

The 'Ohana News

IMPORTANT NEWS FOR FAMILIES:

All WMS families invited to Connecting For Success 'Prevention Plus' Talk-Story, 6:30-8 p.m., Tues., April 7. Please mark your calendar—more details to come!

"Waimea Middle School empowers all students with the skills, values and cultural understanding to successfully navigate high school and beyond."

March 24, 2015

www.WaimeaMiddleSchool.org

Interim Principal Mrs. K's Request To All:

Let's Paddle Together For Final Quarter!

8th Grader Chance Page Wins Hawai'i County 'Real Women Essay Contest'!

WMS' student **Chance Page** today received an invitation to the winners circle at the annual awards luncheon hosted by the **County of Hawai'i Commission on the Status of Women** for its "Real Women" Essay Writing Contest at the **Hilton Waikoloa Village on Sun., April 12**. Chance will learn exactly what place he has won in the essay contest at the luncheon.



As always, essay contest winners submit a written piece introducing and explaining why a particular woman in their life is their "hero."

Congratulations, Chance!

Congratulations, too, to **8th grade Language Arts teacher Mrs. Leesa Robertson** for supporting this authentic learning opportunity for students for another year. WMS students have won top honors in this essay contest several previous times.

WMS' new Interim Principal **Amy Kendziorski** has been an outrigger canoe paddler ever since her first teaching assignment in Waianae 25 years ago. Today, she's a regular with **Waikoloa Canoe Club** and was part of the 40s Women crew that completed the 18-mile Lili'uokalani Long Distance Race from Kailua-Kona to Pu'uuhoua O Honaunau last Labor Day weekend. So, the idea of all "**paddling together**" is really second nature.



As she now steps immediately into the role of **Interim Principal** for the 4th and final Quarter of this school year, **she is asking all – students, families, faculty, staff and community partners - to "paddle together" to achieve our school's mission of "empowering all students with the skills, values and cultural understanding to successfully navigate high school and beyond."**

Ms. K, as she is often called by students, has been our VP for the past two years and has worked closely with students, families, teachers and staff to achieve what is now mandated in our **Accreditation** recommendations: to continually improve programs and services to ensure all students progress academically.

"I am excited about working with everyone to continue the progress we have made."

An experienced school administrator who grew up in Wisconsin and who has 25 years' experience in public education, Ms. Kendziorski began her teaching career at **Waianae High School** in 1990, where, in addition to teaching, she coached track and cross country and chaperoned three student trips to **Kaho'olawe**.

She has a Bachelor's degree in Special Education from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a Master's degree in Educational Leadership from San Diego State University. Career highlights include 13 years in Colorado's Durango School District

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Mala'ai's 10th Anniversary Celebration Tomorrow, Wed., March 25

All Invited To The Garden at 1:30 p.m.!

Everyone - students, faculty-staff, families and community friends are invited for a happy celebration of "**10 Years On-The-Ground & 10,000 Hands Strong**" as Mala'ai marks its 10th year with deep gratitude to all.

Students - please watch for cars when walking to the garden. Families & community friends - please park outside the back gate and walk in. **See you there!**

