

Waiau Parent Bulletin

"Kūlia i ka Nu'u - Strive for the highest"

Quarter 2, 2017



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www.waiauelementary.org

Principal's Message

Dear Waiau Families and Friends,

I have been blessed to be a part of the Pearl City Complex of schools as a proud principal and as a proud parent. My two youngest children will be graduating from Pearl City High School this year. I am thankful for the opportunities our Pearl City Schools have given them. They were able to participate in multiple sports during high school and this gave me an opportunity to cheer them on as well as all the other student athletes.

Over the last seven years I have been to many high school events and paid special attention to the students that attended Waiau. From band concerts to sporting events, I can honestly say that our students from Waiau have held true to our Waiau core values and have conducted themselves in ways that make us proud. I have seen our students display good sportsmanship, perseverance, dedication, commitment and toughness. A good example of this is this year's varsity football team. Although the team was undersized against most of their opponents, they made it to the OIA Division 2 championship game. Unfortunately, they lost in the championship game by one point. I witnessed this group of young men come together as a team and play selflessly for each other and put their team's goals first.

Waiau's role in the educational lives of our students is to partner with our parents to set a solid foundation of academics and values for our students. We continue to encourage our students to participate in co-curricular activities such as chorus, hui ukulele, media/yearbook, violin, math team, basketball, and track. We believe that our students should have a well-rounded education. Students that get involved in co-curricular activities learn valuable life lessons that are taught in real life authentic situations. Values such as dedication, commitment, perseverance, teamwork, sacrifice, sportsmanship, etc. become clear and important in these activities.

As I continue to attend Pearl City High School's events I know I will see many of our Waiau students and I am certain they will exhibit values in their actions that will make me proud.

Sincerely,

Troy Takazono, Principal



School Spirit - Waiau Wednesday

Wear a **Waiau School shirt** or the color red every Wednesday to show your school spirit. Shirts will be on sale at our Parent Orientations and from the front office thereafter.

Mondays are college readiness days.
Help us promote college readiness by wearing a college shirt or Pearl City purple – Go Chargers!

Aloha Fridays.

Wear 'aloha' on Fridays and spread the Aloha spirit and our core values.

WAIAU PARKING LOT



Waiau's Parking Lot is small and we ask everyone to be courteous and patient during the drop off and the pick up of your students. We have changed the zone at the front curb of the parking lot to be a loading zone. We are considering other adjustments to help the flow of cars in and out of our parking lot. Please be safe and considerate of others while driving. Mahalo!

- 1. Park in designated "VISITOR" stalls only.**
 - No parking in STAFF stalls 7:15 am to 3 pm
 - No double parking allowed.
- 2. The entire curb fronting the school office and cafeteria is for quick drop-off /pick-up only.**
 - Drivers should not exit the car.
 - Seat students on the RIGHT side of vehicle for safe exit.
 - Pull forward along the curb while waiting.
 - Do not block bus shelter area.
- 3. NO PARKING by red curbs and coned areas.**
- 4. Cars in handicapped stalls must display a PLACARD or have a special license plate.**
- 5. Children should not walk through the parking lot traffic alone.**

TRAFFIC & PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

To ensure the safety of those crossing in the crosswalks, the following will be enforced.

**RIGHT TURNS ONLY FROM PARKING LOT EXIT: 7:00-8:30 am
1:00-3:00 pm**

Our crossing guard, Mrs. Yoza, Mr. Fong, Mrs. O and the JPOs monitor student safety to and from campus. Please help us by following all traffic rules, setting a good example, and teaching your children to obey the crossing guards and JPOs.



Campus Work



Our current campus improvement projects re-grading/ landscaping of our center courtyard is still being worked on. Please use walkways and avoid touching the orange barrier around the courtyard. Thank you!

