



Ka Hale Kula 'O Waimea

September 2014

<http://waimeaca.hidoe.us> or <http://www.waimeacanyonmiddleschool.us>

9555 Huakai Road

Waimea, HI 96796

Phone: 338-6830

Important Dates to Add to Your Calendar

Sept. 9 - Mid-Qtr. Progress Reports Go Home

Sept. 15-19 - Parent /Teacher Conferences. Students released at 12:00 daily

Oct. 3 - Last day of Quarter 1 Students participate in Career Day activities

Oct. 6-10 – Fall Break, No school

Oct. 13 – Students report back to school for Quarter 2

Oct. 17 – Teacher Institute Day, no school

Waimea Canyon Middle School is ADA accessible. Contact the school office to request for accommodations to participate in school events.

Help us stay in touch with you!

Please call the school office at 338-6830 or send a note whenever you have a change of address, contact phone number, or family arrangement.

Dear Parents/Guardians, Staff, Community Members, and Students,

Currently in its second year, the *STRIVE HI* Performance System is Hawaii's new school accountability and improvement system. It was approved in May 2013 to replace components of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) of 2001.

Celebrate! The *STRIVE HI* results were released and Waimea Canyon Middle School was the 4th most improved school on the island of Kauai! Out of a total of 400 possible points, WCMS moved from 137 to 234 – that's a 97 point gain! As such, WCMS continues to be in "Continuous Improvement" but with significant gains. I will present the data at our first School Community Council Meeting on Wednesday, September 24 at 5:30pm in the library. Celebrate!

And let's not forget about the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) that are being taught in all English Language Arts (ELA) and Math classes with the new Hawaii endorsed curriculum. ELA is teaching *Springboard* and Math is teaching *GOMATH*. Students in the Spring of 2015 will be taking the Smarter Balanced Assessment which will include a performance assessment task. Throughout this school year, I will be attaching information to this newsletter on both the CCSS and the new assessment.

As a reminder, WCMS is implementing and growing as a TRIBES school. I am confident that TRIBES will contribute to a great learning environment that supports academic achievement. The 4 TRIBES mutual agreements are:

1. Mutual Respect
2. Attentive Listening
3. Appreciation/No Put Downs
4. Right to Pass.

Take a moment and ask your child about TRIBES as WCMS.

I look forward to seeing you on September 24th at 5:30pm in the library for our first SCC meeting/data sharing.

Show your Minihune pride!

Melissa Speetjens

Principal

Message from the Newswriting Class



As school year 2014-2015 unfolds, you will see the WCMS Newswriting class slowly take over the Ka Hale Kula O' Waimea newsletter. Students will apply what they learn in class to keep everyone informed of the events, activities, and news at WCMS. Can you tell which articles were written by students? Happy Reading!

Attention Parents!



This year your child will be logging in to Teenbiz3000, a differentiated online reading program. Parents are encouraged to participate and get involved. Your child should have brought home a letter describing the program and how to log on. There is also a parent account that can be accessed with a security code. If you did not receive a code, you can contact your child's Social Studies teacher for one. The access is free for WCMS students and parents.

Gr.6 Mrs. Shimomura – ext. 123

Gr.7 Ms. Muranaka – ext. 141

Gr. 8 Mr. Kishida – ext. 153

Take Care of Your IDs!

School IDs are the property of Waimea Canyon Middle School. It is considered vandalism if a student covers their photo with stickers, scratches out their picture, cuts or mutilates the card. If ID cards are in one of these conditions, students must return the card to its original condition or face consequences. Replacing a mutilated or lost ID card is \$5.00.

ASBESTOS NOTICE

Correction to August 2014 newsletter

The August newsletter incorrectly listed Mr. Randall Higa as the contact person for information about the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA). The correct person to contact is Mr. Gary Bignami at the Safety, Security, and Emergency Preparedness Branch.



An Easy Way to Earn Cash for Waimea Canyon Middle School!

