



# Keaukaha Elementary Ka Wa'a

## 'Ohana and Community Bulletin



AUGUST 2016

Aloha kākou!!

"Always believe that something wonderful is about to happen!"

- Author Unknown



Welcome back to another exciting year at Keaukaha Elementary School! I've really missed everyone and can't wait to start the new year! We open our 2016-2017 school year with a reminder of our **SCHOOL VISION** and the **MESSAGE** behind it:

**E hoe i ka wa'a! E ho'olōkahi e!** - "Let's Paddle Our Canoe Together!"

The message behind our shared vision is that we are all on this learning journey together and we each have a kuleana (responsibility) in moving our canoe (school) forward. I have a kuleana, our staff have their kuleana, and our students have their kuleana. So as we open the new school year, I encourage you to work closely with us because you, too, have a kuleana as parents/guardians. ☺ Please continue to build that positive working relationship/partnership with our school. You can do this by bringing your child to school on time everyday, communicating with your child's teacher, assisting your child with homework, checking your child's planner daily, attending all school activities and events, and/or volunteering on our campus. We always welcome you! Mahalo nui for picking up your "paddle" and moving our canoe forward!

I am extremely excited to introduce you to the new staff members who will be joining our Keaukaha 'Ohana and inform you of some internal changes that occurred. Please **WELCOME** the following to our school:

Kumu Cela Bento to our Grade 1 classroom.

Kumu Larissa Casteel to our Grade 5 classroom.

Kumu Amanda Ayoso to our Grade 4 SPED team.

Kumu Shari Miura will teach our Art resource classes.

Kumu Brandy Harada will move from Grade 4 to Grade 1.

Kumu Lei Fa'anunu will move from Grade 5 to a Grade Level Coach.

Kumu Kristin Spear to our Grade 5 classroom.

Kumu Asia Harman to our Grade 6 classroom.

Kumu Malani Alameda will teach our 'Olelo resource classes.

Kumu Jennifer Muller will teach our S.T.E.A.M resource classes.

Kumu Erin Lyman will move from Technology to Grade 4.

Our students return to Keaukaha Elementary in their school uniforms again this year!! The uniform color is **ROYAL BLUE** (not black, brown or pink) and these blue uniforms are to be **used Monday through Thursday**, unless we have another activity planned for that day. Friday is Free Dress day for our students. Our Uniform Policy and Procedure information was sent out in the opening day documents for your review. As a reminder, the **ROYAL BLUE** shirts are to be used **by students only** and will not be sold for adult use. This year, the uniforms are also available in long sleeve and hoodie. Mahalo for honoring our students!! In addition, students may borrow a uniform from school if they do not have one readily available at home. However, this should be a rare occurrence. Please make every effort to ensure your child has enough uniform shirts ready for school during the week. Mahalo for your assistance with this! Feel free to see me if you have questions.

Daily student attendance continues to be a high focus area for us. Please make every effort to bring your children to school daily and on time. School starts at 8:00 am and students are considered tardy after 8:05 am. Of course, if they are sick, they should stay home. But if they are healthy and well, please have them in school with us, learning and growing together.

We wish **HAPPY AUGUST BIRTHDAYS** to Kumu Eden Scanlan, EA Hina Wong, Kumu Donna Foster, Kumu Cela Bento, EA Nicole Crichton, Kumu Wendi Kimura, and to our many students who share August as their month of birth. Hau'oli La Hānau to all of you!

In closing, I'm so excited to start a new school year with you! **MAHALO NUI LOA** for making Keaukaha Elementary your 'home'! It is my honor to lead this **EXCEPTIONAL** school and to work hand-in-hand with my amazing staff, our extraordinary students, and this beautiful community! I look forward to another fabulous year together.

Be Strong, Be Proud, Be Pono!  
Mahalo Nui!

Po'o Kumu Stacey Bello





# HERO PROGRAM NEW! hero

Our overall goal at Keaukaha Elementary, in its simplest terms, is to create a campus environment that is free from all unwanted behaviors so that everyone can focus on learning. Having a school wide proactive system that focuses on recognizing students when they are doing well is the best approach to achieve this goal.

Keaukaha Elementary will adopt the HERO program in the 2016-2017 school year. This technology-based program allows staff members to immediately recognize students when they are following school and classroom expectations. Students earn points for positive behaviors throughout the campus and those points may be redeemed for a number of incentives provided by our school.

In addition to acknowledging appropriate students behaviors, HERO will also be used to track and monitor other target areas during the year. For example, we will use the HERO program to recognize and reward daily attendance and on time arrival of students. Students will receive points every morning for simply being present in school and for being here before 8:05 am. This is just one example of how positive actions will be recognized and rewarded.

