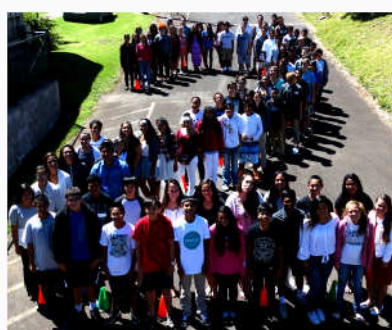
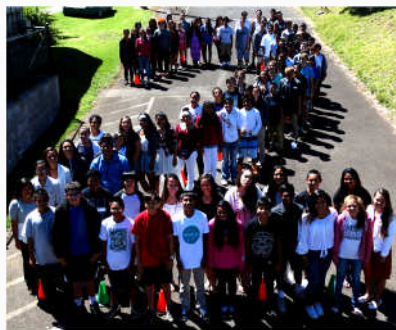


A Hui Hou Class Of 2020! Live 'I KAIR'!



To: Waimea Middle School Students, Families and Community Friends

From: Ho'okako'o Corporation Board of Directors (*Our Local School Board*)

Re: Principal Selection

We are pleased to announce that Ms. Amy Kendziorski has accepted our offer to become Principal of Waimea Middle School, effective immediately. We look forward to supporting her as she continues the strong leadership she exhibited this school year as Interim Principal.

We would like to thank the entire WMS community, including the members of the Local Advisory Panel (LAP), for their support and participation during our selection process. That so many took a deep interest in the search process demonstrates a strong commitment to our students' education - the most important foundation we can cultivate for the children we serve.

We look forward to your continued support of Ms. Kendziorski and her leadership as we develop well rounded individuals ready to move on to new challenges in high school and beyond.

PS: Also at this past week's Ho'okako'o Corp. Board meeting, the board voted to appoint Dr. Robert (Bob) Masuda to the board so now both of the Waimea community leaders (Bob and Dr. Paul Nakayama) who were recommended by our faculty, staff and LAP, are now board members.

Class of 2022 Concludes Year Of Growth With Culture Faire!



Photo courtesy of Shelby Matsumoto

May Day Court 2016 Celebrates 'Ha'ahe'o' - To Cherish With Pride...



Ha'aheo – to cherish with pride – as in cherishing our 'ohana and other loved ones and also this place we live – this was the theme of Waimea Middle School's 2016 May Day celebration. As each of the 8th graders in this year's May Day Court were introduced, they shared a glimpse of their ha'aheo, reflecting on their family, a respected kupuna, community leader or friend, and their gratitude, respect and love for this special place and its traditions.

Court members were (L-R) Queen's Court Member Valerie Andaya, Kaho'olawe: Masen Villasista, Camelia Jelke, Ni'ihau: Kaiali'i Nakamoto, Kayla Miura, Lana'i: Elbi Tibnol, Keighsha Walker, Maui: Zavior Ugalde, Trinity Spencer, Queen Janessa Tupe, King Daniel Lincoln, Hawai'i Island: Kapuanalani Pilayo, Keenan Pahio, O'ahu: Cherish Chong, Marques Kahawai'i, Kaua'i: Kylie Aurello, Aceson Domingo, Moloka'i: Kassadie Hurney, Ralph Luhiau, and Queen's Court Member Johnny Horn Amina.

May Day at Waimea Middle School is one of the longest standing traditions for this community with students dancing, singing, chanting and sharing their aloha for family, faculty and community.

Please see our Facebook page for more pictures of both grade level performances and the court! And check out this YouTube link filmed by community member Niel Thomas - it's a big file but captures most student performances:

<https://youtu.be/805Xraj5URU>.

May Day Mahalos:

Court and Decorations:

May Day Court Parents and Families
Kohala Elementary School
Ana Nawahine Kaho'opi'i
Kuwalu Anakalea
Lehua Kamaka
LeAnn DeMello
Sandy Sproat

WMS Faculty, Staff and Students
Waimea Elementary School
Kit Kahelelani Fletcher
Healohamele Genovia
Amy Kendziorski
Jennifer Bryan
Kalani Flores

Kumu Keala Kahuanui
Hawaiki Etherton
Alice Fujii
Puaala Niau
Lori Ching
Colin Miura

Program Production, Music, Sound, Video, Photography, etc.

