

Ka Lau

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LCPCS Seniors Take One Last Class Expedition

Herding cats? Possibly, but secondary electives teacher Todd Otake said he had a lot of fun escorting seven LCPCS seniors to O'ahu several of weeks ago. The class raised \$5500 to fund the trip through Krispy Kreme doughnut, plate and candy sales, a food booth at last year's Music Festival, a rummage sale, and donations from generous sponsors. All seven seniors made the trip — Reese Baun, Royce Baun, Kaleo Borling-Ibanez, Gabrielle Glascock, Gabriel Navalta, Noelle Oscarson and Cyprus Wa'ahila.

The students assembled an itinerary beforehand, balancing desires and budget realities, and they accomplished a lot in five days. Destinations included: the Waikiki Aquarium; the Kualoa Ranch for a tour and a visit to the set locations of Jurassic Park/Jurassic World, Hawai'i Five O, and Godzilla; the Dole Plantation (where the Gaby Navalta claims the boys finished one of the world's largest mazes in 15 minutes.... hmm... where were the girls, and whatever happened to chivalry?); Hanauma Bay; and the Nation of Hawai'i in Waimānalo, a village, cultural center, and pu'uhonua (place of refuge). There, they got an insider tour of the 55-acre area, and agreed that it was a "really an eye-opening opportunity for us seniors." They also enjoyed a famous North Shore shrimp shack, Giovanni's; ice skating and go-kart racing (there's some question as to whether Mr. Otake or Kaleo and Gaby had the faster time!); and extras like huge pineapple swirl ice creams.



A line of LCPCS seniors shows in this TV coverage of the UH/Penn State game.

Reese Baun said that one of his favorite stops was Hanauma Bay. "We learned about the coral reefs and how we can preserve them," he said. "What I found fascinating was that the fish came right up to you."

There were several advantages of having Mr. Otake along. The students got to see where he grew up on the windward side, and also went to Mr. Otake's *alma mater*, Kamehameha Schools Kapālama, where his mother gave them a tour of the library, a student art showcase, and the school's digital media studios. Last but not the least advantage of having such a great chaperone was, in Gaby Navalta's words, the following:

"The last day we went to UH Mānoa to watch the Hawai'i men's volleyball team play Penn State. Out of nowhere, during the first set, Mr. Otake saw his sister in the front row in the courtside seats, and we got to meet her and her boyfriend. After Mr. Otake told them that I'm a huge fan of the team, Mr. Otake's sister gave me her seat in the VIP Courtside seats! It was truly an exhilarating experience for me because for the last 10 years I've been watching these games at home on TV. It was the best way to end the trip for me. I couldn't even imagine I would have that kind of opportunity."

The Governing Board is Seeking Nominations for New Members

As a charter school, LCPCS is guided by a Governing Board made up of local volunteers, as opposed to DOE employees in Honolulu. The Board has both elected members and appointed members. Elected members represent each of the five following groups: LCPCS instructional staff; LCPCS support staff; students; parents or family of current students; and the community at large.

Elected board members serve one or three-year terms, depending on the group they represent, and nominations and elections for new board members are held when current terms end. This spring, the Governing Board is seeking nominations for representatives from each of the above groups, excepting the students.

The nomination period will run from April 1 through April 20. Parents for family members may self-nominate, or nominate another within that category. Community members must reside between the Hakalau Bridge and the Ka'ala Bridge in O'okala, and may self-nominate, or nominate someone else meeting that requirement.

Voting will take place between April 30 and May 4. For more information, and directions on how to nominate yourself or someone else, go to lcpcs.org and click on the Administration Tab. From there, select "LCPCS Governing Board," and then "Support Your Local School."



Seasider Spotlight



Carrie Edgil

The consensus is in. Carrie Edgil is one of those teachers that goes above and beyond. "She's awesome," says colleague Paula Dickey. Officially a middle school special education teacher, Ms. Edgil is in addition crafting a Spanish curriculum for several middle school students, she chaperones field trips and overnights, she supports extracurricular activities and mentors after school, and she helped LCPCS kids create two beautiful murals at the Laupāhoehoe swimming pool. Among other things!

Ms. Edgil was born and raised in San Diego, and says, "Ever since I was in kindergarten, I knew I wanted to be a teacher." She grew up in a "pretty poor family," and put herself through college by working in restaurants, tutoring in Spanish, and babysitting. After a lot of hard work, she earned a BA in fine arts and a Master's Degree in Arts of Teaching (Education) from the University of San Francisco. She's says she's felt very welcomed at LCPCS. "There's a lot of creative energy here, a lot of love in this place," she mused.

Ms. Edgil has created about five murals on the Big Island. You can check one out at the corner of Waiānuenu Avenue and Keawe Street in Hilo, between the Hilo Hostel and Bears Coffee.