

The CSSS School



Personalized Classroom
Climate - Differentiated
Classroom Practices -
Prevention - Early
Intervention - Family
Involvement - Supports for
Transition - Community
Outreach and Support -
Specialized Assistance -
Crisis and Emergency
Support

August 2007

The new school year is underway and everyone is looking forward to an exciting, promising year. Students are open to the world of possibilities; teachers are hopeful for a successful year. But success is not guaranteed, and certainly not likely to happen by chance. Begin by laying the ground work for a successful year.



Take Time To...

transition into the new year, the new class, the new school. The sooner students feel comfortable with their surroundings and you, the sooner they can focus their energy on learning.

- *create* a learning community where students are confident, sharing, and caring of each other. Teach them the social and emotional (and perhaps the physical) skills necessary for each and all of them to feel successful.
- *initiate* communication with families. Share plans, goals, activities in which family members might

participate.

- **build** early academic success (>75%) so students feel confident about their abilities to continue learning (especially important for new middle school students). Demonstrate what students must do, how they should do it, and at what level of performance. Teach the essential elements required for success -- do not leave them unspoken or "understood". Demonstrate, as concretely as possible, what is good and what is acceptable.
 - **venture** through a "scenic route" -- one that teaches the essential skills (meets the benchmarks) AND incorporates student interests.
 - **review** planned units with an eye on what is developmentally appropriate for students. Look for a lesson or lessons in each unit which can be re-worked to take advantage of students' social, physical, and cognitive strengths. Build in differentiation and variety that keep the brain alert!
-

Pearl Harbor Kai Kids Care

Patricia Doty, Pearl Harbor Kai Elementary, Parent Community Network Center Coordinator (PCNC)

"Ask not what the community can do for the Pearl Harbor Kai Ohana but what the Pearl Harbor Kai Ohana can do for the community."

To Begin...

I discovered the Kids Care Club web site when looking for a way my three boys could help the



victims of Hurricane Katrina. I shared information about the club and plans for implementation with Mrs. Elynn Chung, Principal. Mrs. Chung enthusiastically granted permission to organize and hold club meetings on school property.

In April of 2006 the PHK Kids Care Club held its first

meeting; there were 45 children and six parents. We began what was thought to be a small caring collection of new and gently used stuffed animals. When all was said and done, we had over 300 toys and the Kids Care Club was off and running. I then scrambled to find recipients for all the toys. Before the end of the month these toys were distributed to a temporary family shelter in Kaka'ako, the Armed Forces YMCA, a shelter for battered women on the Leeward coast and Tripler's Fischer House (the military version of Ronald McDonald House).

During the next school year the students and parents were able to plan and implement ten service projects. There was not a day that went by that someone did not ask, "When is the next Kids Care Club meeting?" or "What is our next project going to be?"

Goals...

The goal was to create partnerships with the local community through public service and to give military families of Pearl Harbor Kai the opportunity to become involved in community service. Having a working club with planned projects allows a new family to quickly become involved in the school community and in community service. We are fortunate to have military and civilian partners willing to work with the children on various projects.

The mission set forth for the Kids Care Club is to help others in the local and global community. We want our children to learn compassion, social responsibility, and their personal power to make a difference. By helping others, they develop a spirit of service and positive self-esteem. The children help the community through hands-on service projects and learn that "Caring is Cool".

Continuing on...

The administration, faculty, staff, students and parents are committed to continuing the Kids Care Club program. The third grade class donated its proceeds from their hydroponic garden and in March a grant was applied for and received from Boutiki. (The shop, located on the Pearl Harbor Navy Base, is an all volunteer non-profit resale corporation that has been in operation since 1973. All proceeds from sales are distributed annually to various worthwhile causes.) We were fortunate to receive \$800 to be used as seed money for next year's activities.

My family and I will be leaving the Pearl Harbor Kai Ohana in June, but I plan to keep tabs on the club. Mrs. Lynn McIntosh, our new PCNC, will be coordinating the club's activities during the 2007-2008 school year. If you have questions, she can be reached at 421-4245. For more information on creating your own Kids Care Club, go to <www.kidscare.org>

The club addresses: General Learner Outcome:
Community Contributors -- the understanding that it is essential for human beings to work together.

Hawaii Department of Education Strategic Plan:

- Section 2.2 -- students will be caring, responsible, contributing participants in a democratic society
- Strategy 2.2.1 -- schools will develop and implement comprehensive programs that include parents and community members in nurturing civic responsibility among students

Projects Planned and Implemented in 2006-2007

"*We've Got Your Back*" was planned and completed in August. School supplies were collected and donated to the temporary family shelter in Kaka'ako.

"*Share a Snack*" in October was with the Institute for Human Services (IHS) Women's and Children's shelter. The club members collected \$286 to buy supplies to bake healthy snacks and purchase milk and juice. The students decided to "adopt" the IHS Women's and Children's Shelter and focus efforts to meet their needs.

In December, the students designed, produced, and sent holiday cards to our



school's family members deployed during the holidays. We heard several units overseas were having difficulty finding cards to send home, so we asked Mark's Hallmark in Aiea if they had any extra cards. Their manager, Wendy Higgins, provided cards and became a valuable member of our Kids Care Club Ohana.

Donated supplies made holiday decorations for our adopted shelter. Several club members and their families decided (on their own) to participate in the Holiday Hope Chest program. About 40 gifts were prepared and delivered to Tripler's Fischer House, a local church, and the IHS Women's and Children's Shelter.

Because of our work with the IHS shelter, we were invited to the Governor's Inauguration. Forty-five students and chaperones attended. The students gave Governor Lingle and Lieutenant Governor Aiona each a lei and the Lt. Governor talked to the children. We also received community support from Navy Exchange Hawaii who provided transportation to the event.

Two projects were completed in February. First, Valentine cards and crafts were collected, made, and donated to "our" shelter. Next, we signed up for the annual whale count. We had a small but determined group at Ewa Beach Park who learned a lot about whales from the site coordinators of the National Marine Sanctuary.

Earth Day was EVERYDAY. We sponsored a school-wide recycling project in April. For one week aluminum cans and plastic bottles were collected and counted to see which grade level would bring in the most. The fourth grade classes won with over 1400 cans and bottles! A total of \$293.45 was raised to donate to the National Marine Sanctuary and to provide supplies for the May project. With help from the school's custodian, Bernard Daoang, the students also planted a tree on campus.

As the year came to a close, we continued full speed ahead. A school-wide project was sponsored by the club and AmeriCares; 122 Healthy Kid Kits were assembled by teachers, students, and community partners. Kits were distributed to local shelters with two boxes sent to AmeriCares. The Hana Group, our civilian partner, joined several classrooms for the project and provided funding for shipping to AmeriCares.

The club made Mother's Day gifts for the IHS Shelter.

Supplies were purchased to make up a small bundle of soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, hair scrunchy and wash cloth that was delivered with a hand-made Mother's Day card.

The final project for the 2006-2007 school year was the annual "Sew a Lei for Memorial Day" project. We were able to make 52 white and pink plumeria lei.

Finally, our club members also participated in the school's ongoing support of the Leukemia Society's Pennies for Patients Program and American Heart Association's Jump Rope for Heart project.

Student Support Services Branch (SSSB)

- Dr. Paul Ban, Director
- Dr. Steve Shiraki, SSSB Administrator
- Lois Matsuda, Educational Specialist, CSSS Implementation
- 641 18th Ave. Room V201, Honolulu, HI 96819
- (808) 735-6222
- for back issues of The CSSS School, go to:
<doe.k12.hi.us/periodicals/csss>