

# Ka Lau

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## Students are Getting Connected Through Enhanced Computer Capability

In today's day and age, our students need computing skills to fully thrive. Comfort with emerging technology is critical, especially in pursuit of higher education and in many career fields. Until recently, LCPCS was not able to provide high quality instruction in computer technology due to limited internet connectivity and a lack of computers. Fortunately, there have been substantial changes.

*First*, LCPCS hired a full time Technology Coordinator. Isaiah Heyer now maintains systems and provides support to students and staff alike. *Second*, by working closely with the DOE, LCPCS has been able to install a much faster and more reliable WIFI network that provides connection to the internet from anywhere on campus. *Third*, through a successful Title 1 application and better use of existing equipment, LCPCS was able to create a new 30-station computer lab, as well as two mobile labs that can be deployed to individual classrooms at anytime.

Finally, LCPCS has transitioned to the use of *Google Apps for Education* to meet the majority of its software needs. All teachers, staff, and students in grades 6 and higher now have a Google

account, and access to the many functions the service provides. All staff members have an email address that consists of his or her first and last name, connected by a period, at lcpcs.org (i.e. john.doe@lcpcs.org). All the students' work is stored through the Apps platform, so they can access their schoolwork from home or other locations without compatibility issues. The new software allows both teachers and students to communicate easily, share and edit information, and work collaboratively. Seasideers will now graduate with these skills that have become so essential in today's world.

*Students in the English Language Learners program in the computer lab after school.*



## Changes are Made to Middle School Language Arts Classes

The great thing about being a Charter School, Director Nahale-a will tell you, is that change can be effected without a whole lot of fuss. Something isn't working quite right? Sit down, figure it out, and try something different.



*Lili Solomon's middle school language arts class.*

That's what happened this quarter with the middle school language arts program. Teachers were concerned that there wasn't enough emphasis on language arts during the Quarter One water filtration project. So this quarter, middle school students (grades 6 through 8) are in language arts class 90 minutes every day but Wednesday. While 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders are lumped together, they are separated by gender. Lili Solomon teaches the girls, and Scott Smith teaches the boys.

There is lots of research showing that girls, in particular, thrive in a gender specific environment, says Mr. Smith, but the boys seem to like it too. "I'm amazed, actually, at how well the class is going," says Ms. Solomon, who first proposed the idea. And while Mr. Scott admitted that the biggest challenge is teaching all three grades together, Ms. Solomon added that she is pleased with the mix. "The older ones are really stepping up to help the younger ones," she said.

## Calendar

- TODAY 1:30 pm — Virtuoso guitar player **Jeff Peterson** will perform at the Laupāhoehoe library FREE
- Thursday and Friday, November 27 and 28 – NO SCHOOL, Thanksgiving Holiday
- Monday, December 1, 6:00 pm – O’hana Movie Night at the Laupāhoehoe Library
- Wednesday, December 3, 7:30 to 7:55 am – Save First! Deposit Day
- Wednesday, December 3, 5:00 to 7:00 pm – **Family Dinner Night**, Grades 3 through 5
- December 3 through 5 — Laupāhoehoe Basketball Tournament at LCPCS gymnasium. First game at 4:00 pm.
- Friday, December 5, 8:15 to 9:00 am – UH Mānoa campus visit
- Saturday, December 6, 8:00 am — **My School Color Fun Run/Walk**. Everyone is encouraged to participate! Participants will be able to run or walk a mile-long loop at the school as many times as they want, and be painted a rainbow of colors as they go. The registration fee includes a My School Color Run t-shirt. Sign up under the “News and Events” tab, at [www.lcps.org](http://www.lcps.org).
- Wednesday, December 10, 5:00 to 7:00 pm – **Family Dinner Night**, Grades K through 2

## Paki’s Kūkākūkā —

Excellence is not a destination, it’s a habit. It’s the result of an unceasing commitment to getting better every day. Unfortunately, our society sometimes confuses complaining about what’s wrong with an effective approach to improvement. Everywhere you look you see a pattern of negativity. This is not only an ineffective way to improve, it creates an environment that usually makes things worse, not better.

At Laupāhoehoe Community Public Charter School, we are establishing a habit of excellence. And we are committed to doing that through a long term asset-based approach. That means that even when things don’t go the way we want them to, or mistakes are made, the school still maintains a positive can-do attitude and celebrates all that is going well. By doing so, we build on the best of our past while capitalizing on the best of our present. This approach creates long-term systemic change that pays off now and into the future.

We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit.  
*Aristotle*

## Seasider Spotlight



Isaiah Heyer

LCPCS Technology Coordinator, Isaiah Heyer, comes to the school with an extensive background in data communication and cellular wireless technology. At different times he’s worked for AT&T and T-Mobile, conducted wireless testing for the Federal government at the Idaho National Laboratory, and worked for city governments in the state of Washington. One thing he’s never done is work at a

school. “It’s fun being around the kids,” he says. “You show them something new, and they’re all excited.” He really likes the Google Apps for Education service that LCPCS is using.

In his spare time, Mr. Heyer is a glass artist, using a process called kiln-forming to create beautiful glass fish. It’s like ceramics, only with glass, he explained. The downside of moving to Hawai‘i, which he did about a year ago with his long-time significant other to join her family in Waimea, is that it takes a tremendous



amount of electricity to run a kiln, and electricity is very expensive in Hawai‘i. His hobby is currently on hold, but he’s looking forward to getting back to it, somehow, someday. In the meantime, check out his work at [www.glassfishart.com](http://www.glassfishart.com).