



New LCPCS Reward System

Story by Mike Okoye (see the Seaside Spotlight)

At LCPCS, we have high expectations for our students, and the majority of our students have high expectations for themselves. However, high expectations are not always enough. Sometimes we deserve recognition and encouragement just for doing the right thing. And that is where LCPCS's new reward system comes in. We want to reward the students who are doing the right thing every day.

First, we will have a spring celebration for every student who makes it through the semester without any referrals.

Second, at the end of the 3rd and 4th quarters we will have an auction where students will have the opportunity to bid on prizes.

Third, every Monday we will have a drawing for middle and high school students. Teachers will be on the lookout for students who are consistently on their best behavior and will award special tickets which serve as entries in the weekly drawing. The winner of the drawing will receive a Seaside T-Shirt, 10 auction dollars to use at the quarterly auction, and a special prize that will rotate every week.

Fourth, we will have a Student of the Month for middle and high school students. Teachers will nominate students who are performing to the best of their ability academically, and showing excellent behavior. Students may also nominate each other. At the end of every month, faculty and staff will meet to select a winning student. Winners will receive 25 auction dollars, a feature in the newsletter, and lots of love from the LCPCS family (which will manifest itself in many different ways).

The final piece of the new system is the Honor Roll and Director's Honor Roll. Students with mostly A's and no more than two B's will be on the Honor Roll and get to enjoy a pizza party at the end of the quarter. Students with straight A's will be on the Director's Honor Roll and get 50 auction dollars in addition to the quarterly pizza party.

LCPCS takes pride in knowing and valuing every student. With this new system we hope to show our students how much we care about them and want them to succeed.



6th-grader Preston Parel doing the right thing....

Increase the Peace

Peer Mediation Comes to 4th and 5th Grades

This semester, 4th and 5th graders will have an opportunity to increase the peace at LCPCS. Thanks to a partnership with the non-profit Ku'ikahi Mediation Center, two elementary school classes will receive peer mediation training, and several students will be chosen to become peer mediators.

In peer mediation, students of the same age-group help to resolve disputes between their peers. This process has proven effective in schools around the United States and in Hawai'i, changing the way students understand and resolve conflict in their lives. Changes include improved self-esteem, increased listening and critical thinking skills, and a reduction in disciplinary actions and fights. Students trained in peer mediation will not only contribute to creating a more peaceful campus, but also take peace-building skills home with them and into the community at large.

The mediation process is voluntary for both sides. Students in conflict can request mediation or be referred by staff or other students. Peer mediators do not "make decisions," but rather work towards a win-win resolution for both sides in order to avoid further trouble. Mediators work in pairs and

Calendar

Wed, Jan 21—Save First! Deposit Day
 Wed, Jan 21—Boys' BB home game
 Tues, Jan 27—Governing Board Meeting
 Wed, Jan 28 to Feb 11—School Kine
 Cookie Fundraiser
 Sat, Jan 31—Boys' BB home game

NWEA MAPS testing schedule:

Jan 20—Grades 2 & 3, Math
 Jan 21—K and Grade 1, Language Arts
 Jan 22—Grades 2 & 3, Language Arts
 Jan 26—Grades 6-9, Reading
 Jan 28—Grades 6-9, Math
 Jan 29—Grades, 6-9 Language Arts



Set your keiki up for success! Make sure he/she:

- Gets a good night's sleep (8-10 hrs is best)
- Eats breakfast (preferably "brain food" like protein)
- Does his/her best! (Encourage your child!)

Another way to find out what's happening at school is to go to the www.lcps.org home page, and, in the column on the left, scroll down to the "More Events" button.

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help disputants reach and document agreements that are fair, mutually acceptable, and workable.

Peer mediators receive training in the nature of conflict, active listening, respectful communication, summarizing, reframing, negotiation, collaboration, consensus building, and the ways in which culture affects communication and problem solving.

Peer mediation allows students to become part of the solution. Peace out!

Ku'ikahi Mediation Center has long helped to bring about peaceful resolutions to conflicts in our community—since 1983 as a program of the Hawai'i Island YMCA, and from 2006 as an independent non-profit organization. Their mission: "We empower people to come together—to talk and to listen, to explore options, and to find their own best solutions. To achieve this mission, we offer mediation, facilitation and training to strengthen the ability of diverse individuals and groups to resolve interpersonal conflicts and community issues."



Mike Okoye in Rio de Janeiro last summer

Seasider Spotlight

LCPCS welcomed several new faculty and staff this fall, and among them was Student Development Manager Michael Okoye. Mr. Okoye is currently working on developing various systems for the school, and creating personal success plans for LCPCS students (more on those in a future newsletter).

Mr. Okoye received his Bachelor of Arts in Human Biology from Stanford University, and a Juris Doctorate from New York University. He is a licensed attorney and served in the Obama Administration, first as Deputy Associate Counsel for Presidential Personnel at the White House, then as Special Advisor at the Department of Energy (wow!). He also taught English in Japan, and has spent many years with students as a tutor and mentor.