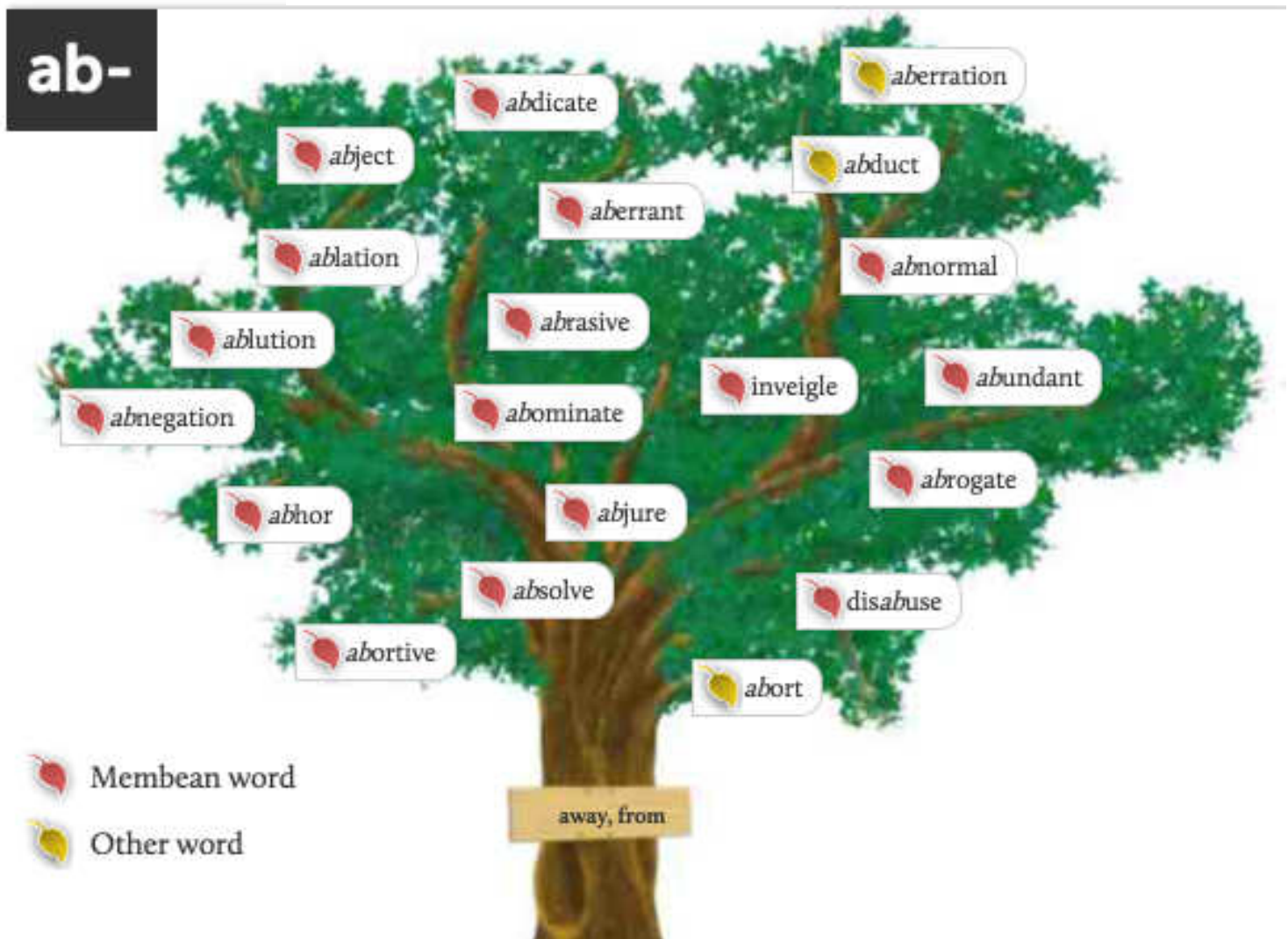
Introducing...

‘Word Ingredients’ OR ‘Word Parts’

In the old days many of us called a short combination of letters, such as “ab,” a “prefix.”

Today, it’s called a “Word Ingredient” or “Word Part” to be added to another word to change the meaning. By knowing the meaning of the “Word Ingredient” or “Word Part,” we can better predict the meaning of the new word – and build our vocabulary.

Vocabulary and reading comprehension are critical skills for middle school students and we’ll be sharing some of the more commonly used “Word Ingredients” or Word Parts” in coming weeks here in the newsletter, on Facebook, and on our electronic sign. It’s kind of a game! Enjoy!



“When men are engaged in war and conquest, the tools of science become as dangerous as a razor in the hands of a child. The fate of mankind depends entirely on our sense of morality.” -Albert Einstein.

It was during World War II when the Marshall Islands was a stronghold for the Japanese. The Japanese were soon overthrown by the United States in 1944. This is when the Marshallese were taken over by the U.S government. Before the Marshall Islands became a trust territory for the U.S in July 18, 1947 President Truman had agreed for a series of bomb tests to be operated on Bikini Atoll. During the time when the bomb testings were being conducted on Bikini, the Marshallese had suffered a great amount of aftereffects. Many traditions changed in their culture and their diet was corrupted with processed food. The U.S. treated the Marshallese with unfairness and treated the Americans stationed there with more respect. Bikini is now destroyed and the Bikinians haven't been able to return home since.