WMS Faculty and Staff - Preparation, Student Presentations and Support
Waimea Music Center- Paul Buckley
Mallory diBartolo (K(Arts) Glee instructor)
Niel Thomas (video)
Ho'opono Wong

Bernie Marsh
Marc Boucher (video)
Pu'unui Wong
Michelle Kauhi

Brenda Resendiz
Hawane Rios
Tina Benson (photography)
Likeke Teanio
Sean Parks

K(Arts) Spring 2016 Grand Finale video:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B95FHIC-y5GCZDJYbEQ4TW5PdXc/view?usp=sharing>



K(Arts) Extends Learning Into Places Unknown!

It's not likely that our WMS 6th, 7th and 8th grade students fully grasped what they were getting into when they signed up for our popular but ever-changing free after-school K(Arts) program this spring. While the classes are known to be fun, they also push students beyond their comfort zone to try something new, such as:

- ♦ *Riding a unicycle, hula hooping balanced on a giant rubber ball, or walking on 6-foot high stilts!*
- ♦ *Learning Hip Hop flips, pops and hand stands!*
- ♦ *Becoming a "Talk Show" host or guest in front of hundreds of fellow students and families.*
- ♦ *Running lights and sound and learning to quickly problem solve when something or someone misses a cue!*
- ♦ *Singing and dancing with puppets and a large chorus of other students in a Broadway-style production number!*

These are just part of what filled the stage at Kahilu Theatre recently for **WMS' K(Arts) Grand Finale** performances for fellow students, families and community friends. Students shared what they had learned in classes ranging from **Circus Arts and Hip Hop to Computer Graphics, Backstage Production and Glee!**

Now in its 9th year, K(Arts) after-school classes are led by talented community instructors to ensure WMS students experience "the arts" as part of life and learning in middle school. It's only possible thanks to generous support from **Kahilu Theatre Foundation, the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts and the Neilan Foundation**. Also making it possible are a retinue of dedicated community instructors including **Paul Buckley and Kristin Lake for Backstage Production; Mallory diBartolo and Geoffrey Mundon for Glee!; Graham Ellis and Ari Luce for Circus Arts; Kai Webber and Misti Jones for Hip Hop; Jennifer Green and Branigan Sabado for Computer Graphics, and Kahilu Youth Coordinator Lisa Shattuck and WMS Student Coordinator Bernie Marsh.**



Go to www.Facebook.com/WaimeaMiddleSchool for many more K(Arts) pictures and school news!

WMS Schoolwide Celebrations - 2015-2016

As the school year comes to a close, we reflect on significant steps forward as we pursue our Accreditation commitment of "continuous improvement" for all - students and families, faculty and staff and our larger community. We thank everyone who has been a part of this voyage of learning! As we have been reminded by our Waimea voyaging 'ohana:

"He wa'a he moku, he moku he wa'a."

This simply translates as "The canoe is our island, and the island is our canoe."

Highlights of our year include but are not limited to:

"Waimea Reads!" - A schoolwide commitment to provide meaningful reading instruction for all students coupled with many family and community activities focused on improved literacy. We are committed to continuing this work.



AVID Takes Root - "Advancement Via Individual Determination" - a tried and proven series of strategies for all students to support college readiness and success in a global society. Many WMS teachers have been trained in AVID, many more will be this summer and all are working with students to close the achievement gap. We are committed to continuing this work.

Amazing Community Partnerships - As a middle school, and especially as a public conversion charter, these are absolutely essential to providing our students, teachers and staff with the supports needed to prepare 6th, 7th and 8th graders for life in the 21st century! We are deeply grateful for both long-standing and new partners including Kamehameha Schools, Neilan Foundation, Mala'ai School Garden, Hawai'i Community Foundation, County Parks and Recreation, Kahilu Theatre Foundation, and several dozen more including some new friends

such as the University of California - Santa Barbara, Isemoto Contracting, Partners In Development Foundation, and Spoken Word Poet Myrlin Hepworth and Grammy and Hoku winner LT Smooth! The value of these partners to our children this school year approached \$1.5 million. And it's only just begun - we are committed to strengthening our partnerships and fundraising in the years ahead.

Leadership Stability - As the year draws to a close, leadership includes a growing Ho'okako'o Corp. Local School Board now including Dr. Robert Masuda and Dr. Paul Nakayama representing the Waimea community. Amy Kendzierski has accepted appointment as Principal, and we thank our teachers and staff and Local Advisory Panel for their hard work, especially on Accreditation Action Planning and implementation leading to improved academic outcomes for all.

Our 9-Classroom STEM Building Construction Is On Schedule - This amazing \$16 million addition to our school will be completed in Spring 2017, and ready to serve students come Fall 2017!

