

DECEMBER 2016

"Family is like branches on a tree. We may grow in different directions, yet our roots remain as one."
~ Author Unknown



Aloha e Keaukaha 'Ohana!

Hulō! Hulō! Welcome to the month of December, the final month of the year 2016! I hope this year has been one of good fortune and happy moments for you and the ones you love!

Congratulations go out to Kumu Amber Huihui's first grade class for having the most perfect attendance days during the 1st quarter of school. This means that 100% of her students came to school for 27 out of the 48 school days! That is absolutely AWESOME!! Please continue to bring your children to school everyday before 8:05 am. As much as possible, please work with us to teach our students the importance of coming to school daily and on-time. This life-long expectation will have great importance on the rest of their lives. Mahalo nui for your continued support!

Our Annual Book Fair opened on November 29th and will run through December 2nd. We have lots of books available for your children to choose from. The love for reading begins at a very young age. Children should read daily and be read to often. Let's continue to expose our children to a variety of books and build that love for reading. With that, I send a huge MAHALO to Aunty Wahine Mercado for her hard work in coordinating this year's event. Also, a special MAHALO goes out to the grandparents of one of our former students for their annual donation to our Book Fair. Their generosity and continued support of Keaukaha Elementary School is always appreciated!

Our annual Evening of Song performance, entitled "A Very Merry Christmas 2016", is scheduled for Wednesday, December 21, from 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm in Kawananakoa Gym. Please mark your calendars. I hope to see you all at this year's event! Your children are set to put on some great holiday performances for you so please join us. Mahalo nui to PCNC Mona Ubedei for coordinating this event and to the many dedicated staff members who assist in any way possible. In addition, an 'ono Kalua Pig plate will be available for a \$10.00 donation.

Registration for preschool and kindergarten enrollment is open! Please be sure to register your keiki as soon as possible. This helps us in our planning for next school year! As a reminder, children must be 5 years old on or before July 31, 2017 in order to register for Kindergarten next year. At the same time, children must be 4 years old on or before July 31, 2017 in order to register for our 4 years old preschool program. In addition to the age requirement for preschool, students must be toilet trained and priority will be given to students residing in the geographical area of Keaukaha School. Meaning, Keaukaha Elementary School would be your child's home school and proof of residency must be provided at the time the interest card is submitted. Interested parents must complete an INTEREST CARD at our school. Please contact Sharon in our school office should you have any questions about our kindergarten and/or preschool enrollment process.

Our first round of Science HSA (Hawaii State Assessment) standardized test for Grade 4 occurs during the month of December. The first round is scheduled for the second week from December 5th-9th. Grade 4 parents - please ensure your child is in bed early every night, eats a healthy breakfast in the morning, and is ready for their day. A good nights rest, food in their tummy, and a positive attitude makes a huge difference in how well our keiki perform in school. Mahalo for your assistance and support with this!

We say HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAY to our Educational Assistant Shari Fujimoto, PSAP Educational Assistant Chandon Cheseboro, Math Coach Tina Miyataki, 1st Grade Kumu Amber Huihui, and to our many students who share December as their month of birth. Hau'oli Lā Hanau to you!

As a reminder, our students will be on vacation for 2½ weeks for the Winter Break. Their last day of the 2nd quarter is on Wednesday, December 21, and students return to us on Monday, January 9. It's going to be a long break and we are going to miss them!

If I don't get to see you before the Winter Break begins, I wish you all a memorable holiday season! Enjoy the quality time you'll have with family and friends. Those special moments can never be replaced.

Be Strong, Be Proud, Be Pono!
Mele Kalikimaka a Hauoli Makahiki Hou!

Kumu Stacey Bello



Welcome Joy Oliveira!



Aloha, I am honored to be joining the Keaukaha Elementary ohana! As a parent and educator, I believe that every child is precious and deserves a safe and happy place to learn. My kuleana is to continue the dedicated support of this community as we guide children on their journey of self-discovery and encourage a life-long love of learning.

My professional accomplishments include participating in the Positive Behavioral Intervention and Support Programs, developing anti-bullying programs, a social thinking curriculum and I also serve as a Wish Granter for the Make a Wish Foundation. I received my Special Education Teacher licensure from the University of Hawaii at Manoa and hold a BS in Psychology.

Every day I am inspired by my three daughters and two step sons. I feel privileged to serve the Keaukaha community which so lovingly nurtures and encourages our children to discover and develop their unique talents as they become caretakers of the world in which they live, learn and grow.

Joy Oliveira
Special Education Teacher
Keaukaha Elementary

Happy
Holidays!



LA KUPUNA 2016



Keaukaha students have been so lucky to have our kupuna come and share their stories with us over the years. These are the precious memories that we will remember for a lifetime. Mahalo to: Uncle Pat, Auntie Aloha Bezilla, Kumu Kuulei Okada-Hughes, Auntie Birdie Nicholas, Auntie Wanda Cardines, Auntie Luana Kawelu, Auntie Sherilyn Kalua, Uncle Herring Kalua, Uncle Smitty Kaleohano, Auntie Moki Lee and Auntie Donna Leong.



