

Ka Lau

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Whole School Renovation...Comin' Up!

About two weeks ago, DOE announced that it will undertake a “whole school renovation,” which will take an estimated nine months, and start some time this spring. Community pressure, petitions, appeals to local legislators, and requests by former director, Paki Nahale-a, seem to have finally produced a result! (Even after the charter conversion, DOE remains responsible for the maintenance of our school’s buildings.)

Renovations will include painting the entire school, inside and out; new flooring; new lighting; replacement signage; some new wall covering in select areas; and new class room fixtures, like whiteboards. The work is currently out to bid.

Business Manager Gerry Delgado admits that things will be a little chaotic for awhile. The work will be done four classrooms at a time, so those classes will need to be temporarily re-located. “More info will be forthcoming,” says Mr. Delgado. “It’ll be really busy, but the end result will be a lot nicer.” If they do a good job, we’ll have a campus that we are as proud of as we are of our students!



Peeling paint around a window: soon to be history!

Corporate Sponsors Visit LCPCS



L to R: Polena Kozinskiy, Pete Schindler, Vivian Schindler and Jaylyn Mahoe-Subica

Did you know that LCPCS has corporate sponsors? Pete and Vivian Schindler, of the Wireless Alliance in Boulder, Colorado, have become our first corporate sponsors. The Wireless Alliance is a cell phone recycling company that works with retail stores, e-waste recyclers, schools, state and local government and other agencies to collect and recycle cellular equipment. The company has reclaimed over 500 tons of wireless equipment, and, through keeping it from landfills, contributes to a cleaner and safer environment for all of us (check it out at www.thewirelessalliance.com).

The couple regularly spends vacation-time in Kona, and heard about LCPCS through a personal connection. In October, they visited the school, and were shown around by student ambassadors Jaylyn Mahoe-Subica and Polina Kozinskiy (both juniors). Their monthly contributions help fund the school auto and wood shops.

LCPCS now has drop boxes for used phones (as well as PDAs, iPods, digital cameras, and iPads) that will be sent to the Wireless Alliance, so bring in that old equipment to say “thank you” to these generous people.

Calendar

- Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, December 16, 17 & 18 – JV Boys' Basketball Tournament at LCPCS (see box)
- Friday, December 18 – Mahope field trip to Kaloko-Honokohau National Historical Park
- Tuesday, December 22 – Governing Board Meeting
- December 21 through January 8 — WINTER BREAK (first day back to school: Monday, January 11, 2016)



Don't miss our **junior varsity pre-season boys' basketball tournament!** Everyone is invited to come out and support our players! The tournament will be held this Wednesday, Thursday and Friday (December 16, 17 and 18). Each day, the first game starts at 4:00 pm, and the last game starts at 8:00 pm. Teams attending include: Honoka'a, Hilo, Kohala, Waieka, Kamehameha, Kealakehe and St. Joseph. Don't miss the 'ono concessions and LCPCS items for sale, either. (Think Christmas! Anyone you know need a hoodie?)

KAHFOOTY!

You've seen it on posters around the school. You've wondered what it is. It's Kahfooty! It means "keep all hands, feet and other objects to yourself" (or, variously, it's Khafooty! – Keep hands and feet and other objects to yourself). It's part of an emphasis on respectful behavior both in and out of the classroom. Now you know!

Seasider Spotlight



James Akau speaking to students on a recent field trip.

He works quietly behind the scenes, but he has introduced many LCPCS students to the environmental and cultural uniqueness of Hawai'i. He is James Akau, a US Forest Service employee who specializes in education outreach. Mr. Akau was born in Hilo and raised in Ka'u, attended Kamehameha Schools-Kapālama on Oahu, and then majored in biology at Chapman University in Orange, California. Since his return to Hawai'i in 2010, he has made a career of helping kids connect with their natural environments. Through working both on campus and in the forest with LCPCS students, he is hoping to give them experiences that will help them later reflect on who they are as human beings, and how they fit into the world around them.

"If I show them a native forest that was planted by volunteers 20 years ago, they can think, 'people just like us did this,'" he said recently. Caring for Hawai'i's natural systems is pono not just due to their intrinsic value, but also because it creates a sense of community and cultivates compassion, he believes. Mahalo to Mr. Akau for sharing his world view with our students.