

The 'Ohana News

Please Honor A Teacher Or Staff
Member for 'Excellence'!
Nominations Due Fri., April 4—See Page 5.

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

April 1, 2014

www.WaimeaMiddleSchool.org

8th Grade East Coast Travelers Greet LAP



Our Accreditation 'Journey' Continues With Visit

WMS' rigorous 2-year journey to prepare for a formal **Accreditation** review culminates this week with a 4-day visit by a committee of respected educators selected by the **Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC)**.

Accreditation, they have reminded us, is not an "award," but rather, formal recognition of a schoolwide commitment to "continuous improvement."

The five-member committee, which will be here through this Wednesday, includes Team Chair **Dr. Steve Shiraki** with the DOE Office of Curriculum Instruction and Student Support, **Dr. 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.

The committee will share their findings with us this Wednesday afternoon, but the final Accreditation determination rests with WASC, and we won't be informed of the outcome for several weeks.

It's been a daunting — but validating — process. A very warm mahalo to all who have participated over the past two years, including students, families, faculty, staff and community partners and friends. We have come a long way...and it promises to be an exciting, journey ahead — focused on what's best for students!

Just back from their hard-earned trip to Washington, D.C., New York City and Philadelphia, WMS 8th Grade East Coast Travelers shared a glimpse of the experience with members of our Local Advisory Panel (LAP), parents and community friends gathered yesterday to meet with our Accreditation committee. See more pictures inside.

Important News & Notes:

Report Cards Going Home Today: Families are urged to check this week's **Tuesday Envelope** for **3rd Quarter Report Cards**. The envelope they come in must be signed and returned to the student's Advisory Teacher please - ASAP.

2nd-To-Last 'Save First' Wednesday: April 2, 7:30-7:50 a.m. outside Mrs. Onaka's room.

8th Grade Exit Benefits from Domino's Pizza 'Dough Raising Day'! Wed., April 2—all day. Please be sure to tell Domino's that you want the sale credited to WMS so that our students receive a 25% rebate from your purchase.

WMS Students Invited To Learn About New Football Program Today During Lunch Recess- Please Meet With Coach Tamaye in the shop! It's called **HALOS** — and the coaches are beginning strengthening and conditioning practices this week. Most important to many: There are No Weight Restrictions and the focus is safety and enjoying the game and also on encouraging students to get and stay focused on school as a bi-weekly grades check will be required. Practices are Mondays and Wednesdays this week and next, and then add Fridays thereafter — all at 4:30 p.m. on the Rugby Field next to the Police Station. **Leading the program for Waimea is Kalani Kaleleiki (895-8856)**. Please see Mr. Tamaye for a flyer, registration info and costs. **The coaches organizing this are working hard to minimize costs for all students.**

WMS 8th Grade East Coast Travelers Huddle Together On A Very Cold March Day In Front Of The White House



Students Point Out One Of Our School's Core Values - 'Integrity'!



Trip Brings American History To Life!

Note: Current 7th Graders — a family meeting will be scheduled soon to begin planning next year's trip...stay tuned!



To participate in the East Coast trip not only involves tons of fundraising, selling everything from laulau to pickled onions, but it also involves being held to a very high standard. Students must carry at least a "C" in every class (not a 2.0 GPA), achieve 95%+ attendance, and have no behavior issues. But all the hard work is worth it, say students!



Families Invited...

WMS' New College & Career Center Open Wednesdays Throughout April



If you've got questions, these two ladies have answers — about student supports, homework help, and much more!

These ladies are (L-R) **Lori Ching** and **Suzi Herhold**, both with our **Connecting For Success** program. Throughout April, they will be opening our still-new **College & Career Center**, which is located in what used to be called "The Cottage," and families are invited to stop by to talk-story about ways to support their students.

Each Wednesday from 1:30-4:30 p.m., families may drop by — no appointment necessary — to ask questions about:

- Jupiter Grades?
- How you can help your student get and stay organized?
- Effective study skill habits?

Please stop by. If it's easier to call, or if you'd like to set an appointment, please call Mrs. Herhold at 887-6090 Ext. 268.

group of about 60 were from **Kamehameha School's 'Aina Ulu** land-based education program which sponsors culturally connected projects all across the state.

