

# The 'Ohana News

Free Flu Clinic Family Information  
In Today's Tuesday Envelope

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

August 20, 2013

www.WaimeaMiddleSchool.org

## Reminder:

### Picture Day = Free Dress Day!

Tomorrow – **Wed., Aug. 21** – is **Picture Day**, which means students do not have to wear a uniform t-shirt, but there are rules as **Dress Code** applies! If you have questions, see Page 19 of the **Student Planner** or call the office. Any student arriving out of Dress Code will take their picture in a school uniform shirt.

Please note that families do not have to purchase pictures. We do want everyone to take a picture for the student ID card and yearbook and there is no charge for this.

Buying additional prints is optional.

## Students-Families Invited

👉 **Open House: 5-7 p.m., tomorrow - Wed., Aug. 21** - Begins in the cafeteria with dinner, a short introduction of faculty-staff, a brief overview of the school year and then an important opportunity to visit classrooms and meet teachers. No need to RSVP -- please just come! Questions? Please call the office: 887-6090 Ext. 222.

👉 **Got The Spirit? 'Take a LAP' Fun Run/Walk: 3:30-7 p.m., Fri., Aug. 23** - Also begins in the cafeteria with registration and a tempting silent auction, then the fun begins with three runs (or walks): a 1-miler for K-5th graders; a 2-miler for 6th-12th graders, and a 2-miler for adults 18+, followed by a yummy dinner of hot pulled pork sandwiches and fresh Waimea kale and fruit salad, Waimea watermelon, cold drinks and hot Starbucks! A \$10 donation is suggested -- to cover dinner, goodies and also to benefit Student Leadership and help purchase aquaponics equipment for science classes. Please join us and meet our **Local Advisory Panel** volunteers!

## As New School Year Begins...

# WMS: Striving High & Adding Foundational Supports

By now, every news outlet in the state has announced the release yesterday of Hawai'i's new **STRIVE HI** educational performance system to measure and drive continuous public school improvement.

At WMS, we are please that our score puts us in the "**Continuous Improvement**" step along with about 75% of the schools in the state. Yes, we have lots of work to do together – students, families, teachers and staff – but our students are "growing" academically, which is important progress.

So what is Strive HI all about? In a nutshell, this is the new accountability "tool" for Hawai'i public schools that replaces **No Child Left Behind**, which didn't do students or schools justice. Strive HI was crafted by a large number of educators – based on nationally proven best practices -- to measure student and school achievement, individual student growth and "readiness," and narrowing the achievement gap. Put more simply, Strive HI gives students, families, teachers and school leaders a clearer picture of students' academic progress: **Are students learning?**



Janice English-Somerville



Michaela Meredith



Tina Bensen

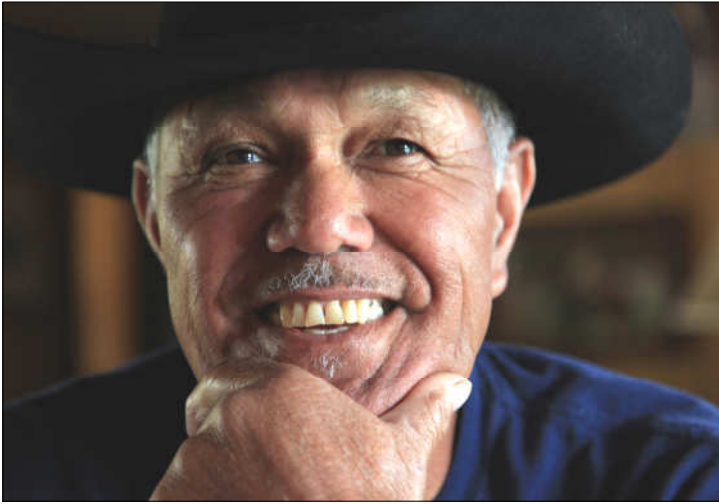
The fact there's work to do is clearly already a priority at WMS – and the planning and intense focus of faculty and staff this year – ranging from pursuing **Accreditation** to adopting new **Common Core Standards** to introducing new curriculum in several departments – is evidence of this! Also important, is the "investment" being made in supporting teachers and staff with two new faculty members -- **Janice English-Somerville**, who is our new **Instructional Coach**, and **Michaela Meredith**, our new **Technology Coach**. Also new and working closely with teachers and staff is our **Student Services Coordinator Tina Bensen**.

