



Honu Newsletter

Winter2016

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<http://honunewscenter.weebly.com>

Dear Pomaika`i Ohana,

Happy New Year! The start of the year is a time for me to look at where we've been and to imagine where I want to go. Even though January is in the middle of our school year, it's still a time for reflection and planning. I want to share some thoughts on our Pomaika`i ("blessed") learning journey with you.

Under Hawaii's Strive HI Performance System, Pōmaika`i Elementary is once again a top 5% Recognition School. Our scores are not as high as last year, but we are proud to be still ranked #1 of elementary schools on Maui. We have a high number (68%) of students meeting proficiency on the HSA Science test (4th grade); and above 70% on the SBA tests, (3rd, 4th, and 5th grade). We also had a low number of student absences (excused or not) at 11%, which roughly translates to 55 students being out 15 or more days of school. Being a Recognition School is a testament to our focus on our vision, mission, and commitment to our children's successes. We will continue to improve as we include more "hands on" and collaborative learning opportunities that utilize critical thinking skills and active learning strategies in all of our classes.

To have successful students, we will continue to support our teachers through professional development opportunities. Most recently, on our January 6, 2016th Professional Development day, we were inspired by internationally-sought-after presenters on assessment-- Anne Davies and Sandra Herbst! The investment in our teachers over the years is proven to yield positive outcomes for our students.

There are also State Department of Education-initiated strategies that have a positive impact on student learning. Data Teams and common formative assessments enhance the data driven decision-making process toward improvement. The Common Core State Standards are addressed in all grades, K-5; and the Smarter Balanced Assessment is changing the way we assess students as they respond to problems. And our Academic Review Team broadens leadership skills and awareness of the entirety of our school as they plan, do, act, and check our academic and financial plans.

Overall, our academic scores beg the question: Why are we not at 100% where ALL of our children meet or exceed proficiency? We still have a way to go on our learning journey. As we make the shift to the Common Core Standards, new Smarter Balanced Assessment, and Strive HI accountability system, we will continue to focus on educating all of our children with Arts Integration strategies that focus on critical thinking and active learning. The Academic Review Team, PTSA, SCC (School Community Council), and other leadership teams at Pomaika`i Elementary School will continue to make adjustments on our journey throughout the year as we strive toward student improvement.

I'm glad you're here to join us on our learning journey by supporting our students and our school! With joy in our hearts for the blessings we've enjoyed, condolences for the losses we've had this past year, I have much hope for a 2016 that is filled with lots of love, cheer, and learning!

Yours truly with love and support of Pomaika`i honu,

Bernice Takahata

Awesome job Na Honu!

Congratulations for your outstanding achievements, Na Honu!

PTSA Reflections

The following artists let their "Imagination Fly!" and were selected to represent Maui at the state level judging in March on Oahu.

Film: Mina Suzuki
Nevaeh Dempsey
Tiare Amorin
Visual Arts: Shavis Cardoza

VEX Robotics

These future engineers are headed to Oahu on 2/6 to represent Maui at the State finals.

Robotex - Excellence winners
• Emily Tom, Jared Peros, Kaiden Yoshikawa

Swags - THINK award winners
• Angelo Baysa, Kamalei Pahukula, Kwanza Bondar, Mac Millen, Trent Tsukiyama

Literacy All-Star

Achieve 3000 KidBiz winner Kalena Silva will be attending the Literacy Leadership Conference in February.

Movie Star

Ryan Ursua will be starring in an upcoming movie, Aloha Santa with George Lopez

Perfect Attendance

Please check website for list of kids with perfect attendance!
<http://goo.gl/Iw10Ao>



What is this and how do I use it?

Q: What is a QR code?

A: QR stands for Quick Response - it is a two-dimensional bar code.

Q: How do I scan it?

A: Launch a QR Code reader app on your smartphone and wait until the camera detects it. Within seconds the encoded content is displayed on the screen.