Both groups contributed significant "sweat equity." If you have a minute, take a quick walk through the Mala'ai garden and check out the pavers laid down to create a level, safe "pad" surrounding the "vegetable washing station"!

To help Mala'ai and the school manage all these volunteers, more than a dozen Waimea community friends turned out to help direct and coordinate the work — this includes **Gladys, John, John, Nubai, Ilene, JC, Johanna, Bill, Pua, Matt, Patti, Kenta, Keala, Ekela and Jane (Yana)**! Thanks, too, to **Nancy Redfeather** with **The Kohala Center**, **Julia Nemoto w/ FoodCorps** and

so many others! We also thank **Warren Tamaye** for his assistance Tuesday when the group became so big that we needed to divide it up and put some of the volunteers to work helping spruce up the public restrooms in the cafeteria. The work in the cafeteria didn't get completed but it sure is a good start!



VERY SPECIAL GUESTS 'SING' A POETRY LESSON FOR STUDENTS: *3rd generation folk rocker Sarah Lee Guthrie — daughter of Arlo Guthrie and granddaughter of Woody Guthrie — and her stage "partner" and husband Johnny Irion came to WMS campus yesterday to share their talents with students and ended up with Mrs. Teehee's Language Arts class which is studying poetry. What a surprise to discover that songwriting is all about poetry — with added "emotion" provided by musical instruments and voices. Students and performers discussed METAPHORS — such as "An Ocean Of Salty Tears" and also how music "is healing." Guthrie and Irion performed this past weekend at Kahilu Theatre and then offered to come share their music and creativity with WMS students. Though students were, at first, not sure they knew what "folk music" was — they discovered they did know more than they thought, including the words to one of Sarah Lee's father's all time hits, "This Land...was made for you and me!" Mahalo to both Sarah Lee and Johnny and to Kahilu Theatre for making this possible.*

100+ Volunteers Kokua Mala'ai Last Week

A huge Mahalo to the more than **100 volunteers** who descended on our campus last week for two back-to-back work days, mostly in **Mala'ai** garden! The first group of about 55 came from **Cable One** (a national cable network company enjoying an incentive vacation at **The Fairmont**). They were such hard workers for people really here on vacation! The second



Mahalo to Kamehameha Schools' 'Aina Ulu leaders and our Waimea volunteers.

Families, Community Invited to Nominate Faculty-Staff for 'Excellence'

Private Donors Put WMS Kids First With Unprecedented \$266,500 Grant For Solar, Busing And Enrichment

WMS has received an unprecedented \$266,500 school improvement grant from **Tom and Gail Gimbel's Neilan Foundation** to help the public conversion charter school become financially sustainable to better support academic improvement for all students.

The Gimbels, who are becoming Hawai'i Island homeowners after having visited frequently for decades from California, made what is the first sustainability grant received by the school – via its not-for-profit **Ho'okako'o Local School Board** -- to address expensive ongoing operating costs such as electricity and busing.

The school currently spends about \$50,000 annually on electricity and \$140,000 on student busing. The goal of the grant is to convert the school from high cost fossil fuel dependency to a "green" photo voltaic system, and also "seed" purchase of a bus.

"These substantial investments will reduce what the school must spend annually and allow us to re-invest those funds into the classroom to support students and teachers," said WMS Principal Matt Horne. "The funds were donated to Ho'okako'o, which immediately put them to work for the school."

"Electricity and busing costs challenge every single school in the state and country, and the solutions are unbelievably complex and expensive for financially strapped public conversion charter schools. Having funding support like this is extraordinary," said Horne. "We are very appreciative of the Gimbel's aloha for our students."

But there's more. The grant also will help fund meaningful enrichment opportunities for students such as WMS' popular but modestly funded after-school athletics and K(Arts) programs.

And there's more. As was shared in last week's 'Ohana News, the Gimbel's recently surprised everyone at the school by inviting faculty and staff, families and students as well as the entire Waimea community to nominate outstanding WMS teachers and staff for one of five new \$1,000 cash "Culture of Excellence" Awards.

"Teachers and school staff make a dramatic difference in the lives of children every day. Working in today's schools can often feel thankless and tiring; too often the profession does not encourage the celebration of excellence and the sharing of effective practice," said the Gimbels in announcing the awards program.