I KAIR Core Values - These guide us every day and will continue to be strengthened as we work over the next three years with Kamehameha Schools and others to build an even stronger team to ensure that all are growing and achieving.

Pa'ahana - This is far from a complete recap of the pa'ahana (hard, industrious work) of many and the work continues. We warmly thank several of our team who are moving on. We are indebted for their service and wish them well, including Vice Principal Janice English-Somerville, Connecting For Success staff Lori Ching, Reading Specialist Rebekah Tucker, Art Teacher Shelby Matsumoto, 'Ike Hawai'i Teacher Angela Pastores, Special Ed Teacher Ashley DeSilva and Educational Assistant Jacob Mirels. (Angela will be returning in a new role.)

We wish everyone a relaxing summer. We hope many 6th and 7th grade students will join us for our "Summer Adventure" June 13-July 1 that will include field trips, singing and fun with friends. We'll see everyone come August 2 as the voyage of learning continues!

'I KAIR Year-End Awards!

RIGHT: Students who went above and beyond when participating in our free after-school Spring 2016 K(Arts) program show off certificates from a variety of classes including Circus Arts, Hip Hop, Glee!, Computer Graphics and Backstage Production.



RIGHT: Students show off their "Student Choice Awards" for their 2016 Science Projects. Mahalo to participant ts in our recent Malama Honua Family Night and Student Showcase, including community reps for Rapid 'Ohi'a Death, Na Kalai Wa'a, Coqui Free Waimea, DOH/Mosquito Borne Illnesses, Firewise, Waimea Nature Park, and of course Mala'ai School Garden!



LEFT: These students earned "I KAIR" year-end awards for their dedication to Mala'ai School Garden! Students at the year-end assembly also got to thank our two-year FoodCorps staffer Seri Niimi-Burch, who has completed her Mala'ai service and will soon take on oversight of the Food-Corps volunteer program for this island, but not before becoming the WMS Summer Adventure instructor of environmental science! Mahalo Seri!



HOKU'ULA HO'IKE: Cultural celebrations come in many forms and our WMS 6th grade annually culminates their year of learning and growing together with a memorable hike to the top of Hoku'ula to more deeply understand the legendary heritage and environmental wonder of their home. Mahalo to their teachers and staff and also to Parker Ranch and Hawai'i County Fire Department's EMTs for making this learning experience possible!

Stepping Up Our Focus On Academic Achievement!

Community Friends Sponsor Scholarships!

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

Four North Hawai'i community members recently stepped forward to fund scholarships to foster student and family focus on high school, college and career! It's a first for our students and complements our WMS Mission and Accreditation focus on academic growth for all students. Assisting with this is **Ho'okako'o Corporation** - our Local School Board.

Dr. Roger Gremminger's 9th Grade "College Pathway Scholarships" are for Exiting WMS students attending **Parker School or Hawai'i Preparatory Academy**. Dr. Gremminger, a retired emergency room physician who came from modest means and who benefitted from family and community support to achieve his career dreams, and who has tutored WMS students for the past two years, is awarding five \$1,000 scholarships to students who have been accepted to HPA or Parker for 9th grade this fall.

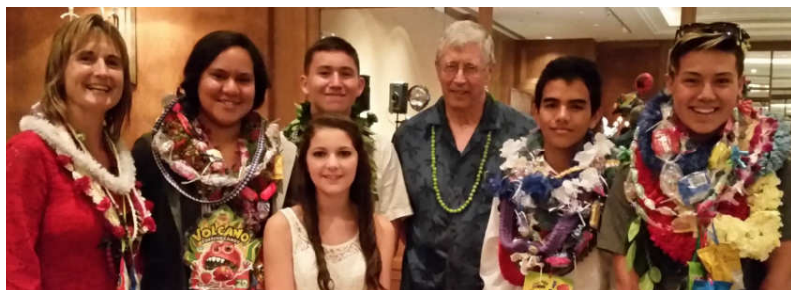
Dr. Paul Nakayama and Ernie & Paulette Clayton's four \$550 HPA STEM Summer School Class Scholarships are for 2-hour STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) classes for current WMS 6th and 7th graders. Dr. Nakayama grew up in Kaka'ako and went on to become a nuclear scientist involved in the initial cleanup of Three Mile Island and more recently, of Kaho'olawe. He came home to Hawai'i to retire and was recently appointed to our Ho'okako'o Corp. Board to support WMS. Mr. Clayton, an analytical chemist, was the Director of Safety, Health and Environmental Affairs for

Boeing, and his wife, a real estate agent, believe that STEM programs inspire student interest. These long time friends teamed up to provide these scholarships. There are still two seats

available for Robotics at no cost for two-hour classes Monday thru Friday, **June 27-July 23** but families must arrange transportation. Applications are on the website and in the school office.



