



## Head Notes

Aloha WCS 'Ohana!

It's so hard to believe how this year is zipping by—it's already 'Ohana Kupuna Day this Friday and Spring Break next week. Whew! 'Ohana Kupuna Day is a special event at our family-oriented school, and I hope you will be able to join us as we celebrate the "village" that is helping to raise our keiki.

Our Benefit Auction is in just a few days. This is our major fundraiser of the year and is *vital* to keeping our school affordable. If you haven't done so already, I urge you to purchase tickets to attend this event and spread the word to your friends, neighbors, and co-workers. We need you now more than ever!

A hui hou, Amy

## Accreditation Update

The HAIS/WASC Accreditation Site Visit Team was here March 1-3, 2009 to meet with board members, faculty, staff, students, and parents as they wrote their report and made their recommendations to the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools (HAIS) and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). **We're pleased to say the accreditation team is "highly recommending" Waimea Country School to be an accredited school.**

Here are a few highlights from their preliminary report

*"The parents and community are actively involved in the life of the school. From their welcomed presence in classrooms as volunteers or visitors to fundraising projects carried out throughout the year."*

*"The teachers and Head of School have worked collaboratively to design appropriate curricula, instruction, and assessments. Two outstanding examples of success are the Hui 'Ohana program and the Student Learning Outcomes."*

*"The high level of participation in fundraising efforts among school community members—Board, administration, faculty, and parents—demonstrates a strong commitment to the students and a willingness to carry out the school's mission."*

We should hear official word from HAIS and WASC about our Accreditation status sometime in April. We will keep you posted.



## Dates to Remember

**Friday, March 20** – 'Ohana Kupuna Day Early release, No Kukui Club

**Saturday, March 21** – Annual Benefit Auction – Do You Have Your Tickets Yet??

**March 23 - April 3** – Spring Break!

**Friday, April 10** – Good Friday – School Closed

**Wednesday, April 22** – Earth Day (Hui 'Ohana activity)

**Monday – Friday, April 27 – May 1** – Spirit Week

**Friday, May 1** – Lei Day Celebration

## **Many Mahalos**

We gratefully say thank you to those who are generously donating time and energy to our benefit auction. This event would not be possible without your support and time involved. You know who you are and I'm going to mention you: **Crystal Pagano, Zizi Zolten, Anne Head, Julie Sedillo, Erika Stuart, Robin Paraiso, Kelly Barrick, Jonathan Walsh, Nicole and Jon Vedelli, Nanci Mahoney, Traci and Stephen Green, Debbie Goodwin, Alex Munster, Nancy Perry, Felicity Johnson, Randy Campbell, Rebecca Keliioomaluu, and Amy Salling.**

Mahalo nui loa to **Mankind Project Hawaii—Alex Munster, Tony Barrett, Francois Benoist, Luke Aitken, and Tom Kerley**—for doing a FANTASTIC clean up job for us at a work party last month. Six loads of rubbish to the transfer station! Wow!

## **Please buy a ticket**

Our Auction Committee has gathered an amazing collection of items this year which is over the amount we've collected in year's past. There is artwork from Hawai'i Island's best, hotel stays, activities along our beautiful Kohala Coast, restaurants, and more. Now we need people to come to the event. We need those ticket sales. Visit our web site ([www.waimeacountryschool.org](http://www.waimeacountryschool.org)) to view the Auction Catalog. Join the party featuring live performance by Sam Keliioomaluu. Cocktails and heavy pupus will be served. Tickets are just \$60. Purchase your tickets now by calling the school office at 885-0067 for a fun evening party in support of Waimea Country School. Waimea Country School Annual Benefit Auction is this Saturday March 21, 2009 at **the Kings' Grille on the King's Golf Course at Waikoloa Beach Resort**. Doors will open at 5 p.m. for all to enjoy.



## **Plant Sale to Support Garden Program**

The Plant Sale will be in May this year, with all proceeds going to support the School Garden Program: **Na Keiki Aloha 'Aina**. Please watch this newsletter and emails with more information about this fundraiser.

## **Student-Led Conferences**

The Student Led Conferences were delightful as well as successful. Students were "Oh So Proud" and maybe a little shy to show their work and accomplishments to their parents. In return, Parents were "Oh So Proud" to see the expressions of joy and success upon their child's face. This was a great opportunity for your children to show what they have learned, and we thank each and every one of you for participating. If you haven't already done so, please send your Parent Reflection of Student-Led Conferences back to the school.

## **Recycling Art Contest**

Save all your recyclables during spring break! Students in all Levels will be participating in a Recycle Art Contest sponsored by Recycle Hawaii. Please watch for a flyer coming home today about different recyclable material you can save at home over the break to help with our projects. Mahalo!

## **Enrollment for 2009/2010**

For some of you who are returning next year to WCS, we still need your contracts along with your, tuition deposit to secure your child's place for next year along with your "Rapid Re-Enrollment" forms for Tuition Management Systems. If you have any questions about the upcoming school year, please drop by the office or call to make an appointment with Amy. We pride ourselves with our open door policy. Mahalo!

## **Kudos!**

Congratulations to our amazing student artists with their work hanging in the Kahilu Theatre Art Show. If you haven't been by to see this collection hanging in the lobby of the theater, do try to make it. Congratulations, also, to all of our students who entered the library's annual Book Poster Contest. Our judge reported an exceptionally challenging time this year deciding which posters to highlight for the library's ceremony this Saturday. First Place entries and Honorable Mentions will be recognized on March 21<sup>st</sup> at 11:00am at the Thelma Parker Memorial Library.

It's not what is poured into a student, but what is planted.  
--Linda Conway