Statewide Hawaiian Immersion 'Aha Kauleo Meeting Hosted by Waiau

This year, Waiau and the entire Hawaiian Language Immersion education program are celebrating our 30th year of educating students in the kaiapuni program. On November 18th, Waiau welcomed the members of the 'Aha Kauleo back to Waiau, one of the original sites of kaiapuni education! Each of the 16 schools across the state is represented by one administrator, teacher and parent per school. These members meet with representatives from Hawaiian organizations, the Department of Education and the Board of Education to guide and advocate for Hawaiian Immersion education. Our new Deputy Superintendent Unebasami was actively engaged in the morning sessions to plan for strategic actions on our goals for the DOE.

Hosting the 75 members was no easy task and we would like to send a thank you out to all of the parents who donated breakfast, snack and lunch items so that the 'Aha Kauleo members had the energy and comfort to sustain a day of challenging conversations. We would also like to recognize the following teachers and parents for helping to set up early Saturday morning: Andrea Dias, Leilani Mercado, Mona Chan, Mrs. Kurasaki, Mrs. Cegler, and Mrs. Yamamoto, and a HUGE Mahalo for the following parents and teachers who gave up their entire day to make this meeting run smoothly: Leona Gormley, Kumu Kanoe, Kumu Mahealani, Kumu Ke'alohe, Kumu U'i, Kumu 'Iwalani, Kumu Kanoelani, and Kumu Aulia.

CALENDAR of EVENTS



November

23-24 Thanksgiving Holiday (No School)

December

2 Waiau School Fund Raiser Pickup

8 Movie Night- Sunset at Waiau

14 6th Grade Brownie Pickup

22- January 4th Winter Break (No School)

January

5 Teacher Workday(No School)

15 Martin Luther King Jr. Day (No School)

Future events: Career day- 2/2, Fun Run- 2/14

School Community Council

The School Community Council (SCC) would like to hear from you! The SCC is a way for parents and community members to collaborate with Waiau Elementary School. The parent representatives Mr. and Mrs. Kapali would like to hear your voice. If you have ideas for Waiau Elementary, or general questions about Waiau, please email them:

stevekapali@gmail.com

natasha.kapal@gmail.com

If you have specific questions about teachers, grades, policy or procedures please call the office.

Waiau Needs Your Help!

We are looking for help with the crossing guard duty in the morning and afternoons. This job is important as it ensures the safety of our students crossing the busy Ho'okanike St. in the morning and afternoons. If you are able to do this crossing guard duty please inquire with the front office. Thank you!

We also still need another Cafeteria Lunch Supervisor. You would be monitoring our students in the cafeteria during lunch, assisting students and monitoring lunch room behaviors. If you would like to help us in this capacity please inquire with the front office. Thank you!

Congratulations to the Basketball Teams!

The 5th and 6th grade basketball teams have just played in the Pearl City Complex basketball tournament. The 5th graders played a total of six games and went to the championships! At the championships the 5th grade team challenged and defeated PCHES to take the trophy back to Waiau!

The 6th graders played hard and lost in the heart breaking semi-finals against Palisades by one point.

Thank you Coach Scott Fong and Assistant Coach Gregg Sato for your dedication.

Read Across Waiau - Thank You!

Waiau wanted to thank all those who helped in the Read Across Waiau event. Reading is the key to preparing for future success and by reading 20 minutes a day a student will be exposed to 282,000 words a year! The students enjoyed guest readers and interesting stories being shared in their classes. Kumu Kane, Mr. Ohta and Mrs. Cegler also put together an assembly for the entire school to enjoy a dramatic reading of a great story. We want to thank Zan Timtim, Officer Kevin Ancog, Sandy Fujikawa, Kumu Mahealani Harris, Ashley Nagaoka, Kimo Artis and Steve Kapali for being guest readers for our students. Let's keep on reading to ensure a bright future for all students!

*Last Reminder: Please **do not** feed the Birds/ Chickens on campus. Thank you!

