



## Quarter One: The Water Filtration Project

Millions of people around the world undergo a daily struggle to get clean, drinkable water. As part of a new emphasis on project-based or “experiential” learning, LCPCS secondary students this quarter have been asked to design and build a water filtration system for one of four areas: Kenya, Australia, Nova Scotia or India. The challenges in each area are slightly different, but each includes a mix of cultural, social, religious, financial, environmental and scientific considerations.

Each group of four students has chosen one of the geographical areas, and is designing a water filtration system specifically for that region. Various “artifacts,” or products of the learning experience, are expected throughout the quarter, including two oral Powerpoint presentations; lab reports; a display board with information about the area, the water crisis, filtration issues and



Jesse Bendtsen (10th grade) and Elijah Solt (11th grade) assemble some raw materials

the group’s proposed filtration system; a personal reflection paper; and, of course, the filtration system itself.

Ninth through 12th graders have had to organize their time, and learn to work together to complete the assignments. Middle-schoolers (grades 6 through 8) have been

working on a scaled-down version of the exercise which is more structured.

Pulling it all together are science teacher Franny Brewer and social studies teacher Kurtis Sherer, who have been working with the other secondary teachers during their Wednesday planning meetings and via Google Apps. So, for instance, the language arts teachers have been using articles relating to the



10th-grader Jaylyn Mahoe-Subica works on a filtration exercise

project for their reading comprehension units, and writing exercises include pieces the students need for their projects. “It’s been challenging,” admits Ms. Brewer. But she has noticed

*“This transition to a project-based approach has required students, staff, and faculty to stretch themselves both intellectually and physically. We’ve learned a lot about what students are ready to do and where they need additional support. One of the benefits of being a self-governed charter school is that we can take these lessons and make immediate improvements. I’m excited for the second quarter because we’re going to continue to expand project-based opportunities for the high school while implementing more language arts supports for all secondary. By doing so we can respond to the immediate needs of our students while continuing to move our program forward around an experiential approach.”*

Paki Nahale-a

a higher level of investment and commitment in her students. Once she offered an extra, non-required chemistry lesson during one of her planning hours, and was thrilled when every single relevant student showed up. “The students were ready to go and really into it,” she said. “They wanted to learn this stuff.” She’s pleased that the students have a good understanding of the global importance of this issue.

## Calendar

- Monday, Sept 29 – MAPS testing, grades 2 and 3
- Tuesday, Sept 30 – MAPS testing, grades 2 and 3
- Wednesday, Oct 1, 3:00 to 4:00 pm – CSI team meeting (open to all); admin conference room
- Thursday, Oct 2 – NO SCHOOL
- Friday, Oct 3 – NO SCHOOL; 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter ends
- Friday, Oct 3 at 7:00 pm – Varsity girls volleyball, home game
- Monday, Oct 6 through Friday, Oct 10 – NO SCHOOL
- Monday, Oct 6 at 6:00 pm – Family movie night at the library: Jumanji

Month						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat

## Paki's Kūkākūkā — *It Takes a Village to Raise a Child*

This famous African proverb reminds me that it takes all of us to educate a child. Teachers play the most critical role, but everyone on campus plays an important part. From our bus drivers to custodians, cafeteria workers to office staff, everyone must do their jobs well so that teaching and learning can occur. This also holds true for everyone off campus. Parents, family members, and the entire community have a deep impact on the educational success of each student. We must all come together to give our students the

education they need for a successful future.

In order to bring all of our efforts together, communication is key. We are working on an array of communication systems that will ensure we all have the information we need. One of the new ones is our monthly "town hall" meeting. The idea is simply for me and other members of the staff to be available to hear stakeholder questions, comments or concerns, and have a productive conversation about the educa-

tional program at LCPCS. **The town hall meetings are planned for the second Thursday of every month from 5 to 6 pm.** Mahalo to those of you who came to the last meeting! I look forward to meeting with more of you in the future.

*Nobody trips over mountains. It is the small pebble that causes you to stumble. Pass all the pebbles in your path and you will find you have crossed the mountain. ~Author Unknown*

## Seasider Spotlight



Scott and Naomi Smith

Long-time Texas residents Naomi and Scott Smith, along their two children, have joined the LCPCS 'ohana. Ms. Smith is now the 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, and Mr. Smith is one of two secondary language arts teachers.

They were ready for a change from the big city, says Ms. Smith. They chose the Big Island, and then decided to enroll their two children in LCPCS. In checking it out, they were immediately drawn to the school, and the beauty of its campus. "It has so much potential," Ms. Smith says. "We thought it would be amazing to be here at the beginning, and to

help it grow into everything that people think it can be."

They love it here so far, and spend all their free time exploring the island. "I'm a science geek," says Ms. Smith. She's excited by the volcano, the mountain, the rain forest and the oceans.

Mr. Smith is also trying to find time to work on his second novel. The first has been picked up by an agent, and is expected to be published soon. Welcome, Smith family!