Each box top is worth 10 cents and adds up to 'free' cash for our school!

1. Buy your favorite Box Tops products.
2. Cut the Box Top from each package.
3. Have your child bring your Box Tops to the school office.
4. WCMS will reach its goal of \$1,000 for technology equipment!

WCSM Minihune

Lego League is in Training



Students are starting to train for the first Lego League Mindstorms competition which will be happening in November. They are meeting during lunch recess in Room O-101 and after school. Students who are interested in joining this enthusiastic group should contact Mrs. Togioka at 338-6830 ext.146 WCMS has been very fortunate to have the support of the Kauai Economic Development Board which has provided financial and moral support to the Robotics program at WCMS. Their grant awards were used to purchase kits and project mats. Mahalo KEDB!

Meet Some of Our New Teachers



Her last name sounds kind of like a brand of chicken many of us eat but it's spelled Theisen, not Tyson. I'm talking about a new teacher here at WCMS. Ms. Kimberly Theisen teaches 6th, 7th, and 8th graders in English and Social Studies classes. She went to Madison University in Wisconsin and studied International Law, Political Science, and has a Master's degree in education.

What Ms. Theisen values most in students is their curiosity, creativity, and honesty. Her favorite thing about teaching is being with young people, helping them, and seeing them grow. We are fortunate to have her as a teacher at WCMS! Say hi to her when you see her around campus.
by Krystal Papa

The new 6th grade Science teacher, Mrs. Deborah Rowe, may be a stranger to some of you...but not for long. Her friendly smile can be found in the 6th grade section of WCMS, look for her and welcome her to our school.



Mrs. Rowe has been a teacher for 10 years. She taught at Chiefess Kamakaha Middle School, then at Creston Middle School and Knoxville High School in Iowa. She went to college at the University of Northern Iowa and got her Master's degree at Grand Canyon University. To her, a good student is someone who pays attention, asks good questions, is helpful, respectful, and comes to her class prepared to learn. She sounds like a teacher who is ready to teach!
by Amber Drake



Ms. Brown is part of Team Kina'ole and teaches math to 6th, 7th, and 8th graders. She went to Athens, Ohio to study fashion merchandising and later went to DePaul University in Chicago for her teaching degree. She recently completed her 2nd Master's degree. Ms. Brown wanted to become a teacher because she used to tutor in a school that had gangs and gunshots. She realized that kids needed help and care so she decided to become a teacher.

Ms. Brown likes teaching because she really likes to get to know her students. She loves when kids figure things out in class. When that light bulb goes on, it makes her really happy and proud. The reason Ms. Brown chose to teach math is because when she was growing up she struggled in math and she realized that math is in everything you do. She wanted to help make sure kids 'get' math so it will be easier for them in the future. We are glad to have you at WCMS.
by Kaira Kelekoma

Annual Notification of Privacy Rights

Know your privacy rights as they apply to 1) student record information; 2) directory information; 3) surveys and other information collection; and 4) military recruitment information. For more information on your privacy rights, the laws that protect them, and how to exercise your rights, contact your school administrator or visit <http://bit.ly/FERPAHI>



Hui Nalu parents are attentive listeners at Back to School Night – Aug. 12, 2014

We're avid about AVID!



2014 BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF HAWAII FLAG FOOTBALL LEAGUE

**STARTS IN SEPTEMBER & ENDS IN
NOVEMBER**

(SPECIFIC DATES TBA)

**For registration form please call Cherilyn at
338- 6830 or 855-5584.**

AVID stands for Achievement Via Individual Determination. AVID’s mission is to close the achievement gap by preparing all students for college readiness and success in a global society. AVID is a college readiness system which includes a regularly scheduled elective class based on writing as a tool of learning, the inquiry method, organization and collaborative grouping.

