



'Aikahi Wind Riders

November 2011 Edition

2011-2012 School Year

Principal's Message

Aloha! So many good things are happening here at 'Aikahi that I would like to share some shining examples of these great programs, projects and initiatives with you.

Most recently on **November 16th**, the **Kokua Foundation** partnered with **Kaiser Permanente** to bring the **Farm-to-School National Movement** to 'Aikahi. This cumulative community effort established our **Ohana Orchard**, which includes seven fruit trees, one for each grade level to nurture and care for. This planting and dedication ceremony was attended and supported by many VIP dignitaries including **US Congresswoman Mazie Hirono** as well as the Co-Founder of the **Kokua Foundation** and world-renowned recording artist, **Jack Johnson**, who later performed for our students and attendees! This was a fabulous event that will reap delicious fruit rewards for years to come!

We are also fortunate to have had the **University of Hawaii's (UH) Super-M Project**, which is a National Science Foundation-sponsored partnership between K-12 Educators and Graduate Students from UH's Mathematics Department, get involved with our school as well. Just recently, approximately forty educators, including K-12 DOE Educators as well as Mathematics Professors, attended a Super-M Workshop here, wherein the K-12 curriculum transition to **Common Core State Standards (CCSS)** was discussed. In support of this transition, Super-M Principal Investigator, **Dr. Monique Chyba**, shared the relevance of Mathematics in today's world and provided great perspective regarding the CCSS from a Mathematician's point of view.

Also, **'Aikahi's 3rd Grade Girl Scouts** took on a community service project, in which they partnered with **HECO** to perform an energy audit of our school. This informative audit provided valuable feedback regarding even more ways we can work to conserve energy. **Mahalo to our 3rd Grade Girl Scouts for taking on such a great initiative!**

Our Navy partner, **VP-4**, has become increasingly involved in numerous programs and projects on campus, including their volunteer efforts helping **A+ Program** students with homework and the many long hours they've put in supporting several ongoing beautification projects, like the improvement of the vast drainage ditch area. Most importantly to our keiki, however, is that VP-4 has volunteered to serve as the military muscle behind our Turkey Trot this year! In fact, our **20th Annual Turkey Trot** will be this **Wednesday, November 23rd** beginning at **8am!** We hope you will



Performer **Jack Johnson** and myself with 'Aikahi students on Planting Day

join us in personally thanking the members of VP-4 for all their efforts in helping our school, while you enjoy this great event!

Additionally, I would like to introduce two new faces you may have noticed around campus, that is, **Ashley Beecham** and **Marisa Curtis**. Ashley Beecham is our new lunchroom and recess supervisor, whom is enjoying her daily involvement with our students. Marisa Curtis joined as a Part Time Teacher (PTT) who works with our Curriculum Coordinator, **Mrs. Janet Anderson**, to assist numerous students with certain academic skills. We hope you, too, will join us in welcoming both to our Aikahi Ohana!

The holidays, which can be a great time of year for considering and appreciating the special people and blessings in our lives, are quickly approaching. So, I would like to take this opportunity to express my tremendous appreciation for the many dedicated school and community volunteers as well as our many dedicated teachers whose daily efforts improve the educational opportunities of our children and also make our school and our community one of the best in the world to learn, aspire and thrive!

Thank you,

Gay Kong, Principal
'Aikahi Elementary School



'Aikahi's 3rd Grade Girl Scouts

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Upcoming Important Events

Nov 9-30	Canned Food Drive	Feb 18	We Love Aikahi Event 5-10pm
Nov 16	PTSA Meeting 7pm	Feb 18	4th Grade Playground Cleanup 9am
Nov 19	1st Grade Playground Cleanup 9am	Feb 20	NO SCHOOL President's Day
Nov 23	Turkey Trot	Feb 29	SCC Board Meeting 3pm
Nov 29	Boston's Pizza, Kaneohe 4-8pm	March 8	3rd Quarter Ends
	6th Grade Fundraising Event	March 9	NO SCHOOL
Nov 30	SCC Board Meeting 3pm	March 12-16	NO SCHOOL Spring Break
Nov 24-25	NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving	March 24	3rd Grade Playground Cleanup 9am
Dec 1	"Canstruction" Winners Announced	March 26	NO SCHOOL Kuhio Day
Dec 9	Holiday Craft Night 5-6pm	April 6	NO SCHOOL Good Friday
Dec 14	LATE RELEASE 2:05pm	April 21	Student Council Playground Cleanup
	Principal's Coffee 8:30am	April 25	SCC Board Meeting 3pm
	Academic and Financial Plan	April 27	Yellow Ribbon Day
	SCC Board Meeting 3pm	May 7-11	Teacher Appreciation Week
Dec 15	EARLY RELEASE 12:30pm	May 9	LATE RELEASE 2:05pm
	2nd Quarter Ends	May 11	May Day Program
Dec 16	NO SCHOOL		EARLY RELEASE 12:30pm
Dec 17	Community Playground Cleanup	May 19	Community Playground Cleanup
Dec 19-Jan 2	NO SCHOOL Winter Break	May 23	LATE RELEASE 2:05pm
Jan 3	NO SCHOOL Teacher Work Day	May 24	EARLY RELEASE 12:30pm
Jan 16	NO SCHOOL Dr. MLK Jr. Day		Last Day for Students
Jan 21	2nd Grade Playground Cleanup 9am		

