

The 'Ohana News

Important Reminders:
WMS Has Classes Fri., Feb. 13
But Mon., Feb. 16 Is
Presidents' Day Holiday!

"Waimea Middle School empowers all students with the skills, values and cultural understanding to successfully navigate high school and beyond."

February 10, 2015

www.WaimeaMiddleSchool.org

WMS Students Show Promising Academic G-r-o-w-t-h!

All the hard work and focused learning by WMS students is making a difference!

Take a look at these **Student Growth Percentile scores (SGP)** from our quarterly **STAR** assessments. These assessments track academic G-R-O-W-T-H since the beginning of this school year as compared with every other, same-grade-and-month student in the nation.

** Anything above 50 is above-average growth:

WMS Reading Growth

Grade	SGP
6 th	50
7 th	31
8 th	82**

WMS Math Growth

Grade	SGP
6 th	53**
7 th	39
8 th	54**

**GREAT
WORK!**

This GROWTH reflects "The Big 3":

- (1) Curriculum which is aligned to the state's significantly more rigorous **Common Core State Standards**,
- (2) Diverse and more challenging Instructional Strategies to reach all students, and
- (3) Both teachers and students preparing for new, much more rigorous year-end Assessments.

These demanding new expectations are impacting every single classroom in WMS, and throughout the State and nation. It is significantly more difficult for students and teachers, but it's necessary to fulfill our mission of "empowering all students with the skills, values and cultural understanding to successfully navigate high school and beyond."

Please see Pages 3-5 for student academic awards for 1st Semester. Not all students who received academic achievement awards were available for photos.

A New Laptop For Every WMS Student!



Mahalo To The Beneski Foundation

Ho'okako'o Corp.(HC), the not-for-profit local school board for Waimea Middle School, yesterday received a check for almost \$147,000 from the **Ted and Laurie Beneski Foundation of Texas** to purchase a new laptop for every single one of our school's 295 6th-8th grade students. The gift, in addition to replacing "wickedly slow" and unreliable computers, also includes storage carts, laser printers, software, tech support and systems setup and configuration required both to align classroom instruction with **Common Core State Standards** and to run more advanced educational applications including Hawaii's new **Smarter Balanced Assessments**.

(Continued on Page 6.)

Important News & Notes:

WMS Students Bring Home 38 Track & Field Medals! See Page 2!

Free 'Super Kitchen' Dinner Tomorrow - Wed., Feb. 11, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Kahilu Town Hall. To celebrate Mala'ai School Garden's 10th Anniversary and Makali'i Voyaging Canoe's 20th! All invited for a delicious Thai Coconut Curry with rice, steamed u'ala (purple sweet potatoes) and Waimea cabbage slaw. Includes talk-story about Makali'i voyaging with Chadd Paishon. No RSVP, just come!

WMS Track & Field Athletes Capture 38 Medals!



Congratulations to the 30 WMS student athletes on our Track & Field Team who participated in the Hawai'i County Parks & Recreation Track & Field Meet this past Sat., Feb. 7, 2015 at Konawaena High School, bringing home 38 medals:

Gold = 15

Silver = 14

Bronze = 9

Participants:

Angelika Abucay, Kamaha'o Anderson, Kamakea Anderson, Breana Arakawa, Sheldon Aribal, Sophia Cash, Daneau Domingo, Kahealani Etherton, Klayton Gascon, Haines Gibson, Leiani Hurtado-Bennet, Lilly Lindsey, Airie Malakaua-Blanco, Koa Miche-Rosales, Jaslyn Miura, Kayla Miura, Keahi Noa-Lange, Oshen Nobriga, Jamie Ohia, Chance Page, Takashi Randall-Packard, Sage Sagon, Emily Souza, Mehana Spencer-Herring, Cameron Stuart, Joshua Stuart, Hilina'i Tolentino, Xavier Ugalde, Keighsha Walker, Hailey Witcraft, Tyler Yamada, Nadia Yoshizumi, Erica Yost.

11 & 12 Year Old Division:

Mehana Spencer-Herring – 1st Place – Running Long Jump, 3rd Place – 100M, 3rd Place – 200M

Keighsha Walker – 2nd Place – Running Long Jump, 3rd Place – 100M, 2nd Place – 200M

Kamakea Anderson – 2nd Place – Discus

Koa Miche-Rosales – 3rd Place – Discus

Kamaha'o Anderson – 2nd Place – 100M, 2nd Place – 200M

Cameron Stuart – 3rd Place – 800M

Jaslyn Miura – 1st Place – 4x50M Relay

Kayla Miura – 1st Place – 4x50M Relay

Airie Malakaua-Blanco - 1st Place – 4x50M Relay

Emily Souza - 1st Place – 4x50M Relay

13 & 14 Year Old Division:

Erica Yost – 1st Place – Shot Put

Leiani Hurtado-Bennet – 1st Place – Discus, 2nd Place – 100M, 2nd Place – 4x100M Relay