Family Resources



School Uniforms

- Gently used school uniforms are available at the main office at any time.

Extra Help with Math - <http://mauimathcircle.weebly.com/>

- Maui Math Circle is a student-run community service program offering third, fourth and fifth graders in Maui County schools the opportunity to study advanced math concepts and problem-solving skills with middle and high school student mentors. The program consists of six monthly sessions at Pu'u Kukui Elementary School during the school year.

Bullying Prevention - <http://www.pacerkidsagainstabullying.org/kab/>

- Kids Against Bullying is a bullying prevention website created by PACER's National Bullying Prevention Center, which was founded in 2006, and actively leads social change, so that bullying is no longer considered an accepted childhood rite of passage. PACERKidsAgainstBullying is a creative, innovative and educational website designed for elementary school students to learn about bullying prevention, engage in activities and be inspired to take action.

Ways for Parents and Students to Stay in touch with Pomaikai

1. Pomaikai Homepage – Please visit our school website for up-to-date news, announcements and upcoming events.

<http://goo.gl/VugJxL>

2. Classroom Homepage – These are excellent resources to find out what your child is learning about and stay in touch with your teacher.

<http://goo.gl/pCGs7N>

3. PTSA meetings – Parents, Students, Teachers, and Community Members, we welcome your input and suggestions please come and join the conversation!

<http://goo.gl/JNE5Im>

4. Like us on Facebook: Pomaikai Elementary School Ohana News

<https://goo.gl/03oZu2>

Important Dates:

Upcoming Events:

- **2/1-29** - Kindergarten Registration, 10AM-3PM
- **3/05** - 2nd Literacy Night
- **3/09** - PTSA March meeting 4PM, D205
- **3/15** - Robotics Flatbread Fundraiser
- **3/20** - 5th annual Maui 5K
- **4/06** - PTSA April meeting 4PM, D205
- **5/11** - PTSA General Elections
- **5/25** - May Ho`ike 2016

No School Days:

- **2/15** - President's Day
- **3/16-3/28**: Spring Break and Holidays

Movie nights are coming! Stay tuned!

Fund Raising News

Robotics fundraiser at Flatbread Pizza

Please come support our VEX Robotics program by joining us at Flatbread Pizza on 3/15 from 5-10pm. Come buy a pizza and a portion of the proceeds will be donated to support our program. We hope to see you there!

5th Annual Maui 5K – maui5k.org

Mark your calendars for Sunday 3/20 and come join us to raise funds for our school! There will be a ChampionChip / MyLaps timed 5K race and a fun, untimed 1 Mile Run/Walk for Keiki and adults. Limited edition t-shirts will be given to all participants of the 2016 Maui 5K! Quantities are limited and guaranteed to early entries only.

“The Maui 5K seeks to promote health and fitness for Hawaii’s children by giving our schools the ability to increase participation in youth sports and recreation programs by providing additional funds to maintain or purchase new equipment for their physical fitness, play and athletic programs. We want to help our schools to be able to keep our children healthy through an active lifestyle. We also seek to promote fitness within our communities through participation by friends and families of our children.”

Proceeds from the event will be distributed back to our school to be used to enhance or improve the school’s physical fitness, play and athletic programs.

eScrip: (raised \$1756 to date!) -- <http://goo.gl/JaTF2c>

*Effective August 1, 2015, **Safeway** is no longer participating in the eScrip program. But you can STILL EARN by shopping on-line! Here are some favorite vendors who participate, and the amount of your purchase they donate: Amazon (1.2%), Home Depot (2.4%), Sports Authority (1.8%), Nordstrom (4.8%), Macy's (3%), Lowe's (1.2%), and Sears (1.2%).*

Box Tops: (raised \$1011 to date!) -- <http://goo.gl/Xk8558>

Labels for Education: (raised 3852 pts to date!) -- <http://goo.gl/DuX306>