

The 'Ohana News

Please Honor A Teacher Or Staff Member for 'Excellence'!
Nominations Due April 14—See website for Info.

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

April 8, 2014

www.WaimeaMiddleSchool.org

Accreditation Visiting Committee Commends WMS!

Accreditation is a never-ending process. It's all about "continuous improvement" and our faculty and staff are committed to this.

But — really — it's time to celebrate! Last week's formal Visit for Accreditation culminated 2+ years of hard work involving the entire faculty and staff and also many families and community friends. We won't know the specific recommendation made by the Visiting Committee to the **Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC)** for a few more weeks, but the committee did share major **Commendations** and **Recommendations**. We anxiously await the written report but for now, we are happy to share several major **Commendations**:

- 👍 They commended WMS administration, faculty and staff for creating a safe, nurturing environment where students can focus on their learning.
- 👍 They commended students for embracing schoolwide core values and demonstrating them in their relationships with staff, other students, and the community.
- 👍 They commended the faculty and staff for their dedication to student learning as evidenced by their involvement in co-curricular and extra-curricular programs, their participation in school decisions, and their willingness to overlap roles and work beyond the required hours to ensure the work is done.
- 👍 They commended the school and its community partners who individually and collectively help to create meaningful, relevant learning experiences that extend far beyond the classroom to promote quality student learning and achievement.

There were other Commendations and many Recommendations and we will share these when they are finalized. But for now, we are celebrating everyone's collaborative hard work and professionalism focused on what's best for our students.

Mahalo to everyone who contributed to this process with a special Mahalo to our **Ho'okako'o Local School Board and staff**, our volunteer **Local Advisory Panel**, our internal **Accreditation Steering Committee**, and to the families and friends who attended last week's LAP meeting (almost 50 strong!) and who spoke so passionately in support of our school. **A Warm Mahalo!**



Congratulations 8th Graders

Students received their 3rd Quarter academic achievement awards last week and have now begun the countdown with just seven weeks remaining this school year! There are dozens of important events and activities yet to come and lots yet to study and then demonstrate how much we've learned on important year-end HSA assessments. To be sure you're tuned in to the final events of the school year, "like" us on Facebook! And to everyone — work hard but treasure every moment!

Congratulations 6th Graders For Academic Progress!



Important News For 2014-'15 School Year:

While "next year" seems a long way off, there's some important news for current 6th and 7th grade families to be aware of!

The 2011 State Legislature mandated all Hawai'i middle schools must increase student Instructional minutes beginning this coming school year.

Consequently, after much research and internal discussion, WMS faculty have designed a schedule for 2014-'15 that will run from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. This longer school day, coupled with a very cleverly crafted schedule makes several important revisions — and improvements — over this year's schedule.

- ☞ Students will have a Homeroom every morning.
- ☞ There will be a 27-minute Advisory class on Wednesdays.
- ☞ All students will have 5 Core Classes and 2 Intervention/Exploratory Classes meeting 4 times per week.

We are working with the elementary school, bus company and others to address what this longer school day means for younger siblings who will be released from school earlier than their middle school brothers and/or sisters. We will have more on this soon, but we thought it important to begin advising families about this new schedule.