Angelika Abucay – 2nd Place – Discus, 1st Place – 4x100M Relay

Nadia Yoshizumi – 2nd Place – 200M, 1st Place – 4x100M Relay

Sage Sagon – 3rd Place – 400M, 2nd Place – 4x100M Relay

Sophia Cash – 1st Place – 1500M, 1st Place – 4x100M Relay

Hailey Witcraft – 3rd Place – 1500M, 1st Place – 4x100M Relay

Klayton Gascon – 2nd Place – Running Long Jump, 1st Place – 100M, 1st Place – 400M

Sheldon Aribal – 3rd Place – Running Long Jump, 1st Place – Shot Put,

Daneau Domingo – 3rd Place – Running Long Jump, 2nd Place – 100M

Breana Arakawa – 2nd Place – 4x100M Relay

Keahi Noa-Lange - 2nd Place – 4x100M Relay

Mahalo to Coach Johnny Anderson, Coach Brienne Kealoha, Coach Cherise Mundon, Athletic Director Warren Tamaye and to all the parents and families that came out to support our team! Mahalo to WMS Athletics for the drinks and refreshments.

Mahalo, too, to Mr. & Mrs. Tom Gimbel with The Neilan Foundation for the Uniforms and Sweats. The team looked absolutely fabulous!

1st Semester Academic Achievement Awards



**Congratulations
6th Grade!**

Principal's Award - 4.0!

Academic Excellence!



Honor Roll!



Congratulations 7th Grade!

Principal's Award - 4.0!



**Academic Excellence &
Honor Roll!**



Academic Excellence & Honor Roll!





Congratulations 8th Grade!

Principal's Award - 4.0!



Honor Roll!



Academic Excellence!

Beneski Gift 'To Help Keep Pace With Rapidly Changing Advances In Classroom Instruction'

(Continues from Page 1.)

"We hope this contribution will improve the quality of education for WMS students and, in a small way, contribute to their future success," said **Mr. and Mrs. Beneski** in making the gift.

"We are blown away by the Beneski's generosity," said **WMS Principal Matt Horne**. While we have a lot of computers on campus, most are well beyond the end of their usual life and many are too outdated to run newer educational software. Also, they were purchased and installed over time so they have varying operating platforms that contribute to an unstable system."

"There is nothing worse than having students ready to work on an assignment and have their computers not function properly, or to have them half way through an assessment and they suddenly get kicked off line."

"This isn't all that uncommon in many schools today, but during our recent faculty-staff self study that resulted in receiving a full six-year Accreditation, we identified technology upgrades for students and teachers as a funding priority. We recognized we had to find funding for upgrades to ensure our students have the technology needed for their academic success as we prepare them for the 21st century world and workplace.

"We have done a lot of research and have chosen a network of laptops that will run more advanced educational applications and that are also fast and sturdy. We really can't afford to lose even two to three minutes in a class waiting for computers to boot up."

"The timing is also auspicious as our school gears up for the construction of it's 9-classroom STEM building; it's fortuitous to be able to close the technology gap for students before they move into a new \$15 million learning lab."

"We learned about the Beneski Foundation from one of our teachers, **Tim Beneski**, whose language arts students wrestle with what he calls 'wickedly slow' aging computers on a daily basis."

"This gift is essential to helping the school keep pace with rapidly changing advances in classroom instruction," said **Megan McCorriston**, Executive Director of Ho'okako'o Corp. "We thank the Beneski Foundation for making such a meaningful contribution to help Waimea's children better compete and succeed in life, college and career," she said.

Calling All Students!

K(Arts) T-Shirt Artwork Contest Deadline Is Wed., Feb. 25!

Our K(Arts) Spring classes have adopted a "Malama Honua - I KAIR" theme! Please create a visual image of this and turn it into **Auntie Bernie** to win a prize and better yet, have your art emblazoned on shirts for the **Grand Finale April 22 at Kahilu!**



How cool is this! That's WMS 7th grader Bernabe Abrigo, Jr. giving it his all during this past weekend's Boys 2 Men (B2M) Tom Watson Benefit Golf Tournament at Hualalai Resort! Great form, Bernabe! Mahalo to all who participated to support this awesome youth mentoring program for young men on Hawai'i Island! B2M provides male mentors for WMS 7th and 8th grade boys in our "Connecting For Success" program and we are grateful to include them as part of our extended 'ohana!

School Lunch Menus

(All Served With Fresh Local Milk)

Tues., Feb. 10: Sloppy Joe on Whole Grain Bun w/ Oven Fries, Spinach & Romaine Salad and Apple Wedge.

Wed., Feb. 11: Chicken Pasta w/ Broccoli, Garden Salad & Orange Wedge.

Thurs., Feb. 12: Baked Chicken w/ Hapa Rice, Broccoli & Carrots, Pineapple & Whole Grain Roll.

Fri., Feb. 13: BBQ Pork Sandwich on Whole Grain Bun, Baked Beans, Corn & Diced Pears.

Mon., Feb. 16: *Presidents' Day Holiday - No School!*

Tues., Feb. 17: Chicken Tenders on Shredded Cabbage w/ Steamed Hapa Rice, Broccoli, Carrots & Applesauce.

All menus are posted on our website & Facebook.

BOYS' BASKETBALL

12U: Tues., Feb. 10 - WMS #3 vs Kohala @ Kohala Gym - 4:30 pm

No other games this week!