Home & School

Working Together for School Success

CONNECTION®

November 2017

Wai'au Elementary School



SHORT NOTES

Practice patience

Patience is a lifelong skill that will help your youngster in school—and in life. The key is knowing how to pass time pleasantly while waiting so he doesn't feel anxious or frustrated. Together, come up with special "waiting activities" like saying the alphabet backward or counting down with the crosswalk sign.

A future job

Help your child make the connection between school and the career she could have someday. Point out workers using school subjects like a nurse writing on a chart or a TV weather forecaster describing a cold front. Also, friends and relatives might tell your child what they studied in school and how it's related to their jobs.

See that illustration?

Understanding the meaning of images in books, magazines, and newspapers will boost your youngster's reading comprehension. To build *visual literacy*, ask your youngster to explain what's happening in illustrations and graphics. He might even enjoy making up his own captions.

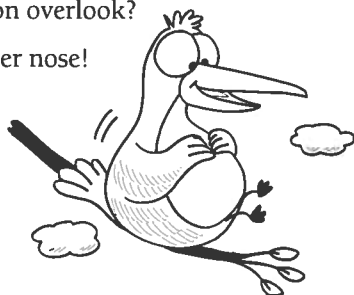
Worth quoting

"Adventure is worthwhile in itself."
Amelia Earhart

JUST FOR FUN

Q: What does even the most careful person overlook?

A: Her nose!



Doing my own homework

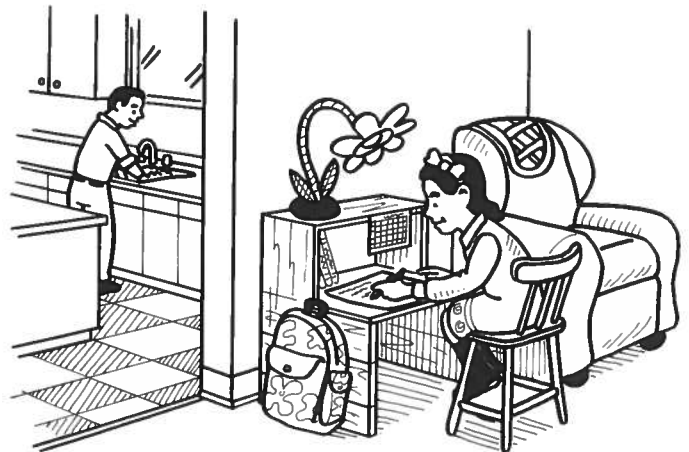
When your child is the one responsible for her homework, she will form good habits that will benefit her throughout her school career. Use these tips to help your youngster be independent at homework time.

Your child's job: Let her choose a usual place and time for homework. That will make her more likely to stick with her routine.

She may want to work at the kitchen table after school or at her desk after dinner.

How to help: Make sure your family's evening activities don't interfere with homework time. From time to time, ask your youngster whether she needs more supplies, such as pencils, erasers, markers, or glue.

Your child's job: She should tackle homework on her own. Not only will this help her learn, it will also show the teacher how well she understands the material.



How to help: If your youngster gets stuck, suggest that she reread the directions or look for similar examples in her book. Offer to play study games with her. Also, check to see that her homework is finished.

Your child's job: It's up to her to hand in completed work. She can find a way to remind herself, maybe by posting a note on her backpack.

How to help: Together, choose a visible spot to keep her backpack and anything else she needs for school. ♥

An attitude of gratitude

Around Thanksgiving, people often talk about what they're thankful for. These activities can inspire your youngster to express gratitude now—and all year long.

