

Ka Lau

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Volleyball Girls Earn Some Serious Respect!

The Varsity Girls' volleyball team is off to a great start this year, having won the majority of their games so far. "We're a team that's been underestimated for the last three years," said 10th-grader Destiny Nobriga. "But now they are talking about us, so you know we're doing good." That's a great feeling, but the girls are quick to say that it's not all about winning. "It's not so much winning or losing," said junior Polina Kozinskiy. "It's how well you played in the game. When you played to the best of your ability, that's when you are proud."

It takes a lot of balance to be on a team. The girls have to maintain their GPAs to be allowed on the floor, and that can be tricky. They study hard: after school, before and after practice, and, at least for 11th-grader Jaylyn Mahoe-Subica, sometimes late into the night. But of course they are also learning from the sport itself. "You learn to be part of a team," said Polina. "No matter where you are going in life, you're going to have to work with other people." The girls agreed. If there's a problem among team members, your team will not be successful. Being on the team "teaches you how to trust each other and get along," said sophomore Trixie Hilario. "It feels good to win, but if we lose, we lose trying. The bond is still there."



L to R: Coach Malia Phillips, Carina Salomon-Torres, Polina Kozinskiy, Trixie Hilario, Jaychelle Nacnac, Talia Salboro, Jeneshia Nacnac, Gabrielle Glascock, Alize Asato, Destiny Nobriga, Jaylyn Mahoe-Subica, Assistant Coach Jason Ignacio. Not pictured: Team Manager Shyla Nobriga



Carina Salomon-Torres, Jaylyn Mahoe-Subica and Talia Salboro mid-game, September 15

That bond kept coming up. They didn't all start out as best friends, but the girls have grown closer. "As you learn more about each other, it builds a stronger relationship," said junior Carina Salomon. In fact, that team spirit is the best thing about away-games, said Carina. "Traveling all together is the best part. We bond so much."

As with any team, the relationship between the coaches and the players is important. Head Coach Malia Phillips, and Assistant Coach Jason Ignacio, are both 2006 LHES graduates. "Volleyball was always my passion," said Coach Phillips, who played in high school and later at Tacoma Community College. "One of my goals was to come back to my high school and teach volleyball, to give back to my community." The girls appreciate having coaches who themselves went to school in Laupāhoehoe. "They know the school, and if we have problems, they know what to say," someone said. Carina agreed. "We give them our problems, but in the end we're stronger. We're like one family." "Yeah," several added, "Jason says we are the 10 daughters he never wanted." Everybody laughed.

Coach Phillips says it's one of her missions to get the community back in, to get the parents to the games. So come and cheer for the girls' at their last three home games, Wednesday, September 23, Tuesday, September 29, and Friday, October 2. The games start at roughly 6:00 pm.

Calendar

- Wednesday, September 23 — Girls' Volleyball HOME GAME vs Ka`ū
- Tuesday, September 29 — Girls' Volleyball HOME GAME vs St. Joseph
- Thursday and Friday, October 1, 2 — NO SCHOOL, teacher work days
- Thursday, October 1 — Mahope Field Trip
- Friday, October 2 — Girls' Volleyball HOME GAME vs Parker
- October 5 through 9 — FALL BREAK, NO SCHOOL
- Tuesday, October 13 — Picture Day

Paki's Kūkākūkā — We Can Do This!

We can do hard things.

I've been sharing for the last year that we must increase our academic expectations for students. Not because the state requires it. Not because it looks good when scores come out. Not because we're trying to be "better" than any other school. We need to do it because that's what our students need to have choices after they graduate. That's true freedom.

Our society keeps trying to convince students that they should work hard in school so they can make more money. That's ridiculous. They should work hard in school because in doing so they will gain the tools to create any life they choose. Whether they want to go to college, join the military, get a job, raise a family, or start a business, solid academic skills give our students the tools they need to reach their dreams. Yes, that can take a lot of hard work, but we can do hard things. And so can our students.

Seasider Spotlight

Sophomore
Gabby Navalta



Each month, two students, one from the middle school and one from the high school, are honored for their hard work and academic success. "We want to recognize the students who are giving their best every single day," says Dean of Students, Mike Okoye. Students of the month for August 2015 are 6th-grader Jaselyn Mahoe-Subica, and 10th-grader Gabby Navalta.

"Gabby Navalta is a role model for good behavior, and he always does his best," said Mr. Okoye. Almost all of Gabby's family went to school in Laupāhoehoe, including two sisters and three brothers. To other students he recommends "staying focused and not falling behind or getting distracted." His favorite thing about school? "The teachers. They really help out when you need help."

Jaselyn Mahoe-Subica says her keys to success include trying her best, focusing on her work, persistence, and asking for help when she needs it. Her favorite things at school include volleyball and math, and after school she enjoys attending the Mahope Program and chilling out at home with her baby sister.

Congratulations to Gabby and Jaselyn, and to all students-of-the-month throughout the coming year. Keep up the good work!

6th-grader Jaselyn
Mahoe-Subica