The HERO program will go into effect school wide during the 2nd quarter of the 2016-2017 school year. More detailed information will be sent home to families prior to its implementation.



# NEW FACES AT KEAUKAHA!



Aloha! My name is Kumu Cela Ho'olino-kuokalani Bento. I am grateful to have the honor and privilege of joining Keaukaha Elementary School as a First Grade Teacher. I was born and raised in Hilo, daughter of Arlen and Marvel Bento, and younger sister of Arlen Jr. and Martin Bento. I moved home to Hilo this summer to live with my parents and raise my daughter Emma Rei Hi'ilei, almost 4. My education at UH Manoa includes a B.ED in Elementary Education with emphasis in Hawaiian Studies, a Professional Diploma, and M.ED in Reading. I come with 21 years of teaching experience in Honolulu with the past 19 years at Kahala Elementary School. Hilo has always been home to me and I look forward to sharing my love of teaching and learning with the children and families of Keaukaha.



My name is Kumu Asia Harman and I will be teaching 6th grade this year! I am a proud Maui native who has made this beautiful island of Hawai'i my new home. I graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Art from University of Nevada - Las Vegas in 2012 and I am now in my final year of completing a Master of Arts in Teaching at University of Hawaii at Hilo. I am so excited for us to embark on this journey in our wa'a together and looking forward to being a part of this 'ohana at Keaukaha Elementary. A'ohe hana nui ke alu'ia - No work is too big when shared by all!



Aloha Keaukaha Ohana,  
My name is Kumu Kristin Spear and I am one of the new fifth grade teachers. I am originally from Chicago, Illinois, moved to Oahu ten years ago, and made the jump to B.I. over the summer. On my spare time I enjoy surfing, hiking, and doing anything outdoors. I have 2 dogs Riley and Roscoe and I absolutely adore them. I'm energetic, lively, kind, consistent, and passionate when it comes to teaching. I play guitar and enjoy incorporating music into my lessons. I pour my heart and soul into teaching and reaching every child that crosses my path. I'm looking forward to an exciting new year and can't wait to meet the many new faces at school and within the community.



Aloha!

I am Kumu Larissa Casteel and I am one of the new 5th grade teachers at Keaukaha! I have a bachelor of science degree from the University of New Orleans in Louisiana. I lived and worked there before, during, and after Hurricane Katrina. I am so thankful to have come to Hilo because it is a community that is culturally rich like New Orleans. I look forward to learning from each other and becoming part of the Keaukaha 'Ohana!







Aloha!

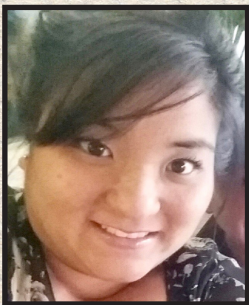
I am Kumumu Amanda Uilani Ayoso, here from the Big Island of Hawaii. I have resided on this island for 58 years and love it! I have 6 grown up children, 4 boys and 2 girls with additions of 12 grandchildren. I love my family and really enjoy spending my time with them.

I currently have a BA in Psychology (UHHH), BA in Special Education (BASE/DOE-City University Washington) and my Masters in Education & Specialization in Special Education with Instructional Strategies & Differentiation for all learners, (Ashford University).

I have worked in the DOE system since 1985, in various positions. One of my favorite highlights, was working closely with many students and their teachers as an Educational Assistant for 10 years+, specializing in the Deaf/Hard of Hearing as an interpreter with sign language skills, and working with the Blind using hand over hand interpretation along with various assistive technology devices, all with mainstreaming students into the general education setting working closely within the Special Education Dept.

My love and motivation for Special Education first came with a sister that was born profoundly deaf and a brother that was intellectually disabled, thus, I do use American Sign Language, which I have found is such a useful language in learning Vocabulary in any content area.

I am very excited and happy to be on staff at Keaukaha Elementary School and be an asset to our students, parents, staff and community.



Aloha!!

My name is Auntie Shari. I have been at Keaukaha Elementary for the past eleven years working as a tutor and more recently an EA. I am excited to say that this year I will be working with our students doing Art!! In my spare time I love drawing, painting, baking, crafting, and letting my creativity go wild. I can't wait to work with our students and let them explore their own creative minds. It will definitely be a fun year filled with new experiences!! I'm excited to see what masterpieces our artists will create!!



