

# The 'Ohana News

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

**Time To Plan For Summer!**  
See Information For Current 4th, 5th, 6th & 7th Graders In The Tuesday Envelope!

March 25, 2014

www.WaimeaMiddleSchool.org

## Please Join In Welcoming Our Accreditation Visiting Committee

**WMS**, which was designated a "Candidate for Accreditation" about 18 months ago by the **Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC)**, will welcome WASC's five-member Visiting Committee to campus this Sun., March 30 through Wed., April 2, to determine if our school is ready to be Accredited.

The WASC Accreditation process is designed to assist schools in engaging the energies of all members of the school-community in reviewing and clarifying the school's purpose, analyzing the effectiveness of the current program for students, developing plans to strengthen the current program, and assessing the stability and operation of the school.

Members of the WASC Visiting Committee include Team Chair **Steve Shiraki** with the DOE Office of Curriculum Instruction and Student Support, **Katina Soares**, Vice Principal at Kualapu'u Elementary Public Conversion Charter School on Moloka'i, **Puanani Wilhelm**, Education Director at Kua O Ka La Public Charter School in Pahoa, **Ryan Masa**, Chief School Officer at Hawaiian Education Council, and **Mollie Sperry**, Head of School (retired) with Academy of the Pacific.

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## You Are Invited To Nominate WMS Teachers & Staff For \$1,000 Awards For Excellence!

Now, all WMS families and community friends are being invited to recognize these individuals as part of a brand new "Culture Of Excellence" Awards program sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Tom Gimbel of The Neilan Foundation. Five awards — \$1,000 in cash — will be presented to a member of our faculty of this May. Each award will be presented to a member of our faculty of staff in the following categories: (1) Student Academic Growth; (2) Teacher Leadership; (3) Personal and Professional Growth; (3) Caring and Inspiration and (5) Community Connections.

**"Teachers and school staff make a dramatic difference in the lives of children every day!"**

The nomination process is simple — please see the flyer in today's **Tuesday Envelope**, which also explains more about each category, how to submit nominations before the April 14 deadline, or go to <http://goo.gl/DP0eRz>. **Mahalo Mr. and Mrs. Gimbel!**



**WMS Connecting For Success' Award Recipients!**

(See inside for more photos!)

**Mahalo Mayor Kenoi for sharing your story and encouraging us all to Dream B-I-G, Work Hard and Never Give Up!**

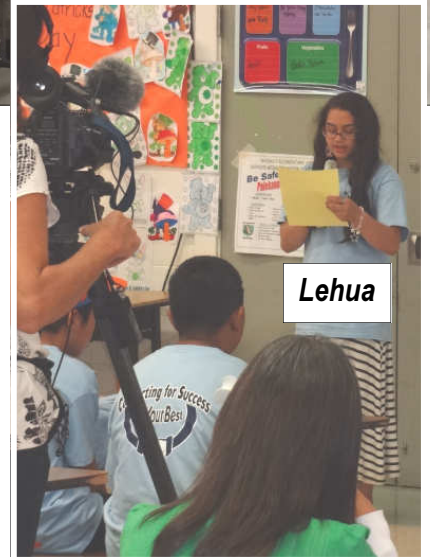


**“Hi, I am Lehua Muranaka Walton. I have been honored to be in this “Connecting for Success” program and I have written a speech and this is what I have to say:**

Everyone has a dream. I mean EVERYONE. Some people dream of being a teacher. Some people dream of being an astronaut, a movie star like me, or being a famous chef. You name it. People who look at us and see that we can't make it, we can't accomplish our dreams, we can't live our dreams. You know what. I believed them. Ya, I know it's stupid, but I did. I believed everything people said to me. They would say things like I'm ugly, I'm stupid. They made me believe that I was ugly, I was stupid, but now that I have been in this program, it has showed me that no matter what people say, I am beautiful on the inside and the out. I am a shining star. I am a Hokulani. Everybody is.

I would like to thank Mrs. C, Mrs. H and my teachers for believing in me. They taught me that believing leads to succeeding. Succeeding leads to happiness and no matter what faces us, we can overcome that problem. I have learned to accept who I am. I have learned to stick up for myself and my beliefs. So my message to you people that think you can't make it is: you have to believe and love yourself. BELIEVE IN YOU, no one else.

Thank you for your time. Thank you very much because this program changed my life and how I look at things. So thank you Mrs. C, Mrs. H and my teachers because you have taught me to look at my life in a different way. Without this program, I would have been lost. My last words to end this speech are: BELIEVE IN YOU - NO ONE ELSE!”