During second semester, 7th grade Social Studies students of WMS teachers Jamilynn Mareko and Tina Benson are studying Pacific Island History. In one unit of study, the students examined the bomb testing conducted by the United States between 1946 and 1958 in the Marshall Islands.

During that time, the US government tested 67 nuclear bombs, mostly on or near Bikini Atoll.

To gather information, students researched books, online articles, media and archived newspaper articles written about the events. The final product was a report that all students completed by the end of the unit.

The following report by WMS 7th grader Kaiya Kaha is shared as a good example of the thoughtful research and insights students are developing in Social Studies classes that foster both critical thinking skills, and a deeper understanding of the cultural diversity and stories of fellow students and our Pacific Island home.

The Marshallese were treated unfairly by the U.S. when certain circumstances had been brought out in 1946. The U.S government forced the Bikinians out of their homeland and relocated them to a different island. They were moved to the island Rongerik, 120 miles away, which they found unlivable due to its size and little resources. Americans left the Bikinians with a 7 week food supply and within a few months the Bikinians realized food shortages. The Bikinians soon succumbed to starvation and death. “Over the next 20 years, the Bikinians were moved several times. In 1967 150 people returned to Bikini, only to be evacuated again when it was discovered that radioactive cesium 137 had contaminated the food chain.” (Bikiniatoll.com/reuters2004.html, pg 2.) When the bomb Bravo exploded it caused the Marshallese on Rongelap Atoll to think two suns had risen (from the east and west). Islanders, not knowing what was happening, watched the Americans quickly being evacuated off of the island. The Americans left and gave no notice to the Marshallese what dangers would soon be heading their way. The relationship the U.S had with the Marshallese was unfair and unbalanced.

The Marshallese culture and traditions had changed (some traditions now lost). When the Bikinians moved to the island Rongerik it was hard for them to fish because the island had no lagoon (which they were used to). Traditionally Rongerik was uninhabitable due to the fact that the area was too small to be livable. The Marshallese became more reliant on the Americans for food and water, and because of this their once healthy diet that consisted of fruits and fish were corrupted by processed food. Since the bombing, and since they were removed from their home, many Marshallese have felt as if they were losing a part of themselves. Their land was something the Marshallese took pride in and for numerous years it was their land which they would hand down to their young. That all changed when the U.S decided to bomb and destroy the land. “Today Bikinians remain scattered throughout the Marshall Islands. On Ejit Island, barefooted children play marbles outside shanty homes as woman wash plastic dishes in aluminum containers. The children swim in the lagoon and eat indigenous fruit such as pandanas and coconuts after returning from school where they learn english from foreign volunteers.” (Bikiniatoll.com/beuters2004.html, pg 2). Throughout the years, Marshallese culture and traditions changed.

Many Marshallese on Rongelap Atoll had gotten sick when bomb Bravo was detonated on February 28, 1954. Radioactive fallout quickly made its way to multiple islands that were near Bikini, affecting the islands with high amounts of radiation. The islanders, not knowing what it was, touched and played in it as if it were snow. Later that day when night time fell, people started to show signs of radioactive poisoning. Many experienced nausea, vomiting, and stomach problems, the people were horrified. The Marshallese had severe burns and were beginning to lose their hair. Later effects included many cases of cancer such as thyroid cancer (a cancer originating from follicular and parafollicular thyroid cells). Birth defects were also presented in the many years that followed, which had caused a major drop in the Marshallese population. “The aftermath of the Bravo test exposed 239 Marshallese on Utink, Rongelap, and Ailinginae Atoll and 28 Americans stationed on Rongerik Atoll, to excessive amounts of radioactive fallout.” (American-Massacre Film.com) pg 1. The bomb Bravo had gotten a great deal of people sick.