In June, a team of 7th grade teachers (Ms. Muranaka – Social Studies, Mrs. Clarke – Language Arts and Mrs. Yamagata – Science), Mrs. Franco and Mrs. Speetjens attended the AVID Summer Institute in Honolulu. They learned about the AVID system and learned strategies to use with their students. They returned with a plan of implementation.

The AVID school-wide focus for this year is organization. Each team re-visited the use of the school planner and developed a plan for how to use it systemically. Planner expectations were communicated to students and parents. If you weren’t able attend our Open House, please ask your child about their team’s planner expectations! Team Hui Nalu (the 7th grade team) will be using specific AVID strategies with their classrooms such as Cornell note-taking. Mr. Kabutan, the elective teacher, is working with 14 selected students in the AVID elective class. This elective class focuses on skills and strategies needed to be college ready! We look forward to implementing our AVID program this school year! If you have any questions about AVID, please call Mrs. Franco (AVID Coordinator) at ext. 169.

**GAMES WILL ME PLAYED AT WAIMEA,
LIHUE, & KAPAA**

LEAGUE DIVISION

ELEMENTARY: coed 7-10 yrs old

MIDDLE: coed 11-13 yrs old

HIGH: coed 14-17 yrs old



SIGN-UP At Portable 2

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### **Important Reminder!**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Bus Payments due  
September 19, 2014**

Round Trip- \$72.00

One Way- \$36.00

Coupons- \$12.50 (sheet of 10)

Please make checks payable to:

**Department of Education**

# ADVICE COLUMN

Dear Minihunes,

I am making new friends at middle school and I'm really happy but I have a friend from elementary school who is really jealous about this. She doesn't want me to hang out with other people. She says that if I do, she won't be my friend. I want to make new friends but I also want to keep the old. What should I do?  
Signed, Stuck in the Middle

Dear Stuck in the Middle,

I am glad that you are making new friends but having your old friend tell you what to do is unacceptable. One thing you can do in this situation is you can try to introduce your old friend to your new friend. That way you can all be friends in a group.

From, a wise minihune (Azea Minia)

Dear Stuck in the Middle,

Real friends won't tell you to not be someone's friend. If she were my friend, I wouldn't worry about her, but that's my opinion. Since you want to stay friends, I suggest that you talk things out with her and find out exactly why she is jealous and come to an agreement you both can live with. The more you know about each other's views, the better you can come up with a solution. If she still can't agree, it's time to get new friends.

From, a wise minihune (Samantha Bostick)

Dear Stuck in the Middle,

You are bound to make new friends but you can't forget the old ones. Your friend just feels like you will get stolen from her if you get closer to other people. Just let your friend know that won't happen. You love her (as a friend) but you also love having other friends. You should encourage her to make new friends too then she won't feel abandoned. Let her tag along so you can make new friends together. Tell her, "It'll be fun," and things like, "It's kind of lonely with just us," or "Having another friend in our group would be cool," or anything that will make the idea of making new friends sound good. Hope this helped.

From, a wise minihune (Brandie Aguinaldo)

## Don't Forget!

The free and reduced-price meal benefits carried over from last year will end on Sept. 15, 2014. If you have not already done so, submit an application as soon as possible. Online applications are available at <https://ezmealapp.com> or via a link on the HI DOE website, [hawaiidoe.org](http://hawaiidoe.org).



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Special **Mahalo** to Dupont Pioneer from the
Family and Consumer Science Class

Thanks to Dupont Pioneer, the Family and Consumer Science elective classes will soon be able to start cooking delicious meals. A generous donation from Dupont Pioneer is being used to purchase raw ingredients for cooking and nutrition units. Students in these elective classes will learn how to put together healthy meals for their families. The classes, which were previously called Home Economics, started up again after several years and have an updated Career and Technology Education pathway for students. Room O-102's kitchen facilities have been restocked with new cooking and baking equipment, and everything from dish towels to pot holders had to be replaced. Now, thanks to Pioneer's generosity, the students have the ingredients to work with as they learn to follow recipes!