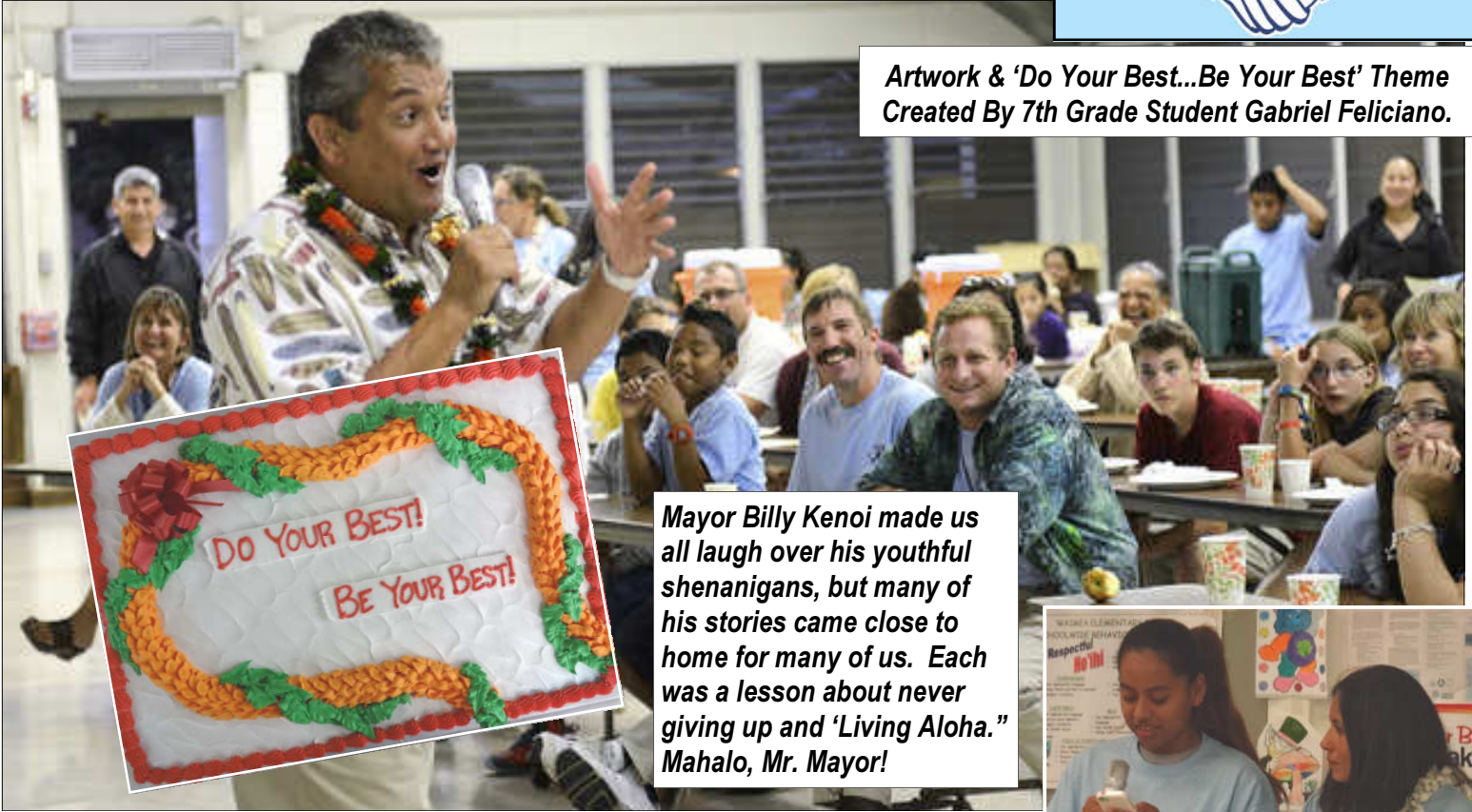
***We thank all who support this program including Hawai'i Community Foundation, our volunteer mentors, and also Cal-Kona Produce, Onodera Farm, KTA SuperStores and Starbucks. Also to Cafeteria Manager Neil Matsumoto and staff member Lee Keolanui for the delicious dinner as well as all who helped with setup/cleanup.***



*Students who believe that adults and peers in school care about their learning and about them as individuals are more likely to succeed. WMS' 'Connecting For Success' program helps students stay connected with school, succeed in academics, and explore college and career dreams.*

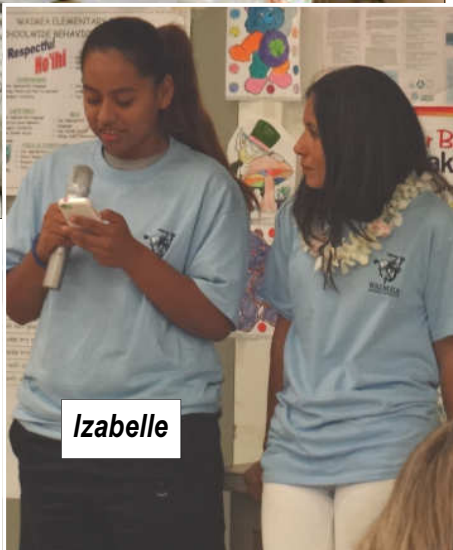


*Artwork & 'Do Your Best...Be Your Best' Theme Created By 7th Grade Student Gabriel Feliciano.*



*Mayor Billy Kenoi made us all laugh over his youthful shenanigans, but many of his stories came close to home for many of us. Each was a lesson about never giving up and 'Living Aloha.' Mahalo, Mr. Mayor!*

