

# Ka Lau

March 6, 2017

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## School Renovation Wraps Up



The 4th grade celebrates in front of the classroom's new whiteboards.

The roughly three-million dollar whole-school renovation that started at LCPCS last May is wrapping up a little behind schedule, but no one's complaining, because the school looks fantastic. If any of you haven't been on campus recently, it's worth taking a look (just sign in at the front office first!).

The project involved several layers of contractors and subcontractors. SSFM International from O'ahu served as the project manager, and Summit Construction (also O'ahu) was the general contractor. Key Painting and LES Flooring, of Hilo, spent a *lot* of time at the school. Together, the contractors painted pretty much every surface available, replaced or refinished flooring, repaired

or replaced walls and ceilings as needed, repaired cabinetry, and replaced all the tack and white boards.

"We were really pleased with the way they worked with us to maintain the things that make this school unique, like all the wood in the columns and cabinets," said Business Manager Gerry Delgado. "They really tried to keep our original identity intact." For example, the construction crews had to custom build each new sliding whiteboard in the elementary classrooms to fit tracks that have probably been there since the school was built in early 1950s.

It's been a long time since the Laupāhoehoe campus has received this level of maintenance work: more than 18 years, at least, according to the staff who have been at the school the longest, although the auto shop roof was replaced, and there was some painting and work on the gym about ten years ago. (The courtyard buildings were re-roofed in a separate project at a cost of \$546,527 earlier this school year.) DOE is in charge of allocating maintenance funds issued via the legislative process, and controls maintenance funds for LCPCS because our campus is a DOE facility. Initially, this overall renovation was supposed to take place in 2010, remembers long-time employee Tracy Jardine. LCPCS wishes to thank the DOE for releasing the funds, and all the contractors for a job well done.

"The white boards are nice. The rooms feel less dusty and writing on the boards is less tedious for teachers and students," said senior Aaron Steffen. "The shininess of the varnished wood makes our school look authentic and pretty," added junior Gabrielle Glascock.

Seeing the extent of the work has generally helped students and staff feel more pride in the school, reported Mr. Delgado. "It makes me feel the school is headed in a positive direction, and that we're ready to turn over a new leaf, said one middle-school student.

## Calendar

- TODAY (March 6) 12:00 to 1:30 pm — Prom dress selection in band room for 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade girls. Mahalo to the YWCA and the Children's Justice Center of Hilo for this event.
- TONIGHT (March 6) 6:00 pm — Movie Night at the Laupāhoehoe Library. *Trolls* is the featured movie.
- Tuesday, March 7 — UHH production of the play, "Hot," at LCPCS for pre-K through 6<sup>th</sup> graders and Pa'auilo students
- Wednesday, March 8, 5:00 to 6:30 pm — Hui Makua (parent group) meeting, band room
- Friday, March 10 — 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades to zoo
- Monday, March 13, 12:30 to 2:00 pm — Community Partnerships meeting: a chance for community support groups from East Hawai'i to communicate and share priorities
- Wednesday, March 15 – Save First! Deposit Day
- March 20 through March 24 — SPRING BREAK; and Monday, March 27, NO SCHOOL, Prince Kūhiō Day
- March 31 — Memorial Service at Laupāhoehoe Point
- Saturday, April 8 — LAUPĀHOEHOE MUSIC FESTIVAL: Save the Date!! Tickets on sale, March 1

## A Note from Director Garcia

One of my goals for LCPCS is that we take advantage of opportunities to network with other schools and organizations to bring in resources that will help to support us in achieving our mission. Last week, a team of staff and students attended the 13th Annual Indigenous Education Conference at Kanu o ka 'Āina Public Charter School, in Waimea. We learned about ways that schools develop culturally-relevant curriculum and activities that teach Native Hawaiian history and engage students in projects that promote critical thinking through project-based learning. On the second day of the conference, our students participated in a leadership session with 200 students from charter schools throughout the Hawaiian Islands, learning about their role in promoting the success of charter schools in the State of Hawai'i. The students learned that their responsibility goes beyond what they do at school, to how they can serve as advocates and activists at legislative levels of charter school work. Our students and staff represented LCPCS well and I look forward to bringing more opportunities for networking and partnership development to our community.

## Mahalo to Fundraising Effort Participants!



Point Clean-up Crew  
February 18, 2017

Mahalo to the 30-some parents, kids and community members who helped pick up litter at Laupāhoehoe Point to earn \$1,000 for LCPCS! The clean-up was organized by Hui Makua members, in conjunction with the Ka Ipu 'Āina Program sponsored and funded by Matson. Thank you to the Hui Makua members, and thank you to Matson, and an especial thank you to the several members of the Hilo Lions Club who also showed up to help out. It was fun, the Point looks great, and Hui Makua has \$1,000 to use for teacher support and other programs.