

Ka Lau

February 1, 2016

2015/2016, Issue 12



What it Takes to Run a School — Second in a multipart series about what's behind the scenes...



Danasha Sequerre ponders her choice of cleaning products.

A typical day for LCPCS custodians Ambrose Cantan and Rona Wilber? First, they arrive at the school, really, really early. Next, they use a leaf blower to clean all the sidewalks and passageways. Then they pick up all the trash, water the plants, and mop the hallways, and, finally (because they've done all that before the kids even arrive!), unlock the doors.

After the students are in class, they focus on outdoor chores, like mowing, weed wacking, and trimming hedges. Mixed in are extras, like moving furniture or fixing faucets. They also help maintain the vegetable garden and greenhouse, and have been helping students establish a sweet potato patch to feed the pig that will soon be inhabiting the piggery.

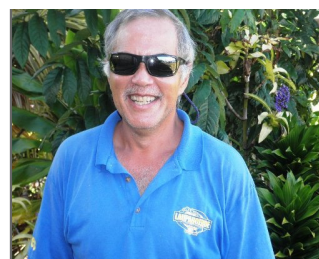
They are ably assisted in these and other chores by part-time custodian Lyndele Cardoza (currently on maternity leave, having had her baby, a little girl, in December); classroom cleaners Danasha Sequerre and Meagan Cardoza; and (filling in for Lyndele) substitute custodian Clemencio Navalta.

Maintaining a school the size of LCPCS does not come cheaply. Per year, in fact, it costs something on the order of \$143,000. That includes salaries, custodial supplies, equipment and equipment repair, and outside contracts for mowing and tree-trimming.

It's a huge job for our small custodial staff. Director Okoye says he'd like to emphasize just how much these few folks are doing to maintain our large campus. LCPCS has (roughly) 17 classrooms, at least 7 multipurpose rooms, the shops, the gym, expansive hallways, both indoor and out, the kitchen and cafeteria, the band room *and a whopping 24 bathrooms!* Next time you see one of these tremendously hardworking people, say "Mahalo!"

Ever-smiling Lew Nakamura, former LCPCS head custodian, took over as head of the Hawai'i Community College agriculture program last fall. He is currently teaching three courses per semester, and working to forge a more formal and productive connection between the HCC ag program and the HCC culinary program. (Perhaps taking the lead from LCPCS's Farm to School Program??) He says he misses everybody at LCPCS. "I miss the kids, the staff, the teachers. I enjoyed my time (at LCPCS) and I learned plenty over there. A lot of it applies down here." We miss him and wish him the best!

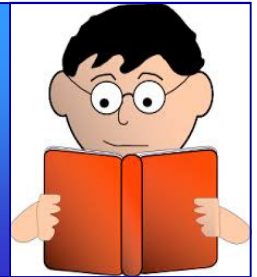
What happened to Lew?



Calendar

- TONIGHT Monday, February 1, 2016, 6:30 to 7:30 pm — PARENT MEETING, Cafeteria *Open to all parents*
- TONIGHT Monday, February 1, 2016, 6:00 pm — Family Movie Night at the Laupāhoehoe Library
- TOMORROW Tuesday, February 2, 2016, 9 to 11 am — Reading workshop for parents at the Laupāhoehoe Library
- TOMORROW Tuesday, February 2, 2016, 6:00 pm — Last boys' basketball HOME game
- Monday, February 15, 2016 — NO SCHOOL *Presidents' Day*

PARENT WORKSHOP for parents of infants to second-graders: You are your child's first teacher. How can you best support your child and foster a love for reading? This workshop will focus on the importance of language and daily reading aloud in helping your child thrive in and out of school. Adults only, please. Sponsored by LCPCS and Laupāhoehoe Public Library. Tuesday, February 2, 9 to 11 am at the Laupāhoehoe Public Library. Free books for participants!



Zillions of books, DVDs, CDs and more...

The Laupāhoehoe Library will be holding a massive book sale in its Conference Room

Saturday, February 20, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Monday, February 22, 1:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Door Prizes!

Seasider Spotlight



Ambrose Cantan and Rona Wilbur in the middle of another busy day.

Ambrose Cantan was hired at the start of the year to replace former head custodian Lew Nakamura. He was born and raised in Hilo, and has a degree in Tropical Ecosystem and Agro-forestry management. He comes to LCPCS after several years with Volcano National Park and the US Forest Service. When he's not at work, you can find him outdoors, free diving, hunting or hiking.

Rona Wilbur moved to Laupāhoehoe in the second grade, and graduated from LHES in 1992. She worked as a pharmacy technician in Honoka`a and Waimea for many years, but the commute was a killer. She's happy to be working closer to home. "I love the outdoors," she says. "I love what I do." Busy is the word to describe her. Pau hana, she also helps several elderly neighbors maintain their yards, and she's in the process of building a new house. Hers was the one that burnt down in the neighborhood above the Laupāhoehoe Post Office last year.

"Thank you" to both of these extremely dedicated and hardworking custodians. The campus has never looked better.