

Ka Lau

February 6, 2017

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Mega Important Meeting Alert...



Mark these important dates on your calendars! LCPCS parents, students, 'ohana and community members are cordially invited to meet with Director Garcia and talk story on:

Saturday, February 11 at 10:00 am or Wednesday, February 15 at 6:00 pm.

Saturday's meeting will be held in the **Pāpa'aloa Gym**, and Wednesday's meeting in the **LCPCS cafeteria**. Food will be provided, but if you'd like, bring a food item to share. If cannot, don't worry! Come anyway!

Topics will include Director Garcia's assessment after his first month at the school and his vision for the future; what it means to be a charter school; and how to best use funds earmarked for improving our campus facilities. Please join Director Garcia and other Seaside 'ohana to share your vision, energy and ideas. RSVP at 962-2200.

Māmalama Now Provides After-school Enrichment 5 Days a Week



Māmalama participants making a lei piko with native plants to add good mana to the classroom at the start of the new year.

It would probably not be an exaggeration to say that LCPCS's after-school enrichment activities are becoming famous! Certainly, they are one of the most welcome and popular effects of the charter conversion.

This semester, the enrichment program has undergone some alterations to help it become a little more sustainable, and to provide an invigorating, exciting place for K through 8th-grade students to hang out, five days a week, until 5:30 pm. The A+ program, which has sometimes served this purpose, requires a minimum enrollment which LCPCS often did not meet. Furthermore, for those families without State subsidies, A+ was pricey.

LCPCS's answer? Māmalama. For \$50 a month, any family, no matter what the income, can enter a child into Māmalama. (The price drops to \$25 a month for each additional kid.) Each afternoon, the students will eat a healthy snack, and then spend about an hour on homework. Tutoring is provided. Then, students will choose one of two daily enrichment classes (like hula, art, computer coding, Frisbee golf, yoga dance and more). The enrichment classes, as before, are taught by community members and school staff, who share

their own passions to open new worlds for the students. On Mondays, the middle school kids are bussed to Pa'auilo, where they join Pa'auilo Elementary and Intermediate students at the Koholālele Forest for an afternoon of history, culture and agriculture. The second bus run takes bus-riding kids home at 5:00 pm, although parents have until 5:30 to pick up their keiki at the school. Students can attend Māmalama just on certain days, or on all five days, depending on their families' needs.

Former Mahope director, Aaron Mickelson, is running Māmalama, so it's pretty much guaranteed that students will be enjoying a wide range of very cool activities. He will be assisted by Polet Rincon, and the school plans to hire a third instructor to help out. There are currently 38 kids enrolled, and there's a cap at 40, so if you are interested in enrolling your child, contact Aaron at aaron.mickelson@lcpcs.org right away!

Calendar

- Wednesday, February 8, 5:00 — Hui Makua (parent group) meeting, band room
- Wednesday, February 8, 5:00 to 6:30 pm — Junior Fundraiser, kalua and cabbage plate pickup, LCPCS cafeteria
- Saturday, February 11, 10:00 am — **Talk Story with Director Garcia**, Pāpa‘aloa Gym; *food will be provided!* RSVP 962-2200
- Wednesday, February 15, 6:00 pm — **Talk Story with Director Garcia**, LCPCS cafeteria; *food will be provided!* RSVP 962-2200
- Wednesday, February 15 — Save First! Deposit Day
- Friday, February 17 — Pre-K to Pana‘ewa Zoo
- Saturday, February 18, 1:00 pm — **Hui Makua clean-up fundraiser**, meet at Laupāhoehoe Point. See website for details.
- Monday, February 20 — NO SCHOOL, President’s Day

A Note from Director Garcia

Some of you may have already heard the good news that our school has received a three-year renewal from the State Charter School Commission! The renewal is due to the hard work that Kumu Liana Honda put into preparing the renewal application for submission, along with contributions of information and time from many of the staff. It is a direct reflection of the effective work that has been done to support student and organizational success.

Thank you Liana and team for your excellent work on behalf of the LCPCS community. Let’s continue to head in the direction of making our school a great place for students and staff to live, learn and grow.

Students Take Charge in 4th and 5th Grade!



Fifth-grader Shannon Bristol dissects a frog during “Genius Hour.”

Fourth and fifth grade teachers Megan Patten and Naomi Smith are doing something a little different with their students this year. It’s called Genius Hour. Once a week, students are given one hour to work on a project of their own design. “You help the students discover what they’re passionate about, and use that as a teaching vehicle,” says Mrs. Smith. The idea is to help the kids get excited about learning by letting them pursue a project that is unique to their own interests. Projects this year include baking and recipe creation, frog dissection, designing and sewing doll clothing, re-researching pig hunting, making a surfboard, and designing a motor for a paper airplane. The projects can consist entirely of research, but Mrs. Smith encourages the students to create an end product, if possible.

When the projects are complete, each student will then give a presentation on his or her subject to the other students. (Mrs. Smith is hoping to have students give their presentations at a parent night, but that is still in the planning stages.)

It’s been hard for some of the kids to get focused, admitted Mrs. Smith. “It’s a totally new concept for them to design their own learning. They just aren’t used to thinking out of the box like that.” But others are charging ahead with some really creative ideas. And *all* the kids are excited to pursue something that they are passionate about.