Dr. Paul Nakayama's Scholarship Recipients.



Dr. Roger Gremminger's Scholarship Recipients.

Learning to 'Save First' Has Its Rewards!



ABOVE: A very warm mahalo to Hawai'i First Federal Credit Union for continuing to sponsor the "Save First" program for WMS students. Above are 8th graders who participated this school year by setting a goal and consistently saving throughout the year (an essential life skill!). This earned each student a \$40 "gift" that covers their cost for Exit! Mahalo, too, to Mrs. Kara Onaka-Winters for supporting this program year-round.



ABOVE & RIGHT: 6th and 7th graders also are invited to learn to "Save First" by setting a goal and contributing regularly to their own savings account throughout the year. Of course the money saved is theirs — and those who completed the challenge also earned a FREE gift of \$20! It PAYS to SAVE FIRST!



COMING EVENTS

For the latest news & events, Follow Us On



- **Thurs., May 26 - Final day of the school year for all students! Have a great, safe summer! Still time to register for our WMS "Full STREAM Ahead Summer Adventure!"**
- **Mon.-Fri., June 13 - July 15 - Waimea Elementary Cafeteria's FREE "Seamless Summer" Breakfast & Lunch service for all Waimea youth under 18. Breakfast: 7-8 a.m. Lunch: 10:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.**
- **Mon.-Fri., June 20 - July 8—Free Honoka'a High Summer Bridge Program - Skills & Enrichment - 7:55 a.m.—1 p.m. Free transportation AM/PM plus breakfast and lunch daily for WMS' Exiting 8th graders.**
- **Mon.-Fri., July 18-22 - Back-To-School 'Gear Up!' - 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Daily. Families asked to pickup class schedules, purchase mandatory uniform t-shirts, if needed, pay for school meals and busing and other fees, purchase a yearbook, and sign up for tutoring, athletics, K(Arts), etc!**
- **Tues., Aug. 2—First Day of 2016-17 School Year!**



WMS' 'Connecting For Success' Program Called 'Groundbreaking' By Hawai'i Business Magazine!

May 2015 Issue

These are just some of our Waimea community heroes who have helped make our Connecting For Success program tremendously effective in supporting students. They have also helped earn our school a 4th year of funding to continue this program! Mahalo to all of these volunteer mentors and about 30 others from throughout the community - literally all walks of life, including the Boys To Men program and Big Brothers, Big Sisters' students from Parker School, for your generous giving of time to support students. We also thank our entire faculty and staff and especially CFS Outreach Coordinator Lori Ching and At Risk Counselor Suzi Herhold! This program is changing lives and we will continue to recruit and train mentors come the start of the next school year. To read the complete Hawai'i Business feature, go to: <http://www.hawaiibusiness.com/middle-school-miracles/>



Our Hawai'i Community Foundation-funded 'Connecting For Success' program also sponsored a schoolwide Career Exploration Day that brought in more than 45 community leaders to share career possibilities with students. Career Day video: <https://vimeo.com/user22664470/waimea/career>

“Their Voices Matter...”

WMS Students Explore ‘Spoken Word’ Poetry



Writing is generally a more comfortable way for people to express themselves, regardless of whether the words are ever shared out loud. Poetry can be difficult if the words must rhyme, but our students soon learned that “spoken word” or “slam poetry” is more about having a voice than rhyming words.

WMS students have worked with two spoken word poets to date...Kealoha a few years back, and more recently, Myrlin Hepworth came to our school this past March.

Myrlin worked with students to lay the foundation by suggesting that they speak in the third person, that they title their piece about themselves, and then share their inner struggles, and the power to overcome that struggle. He reminded everyone to **“Be Brave,” “Be Respectful,”** and **“Your Voice Matters.”**

Magic happened here in WMS classrooms for the three days students worked with Myrlin. Many students found their voice through writing, and more than 20 of them were brave enough to stand up and share their stories with Myrlin at Kahilu Theatre.

Coincidence or not, internationally famous spoken word poet **Shane Koyczan** arrived in Waimea a month later (early May) to perform his incredible poetry at Kahilu Theatre. Upon hearing that WMS students had recently worked w/ his friend Myrlin, Shane invited them to open for him. This was great timing because **WMS’ English Language Arts teachers** had continued to focus on poetry in their classes. So WMS students were eager.

