

Ka Lau

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Ready for More... Challenges, excitement, hands-on learning

Earlier this year, several LCPCS parents got together and brainstormed ways to provide extra challenges for students who were ready for more. And that's what their program became: "Ready for More." For about two months this fall, the parent volunteers organized a series of projects for three keiki each from grades 2, 3, 4 and 5.

Teachers were in charge of choosing students whom they felt would most benefit from the kinds of learning challenges the projects provided. "You kind of pick students that you think would blossom under that scenario," 5th grade teacher, Naomi Smith said recently.



Julian Speidel, Kawehena Nahale-a and Lily Hubbard at a tricky juncture. Photo by Bari Russo

Loosely patterned after the national program *Destination Imagination* (www.destinationimagination.org) and other hands-on learning-style curricula, the lessons so far have presented a series of small challenges that teams of kids work together to solve. For instance, during one lesson, kids were given eight sheets of newspaper and a piece of cardboard, and asked to build a table strong enough to hold a large phonebook. In another lesson, they built cantilevers out of toothpicks and clay. Lessons emphasize problem-solving, creativity, teamwork, and even vocabulary.

Keiki, teachers and parents were all happy with the program, so Hui Kāko'o O Laupāhoehoe has now provided funding to hire CC Kent to run the weekly lessons. Ms. Kent has served as both a substitute teacher and volunteer at LCPCS since the charter conversion, having worked as a science teacher, as well as both a Boy Scout and Girl Scout leader, before coming to Hawai'i.

The program now includes first-graders, and may expand further. It's a perfect example of what can be achieved through a little creativity on the part of parents, students and teachers alike!

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Thieves Break into LCPCS Kitchen

Once again, LCPCS has been targeted by burglars. Over the weekend before fall break, probably early Sunday, October 4, thieves broke into the kitchen-area of the school, and made off with several hundred dollars of food from the school freezers and refrigerators. Missing were three 40-pound cases of frozen hamburger, hot dogs, chicken thighs and various other food items. School Food Services Manager Jackie Martin shook her head in disgust, pointing out the broken windows and locks. Fortunately, they didn't take equipment, but focused almost entirely on the food. Still, each break-in costs the school not just the value of items stolen, but in wasted time as well. Last year, Director Nahale-a estimated that he spent over 40 hours out of his busy schedule dealing with all the reports, repairs and follow-up after an office break in then. This year, Interim Director Mike Okoye and Business Manager Gerry Delgado were the ones who traveled to the school on Sunday night, and have spent hours since then on the paperwork. We can all agree, it's our kids who lose, when something like this happens.



Thieves recently targeted (and damaged) these freezers in the LCPCS kitchen.

Seasider Spotlight



Janice and Russ Roberts



Janice Roberts, reprinted from the 1988 LHES yearbook.

To some, this couple needs no introduction. But newcomers to the LCPCS `ohana might wonder "Who are these people who walk everywhere?"

They are Janice and Russ Roberts. Currently they serve as LCPCS substitute teachers, but they both have long and deep ties to the school and community. Janice Roberts served as the Laupāhoehoe school librarian from 1981 through 2006, and Russ Roberts spent 36 years as News Director for KHLO and KBIG. Now they are kind of a package team. "We reinforce each other in the class room," is how Mr. Roberts put it. When one is hired to sub, the other usually comes along to assist.

With so much history, they have seen a lot of changes, and a lot of faculty and staff come and go. "The main difference with the Charter is that there's local control," said Mr. Roberts, "but that means you need more parent participation." He stressed the need for parents to serve as coaches and chaperones, volunteer in classrooms, and attend board meetings. Mrs. Roberts is all about saying thank you to those who do so. "I'd like to say mahalo to all those involved in this charter school, not only to keep it alive but to help it thrive. It's wonderful to see the good intentions and the talents people have in the school and community."

And the walking? "It's active medication," says Mr. Roberts. They walk the same route, about 1.4 miles, twice a day, pretty much rain or shine. "People ask us what's in the bag," laughed Mrs. Roberts. "It's just umbrellas."