20th Annual Turkey Trot Needs Your Donations!



Please consider supporting your child(ren)'s classroom via a generous, monetary donation to this year's Turkey Trot. This incredibly fun, **PTSA-sponsored**, all-volunteer event is designed to raise funds to provide 'Aikahi's classrooms with the educational equipment, instructional aids and supplies needed to ensure our child(ren) the best education possible. 100% of your donation to our Turkey Trot goes directly to our great teachers to help them fill these needs. As such, we hope you will not only give generously to this year's **20th Annual Turkey Trot**, but we also hope you will come out and enjoy this great event with your child(ren) and 'Aikahi Ohana!

Please keep in mind that the Turkey Trot is notoriously **very messy!** So, please make sure your child(ren) wear **old clothes and closed-toe shoes** that can get dirty and/or wet to school on **Wednesday, November 23rd**, as this will ensure their ability to fully enjoy all the fun and challenging activities!

We truly appreciate the numerous ways you can support this event, whether it be via your generous, monetary donation, your volunteer support and/or your yummy baked goods! If you have volunteered to serve the day of the event, please plan to arrive on campus, if at all possible, **before 7:30am**. Please consider allowing your child(ren) to enjoy a school breakfast that morning, which begins service at 7:15am, if that may help.

Please contact **Kate Lloyd** at **349-9681** or klloyd@hcf-hawaii.org should you have any questions and/or concerns regarding 'Aikahi's 20th Annual Turkey Trot.

Who: YOU!

What: Turkey Trot

When: Wednesday,
Nov. 23rd
8am—12pm

Where: 'Aikahi
Elementary
Playground



We are in high gear for 'Aikahi's 20th Annual Turkey Trot on November 23rd. This PTSA event raises funds for our classrooms and, in fact, **100% of the funds raised provide our teacher's classrooms with the many supplies they need to better serve our students!** It is a terrific way to show your child's teacher you support them and their efforts in educating your child. We all know budget cuts are everywhere, at our schools and even in our own homes, so your donation is most appreciated in these tight times!

The **2011 Run & Read for Literacy** event held at **Windward Community College** on **Sunday, November 6th** was a great success and a great way to start the day. My family split into two teams for the one-mile fun run (Mom and Son vs. Dad and Son). If you did not sign up for the event this year, I strongly encourage you to do so next year. The \$10 registration fee included a **Pizza Hut** literacy card, which is essentially a year-long coupon to buy one carry-out pizza and get another FREE; a t-shirt; a great children's book; several granola bar munchies; and a \$7 cash back donation to our '**Aikahi Library**. Even if you do not run next year, please know that you still receive the goodie bag and the benefits are more than worth the cost of registration for this event. This year's **Run & Read Event** netted our school library approximately **\$475.00!!**



We are gearing up for our grade level **Giving Baskets**, which will support those less fortunate. This year we will combine grade levels (i.e. K/1, 2/3, 4/5 & 6/Staff) and are providing the option to donate \$5 or \$10 in lieu of asking that you donate items the family requested. I will collect the monetary donations and shop on behalf of each combined grade level. As soon as I receive detailed descriptions of these families, I will send them home to you. So, please consider giving what you can to make the holidays brighter for our local families in need.

The **light bulb exchange program** is in full swing. If you have incandescent bulbs at home, bring them in to exchange for **60-watt equivalent CFL bulbs**. It is **FREE** and will **SAVE YOU MONEY!** If you would like to provide me with the number of bulbs you have in advance, I am happy to exchange light bulbs with you in the parking lot during morning or afternoon drop-off/pick-up. We still have about 500 CFL bulbs, so please ask your friends and neighbors if they would like to participate as well.