During the time when the bomb testings were being conducted on Bikini, the Marshallese had suffered a great amount of aftereffects. Many traditions changed in their culture and their diet was corrupted with processed food. The U.S. treated the Marshallese with unfairness by treating Americans with more respect. Bikini is now destroyed and the Bikinians haven't been able to return home since. ***This information is important because the value of historical knowledge justifies teaching and learning about what happened in the previous years. It helps the people today prevent the past mistake the world made from repeating itself in the future. The actions that can be taken by me to preserve this knowledge for further generations, is to simply share that of what I've learned to my friends and family.***



Kaiya Kaha, 7th Grade

Calling All 8th Graders — Class of 2019

Kamehameha Scholars – Applications Close March 31

Kamehameha Scholars is a year-long college and career guidance program that is supported by a merit scholarship that students earn over their high school career for qualified participation and completion of assignments. The scholarship that students earn will be payable to an accredited college of the student's choice upon graduation from high school. While Kamehameha Schools will implement their preference policy as supported by law, all students are encouraged to apply. Info: <http://apps.ksbe.edu/ksscholars/>

Free Honoka'a High School Summer Bridge Program – Applications close May 20

For incoming Freshmen, the program runs June 15-July 10 from 8 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. It's free including transportation from Waimea and breakfast and lunch daily. Freshmen attending the entire session will receive a .5 credit. Info: 775-8800 Ext. 308. Applications are being sent home to WMS 8th grade families, or go to the WMS website or school office for an application.



Six WMS student athletes were selected to play on the North Hawai'i Girls and Boys All Star Teams in the 2015 Kirk Banks Soccer Tournament this weekend on Oahu! We're so proud that the girls' team did so well – winning all games up to the semi-finals when they met their match. Not sure yet how the boys team did, but super proud of them all! Shown here enjoying a treat in between games are WMS members of the North Hawai'i Girls All Stars (L-R) 6th graders Justyce Lindsey, Anuhea Winters, Caryssa Drummondo, Khia Daniels and Ellie Nakano. WMS boys selected for the North Hawai'i Boys All Star Team were 7th graders Elijah Aguilar and Koa Miche Rosales. Also playing in the weekend tournament was Breanna Arakawa. — Photo courtesy of Mrs. Onaka-Winters

Girls' Basketball Update

- 1) Team Photo - 4 p.m., Thurs., April 2 in the gym.
- 2) Season Games to begin April 13. Watch WMS Facebook, newsletters or athletics bulletin board for schedule or see Coach Tamaye.

4th Quarter Begins...

Padding Together...

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9R, where she oversaw special education, alternative education, health, safety and discipline for the 4,500-student district that included two high schools, a juvenile detention facility school, two middle schools and seven elementary schools.

Prior to that, she was Principal at Durango's Escalante Middle School for five years. While there, she facilitated the school's successful inclusion practices so that all students were learning and growing together.

Ms. K is taking over school leadership now for Principal Matt Horne, who shared the following:

"I hope every WMS student knows how much I have enjoyed working with them and on their behalf over the past three years – watching them grow personally, and most especially academically as they prepare for high school and beyond. I am so proud of their hard work and progress, and am grateful to our teachers, staff and school partners for supporting each and every student. I wish each of you the best."

If students or families, faculty, staff or community partners have questions or suggestions, please call Ms. Kendzioriski: 887-6090 Ext. 222.

School Lunch Menus

(All Served With Fresh Local Milk)

Tues., March 24: Soft Shell Taco w/ Lettuce & Tomato, Potato Rounds & Peaches.

Wed., March 25: Italian Sausage Pizza, Garden Salad, Baby Carrots & Diced Pears.

Thurs., March 26: Kuhio Day - No School!

Fri., March 27: Kalua Cabbage, Steamed Hapa Rice, Lomi Tomato, Pineapple & Portuguese Sweet Roll.

Mon., March 30: Weiner on Whole Grain Bun w/ Potato Rounds, Baked Beans, Carrots & Celery Sticks & Apple Wedge.

Tues., March 31: Creole Macaroni w/ Mixed Greens Salad, Peaches & Whole Grain French Bread.

All menus are posted on our website & Facebook.