

Ka Lau

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Welcome Back! A note from Director Nahale-a

Welcome to the 2015-2016 school year. The theme for this year is Ma Ka Hana Ka 'Ike, By Doing, One Knows. We've chosen this theme to emphasize our belief in experiential learning, and to remind our students to always try. Some of our students struggle to learn simply because they refuse to try. We know that if they engage in the lessons, they will learn, and we hope our theme for the year encourages more effort in this regard.

Another subtle but powerful shift for our teachers and students will be a focus on skill development. Both colleges and employers tell us that what students are able to DO is more essential than what they KNOW. As technology puts more and more content at our fingertips, students' ability to access and use that information, especially in teams, becomes more critical. By focusing on skill development, we will better prepare our students for the world they will be living in after graduation.

Another benefit of focusing on skill development is that it will provide a better foundation upon which to build a rich project-based curriculum. We learned last year that many students needed further skills in order to be successful in a more independent project-based environment. Therefore, our secondary schedule has returned to a more traditional approach, with 50 minute period blocks, while we do this work. Another component of this change is the addition of a mandatory study hall period for all secondary students every day except Wednesday. This additional work time will be essential in helping students catch up and keep up. Those students who are on pace academically and behaviorally will be able to use this time for other pursuits.

We realize that a quality education is more than core academics. Therefore, all secondary students will engage in internships on Wednesdays. Students will select from a variety of programs in the wood and auto shops, student leadership, early education, media relations, and the culinary arts, just to name a few. We intend to foster this program so that students have real-world opportunities during the regular academic day, after school, and during the breaks. Stay tuned.



'Ōhi'a planks in the recently cleaned and organized wood shop. Mahalo to the generous volunteers who helped ready the shop for Wednesday internships.

The Giving Tree(s)

Many will have noticed that the dead 'ōhi'a lehua in front of the school were finally cut down this summer. Community leader and school champion Lucille Chung says those trees were there "from the beginning of time." There was a concerted effort, she said, to plant lehua trees with a variety of blossom colors, all around campus. "I remember when George Ariyoshi was governor [1974 to 1986], his wife came around. She was planting thousands of trees across the State. I remember when she came, and we planted even more trees around the school."

When the trees finally died last year, there was a delay in cutting them down because it was felt that the wood should be preserved and put to good use, and certain logistics had to be arranged. Two large stumps are temporarily stored inside the front entryway, and longer sections of the trunks were transported up to the wood shop. The wood will be used in future projects, possibly to replace some of the damaged trim around the school. In the meantime, we hope that the small 'ōhi'a now growing in the circle will flourish for generations, like the ones that came before it.

Calendar

- August 20 — Open House
- August 21 — NO SCHOOL: Statehood Day
- August 29: 7:00 am to 11:00 am — 2nd annual **MY SCHOOL COLOR RUN**. A super fun way to show school spirit, celebrate healthy living, and raise money for programs at the school. Register early at www.LCPCSMSCR.eventbrite.com.

If you would like to be involved in important conversations about the school, please attend the governing board meetings. They are held in the Band Room on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 5:30 pm. At each meeting, Director Nahale-a will give a detailed report on what is going on at school.

Paki's Kūkākūkā — Changes in Policy

One of the most significant changes this fall is a new rule prohibiting personal electronics on campus. This includes cell phones, tablets, and personal laptops. If students require a cell phone for after-school communication, they must check that cell phone in at the office at the beginning of the day. Any personal electronic device brought to campus and not checked in will be confiscated and released only to a parent or legal guardian.

Why? Faculty and staff are united in our awareness that personal electronics on campus, especially for our older students, has been the biggest obstacle to student engagement. They have not only been a detrimental distraction, they have raised safety concerns and promoted destructive drama. We are drawing a hard line on this issue and ask for your support.

We must create a safe learning environment if we want high achievement. Misbehavior affects everyone. This year, we will be much more diligent about requiring appropriate behavior at all times, and assigning meaningful consequences that deter inappropriate actions. We will also work harder to help students make the right choices, and to better communicate concerns to families in a timely fashion, so that they can help with these efforts. Join us in looking forward to a great school year!

Seasider Spotlight



Basile Hurat

LCPCS welcomes Basile Hurat, the new secondary math teacher. Born in France, Mr. Hurat moved to the Bay Area at the age of 2, and grew up in California. Math is his passion, he says. "A lot of people are afraid of math, but math is a tool. It's not scary." His own love of math started early. At one point in school he was bored in class, so he started using a graphing calculator to draw flowers. "I like that (math) can be purely theoretical, but also applied to everything we do," he said. He also likes philosophy, which to him, is very similar. "They are both about logic, but one uses numbers and the other words." He's excited, he says, to share his love of math with his students, and help them see connections between math and their surroundings that most people never notice.