**“Hi, my name is Izabelle...I joined the Connecting for Success program to help me proceed in school. By far this program has helped me a lot. It not only helped me, but many others that have also joined the program. The mentors and counselors have been helping us get through a lot of our problems and work that we have. They help us meet our goals. They also help set our goals to become successful in taking the next step in school and life. Thank you to everyone that has helped create this program. If it wasn't for you, I wouldn't be here right now feeling successful. Thank you for your time and coming to see what we have accomplished in this program.”**



**Izabelle**



*Top and bottom photo on this page courtesy of West Hawaii Today—Brad Ballesteros*

## School News & Community Events

- **Important Local Advisory Panel (LAP) Meeting:** 4-6 p.m., Monday, March 31 - K-04. To meet with Accreditation Visiting Committee. All invited!
- **7<sup>TH</sup> Annual Mala'ai 'Art & Sol' Auction-Benefit:** 12:30-3 p.m., Sunday, April 13. Merriman's Restaurant. Tickets and info: [www.Malaai.org](http://www.Malaai.org).
- **Incoming 6th Grade Family Orientation:** 5 p.m., Wednesday, April 23. School Cafeteria. For all families with incoming 6th grade students. Free and includes pizza-to-go dinner!
- **K(Arts) Grand Finale at Kahilu Theatre:** Wednesday, April 30. 5 p.m. Doors Open; 5:30 p.m. Student performances include Kahiko and Chanting, Tahitian and Hip Hop Dancing, African Drumming, Tahitian Basket Weaving and Flower Making and Backstage Production plus Lip Synch! Free, family friendly and not to be missed!
- **Schoolwide Science Showcase Family Night:** 5-7 p.m., Thursday, May 1. Thelma Parker Gym. All invited - Free w/ dinner!
- **WMS May Day Celebration:** Friday, May 9. Two performances with doors opening at 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Thelma Parker Gym. Both feature May Day Court. Morning spotlights WMS student performances; all of Waimea joins in for the evening presentation. Free!
- **6th Grade Culture Faire:** Friday, May 23.
- **8th Grade Exit Ceremony & Last Day of School:** Thursday, May 29.
- **Free Summer School:** Monday, June 9 - Friday, June 27, 2014 -- 8 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. For current 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th Graders attending all Waimea schools. Will combine a strong academic focus and skill building with exciting place-based experiences including a weekly excursion. Also includes breakfast, lunch and busing. WMS student uniforms mandatory and not covered by \$50 fee. Many scholarships available. Applications in today's **Tuesday Envelope** and in the school office and on the website. **Deadline to apply: Thursday, May 29.**

## School Lunch Menus

*(All Served With Fresh Local Milk)*

**Wed., March 26: No School—Kuhio Day!**

**Thurs., March 27: Lil Corn Dog, Potato Smiles, Baked Beans, Orange Wedge.**

**Fri., March 28: Kalua Pig w/ Cabbage, Hapa Rice, Lomi Tomato, Pineapple, Portuguese Sweet Bread Roll.**

**Mon., March 31: Weiner In A Roll w/ Potato Rounds, Baked Beans, Apple Wedge & Pineapple.**

*All menus are posted on school website & Facebook.*

## Accreditation = Collaborative Continuous Improvement

(Continued from Page 1.)

Preparing for this Accreditation visit has been a two-year process involving every member of the WMS faculty and staff and also our **Ho'okako'o Local School Board, Local Advisory Panel (LAP)** and our families and students. All participated in an in-depth Self-Study that evaluates the effectiveness of the school's programs and operations to support high achievement of all students.

The Self-Study guided development of four schoolwide Action Plans that address: **(1) Student Supports, (2) Curriculum Alignment, (3) Educational Technology and (4) Development and Resource Management.**

During the visit, Accreditation team members will observe all classrooms, meet with faculty and staff members of the Self-Study's eight Focus Groups to discuss their research, findings and proposed Action Plans, and talk with students, families and community partners.

**All WMS families, community partners and friends are invited to meet with the Accreditation Visiting Committee during the monthly LAP meeting from 4-6 p.m., Mon., March 31 in Classroom K-04.** The meeting, chaired by community volunteer **Dr. Kamana Beamer**, will begin with a presentation by **WMS 8<sup>th</sup> grade East Coast Travelers** who will have just returned from an American History educational trip to Washington, D.C, New York City and Philadelphia.

Supporting WMS through the Accreditation process has been the **Hawai'i Association of Independent Schools (HAIS)** and **Kamehameha Schools.**

## **WOW!** WORD-OF-THE-WEEK:

### Supportive

- Definition:** Providing encouragement or emotional support
- Part of speech:** Adjective
- Root Word:** "Support" which means to put up with. Latin origin "sub-" prefix meaning below and "portare" which means "carry"
- Sentence:** The students and staff at school are supportive of each other.

*Why do we feature WOW? Research tells us that improving vocabulary is a "high yield strategy" for student success in reading comprehension. Therefore, WMS teachers agreed to spotlight a Word-Of-The-Week! (WOW!) throughout this school year. To learn more about WOW!, go to the school's website and click on WOW! at the top right of the home page:* [www.WaimeaMiddleSchool.org](http://www.WaimeaMiddleSchool.org)