



LCPCS Students of the Year



Fifth-grader Audrey Mills during this spring's Ho'olaule'a

This spring, LCPCS has been placing an increasing emphasis not just on censoring unwanted behaviors, but on rewarding good behavior. As a part of this program, there have been prize auctions, drawings, student-of-the-month recognition and a new system of honor rolls. And for this year's final reward, LCPCS teachers and staff would like to recognize two *Students of the Year* (one from the elementary grades, and one from the secondary grades) for their academic excellence, leadership and citizenship.

Maika'i nui loa to fifth-grader Audrey Mills and senior Marina Merkulova for the honor of being named ***Students of the Year***.

According to fifth grade teacher Naomi Smith, "Audrey has worked hard to be at the top of the class in all academic areas. When she finds a concept difficult, she does not shy away, but jumps in and works harder to better understand. She is an excellent leader and a good listener who stands up for what she believes." Congratulations, Audrey.

Through her commitment and hard work, Marina Merkulova has become a leader and role model at LCPCS. According to Director Nahale-a, she leads by example, and performs at a consistently high level both academically and socially, yet remains deeply respectful, humble, kind and compassionate. Because Marina embodies all of the qualities we look for in an LCPCS graduate, says Director Nahale-a, she was chosen to be this year's valedictorian. In addition, Marina has just won the prestigious Dorrance Scholarship, a very competitive award that will provide her with all of the financial support she'll need to graduate from the University of Hawaii at Hilo. Best of luck to you in your bright future, Marina.



Senior Marina Merkulova

A Sneak Peek Into Next Year...

- A \$45,000 grant will help maintain an emphasis on social and emotional learning (SEL) for all grades. Two new SEL-focused curricula will teach kids the skills they need to set a path for social success and academic readiness.
- A \$5,000 grant will furnish a safe place on campus, or a kind of "oasis," for kids who need additional supports. Again, this is part of an increasing emphasis on stronger enforcement of safe and appropriate behaviors.
- Profiles will be developed for every student. These will include strengths, weaknesses, and goals, both academic and vocational. High school students will be using new software and on-line support to augment their profiles. This kind of visioning has been shown to help students establish a blueprint for success.

Paki's Kūkākūkā

Anyone who has taken the time to participate in our strategic planning process, our Continuous School Improvement processes, and our numerous community engagement efforts, will know that we are trying to build a great school. But what does it really take to do that? It takes working hard to improve in the short term while laying the groundwork for long term success. In this past year, we've achieved a number of planning milestones, like our Strategic Plan and our academic assessments. We've also added new curriculum and instructional practices, as well as provided a variety of enrichment and after-school programs. We've also added several community engagement activities, including a monthly town hall meeting, numerous dinner nights with families, and public health screenings, and continued to improve both internal and external communications systems.

We're also working on our economic situation. We have the highest enrollment in decades, and, all totaled, have increased revenue by well over one hundred thousand dollars. At the same time, we've worked hard to minimize costs and be as frugal as possible.

Yet, if we want to improve, we must first understand the challenges our school is facing. Emotional and behavioral issues continue to be a challenge, for a variety of socio-economic reasons. Still, one of our founding principles is that "Every Student Is Known and Valued," and we'll stick by that. As a K through 12 school, we have to keep the little ones safe and secure, while at the same time meeting the needs of older students whose behavior requires extra attention.

To be successful moving forward, especially if we want to achieve excellence, we're going to have to truly come together as a community. I know that we have what it takes to do this, and if we are diligent, we can do it quickly. Please be ready to join us in this effort next year. Until then, from all of us at LCPCS, have a fantastic summer. See you in the fall!

Sneak Peek, continued

- Middle school students will be learning life skills and contributing to the school community through mini-internships around the school. All high school students will be placed in formal internship positions. This might include working with Hilo-based and local businesses like the Hāmākua Mushroom Farm; alongside local politicians or civic leaders; with professionals in the school's auto and wood shops; in local museums; or with faculty at HCC or UH-Hilo. The possibilities are limitless.
- Teachers will be given more time and support in order to meet higher teaching standards. Standards-based curricula will help monitor progress.
- There will be greater partitioning between middle-schoolers and high school students. Students will be expected to remain in their respective areas to help keep the younger kids in a secure age-appropriate environment.
- All secondary students will be provided with their own computer (Chromebook) to use for the year.



News from the Library

CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK POSTER CONTEST WINNERS 2015 — LCPCS

- Kindergarten 1st Place -- Leo McCann; *Honorable Mention*: Anna Fox, Makayla Skipper and Riley Roberts
- First Grade 1st Place -- McKayla Real; *Honorable Mention*: Angel Licus, Zoe Russo and Rosabella Magoon
- Second Grade 1st Place -- Marina McNally; *Honorable Mention*: Kekai Salazar, Zsanna Mercia and Beaudin Schad
- Third Grade 1st Place -- Ava-amalia Aguirre; *Honorable Mention*: Abigail Nadeau, Mahina Crowley and Bransyn AhChoy
- Fourth Grade 1st Place -- Ellarain Moore; *Honorable Mention*: Angelica Merkulov, Ginger Johnson and Jeanine Itliong
- Fifth Grade 1st Place -- Inna Zagumennaya; *Honorable Mention*: Haaheo DeLuz, Jaselyn Mahoe Subica, Aliza Gonsales, Amaya Barrientos and Rowan Chhay

SUMMER READING PROGRAM

The 2015 Summer Reading Program at the Laupāhoehoe Library begins June 2, and readers of all ages are encouraged to sign up. Besides the pleasure of reading, participants receive weekly prizes and entrance in a lottery for (among other things) a notebook computer, pizza and free DVD rentals. The program also features craft activities and guest performers. **Don't miss slack key guitar artist John Keawe at 1:00 pm, June 18 at our very own Laupāhoehoe Library.** See your friendly library staff for details!

Summer Stuff

Joey Martin and Aretta Martin, LCPCS basketball heroes that they are, will be coordinating a Parks and Rec girls' basketball team for girls ages 10 through 12. The program is open to any appropriately-aged girls, not just LCPCS students. Practice will be held in the LCPCS gym. For more information, call Joey (640-1934) or Aretta (769-0684).

Mālama `Āina Foundation is continuing the Mahope middle school program this summer, from June 15 through July 10, on Mondays and Wednesdays from 8:00 to 10:00 am. Activities incorporate next-generation science and common core math and reading standards; all participants use iPads; kids learn about Hawaiian culture through project-based learning. Contact LCPCS science teacher Aaron Mickelson at aaron.mickelson@lcpcs.org for more information.

The Department of Parks and Recreation is holding its annual summer fun program at the Papa`aloa Gym, June 8 through July 17, Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm. It is for kids who have completed kindergarten up through sixth-graders, and costs \$100. Registration is from noon to 8:00 pm, from Monday, April 1st through Thursday, May 28, and from 7:45 am to 4:30 pm on Friday, May 29, at the Papa`aloa Gym. Contact Aaron Wong at 962-2103 for more information.

LCPCS is hosting a volleyball camp, June 27th. In the past, they've had the beginners in the morning and the more experienced players in the afternoon. This year's details to be announced. Call Loida for more information, 962-2200.

Seasider Spotlight

The 2015 Graduates

Top, L to R: Aryah Esposito, Cora Garcia, Victoria Jose
Bottom, L to R: Amber Vallespin, Jiether Jabilona, Marina Merkulo