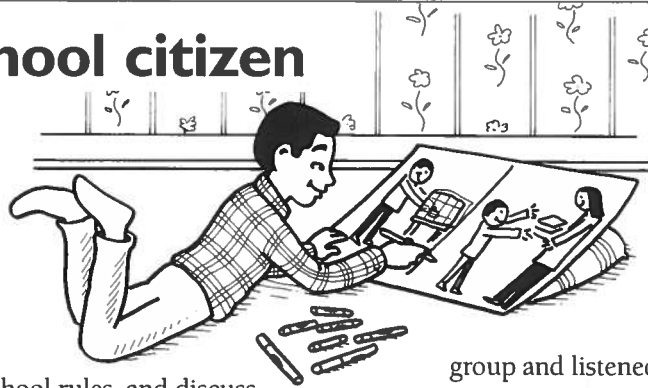
On the calendar. Brainstorm categories of things to be grateful for, such as people and nature. On a calendar, list one category per day for a week. Then each day, have family members name something they're grateful for in that category (a healthy grandparent, a beautiful fall day).

Behind the gift. When your child receives a gift, ask him to think about what the giver put into it. For instance, if his aunt sends him a sweater that he doesn't like, he might say it was nice that she took the time to find out what style is popular with kids his age. ♥



Be a good school citizen

Your child can make his school a better place to learn and play by following school rules and being considerate of his fellow students. Encourage him to be a good school citizen with these ideas.



Follow rules

Have your youngster name school rules, and discuss what would happen if they didn't exist. What if no one had assigned seats? (People might waste time deciding where to sit.) What if students could run in the hallways? (They might get hurt.) He'll see why it's important to follow the rules—just like people must obey laws.

group and listened to others without interrupting.

Do your part

Every school citizen has an important role to play, and helping teachers and classmates is a part of that role. Suggest that your youngster draw himself doing classroom jobs like feeding the class guinea pig or delivering papers to the office.♥

Be considerate

Part of good citizenship is treating others the way you want to be treated. Ask your child to share examples of considerate things he did today. Maybe he got off a playground swing so another student could have a turn. Or perhaps he waited quietly before speaking up in a



PARENT TO PARENT

Sparking curiosity

My daughter Hailey used to be curious about everything from whether butterflies dream to why she has curly hair. As she grew older, she didn't ask as many questions. I wanted to keep her curiosity alive—so I decided to start asking *her* questions.

For example, when we saw ants carrying big leaves, I wondered aloud how they can hold stuff that's bigger than they are. Hailey looked it up, and she was proud to teach me that ants' muscles are thicker than ours compared to their body size. And these muscles don't have to support much body weight, freeing them up to hold other things.

Hailey enjoys telling me facts I don't know. We are both learning new things, and she's discovering that you're never too old to be curious and ask questions!♥



ACTIVITY CORNER Design a city

If your youngster could create her own city, what would it look like? Suggest that she pretend to be an urban planner. She'll use thinking, planning, math, and engineering skills as she follows these steps.



- 1. Pick a location.** Have your child decide where her city will be located. It could be near an ocean, in a desert, or even in outer space.
- 2. Add services.** Encourage her to consider where people will live, work, grow food, and spend free time. Also, how would they get around? They might travel by car, subway, bike, hovercraft, spaceship—or use an entirely new form of transportation.
- 3. Make a plan.** Let her draw a map of her city, revising it until she's satisfied.
- 4. Build and play.** Suggest that your youngster make a model using household materials (construction paper, empty boxes, paper towel tubes, plastic cups, string). She can see how her city functions by adding toy people, animals, and vehicles.♥

Q & A A successful parent-teacher conference

Q: I'm attending the parent-teacher conference for my son this month. How can I get the most out of it?

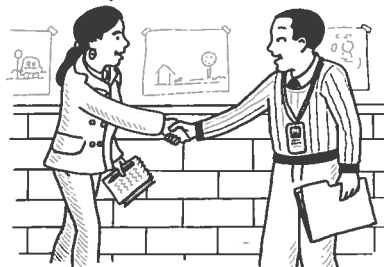
A: First, write down what you want to say before you go. List any questions you have. Also, include information to help the teacher learn more about your child, such as the kinds of books he reads or activities he's involved in.