Our **Catch-A-Wave Program** just got sweeter as **Baskin Robbins of Kailua** has donated **FREE ice cream** coupons to our weekly winners. **PCNC** and the **PBS Committee** have partnered to increase Catch-A-Wave winners from monthly class drawings to weekly grade level drawings. Each week we will pull one student's name from each grade level bucket and, during our morning announcements, the lucky winners, who have earned Catch-A-Wave cards, will be announced and asked to visit the PCNC room during their first recess to pick up their rewards!

Our **Tuesday Mom Team** needs you! Several dedicated moms provide an **enormous gift** to all our 'Aikahi teachers every Tuesday morning by completing various classroom projects, but they really need your help! If more of our parents could offer an hour or two on **Tuesday mornings** beginning at **8am** in the **PCNC Room**, the workload per volunteer would be dramatically decreased and the projects could be completed more quickly. This is a great opportunity to get more involved in your child(ren)'s education and to learn more about all the great programs and projects ongoing around campus while connecting with your 'Aikahi ohana. I realize it's not easy to volunteer your time during the busy holiday season, but please keep in mind that our teachers are also incredibly busy trying to engage your child(ren) in even more creative and educational projects leading up to the holidays. So, an hour or two of your time each Tuesday or any Tuesday morning would be tremendously appreciated! Please consider this opportunity to show your thanks for our teachers this holiday season and I really hope to see you Tuesday morning!

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

Robyn Nagli
'Aikahi Elementary PCNC





Friday, November 11th was our **Tree Prep Day** and we are very pleased to say that seventeen Aikahi families turned out to help dig holes, trenches and even install the irrigation system. It was a huge job, but thanks to our Aikahi Ohana, the day went very smoothly.

On **Wednesday, November 16th**, our **Legacy Orchard Planting Day**, each grade level received one fruit tree, which they will care for by watering and adding mulch and fertilizer on a regular basis. After the trees were planted, each class received a follow up lesson about their tree including instruction on how to properly care for the tree and add mulch around its base.

The dedication of these seven fruit trees, '**Aikahi's Ohana Orchard**, was attended and supported by many special people, including the **Kokua Foundation Co-Founder, Jack Johnson**, who performed for our students and attendees of this event during school lunches!

Grade Level Trees

Kindergarten:	Mullberry
First Grade:	Kumquat
Second Grade:	Lemon
Third Grade:	Tangerine
Fourth Grade:	Washington Naval Orange
Fifth Grade:	Grapefruit
Sixth Grade:	Tangelo



Jack Johnson helps plant a tree at 'Aikahi!



This month '**ĀINA IS Nutrition Docents** taught **2nd and 6th Graders** about whole grains and energy foods as well as the many reasons to read food labels. Students enjoyed a delicious and healthy wholegrain cracker with locally sourced Poha Berry jam snack as well.



Aikahi's keiiki enjoy their healthy choices!

In addition to the gardens and nutrition aspects of 'ĀINA IS, '**ĀINA In Schools** is also making connections between it's components with Fresh Choices in the Cafeteria reinforcing the nutrition lessons and waste reduction in the classrooms through recycling.

Mahalo to the 'ĀINA IS parents and community volunteers who dedicate their time to support these garden and nutrition lessons in our school!

Join us in educating the next generation about how to grow their own food as well as how to make healthy food choices. If you are interested, please email **Wendy Rosen** at wrosen@hawaii.rr.com to help with the school gardens or **Lezlee McFadden** at lezleemcfadden@hotmail.com to help provide '**ĀINA IS** nutrition lessons and/or assist with the **Healthy Choices Salad Bar**.



Parent **Allyson Fairweather** reviews the Hawaii Health Food Guide with 2nd Graders



Parent Volunteer **Mari Sereno** serves fresh fruit



Nutrition Docent, **Kat Novack** helps reinforce 'ĀINA IS lessons



SATURDAY IS Clean Up Day!

**1st Grade
Playground
Clean Up Day
is this
Saturday,
November 19th
at 9am!**

Holiday Craft Night!



Save the Date!
**December 9, 2011 5-6pm
Holiday Craft Night!**

The holidays are quickly approaching. Please consider taking an hour out of your busy schedules to join us for a fun and festive evening of family crafts. Each crafter will make a decoration for their home, an ornament, holiday jewelry, and gift wrap. They will also decorate a cupcake and enjoy it with hot chocolate.

We are also looking for volunteers to assist crafters. The projects vary in skill level so there will be something for everyone. Please contact **Deb Goebert** if you are interested at dgoebert@hawaii.edu.



Student Council's "Canstruction Contest"

The **Student Council** is sponsoring a **Canned Food Drive** for the **Hawaii Food Bank** from **November 9th-30th**. Please send in canned food items that can be eaten without much preparation. Examples would be tuna, canned soups, pork and beans, Spam, etc. All of the canned food items will be donated to **The Hawaii Food Bank**. Last year, we raised over 8,000 lbs. of food. This year we would like to beat that amount.