Important School Events

- **Student-Run Mala'ai Farm Stand**: Every Wednesday thru April 23, 1:15-3 p.m. All invited!
- **College & Career Center Open To All Families**: 1:30-4:30 p.m., every Wednesday throughout April. Stop by for an informal talk-story with our **Connecting For Success** staff and learn about supporting student achievement, logging on to **Jupiter Grades**, etc. All families invited! No appointment—just come!
- **7TH Annual Mala'ai 'Art & Sol' Auction-Benefit**: 12:30-3 p.m., Sun., April 13. Merriman's. Tickets and info: www.Malaai.org.
- **High School Sports Fair** : 7-8:30 p.m., Tues., April 22. Thelma Parker Gym. Primarily for current WMS 8th graders planning to attend Honoka'a High next year. Will include Coaches for a variety of sports at Honoka'a High to meet and talk-story with students and families about the different sports – what's involved, season timetables, etc. and to encourage student participation. Free and the entire family is invited! Organized by former WMS student Ryan Chun as his Senior Year Legacy Project.
- **8th Grade Family e-Portfolio Presentations**: 3-5 p.m., Wed., April 23. Please return form confirming a 15-minute appointment in the computer lab with your student by April 15.
- **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. Performance. Students to 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**: 5:30-7 p.m., Thurs., May 1. Thelma Parker Gym. All invited—free including dinner!
- **Waimea Student/Teacher Art Exhibit**: Month of May at Kahilu Theatre. Complements our May Day Theme: "E Ola Mau Na Leo Kupuna - May The Voices of Our Kupuna Live On." Free and all invited.
- **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 programs feature our **May Day Court**. The morning presentation spotlights WMS student performances. All of Waimea joins in for the evening presentation. Free! Special honored guests will be all past Waimea School May Day Queens and Court members! If you are a former court member or know of one, please call Pua Case (938-5550) or email: Pua_Case@notes.k12.hi.us. Kokua needed with greenery too; please bring to the gym Thursday, May 8.
- **Robotics Club & Friends To Participate In Visitor Industry Charity Walk**: Sat., May 10. Once again our Robotics Team and friends will walk for the Ellison Onizuka Space Center which has always been very generous with our robotics program and in bringing astronauts to our school. Students to seek pledges for walking.
- **WMS Student-Family Gathering For Student 'Grit' Awards and Teacher & Staff 'Culture of Excellence Awards'**: 5-7 p.m., Wed., May 14. Hosted by The Neilen Foundation with special guest speaker 24-year-old Cal Tech Chemistry PhD candidate AntoneToutov, originally from the Ukraine. He's a soccer player, gardener, Frisbee expert, salsa dancer, cook and scientist! Will work with students in classes Mon.-Wed., May 12-14. Location to be confirmed. Free and all invited.
- **WES May Day Celebration**: Friday, May 23. (WMS will have classes this day.)
- **6th Grade Culture Faire**: Friday, May 23.
- **7th & 8th Grade I KAIR Day of Service**: Friday, May 23.
- **8th Grade Exit Ceremony & Last Day of School For All Students**: Thursday, May 29.
- **Summer School**: Monday, June 9 - Friday, June 27, 2014 -- 8 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. For current 4th thru 7th Graders attending any Waimea school. Will combine a strong academic focus and skill building with exciting place-based experiences including a weekly excursion. Also includes breakfast, lunch and busing. Student uniforms mandatory and not covered by \$50 fee. Many scholarships available. Applications in school office and on website. **Deadline to apply: Thursday, May 29.**

Incoming 6th Grade Family Orientation On Wed., April 23

Transitioning from elementary to middle school is a HUGE CHANGE and there are many details for students and families to learn about and adapt to. To make this transition as smooth as possible, WMS annually hosts an Incoming **6th Grade Family Orientation** gathering, which this year will be from **5-6:30 p.m., Wed., April 23 in the Cafeteria.**

All families are invited to learn about every aspect of school life at WMS, from curriculum and student and family supports to our school's Core Values; from uniforms, safety and discipline policies and the Student Planner to tutoring, extra-curricular activities (athletics, robotics, leadership and K(Arts)), the Mala'ai school garden and our integrated 'Ike Hawai'i cultural learning program and much more.

Also included in the Orientation will be a briefing about **Summer School**, which this year will run from June 9-27 and is open to all current 4th-7th graders.

In lieu of serving dinner, each family attending will be given two ready-to-bake pizzas to take home for their family dinner. We also will have steaming hot Starbucks coffee and iced lemon-water.

An RSVP form is going home to help us anticipate how many pizzas to order. Flyers also will be sent home with all current 5th graders at Waimea Elementary School. Please join us if you have an incoming 6th grader. If you have questions, please call our Registrar, Mrs. Betty Healy, at 887-6090 Ext. 228.



Sunday's 'Art & Sol' Auction Sustains Mala'ai School Garden

Once each year we ask the community to support our awesome learning garden which touches the life of every single WMS student. This year's **'Art & Sol' Auction** will be from 12:30-3 p.m., this Sun., April 13, at Merriman's.

Pictured here are a stunning curly koa rocker and paddle that have been donated by this master wood worker **Stan Gollaher** of Pa'auilo. Many other exceptional treasures and pleasures will be offered. To learn more about the event and our school garden, go to **www.Malaai.org**. A few tickets are still available—they're \$50 — and all proceeds help keep our garden program thriving! **Mahalo to all who support Mala'a and our students!**

School Lunch Menus

(All Served With Fresh Local Milk)

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

Wed., April 9: Crispy Nachos w/ Beef & Beans, Garden Salad, Fruit Juice & Corn Bread.

Thurs., April 10: Asian Chicken on Shredded Cabbage, Hapa Rice, Vegetable Medley, Fruit Juice & Whole Wheat Roll.

Fri., April 11: Cheeseburger w/ Lettuce & Tomato; Potato Rounds, Apple Wedge.

Mon., April 14: Chicken Patty w/ Lettuce & Tomato, Oven Fries & Orange Wedge.

Tues., April 15: Baked Spaghetti, Spinach & Romaine Salad, Pineapple & Whole Wheat French Roll.

All menus are posted on school website & Facebook.

WOW! WORD-OF-THE-WEEK:

Sum-ma-ry

Definition: A comprehensive and usually brief statement of previously stated facts.

Part of speech: Noun

Synonym: Synopsis

Root word: From Latin *summārium* of or pertaining to the sum of a substance

Sentence: The lengthy report was concluded with a summary.

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