Families will get to meet these dedicated educators who represent valuable new foundational supports at tomorrow evening's **Family Open House**. Also, we'll have more about each of them in weeks to come, but on the heels of receiving our Strive HI rating, we are proud of the work students, teachers and staff have already accomplished as well as the

new plans being developed to fulfill the school's vision of "empowering all students with the skills, values and cultural understanding to successfully navigate high school and beyond."

To read more about Strive HI, go to the school's website – [www.WaimeaMiddleSchool.org](http://www.WaimeaMiddleSchool.org) – and click on the "**Accountability Center**" button at the top of HOME page.





Waimea Paniolo Sonny Keakealani - Portrait by Julia Cumes

**You Are Invited...**

***'Ka 'Ike Kupuna – The Vast Knowledge of Our Elders' Talk Stories During September***

“**Time is of the essence**” is a phrase most have heard before and can be applicable in many contexts. Waimea Middle School’s **'Ike Hawai'i Program**, in partnership with **Paniolo Preservation Society (PPS)** and the **Waimea Education Hui**, will feature three classes in the month of September that take that phrase to heart.

Kupuna-paniolo and founding member of PPS, **Sonny Keakealani**, will share the vast knowledge he holds of Hawaiian terms used by the paniolo reflecting his connection from the mountain to the sea. Topics will highlight *hua 'olelo*, or words and phrases, used to describe storied places, place names, lifestyle and traditions. Each class will be opened with *ha'i mo'olelo*



**Ku'ulei Keakealani**

(stories) tied to Waimea, shared by **Ku'ulei Keakealani**. The art of storytelling is a gift and skill instilled in Ku'ulei by her kupuna.

Those who participate in this class will be asked to make a personal commitment to utilize the Hawaiian terms shared at each class so the 'ike (knowledge) of today will continue tomorrow...and beyond.

Classes will be held on **September 4, 11 and 25** from 4 – 5:15 p.m. at Waimea’s historic **Pukalani Stables**. To register, contact Pua Case at [pua\\_case@notes.k12.hi.us](mailto:pua_case@notes.k12.hi.us) or call 938-5550 with questions.

**Everyone Invited To Local Advisory Panel Meeting Mon., Aug. 26**

Our school’s **Local Advisory Panel (LAP)** is the way our school-community provides input on what’s happening here. Everyone is welcome to the monthly meetings. The next one will be from **4-6 p.m. this Mon., Aug. 26**, in Classroom K-04.

**School Lunch Menus**

**Wed., April 21:** Chicken Pasta w/ Broccoli, Garden Salad, Orange Wedge.

**Thurs., April 22:** Baked Chicken, Hapa Rice, Three Bean Salad, Pineapple & Muffin.

**Fri., April 23:** Barbecue Pork Sandwich w/ Baked Beans, Corn, Diced Pears and Whole Wheat Bun.

**Mon., April 26:** Chicken Tenders on Shredded Cabbage, Hapa Rice, Broccoli, Carrots & Applesauce.

**Tues., April 27:** Soft Shell Taco w/ Lettuce & Tomato, Potato Rounds and Banana.

**NOTE:** All menus are posted on the school website.



WMS student adornments are presented to Unity Riders from the Dakota Nation in NYC. For more pictures and the complete story, go to the 'Ike Hawai'i page at: [www.WaimeaMiddleSchool.org](http://www.WaimeaMiddleSchool.org)

**Highlight Of Open House: Seeing How WMS Students Made A Difference 10,000 Miles Away!**

Toward the end of last school year and into summer, WMS students made more than 300 bracelets of kukui nuts on woven hau cordage as a way of conveying unity with and support for members of the **Dakota Nation** who were making a **Unity Ride** from **Canada** along the **Hudson River** valley by land and river to the **United Nations** in **New York City** as a journey of peace and healing.

While the Unity Ride seems very different and distant from Waimea, the student’s gesture of aloha and cultural exchange continued what was started by WMS Social Studies and 'Ike Hawai'i teachers to make connections and bring relevance to studying the **Indian Relocation Act**, which is an essential part of 8<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies lessons on **American History**. To make the Indian Relocation Act relevant, WMS teachers sought out ways to connect their students by exploring how something like the Relocation Act continues to have impact today – as manifested in the Unity Ride. Teachers also wanted Waimea students to compare and contrast their own stories and history with that of the Native American Unity Riders.

A highlight of Wednesday’s **Open House** will be a brief film “concluding” this learning connection as our students’ adornments were presented to Unity Riders in New York. **No question: Our students made a difference!**