Then, be sure to arrive on time, and set a friendly tone by mentioning something

your son likes about school. *Example:* "Dylan loves science. He especially enjoyed learning about polar bears."

Listen closely to find out where your youngster is doing well or where he needs to improve. Ask how to support his learning at home—perhaps by helping him review math facts.

Finally, agree on how to follow up throughout the school year so you can stay connected and help your child do his best.♥



OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ideas that promote school success, parent involvement, and more effective parenting.

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Wai'au Elementary School



SHORT NOTES

"I heard that!"

Good listening skills will help your child do well in every subject. Here's an active way to practice. Choose a common word (*also*, *because*), and read a newspaper or magazine article aloud to her. She has to listen closely for the word—and do a jumping jack each time she hears it.

The importance of loyalty

It may seem easier for your youngster to stay quiet when others say unkind things about a friend. But explain that speaking up shows loyalty, and it's the right thing to do. Help him brainstorm what to say, such as "That would really hurt his feelings" or "You'd be upset if someone said that about you."

Let's wash our hands

Hand washing is one of the best ways for your child to stay healthy—and to avoid spreading germs. She could make a poster by writing and illustrating the steps: 1. Wet. 2. Lather. 3. Rub 30 seconds. 4. Rinse. 5. Dry. Have her hang her poster in the bathroom to remind herself, and other family members, to wash properly.

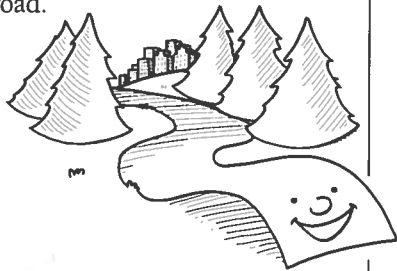
Worth quoting

"A problem is a chance for you to do your best." *Duke Ellington*

JUST FOR FUN

Q: What goes through towns and over hills but doesn't move?

A: A road.



Winter reading

Does your youngster prefer to read alone, with family members, or in the company of friends? With these ideas, he can do all three this winter.

Choose themes

Encourage your child to read more by coming up with wintry themes for choosing books. For example, he might name "ice-skating" or "penguins" and pick out a biography of an Olympic skater or an adventure tale set in Antarctica. After he finishes each book, he can write the title on a paper snowflake and tape it to a wall. How many snowflakes can he hang up?

Discuss poetry

On a snowy day—or any day—read winter poetry together. Get a volume like *It's Snowing! It's Snowing!* (Jack Prelutsky) or *Winter Bees & Other Poems of the Cold* (Joyce Sidman). Boost your youngster's reading comprehension by talking about the poets' word choices.



Why did Prelutsky write "the air is a silvery blur"? What did Sidman mean by "the sun's pale wafer"?

Read with friends

Your child can see friends over winter break and practice reading at the same time by forming a book club. They might pick a chapter book to read, then meet to discuss it and enjoy a related snack, craft, or game. Or they could each bring a different picture book and take turns reading aloud. *Idea:* Suggest that they keep their club going all year long!♥

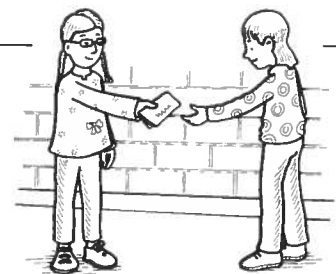
Coping with stress

Whether your child is stressed about a test or worried about a disagreement with a friend, try these strategies for helping her cope.

● **Name it.** Have her say what, specifically, is making her feel stressed. Maybe she's afraid she'll forget everything she studied or she doesn't know what to say to her friend.

● **Focus on solutions.** Help your youngster think of ways she could relieve some pressure. She might review her study guide one last time the morning of the test or write a note to her friend saying she misses her and wants to play.