Aloha,

'O Kumumu Darcy Malani Alameda ko'u inoa. My mother along with her parents (my kupauna) George Alameda Jr. and Janet Rose Lonokaiolohia Alameda raised me in this homestead community of Keaukaha. I've lived on Lyman Ave. for 20 years until my friends and family were able to help me build my own hale 2 roads up on Ewaliko Ave in 1998. My understanding and fluency in our native language comes from working on the garden at Ke Kula 'O Nawahi'okalani'opu'u Hawaiian Immersion Public Charter School and also 5 years of studying at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo and another 8 years teaching at Ka 'Umeke Ka'e'o Hawaiian Immersion Public Charter School. It's an honor to be able to teach the keiki of our community to learn the foundations to understand and speak our native language not just at school but also at home where they can share this gift with their 'Ohana.

"He pūko'a kani 'āina".



My name is Kumumu Jen Muller and I am very excited to join the Keaukaha team as the new STEM teacher! My role will be to work with students in Kindergarten to 6th grade developing STEM practices like asking questions, planning and carrying out investigations, analyzing and interpreting data and designing solutions. I grew up on Long Island, New York and have been living in Hilo since 2008. While living in New York, I earned my BA in Elementary Education/English and my MS in Literacy Education. From 2002-2006, I served as a volunteer with the Peace Corps in the Republic of Vanuatu. I taught English and provided professional development for the teachers. If you see me around campus, ask me about my Peace Corps experience, I love to talk about it! This will be my ninth year working with Kamehameha Schools' Kealapono division. Over those years, I worked with keiki and teachers at Mountain View Elementary, Kea'au Elementary and Hilo Union providing science literacy services. Aside from teaching, I love to go running, to read nonfiction books, and to spend time with my two children. I am eager to begin this new school year at Keaukaha Elementary School.



## MAHALO NUI SUISAN!

I would like to express my deepest appreciation and gratitude to the employees of Suisan for their generous donation of school supplies to Keaukaha Elementary School. Employees from around the island participated in their first annual School Supply Drive over the summer, which focused on helping families with the purchase of some basic back-to-school supplies. Keaukaha Elementary was selected as the recipient of this supply drive and we are truly grateful! Mahalo nui to Suisan management & employees for being a supportive community partner! Hulo! Hulo!

To the 'ohana of Keaukaha – if your child is in need of supplies listed below, please contact me directly through email at [stacey\\_bello@notes.k12.hi.us](mailto:stacey_bello@notes.k12.hi.us) or stop by the main office. Mahalo!

Binders	Binder Paper	Dry Erase Markers
Notebooks	Folders	3 Prong Folders
Index Cards	Rulers	Protractor
#2 Pencils	Felt Markers	Colored Pencils
Ball Point Pens	Crayons	School Boxes
Glue	Erasers	Pencil Erasers
Tissue Boxes	Paper Towels	Clorox Wipes
School Bags	Paint Set	Paper Fastener
Composition Tablets	Sheet Protectors	Pencil Sharpeners
Scissors	Jump Drives	Sharpie Pens
Hand Sanitizers	Post-it Notes	Glue Sticks



# OKI KA PIKO

'Oki ka piko signifies the opening of our school year at Keaukaha. Keiki and faculty joined together in this foundational ceremony to begin our year with pono. Tiani and Blake cut the piko from which knowledge will continue to grow. E hoe I ka wa'a! E ho'olōkahi e!



# 1ST DAY ASSEMBLY LET'S DANCE!



## UPCOMING EVENTS and Announcements

AUGUST 24, 2016 - "Wehena Kula"  
OPEN HOUSE

E hoe I ka wa'a! E ho'olōkahi e! -"Let's Paddle Our Canoe Together!"

## Principal's Pledge to Students

All adults will work hard for you.  
You will be safe in our school.  
If you have something to say about  
our school, we will listen.

## Student's Pledge to Keaukaha

Come to school on time everyday.  
Follow all expectations.  
Be ready to learn and work hard.  
Be a "sponge"

## YEARBOOK

Reserve your yearbook  
copy now! Cost is \$10!  
Payment can be made at  
the school office.

## Kōkua I Nā Kula! #27

Help Keaukaha School earn its share of  
\$100,000 with KTA Super Stores Kōkua I Nā  
Kula program. All you have to do is Shop  
at KTA from Aug - Sept and donate your  
earned points to #27 KEAUKAHA SCHOOL.  
It is that simple.

## Annual Notification of Privacy Rights

Know your privacy rights as they apply to 1) Student record  
information; 2) Directory information; 3) Surveys and other  
information collection; and 4) Military recruitment informa-  
tion.

For more information on your privacy rights, the laws that  
protect them, and how to exercise your rights, contact your  
school administrator or visit <http://bit.ly/FERPAHI>

Keaukaha School is a Title 1 school. We  
receive Federal funds to ensure that all children  
have a fair, equal and significant opportunity to  
obtain high-quality education and reach, at a  
minimum, proficiency on the challenging state  
academic standards.