COUNSELOR CORNER BY KUMU SPEAR



Why Family Dinners Are Important!

Most American families are starved for time to spend together. Parents may be working late, picking students up from school, or attending other extracurricular activities, making it hard to connect with one another each day. Dinner may be the only time of the day when we can reconnect. It should be a time to relax, recharge, and enjoy each other's company. It gives a chance to hear about everyone's day and develop a sense of who we are as a family. Research has shown that one of the most effective strategies parents have for raising well adjusted students is to frequently eat meals together as a family.

Below is a summary of a few research reports that were done on making mealtime family time.

- Family mealtime is the single strongest predictor of academic achievement scores and low rates of behavioral difficulties
- Dinnertime conversations are a major source of family knowledge, family adjustment, and family resilience.
- Shared meal times create stronger family bonds and fewer childhood problems.
- Family mealtime rituals give children a sense of belonging.

Remember, it doesn't have to be an extravagant meal. Its all about the time spent together as a family.

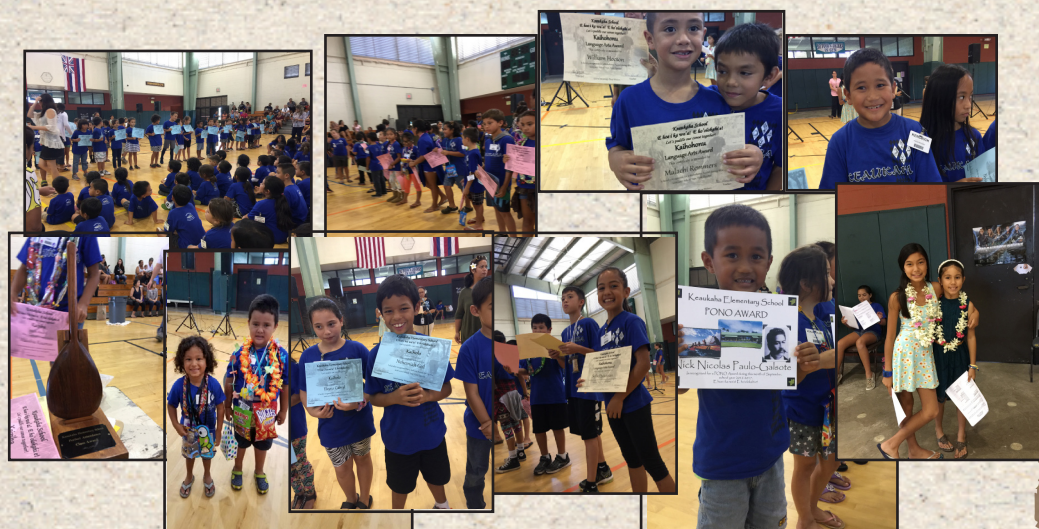
Involve your child in the planning, preparation, and serving of the meal. A study published in the Journal of Public Health Nutrition shows that children who cook, eat more healthy foods. The study found that children who were involved in a home meal preparation chose fruits and vegetables more often than their non-cooking counterparts. Vegetable preference was ten percent higher. Helping to plan and prepare the meal helps children to learn more about how to cook healthy food for themselves and gives them bonding time. It's a win-win!!

It is important to maintain a caring, nurturing environment during mealtime. This will help to keep ourselves healthy and enjoy meals with our families in a responsible way. As a family, be encouraged to sit down and discuss your expectations during mealtime. Below is a list of ways we can incorporate Keaukaha's Schoolwide Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS) at home during mealtime.

Be Responsible	Be Safe	Be Respectful
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear your plate from the table • Throw your napkin in the trash • Help clean the kitchen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sit correctly in your chair. • Keep feet on the floor. • Sit up straight 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask for something to be passed politely • Say "Please" and "Thank you" • Always chew with your mouth closed

1st Quarter Awards Assembly

Congratulations to all of our students who received awards during 1st Quarter!



HERO PROGRAM

On November 18th, students who accumulated 35 points or more were treated to pudding pops from Captain America and Spiderman! These students earned points by following the 7 schoolwide expectations!

1. Present and On Time - Everyday!
2. Obey lunch/recess rules
3. Stay on task/Participate!
4. Be PONO in line
5. Complete all work
6. Follow classroom expectations
7. Show random acts of kindness



Keep up the good work students! You never know when a Superhero will drop by to acknowledge your good deeds!



Why take the Flu Shot?