To provide a little more motivation, we are also sponsoring a **Canstruction Contest**. Participation in the contest is voluntary, and a class would have to have at least 32 canned food



items to participate. The Canstructions will be judged and prizes will be awarded to the classes that have the biggest construction, the most creative construction and the most complex construction. There will be two divisions (upper elementary and lower elementary) for each category.

The theme for the canstructions is Thanksgiving/Fall, and students will be challenged to build their constructions around that theme. Judging will be done on **Thursday, December 1st**, after school. The winning classes will receive an ice cream treat!



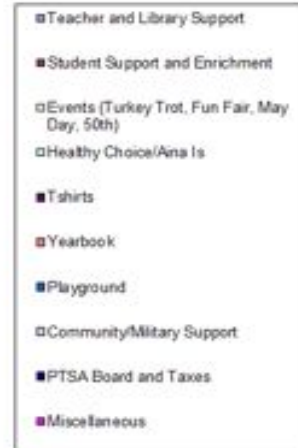
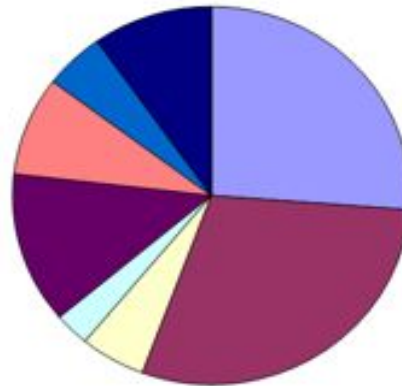
If you have not already done so, please enroll in **eScrip** and select **'Aikahi Elementary** as your recipient. With any qualifying purchases you make with your Safeway club card and any credit cards you register, Aikahi Elementary earns valuable rewards! It is the easiest fundraiser ever! Be sure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

Mahalo for your support!

PTSA Treasury Report

No major fundraisers occurred during October. The **PTSA** hosted a **Family Science Night**, which was funded by a grant from the **Kaneohe OfficersSpouses' Club**. Expenses reflected are through **November 5, 2011**. During November, we will be raising money via the **Turkey Trot** and those funds will be distributed to Aikahi's teachers to provide for needed instructional aids and supplies.

PTSA Expenses through Nov 5 2011



'Aikahi's Lego Robotics Team Scores!

'Aikahi's Lego Robotics Team competed against eleven other teams from various windward area schools at the **2011 Lego Robotics Food Factor Challenge** at **Kahalu'u Elementary** this past **Saturday, November 12, 2011**. 'Aikahi Elementary 5th and 6th Graders, **Noah**



Ahlgren, Jared Gady, Connor Barber, Patrick Leonhardt, Shiloh Arbuckle and Matthew Watkins all competed in various components of this competition via their dramatic presentation of a five-minute, team-written and performed skit introducing their novel solution designed to prevent food poisoning, the Dry Ice Box; three group interviews on topics such as **Core Values** and **Robotics Design**; as well as successfully completing six of the seven incredibly difficult **Robotic Challenges** attempted.

We are proud to announce that even though this was their very first year to compete, **'Aikahi Elementary's Lego Robotics Team finished Fifth** out of the twelve competing and eleven much more experienced teams! Special thanks to **Coaches Barrett and Wendy Gady** for their exceptional efforts and the countless hours they dedicated to coaching and coordinating this great accomplishment!

Please Join Us at Boston's Pizza in Kaneohe in Support of 'Aikahi's 6th Grade Spring Musical!

Aikahi's 6th Grade needs additional funds to help produce their **Spring Musical**. To earn these much-needed funds, the 6th Graders are hosting a **Pizza Night Fundraiser at Boston's Pizza in Kaneohe on Tuesday, November 29th from 4pm – 8pm**, so please mark your calendars!

They will earn 50% of the proceeds earned by **Boston's Pizza** that evening during that timeframe. A flyer about this upcoming event will come home very soon and please be sure to keep it, as you will need to present this flyer at the time of purchase to help our 6th Graders earn proceeds. We sure hope that you will join us at **Boston's Pizza in Kaneohe on Tuesday, November 29th** and we thank you in advance for your anticipated and much-needed support!



NEW PTSA BOARD MEMBERS!

Thank you to **Banny Navarro** for volunteering to be the new **PTSA Secretary** and the new **Enrichment Coordinator**.



And thank you to **Rebecca Cruz** for volunteering to be the new **PTSA Treasurer**. They have already been a great asset to the **PTSA Board** and we are very excited to have them be a part of the team.

