



Introducing the Personal Success Plan

No, “PSP” is not something you say when you are trying to get someone’s attention without the teacher noticing. It’s a Personal Success Plan, and it’s a new tool that LCPCS teachers and staff are co-creating with and for each secondary student. In summary, PSPs are a way to get students thinking about, and planning for, their future. It seems like such a simple concept, but it doesn’t happen by itself, which is what makes the PSP concept so important.

PSPs are widely used in quality schools nationwide, and there is an array of online tools to help create them. They are designed to guide a student through secondary education into postsecondary education or work, and ensure that students have the academic foundation and self-understanding needed to achieve their life goals. Among the exercises students complete in the development of his or her plan is a personality assessment that helps students think about how they approach life. Online exercises also help students identify careers for which their particular combination of academic and social skills is suited. In that process, students will learn about the education, training, or other requirements of each of those professions, the future of the profession, the pay, and a variety of other factors. Online tools even help identify local mentoring and training opportunities.

One of most important tasks for each student is to write an all inclusive “autobiography” from 10 years in the future. Students are asked to think about where they will be located, how they will be earning a living, whether they will be married and have children, right down to the smallest detail. Then the students can sit down with various LCPCS staff and outline all the steps necessary to get to that imagined point. Even if they don’t go in exactly that direction, creating post-graduation goals, and identifying ways to achieve them, is invaluable.

Right now, PSPs are being created for all the seniors, but within the next year or so, PSPs will be developed for all secondary students. The earlier kids start thinking about their goals, the better use they can make of the many resources, both in class and online, at LCPCS.

“We believe that PSPs have the potential to be a game changer for our students in terms of their perception of themselves and their abilities,” says Student Development Manager, Mike Okoye. “PSPs provide our students with a tremendous opportunity to take ownership of their learning. We are excited to see what they do with it!”



Student Development Manager Mike Okoye works with 10th-grader Jason Waahila to develop Jason’s PSP.

Calendar

- Today, March 2 — Notice anything odd about the apparel today? Several elementary grades are celebrating Dr. Suess' birthday with a special reading day. Kids were encouraged to wear pajamas, bring a flashlight, pillow and favorite books.
- Today, March 2 – Kindergarten registration and open enrollment begins
- **Tonight**, March 2, 6:00 pm – **Family movie night** at the Laupāhoehoe Library, *Box Trolls*
- Thursday, March 12, 5:00 pm – Town Hall meeting with Director Nahale-a, school cafeteria
- Thursday, March 12, 6:00 pm – First home boys' volleyball game, vs. HPA
- Thursday, March 12 – **School Kine cookie pickup** and delivery
- Friday, March 13 – NO SCHOOL, teacher work day
- Monday, March 16 through Friday March 20 — NO SCHOOL, spring break
- Monday, March 16 – Boys' volleyball game vs. Kealakehe at LCPCS
- Saturday, March 21, 10:00 am – Boys' volleyball game vs. Waiakea at LCPCS
- Tuesday, March 24, 5:30 pm – Governing Board meeting



Paki's Kūkākūkā

It is unfortunate that when we hear the word "discipline" in school, our first instinct is to think of "discipline" as "punishment," or the consequence of bad behavior. But being "disciplined" is also about having the self control to make good choices. Discipline is perhaps the most important skill our students need in order to be successful in life. The relationship between discipline and behavior should always be about helping students understand the connection between their choices and the naturally occurring result. When we are disciplined, we take actions that help us achieve our hopes and dreams. At LCPCS, we are helping students make that connection, so that they do the work necessary to create their desired futures.

Seasider Spotlight



Annie Harris

After teaching for more than 20 years in California, Annie Harris came to Hawaii to retire. It just didn't work out that way. Within a few weeks of showing up at LCPCS to volunteer, she had a job. That was three years ago, and now she's busy wearing a variety of hats. Ms. Harris serves as a reading coach for kindergarteners and first-graders, she is the elementary student service coordinator, and she's in charge of discipline for the elementary grades. This interviewer observed that there's a big difference between teaching reading and disciplining kids, and Ms. Harris was quick to disagree. "There's a strong link between success in the classroom and behavior," she pointed out. "I like to think of 'discipline' as 'trouble-shooting.'" That involves giving a student what he or she needs in the moment. In doing that, she really gets to know the kids as individuals, which is a part of her job that she loves.

"I'm such an advocate for the underdog," Ms. Harris continued, in thinking about herself and her role at LCPCS. She thrives on helping kids that are struggling academically and socially. "People say, oh yuck, discipline, but the discipline part isn't so hard when you love them."