Some students who had shared their poems on stage with Myrlin, and some who hadn’t, stepped up to the microphone that night at Kahilu. Shane told them afterwards that poetry had saved his life and he hoped they would continue to write.

We hope Myrlin and Shane come back and continue to inspire our Waimea students through spoken word poetry. ***Their voices matter.***

We thank Hawai’i Community Foundation’s “Connecting for Success” program, in partnership with Kahilu Theatre Foundation and KTA Super Stores Kooka I Na Kula donation for making Myrlin’s visit possible. We also thank all of English Language Arts teachers and others who supported changes in the bell schedule for three days to enable Myrlin to work with all 276 students! It was magic!

‘Together We Are Strong’ by Kassadie Hurney

As an artist, Haley Kailiehu used triangles to tell a story in her painting. It includes three big triangles which are supported by other angular shapes. Along the sides of the painting there is a line of shapes that look like people. The triangles placed in the middle of the painting are colored white, teal and pink. The background is a brownish reddish color. Inside of the big triangles there is a pattern that looks like a Hawaiian lauhala mat.

The name I chose for this painting is “Together We Are Strong.” I chose this name because the painting tells a story about different people coming together to support each other and be strong. Even though everyone is different they are all connected. When people work together they can achieve anything. To me this painting is about everyone working together or making connections which helps the people strive.

To me, this painting shows how someone is the way they are because they are influenced by the people around them. The painting also shows that everyone is different from the different patterns and colors in the triangles. The small shapes found in the background resemble people who stand together for the community. The patterns that look like a lauhala mat shows that even though everyone is different, we are all woven together in some way. Together as a community, school, or family, I have become who I am today.



8th grade students were challenged to study and then craft an appropriate title for a stunning original, but as yet untitled, piece of art created by Haley Kailiehu. They were then asked to explain their suggestion. Haley reviewed all of the suggestions and loved Kassadie’s.

Reprinted With Permission from West Hawai'i Today's North Hawai'i News Section - May 2016

Students Take Reading To New Heights, Become 'Citizen Scientists' Addressing Environmental Issues

By Jan Wizinowich



As with the rest of the world, Hawaii is beginning to see the effects of growing environmental problems such as climate change, deforestation, urban growth and low water quality. Just as our canoe was built with many hands, Hawaii is going to need the efforts and insights of citizen scientists to address environmental issues.

Several teams of students from West Hawaii schools set out to do just that. Throughout the school year, students explored environmental problems through the Hawaii Island Meaningful Environmental Education for Teachers (HI-MEET) program, culminating in the symposium held on May 5 at Keck Observatory in Waimea.

The real world science scene was set with the keynote address, delivered by Jamison Gove, a research oceanographer with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), which focused on the impacts of climate change in the Hawaiian Islands. The presentation provided the big picture of climate change, both globally and locally, generating informed student questions.

Teams of students then shared their research and projects, which ranged from restoration to information and data gathering, engaging students in real-world science procedures... Waimea Middle School students researched and collected data looking for evidence of climate change, as well as creating an oral history video of interviews with long-time residents about changes they have observed...

Teachers and students become citizen scientists by learning to think like scientists, which is the primary aim of the HI-Meet program. Teachers were introduced to environmental science field work and passed those experiences on to their students, integrating it into the classroom core curriculum.

Scientists bring the real world into the classroom, which is what happened throughout this year. To gather data on climate change, Waimea Middle School students engaged in fish, coral and tide pool surveys at Kahaluu... After the presentations, there was a think tank as students reflected together about their experiences. "Have patience and take good data" and "Research more about what you're going to do before you do it" were just two lessons learned. Ideas for connections and collaborations were flying. "I liked finding out what's happening in other parts of the island," was one comment that everyone agreed on. Ways to stay connected by creating a blog site and continuing to have symposia were other suggestions from students.



"This symposium went beyond the traditional 'science fair project' by giving students real-world experience presenting field science research projects in a professional-style scientific conference setting," said Ilene Grossman, environmental education coordinator at The Kohala Center. "Students had the opportunity to connect with mauka and makai environments here at home, and to think critically about the future of our island planet. We are hopeful that this generation will devise innovative responses to the challenges our ecosystems face."



WMS Student-created oral history documentary:
<http://www.northhawaii.com/connections-for-sustainability/>

Students share their climate research with WMS LAP.