"Culture of Excellence" awards recognize that making a dramatic impact for all students is multi-faceted. All contributions may be considered, both within and outside the classroom."



INVESTING IN OUR KIDS AND ALSO A GREENER PLANET: Tom and Gail Gimbel (above left) recently presented their Neilan Foundation's check for \$266,500 to Waimea Middle School students (L-R) Lilly Lindsey, Kahealani Etherton, Dillon DuPont and Gavin Hannum, and WMS Principal Matt Horne and Community Liaison Patti Cook. The funds will enable the school to become more financially sustainable. The funds were donated to WMS' not-for-profit Ho'okako'o Local School Board, which immediately put them to work for the school. A large portion of the donation will be used to convert the school to photo voltaic sun energy, thereby allowing it to redirect monthly electricity expenditures to instead, support academic improvement for all students in the classroom.

The five categories for the new "Culture of Excellence" awards include:

- 1) **Student Academic Growth**
- 2) **Teacher Leadership**
- 3) **Personal and Professional Growth**
- 4) **Caring and Inspiration**
- 5) **Community Connections**

Nominations for these new "Culture of Excellence" awards must be submitted by Fri., April 4 using the online nomination form found at <http://goo.gl/DP0eRz> and should include as much evidence as possible to support how the nominee demonstrates the characteristics outlined in the selection criteria, said the Gimbels.

After the nomination period has closed, candidates will be invited to accept candidacy and submit additional materials by April 25 and the awards will be announced before the end of the school year.

Questions may be emailed to Tom and Gail Gimbel at neilanfoundation@gmail.com. To read more about these awards, go to www.WaimeaMiddleSchool.org and click on the link at the top of the home page.

School News & Community Events

- **Student-Run Mala'ai Farm Stand:** Every Wednesday thru April 23, 1:15-3 p.m. All invited!
- **7TH Annual Mala'ai 'Art & Sol' Auction-Benefit:** 12:30-3 p.m., Sun., April 13. Merriman's. Tickets and info: www.Malaai.org.
- **Incoming 6th Grade Family Orientation:** 5 p.m., Wed., April 23. Cafeteria. For all families with incoming 6th grade students. Free and includes pizza-to-go dinner!
- **K(Arts) Grand Finale at Kahilu Theatre:** Wed., April 30. 5 p.m. Doors Open; 5:30 p.m. Students present 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., Thurs., May 1. Thelma Parker Gym. All invited—free including dinner!
- **WMS May Day Celebration:** Fri., 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! Special invitees: All past Waimea School May Day Queens and Court members! Kokua needed with greenery please!
- **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., April 2: Chicken Nuggets On Shredded Cabbage, Hapa Rice, Tossed Salad and Mandarin & Pineapple.

Thurs., April 3: Roast Turkey w/ Gravy, Whipped Potatoes, Broccoli & Carrots, Orange Wedge & Whole Wheat Roll.

Fri., April 4: Tuna On A Whole Wheat Bun, Sweet Potato Rounds, Rainbow Salad & Fruit Juice.

Mon., April 7: Baked Pollock, Hapa Rice, Rainbow Salad, Baked Beans & Pineapple.

Tues., April 8: Teri Chicken w/ Stir Fry Vegetables, Hapa Rice, Orange Wedge & Whole Wheat Roll.

All menus are posted on school website & Facebook.



Mahalo, Buttons Lovell! Our campus looks terrific thanks to your tireless generosity!

James Hood Takes Over ELL Classes

As we say aloha and mahalo to Ms. Kim Epley, we thank certificated teacher **James Hood** for stepping up to teach our **English Language Learner (ELL)** classes for the remainder of the year.

Mr. Hood has been supporting our **Migrant** Education Program and also helping design and launch a **Gifted and Talented** program.

James Hood



WOW! WORD-OF-THE-WEEK:

Ac-ti-vate

Definition: Make something active or operative

Part of Speech: Verb

Synonym: Energize or switch on

Root Word: From Latin *activus*, from *actus* (act (n.)), meaning "energetic, lively". *Active voice* is a grammatical use of active from 15 c.

Sentence: Fumes from cooking are sometimes enough to activate the smoke alarm.

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 the home page:

www.WaimeaMiddleSchool.org