice cream cones Cherries Peanuts
1 st	Cupcake Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baking Goods Cake Mixes Baking Cups Sprinkles Frosting, etc.
2 nd	Movie Night	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Popcorn Popcorn Boxes Candy DVD's Nachos Blankets, etc.
3 rd	Grilling Night	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grilling Utensils Spices Aprons Metal Tray Barbecue Sauce Recipes, etc.
4 th	Spa and Pamper Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Body Lotions Small Towels Nail Polish Pumice Rock Slippers Scented Candles
5 th	A Day on the Range	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Golf Towels Water Bottles Golf Balls Golfing Gloves Sun-block Hat, etc.
6 th	Wine and Cheese Basket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Various Cheeses Wine Crackers Small Cutting Board Wine Glasses Olives Meat, etc.

Turkey Trot Fun!

This was the biggest and best group of volunteers for Turkey Trot ever! Thank you to all the parents who volunteered for this years event. Thank you to **CO Kevin Long** and **Navy Squadron VP-4** for helping with the entire event. Thank you to **Banny Navarro** for securing **Marines** who helped with the face painting station and gave our 5th grade students a little workout before the Turkey Trot. And a special thank you to **Kate Lloyd** for running another successful Turkey Trot. **Everyone should be proud to know that with your generous donations we raised over \$6,700 for our teachers.** What a great way to kick off the holidays!



Craft Night Fun!

Thank you for coming out and participating in this years **Holiday Craft Night** which was held on **December 9th**. The gingerbread necklaces, poinsettia globes and clay Christmas ornaments that the students made were simply adorable. They ended the evening with hot cocoa and a snowman cupcake which they got to decorate themselves.

Thank you to **Carey Yen, Lori Doan, Robyn Nagli, Steve Goodwin, Christina Pascua, Debra Pascua** and **Laurie Ahlgren** for lending a helping hand. And a big thank you to **Deb Goebert** for coordinating this event. What a nice way for our students to get into the holiday spirit.

Chess Club Success!

The **2011 Winter Scholastic Blitz Tournament**, a chess tournament, was held on **December 4, 2011** at **Washington Middle School**. At this tournament students play as a team as well as individually and do so against all grade levels. School teams are usually represented by the top 4 scorers for each school.

'Aikahi Elementary was represented by **Patrick Perry** and **John Rice**, both as a team and individually. Even though Patrick and John were at a disadvantage, having only 2 players to compete while most other schools, including Punahou and Kamehameha, had at least 4 strong competitors on their teams, Patrick and John represented 'Aikahi Elementary very well and even **earned 3rd Place** in the Elementary School Division!

Additionally, both 'Aikahi chess players did exceptionally well competing individually. **Patrick Perry won 1st Place** in the Individual, Elementary School Division and **John Rice** was right behind him, **winning 2nd Place** in the same division! Congratulations to both Patrick and John for a job well done!

