



10th
Anniversary
 Charter Celebration
 in 2014-2015

EVENTS

Labor Day – No School
 Monday, September 1st

Ohana Fun Fair 8am-2pm
 Saturday, September 6th

Early Release Day
 School Done at 12:30pm
 Wednesday, September 10th

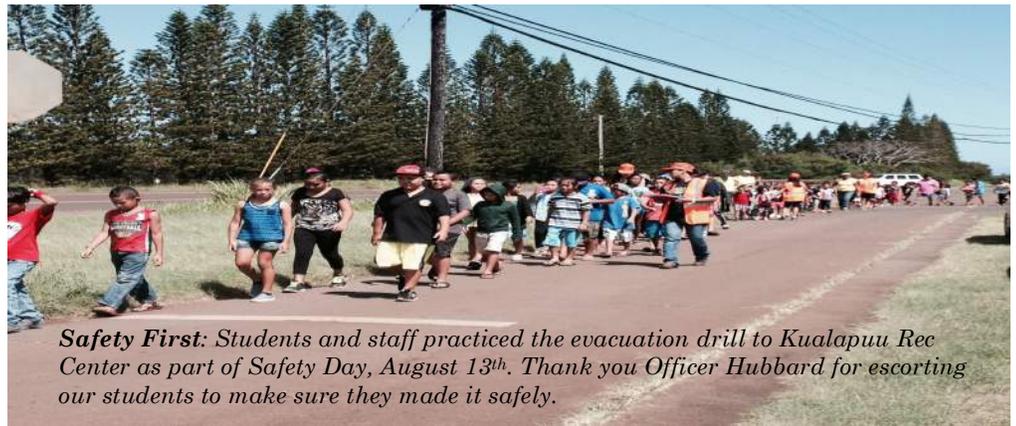
PSO Movie Night
 Friday, September 12th

Parent Conference Week
 September 22nd to Sept. 26th
 School Done at 12:30pm

Picture Taking Days
 September 25th and 26th

**Student Recognition
 Assembly**
 Friday, September 26th

Fall Break – No School
 Monday September 29th to
 Friday, October 10th



Safety First: Students and staff practiced the evacuation drill to Kualapuu Rec Center as part of Safety Day, August 13th. Thank you Officer Hubbard for escorting our students to make sure they made it safely.

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome to School Year 2014-2015! This school year is a special year as we invite you to join us in our 10th Year of our conversion to becoming a Charter School. We have grown and expanded in many ways with additional funding and with additional programs for your children—we are especially proud of starting a FREE Pre-Kindergarten program and expanding the school day until 2:45pm. We have been able to continually provide visual arts, PE, library, Ike Hawaii, and a Hawaiian Language Immersion Program. Also, we are proud to be Molokai's only accredited elementary school. It's been a rewarding journey to stretch the boundaries of traditional education. However, as with any journey, Kualapu`u has had its share of challenges to learn from. Our current challenge is making Kualapu`u become a financially sustainable public school that offers a top-notch education above and beyond traditional public schools. As such, our school is increasing our grant writing and fundraising efforts this year.

This school year also brings some changes to our school schedule:

- Two full recess breaks, with each grade cluster with an area to play each other. No longer are grades mixed with upper and lower grades. Also, because the recesses are at different times of the day, there is no recess after lunch. ***Since starting this change, there are been almost no behavior incidents during any recess times. Health room accidents from the playground are also lower than normal. Finally, the students are taking their time to eat their lunches and not rushing to go to play.***
- Puolo (PE and Ike Hawaii) classes are now 45-minute blocks, 3-4 times per week. Students still receive valuable physical education time, Library instruction 1-2 times per week and Visual Arts once per week. Computer instruction this year is currently delivered by the homeroom teacher. Finally, because of budget constraints, there is no Performing Arts during the school day this year, but we may try to have Performing Arts as an after school class.

Finally, the majority of our communication is via electronic media, especially during emergencies. I hope your families and your homes here and on the neighboring islands were safe from any storm damage. During emergencies, such as a hurricane, we try to keep our messages clear and consistent by officially receiving information from Civil Defense, the DOE, and the Charter Commission. Once we receive information from these official channels, we utilize various methods of communication—Facebook and SchoolConnects email and phone calls. We highly encourage you to keep your information current with us since our student records are updated daily. Thank you very much for your support of Kualapu`u School.

-Lydia Trinidad, Principal



2014-15 Student Council Officers

Student Council Elections

By Ms. Castro, School Counselor/SC Advisor

The beginning of the school year brought student council elections to Kualapu'u Public Conversion Charter School. Speeches from sixth grade candidates running for student council officer seats: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Sergeant at Arms and Corresponding Secretary were written and repeatedly practiced. Posters from candidates encouraging students to vote for them were displayed around campus.

During lunch on Wednesday, August 13th, prepared speeches were nervously given to awaiting fifth and sixth grade student voters. Every speech received loud applause and support. After the last speech was said, all candidates stepped out from behind the curtain in a group hug. Their peers' applause increased seeing the embraced unity of the student candidates.

As the Student Council Advisor, I am astonished at this particular group's unity developed in such a short time during this competitive event. It is my privilege to announce the 2014-2015 Student Council Officers:

- President Mili Bicoy
- Vice President John Bumatay
- Secretary Aaliyah Cariaga
- Treasurer Kahuhu Linker Meyers Moss
- Sergeant At Arms Kekai English
- Corresponding Sec. Saige Kaleo Aiana

Kualapu'u School
OHANA FUN FAIR
 In Celebration of our 10th year as a charter school!!
 Sponsored by PREK PARENTS & FAMILIES
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2014
8:00 AM till 1:00 PM
KUALAPUU SCHOOL GROUNDS

Food, Craft, Games and
 Keiki Information Booths!!

