



## Head Notes

Aloha WCS 'Ohana!

Happy Thanksgiving! I wish you all the very best the holiday has to offer—good food, good times with family and friends, and a relaxing break from the hectic pace of life. In this season of reflection and giving thanks, I feel incredible gratitude for all the support this school 'Ohana provides. In writing this month's newsletter, I realized that a full column on the back side is devoted to thanking the many of you who have generously contributed your time, energy, creativity, and know-how to making this a diverse, dynamic learning environment for our keiki. And there is so much more than can be written here—from each of you who work each night with your child to master those spelling words or math facts to taking time out of your day to walk students to the library or theater. Everything you do makes a difference, and I thank you for it.

A hui hou, Amy

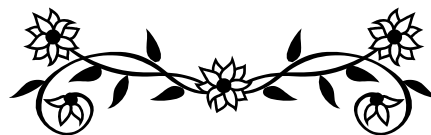
## Annual Giving

Thank you for all who contributed to this year's Annual Giving Campaign during the Parent Participation Drive. Many thanks to **Erika Stuart** for her innovative idea to create two drives—one for Parent Participation and one for dollars—and to make it so easy by explaining the need in a letter and providing envelopes. We are happy to report that 40 of the 41 WCS families made a contribution, giving us a 98% rate of participation. Wow! This is an incredible increase from previous years and will make a real difference when we report to our foundation supporters.

The Annual Fund Drive for dollars is underway as well, with letters from the Board of Trustees going out last week to our past donors, current families, grandparents, and potential friends of the school. If you are interested in supporting this effort by sending a letter to someone you know who is interested in educational philanthropy, please drop by the office or give us a call.

## Wish List

- Band-Aids! Students frequently come into the office for a little TLC for a scrape or sore and we apply a Band-Aid. Next time you are at Wal-Mart or the like, can you pick up a box of Band-Aids for the kids? (Hello Kitty and Superheroes are always a big hit...)



## Dates to Remember

**Tuesday, Nov. 25** – Flu Clinic (Dept. of Health)

**Wednesday – Friday, Nov. 26- 28** – Thanksgiving Break; school closed

**Thursday, Dec. 18** – Last day of classes before the holiday break

**Thursday, Dec. 18, 6 p.m.** – Holiday Program at Keck's Hualalai Room

**Friday, Dec. 19** – Teacher Work Day; no classes

**Dec. 22 through Jan. 9** – Holiday Break; school closed

**Saturday, Jan. 10** – Admissions Open House

**Monday, Jan. 12** – Teacher Work Day; no classes

**Tuesday, Jan. 13** – Classes resume

**Monday, Jan. 19**– MLK, Jr. Day; school closed

**Saturday, Jan. 31** – Admissions Open House

## Many Mahalos

**Merriman's Fundraiser – Genevie Pilayo**, Thank you so much for making those incredible table tents for the dinner at Merriman's. They were the talk of the night and really showed off our keiki and school. Mahalo!

**Pumpkin Patch – Mahalo to Marcie Neubecker** for organizing the Pumpkin Patch for the keiki this year when we realized we couldn't make the trip up to Kahua Ranch. Big Thank Yous to the pumpkin picking crew: **Rhonda Bell, Kelly Barrick, Michele Tanaka, Erika Stuart, Aline Arnouts, and Marcie Neubecker**. And thank you to **Kelly Barrick** for taking those great class pictures with the pumpkins!  
**Ha!man Performance – Mahalo nui to the Stuart Family** for organizing this show for us and to board member **Alex Munster** for donating the cost of the show.

**Harvest Festival – Many thanks to all the parents** who helped make this such a terrific event for our keiki and for the Small World children as well. Special mahalos to the **Lincoln Family** for arranging the shave ice booth. Also, thank you to parent volunteers who worked the event: **Kelly Barrick, Diane O'Toole, Erika Stuart, Jolyn Bein, Anne Head, Patrizia Kilgore, Aline Arnouts, Yancey Glidden, Kathryn Freitas, Daniel Gomez, Crystal and Stephen Pagano, Shelley Boswell, Nicole Vedelli, and Tutu**.

**Makahiki – Kudos to Nanci Mahoney** for putting together such a fun event! Thank you, also, to each of the teachers for heading up their Hui 'Ohana and teaching that competition can be fun when there is encouragement and good sportsmanship involved. Thank you to parent volunteers who helped run the events: **Kelly Barrick, Anne Head, Nicole Vedelli, Aline Arnouts, Daniel Gomez, Leslie Hall, Robin Paraiso, Kathryn Wiese, and Traci Green**. It was also wonderful to have so many parent spectators out to enjoy the games. Mahalo for your support!

**French Class – Merci to Aline Arnouts** for working with Level 4 students each Monday afternoon to learn some French. Cool!

**Science Fair – Mahalo nui to our community partners Randy Campbell (Keck) and Mary Beth Laychak and Rachael Zelman (CFHT)** for their support of students during this year's Science Fair!

**Benefit Auction – Thank you to Crystal Pagano**, Auction Chair, who has already put in a good amount of work to prepare for this year's Auction. Want to help? Contact Crystal at: AuctionChair@waimeacountryschool.org



## Holiday Program

**Thursday, Dec. 18, 6:00 p.m.**

**At the Hualalai Room at Keck**

Students in all Levels will be performing. This is the last day of classes before we leave for the holiday break, so **no classes on Friday, Dec. 19**. Please include this student performance when planning your holidays this year!



## Food Drive

### **A Lesson in Lokomaikai'i**

Level 2 is sponsoring a Food Drive to help local families in need. All donations will be distributed locally. The Food Drive runs through Friday, December 5. Please drop off any of the following at the school:

- Canned meats and fish
- Canned fruits and vegetables
- Dry and canned beans
- Peanut butter
- Dry cereal (low sugar)
- Healthy snacks (granola bars, pretzels, rasins, etc.)
- Dried milk and fortified soy milk

Please, no expired foods, perishables, open containers, or homemade items.

## Tetherball ~ Help!

Our active students need you! One of our two tetherball poles broke recently, and we need to get a replacement in place for students to use at recess. We need: an old tire, a metal pole, cement, and someone to put this together for students. Can you help? Please contact the office if you can make this happen for the children—they will be incredibly grateful!

## Accreditation Update

We have confirmed the Visiting Committee dates for our accreditation review: March 1 – 3, 2009. The team will be here to talk with parents, faculty, administrators, students, and board members about the school. They will be working with us on our school improvement plan, as outlined in the accreditation self-study we are currently writing.

***Good schools, like good societies  
and good families, celebrate and  
cherish diversity.***

*~ Deborah Meier*