Each year, an average of 20,000 children younger than 5 years are hospitalized because of flu-related complications. Influenza causes more hospitalizations among young children than any other vaccine-preventable disease. The single best way to protect against seasonal flu and its potential severe complications is for children to get a seasonal influenza vaccine each year. Flu vaccination is recommended for all children aged 6 months and older. Making healthy choices at school and at home can help prevent the flu and spreading flu to others. Below you will find some everyday preventative actions:

- Stay home when you are sick. You will help prevent others from catching your illness. Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue away after use and wash your hands. If a tissue is not available, cover your mouth and nose with your sleeve, not your hand.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth. Germs spread this way.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces or objects. Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces at home, work or school, especially when someone is ill.

FLU SHOT INFORMATION

The Flu season is here and since the Flu season is year round in Hawaii, we encourage our families to receive their flu vaccinations early in the season.

Keaukaha Elementary will offer our yearly Flu Clinic, known as Stop Flu @ School on February 3rd, 2017.

Consent forms were passed out during the week on November 21st. The deadline to turn in forms is December 16, 2016.

Electronic versions of the flu vaccination consent form can be found at <https://vaxonline.doh.hawaii.gov> and on our school website keaukahaelementary.com.

Please see your physician if you'd like to receive your Flu vaccination sooner.

Stay Healthy!



READING FOR SUCCESS



By Kumu Loke

"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more you learn, the more places you'll go." Dr. Seuss

Your children are learning and growing improving in reading and in writing with our teachers hard at work! During the up coming break you can have your child explore and discover global interests through Achieve3000's hundreds of articles where you can learn a thing or two also. Then they answer questions about the article and it can be FUN! It's easy to get started with your FREE Home Edition account - and it takes just a minute! Your child's school has already paid for your account. To sign up, just follow these instructions:

- Go to portal.achieve3000.com. Enter your child's username and password (see below). Note: For security reasons, passwords are not printed. Please ask your child for his/her password. If your child does not know his/her password, please contact your child's teacher or Achieve3000 Support at www.achieve3000.com/customer-support or at 877-235-2525.
- Click the arrow by his/her name at the top of the screen. Then, click Create Parent Login.

As we near the Holidays imagine what your child may be thinking that they would want for Christmas...think what might be one of the best gifts you can give them that doesn't cost much but can take them anywhere they want to go. It's the gift of READING. We encourage you to think of gifting your child a book for Christmas and you can get them so many different ways: borrowing from the library, garage sales, your local & school library give aways, your aunt, uncle, friend, kupuna, or kumu who has lots of books and want to share. Just reading with your child is a wonderful gift too! Have a safe and fun-filled Holiday Season!



Math Corner

By Kumu Miyataki

Wow! The end of the year is approaching fast and Christmas break is right around the corner. Keep working on the math fluency activities and fun websites shared in earlier Math Corner articles to see your child's math skills grow!

This next math corner will focus on the following Standards of Mathematical Practice (SMP)s #4-6. Remember, the SMPs are practices that educators seek to develop in our students. These practices rely on important "processes and proficiencies" used in daily mathematics education, especially math word problems.

Math Tip #4

This month's Standards of Mathematical Practices (SMPs) 4, 5, and 6 looks at models of math, using appropriate tools, and attending to precision.

MP.4: Model with Mathematics

- Apply math to real-world situations
- Use models such as graphs, drawings, tables, symbols, numbers and diagrams to solve problems

MP.5: Use Appropriate Tools Strategically

- Choose appropriate tools for your problem
- Use mathematical tools correctly and efficiently
- Estimate and use what you know to check the answers you find using tools

MP.6: Attend to Precision

- Communicate your mathematical thinking clearly and accurately
- Use the level of accuracy you need for your problem
- Be accurate when you count, measure, and calculate

As you work with your child, keep in mind the mathematical practices they are using as they work and ask your child: What model could you use to solve the problem? What model did you use to solve the problem? Show the steps you used to solve the problem? Using the SMPs can help your child understand and succeed in math!

If you still have questions or concerns about math, please feel free to come and see any of the coaches. We are located in A-Basement or email us: loke_kamanu@notes.k12.hi.us or lei_fa'anunu@notes.k12.hi.us or tina_miyataki@notes.k12.hi.us
You can also call the school at 974-4181. Mahalo and we look forward to meeting you soon



"MATHEMATICS is not about numbers, equations, computations, or algorithms:
It is about UNDERSTANDING."
~William Paul Thurston

2nd Annual OHANA LUNCHEONS!

November's Hawaiian Value of the Month is 'Ohana. Keaukaha Elementary celebrated our 'ohana by inviting our families to eat lunch with their keiki. Mahalo to all of the families that participated!



Check our Weekly Hero Points Board!



UPCOMING EVENTS and Announcements

December 1-20 - Door Decorating Contest

December 5-9 - HSA Science - Gr. 4

Wednesday, Dec. 21- Evening of Song

December 22- January 5 - Winter Break

January 9 - Students Return to School

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.

Keaukaha Elementary School NEW WEBSITE!

WEB ADDRESS:
<http://www.keaukahaelementary.com>

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 information.

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.