First Ever Little Miss & Master
Kualapuu Comet Pageant

PONY RIDES, FACE PAINTING, ART BOOTH,
 AIRBRUSHED TATTOOS, FREE PHOTO BOOTH FOR THE FAMILY
 WAGON RIDES, BOUNCY HOUSE, BALLOON ARTIST,
 MASS GROUP ZUMBA FOR KIDS AND PARENTS,
 LOTS OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY!

PSO Toy Exchange
 BRING YOUR TOYS THAT ARE STILL IN GOOD CONDITION TO TRADE BY 9:30 AM

FUN FOR ALL!!

For more information call Kualapu'u School 567-6900



Thank You Friendly Market Center
 for donating shopping carts for our play and
 PE equipment...our students love it!!

Student's Learn SERVICE at Kualapu'u School



Junior Police Officer (JPO) recruits receiving training by Officer Ka'ai



6th grade student helpers escorting K-1 students to lunch

Information About Cleared Fields Across From the School

There has been much discussion in the news and in our own island communities about the use of pesticides and genetically modified organisms in agriculture. And with the recent clearing of the Coffees of Hawaii land across from the school, these issues have been brought to the school level.

We have met with concerned parents and with Monsanto Molokai representatives, and have spoken with Coffees of Hawaii concerning the use of pesticides around our school. Throughout all of our conversations with individuals, groups and businesses, there was unanimous agreement: we all want to keep our children safe.

This letter is meant to communicate what Kualapu`u does on our own campus, as well as how we manage off campus safety concerns. Here are our answers to some basic questions:

What is the school's policy on the use of pesticides on campus?

Our school uses pesticides to control unwanted pests in our buildings and on campus. Typically, ant and roach products designated for household use are used to control these pests. Any spraying of these pesticides is used sparingly, according to the label (which is the law), and when the students are not present. In addition, the school hires professional services to rid the campus or buildings of unwanted pests when needed.

What about the use of pesticides on school gardens?

School gardens are popular on school campuses. Fortunately, we have not had to use pesticides on our school garden plants, and we hope to not have to use pesticides in the future. However, most recently, we have had to use pesticides on our taro plants in front of the school just to control the insects that are attacking the taro leaves. If pesticides are to be used, these will be used properly, and applied when children are not present.

Will these garden plants be served to our children?

Yes, when we have an abundance of vegetables from our garden. We plan and want to serve homegrown produce from our garden and from other Molokai farms. If we cannot get homegrown produce, there is a central distributor on Oahu from which school programs order their produce.

Does the school use herbicides?

The school has had to use herbicides (Round-Up) to control weeds and remove unwanted grass. The school has 11 acres to manage with a limited staff of custodial personnel. The use of herbicides is used sparingly, according to the label, and when children are not present.

Do you have concerns about the use of pesticides from the surrounding neighborhood area?

We have not had any concerns about pesticide use from the neighboring community. If we do encounter any concerns, we will contact the farm owner or representative, and if necessary, the State Department of Health.

Does the school have any concerns about the use of pesticides from the larger farms such as Coffees of Hawaii?

We have not received any concerns about pesticide use from COH. If we do receive any concerns, we will contact the farm owner or representative, and, if needed, the State Department of Health. It is only since the clearing of the land across from the school by Monsanto that such concerns have been brought to our attention by concerned parents.

So what is really happening in the fields directly across from the school? Are our staff and children safe?

This area was cleared of coffee plants at the request of Coffees of Hawaii. These coffee plants were old and harboring disease and pests. Because the area is now leased by Monsanto, they cleared the trees at the request of Coffees of Hawaii. Monsanto does not currently have plans for this area except to plant cowpeas as a cover crop to keep the dirt and dust in check. Monsanto typically does not apply pesticides to cover crops, and it is our understanding that pesticides will not be used on the cowpeas.

Members of our local school board and I proactively met with Monsanto Molokai representatives to address some concerns brought to our attention, and to ask if they could keep the area in cover crops for at least three years. They verbally agreed to do so effective immediately and provided a letter to that effect as well. Moving forward we are all committed to an open channel of continuing communication, and Monsanto has agreed to include us in discussions prior to any changes in the use of the land.

Our children are safe. We have and will continue to maintain a safety first philosophy as a priority for our children. In the event there any changes to the field or its use, we will contact Monsanto and, if necessary, the State Department of Health.

Great! So what now?

Our main organizational purpose is education and learning, and we want to maintain these purposes. We will continue to keep conversation open with concerned individuals, groups, neighbors, and businesses in the area. The school is also willing to be a safe venue for information and discussion. As an educational institution, we want to use this opportunity to set up grade-level learning and study activities, especially in science, as it relates to the environment, weather, soil, and gardening for example. We hope this situation will develop our capacity to partner with individuals, community organizations and businesses that have a mutual goal of learning and outreach for an educated community.

We understand that the GMO and pesticide issues, and the varying philosophies about food production, are evolving and are being debated in community conversation, courtrooms, and in our law-making institutions such as the legislatures or local city councils. Kualapu`u, as a public educational institution, provides a venue for learning, discussion, and debate, however the school itself does not take a position on GMOs, pesticides, or other related issues. Please know that staff, as individuals, may have their personal opinions on this and related issues, but they do not reflect the school's views.

At Kualapu`u we follow the local, state, and federal guidelines and laws that govern our facilities and safety expectations.

Above all, please be assured that we have our students' safety and health as a primary concern and responsibility in all situations.

If you have questions, please contact Lydia Trinidad, Principal at 567-6900 and/or Lydia_Trinidad@notes.k12.hi.us.