OCTOBER PLAYGROUND CLEAN UP



Thank you to the following students and their families for coming out to help clean and maintain our wonderful playground during our October's playground clean up day:

Elena Storms
Sophie Moser
Noah Ahlgren
Calley Lwin
Kalei Therien

Alicia Kelley
Nicole Whitworth
Alex Lecher
David Uithol



We are excited to invite you to be a part of **We Love 'Aikahi**, a dinner and silent auction that benefits **'Aikahi Elementary School**. The event will be held on **Saturday, February 18, 2012 at Ko'olau Ballrooms**. Please save the date – we hope you can all attend! Our goal this year is to raise \$30,000 to fund **Aikahi Elementary** programs such as **Healthy Choice**, the school library, **Student Enrichment**, playground maintenance and upgrading our computer lab. With the continued budget cuts by the State Board of Education, we have a great need to assist our school in maintaining excellence in education, and we hope you will join us in this mission by supporting **We Love 'Aikahi**. For more information please visit www.weloveaikahi.org.

We are asking our **'Aikahi Elementary** families to support **We Love 'Aikahi** by donating items to our silent auction. If you or your place of work are able to make a donation, we would greatly appreciate it! Companies who donate will receive the following benefits, and individuals who donate will also receive appropriate acknowledgement:

- Acknowledgement on the **We Love 'Aikahi** website, www.weloveaikahi.org
- Acknowledgement in the **Aikahi Elementary PTSA Newsletter**
- Listing in **We Love 'Aikahi** auction catalog
- Listing in the **"Support our Supporters"** flyer, which is given to all parents of **'Aikahi Elementary** students, encouraging them to shop at businesses that support our school

Auction donations valued at more than \$500 will also receive:

- Logo placement with web link on **We Love 'Aikahi** website, www.weloveaikahi.org
- Logo placement in auction catalog
- Two complimentary tickets to the **We Love 'Aikahi** event

Donations made to **We Love 'Aikahi** are tax deductible. Thank you in advance for your support in making this year's silent auction a great success! Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Caitlin Nagel, We Love 'Aikahi Co-Chair
Phone: 808-254-4011 or
Email: caitlinnagel@mac.com



'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.

Spring Rummage Sale Cancelled

Due to scheduling conflicts, the **Spring Rummage Sale** has been canceled. We know many of you were looking forward to it and we apologize for the cancellation. We will be planning a **Fall Rummage Sale** for next year, so please watch for further details.



Hawaii Educators Attend Super-M Project Workshop at 'Aikahi Elementary

A **Super-M (Math) Project Workshop** was held at **'Aikahi Elementary on November 11th**. The Super-M Project is a **National Science Foundation**-sponsored partnership between K-12 Educators and graduate students from the **Mathematics Department** of the **University of Hawaii (UH)**. Approximately forty people attended the Super-M Workshop here at 'Aikahi Elementary, including numerous K-12 Educators from Oahu and the Big Island, as well as numerous graduate students and Mathematics Professors from UH.

Super-M Principal Investigator, Dr. Monique Chyba, discussed the relevance of Mathematics in today's world and explained the **Common Core State Standards (CCSS)** from a mathematician's point of view. Super-M graduate fellows led the workshop participants in three engaging problem-solving activities. These activities, which targeted the Common Core State Standards in Mathematics, are designed to develop critical thinking skills and can be adapted for use in Kindergarten and College classrooms, alike.

'Aikahi teachers, **Rowena Batungbacal** and **Kathy Campbell** as well as **Kailua High School Math Teacher** and Aikahi Elementary mom, **Angla Kung**, talked about their partnership with Super-M fellow, **Bianca Thompson**. Bianca has been developing supplemental Math lessons and activities for use in their classrooms. Bianca even worked with Mrs. Batungbacal and Mrs. Campbell to design and facilitate a ten-week seed-ball experiment. During this ten-week experiment, **'Aikahi 2nd Graders** learned about Math and Science by collecting, graphing, and analyzing data related to their experiment. Bianca also teaches **FREE Math Enrichment Classes** here at 'Aikahi Elementary after school on Wednesdays.

Bianca and other Super-M graduate fellows also led several hands-on Math activities at 'Aikahi Elementary's **Math and Movie Night** this past September. Our students and faculty, alike, have benefited a great deal from our partnership with the Super-M Project. For more information about the **Super-M Project**, please visit their website at:

<http://www2.math.hawaii.edu/superm/?q=home>



**Photos from 'Aikahi's Legacy Orchard Planting
Courtesy of the Kokua Foundation and
Its Co-Founder, Jack Johnson**