● **Think positive.** Remind your child of tests she did well on or ways she resolved problems with friends in the past. Suggest inspiring phrases she could say to herself, such as, "I know I can do it!"♥



Independent me

The end goal of parenting is to work your way out of a job. You want to teach your youngster to spread her wings and eventually take care of herself. Consider this advice.

Let her try. Out of habit, you might do tasks that your child could do for herself. If you've always done her laundry, for instance, you may not realize she's able to do it on her own. Show her the steps, and see how she does with it for a week. If she isn't quite



ready, work alongside her a few more times until she can handle it herself.

Resist “fixing” it.

Your youngster probably won't make her sandwich or pack her overnight bag exactly the way you would. But she will feel more independent if she does it her way. If she struggles, offer gentle support. Say she's trying to put a big batch

of leftovers into a small container. You could set out a bigger one, and suggest that she try again.♥

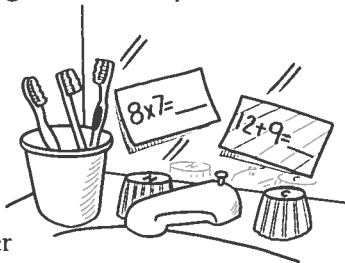
PARENT TO PARENT



Sticky-note math

My sons love games, but it's hard to find ones they can play together that aren't too easy for my older one or too hard for his little brother. At a recent school math night, I discovered a game that's just right for both boys.

First, I wrote 10 addition problems on yellow sticky notes for my younger son and 10 multiplication problems on green sticky notes for my older one. Then, I stuck the notes around the house.



To play, the boys race around to grab one sticky note at a time, show it to me, and say the answer. If they answer correctly, they keep the note. If not, I hold onto it for more practice later. The player with the most notes at the end wins.

My little one was happy that having different problems gave him a fair chance to win—and both boys got a chance to work on the math they're learning.♥

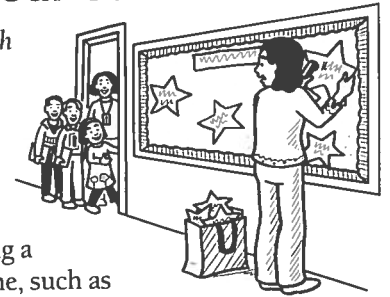
Q & A Fit volunteering into your schedule

Q: I work odd hours, but I still want to pitch in at my daughter's school. What are some options?

A: Any time you spend volunteering will help the school and show your child that her education counts.

Get in touch with her teacher about becoming a volunteer. She may have jobs you can do at home, such as stapling together student-made books, or tasks that could be done during the school day like decorating bulletin boards. Don't forget to check with her “specials” teachers, too. A PE teacher may appreciate a hand organizing equipment after school, while a music teacher may love assistance making props for the school musical.

Finally, touch base with the school office and the PTA for other possibilities. They're sure to have ways you can help when your schedule permits.♥



ACTIVITY CORNER

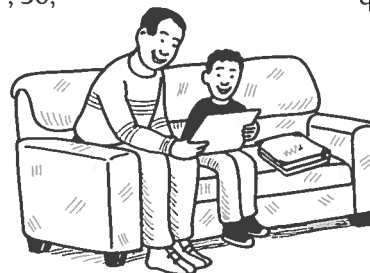
What a memory!

Your child's memory is like a muscle—the more he uses it, the stronger it will be! Here are two fun ways to strengthen his memory of what he hears and sees.

1. Recall numbers. Randomly name four numbers, such as 17, 36, 54, and 98. Can your youngster repeat the numbers back to you? Try again with five numbers, then six, and then seven. Talk about what strategies he uses to remember. Maybe he

recites them in his head or relates them to numbers in his life—perhaps your house number is 54 or your phone number ends in 98.

2. Remember details. Together, look at a photograph for one minute. Put it away, and take turns asking each other questions about it. *Examples:* “How many trees are there?” or “Who is wearing a striped shirt?” Try again with a new photo—your child is likely to look more closely this time and recall more specifics.♥



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