



Head of School Letter



Communication between the school and parents is very important. I am very proud of all of the teachers who have started “blogging” with parents. Many of you have told me how much you appreciate this. I also enjoy the Facebook page our school shares. Another way we are communicating is through Twitter. We have just started an HMS Twitter site so we can have an ongoing conversation about our school. The address is #hongwanjissionschool. If you

have a Twitter account, please join us.

I am active on Twitter, and belong to many educational groups. I am constantly learning new things. One blog I got today had to do with a conversation six educators have just had with students all over our country. The boys and girls have shared things they wish parents and teacher knew regarding how they feel about school. The name of the blog is The Effective Educator. It seems our students are ready to talk. We must be ready to take the time to listen and incorporate what they say. Take a look:

1. I have to critically think in college, but your tests in K-12 don't teach me that.
2. Students learn in different ways at different rates.
3. I can't learn from teachers if they are not willing to connect with me.
4. Teaching by the book is not teaching. It's just talking.
5. Caring about each student is more important than teaching the class.
6. Every young person has a dream. The teacher's job is to help bring us closer to our dreams.
7. We need more than teachers. We need life coaches.
8. The community should become more involved in schools
9. Students love all the new technologies that come out. When teachers use this in their teaching, it makes learning much more interesting.
10. Teachers should be trained not just in teaching but also in counseling.
11. Teachers should tell me something good that I'm doing so that I can keep growing in that.
12. When you can feel like a family member it helps so much.
13. We appreciate when teachers connect with us in our worlds such as the teacher who provided us with extra help using Xbox and Skype
14. Education leaders, teachers, funders, and policy makers

need to start listening to students.

15. Teachers need to use tools in the classroom that we use in the real world like Facebook, email, and other tools we use to connect and communicate.
16. You need to love a student before you can teach a student.
17. We take tests to make teachers look good and the school look good, but we know tests don't help us learn important things like critical thinking and decision making.

In Gassho,
Carol Riley, Ed.D.

When Less is More Craig P. Wagnild

I will admit it. I like Costco. I spend way too much there and I usually buy at least a couple things I truly don't need. But the giant barrel of pretzels is something I just can't pass up. For the same price as a normal-sized bag of pretzels at the grocery store, I get tons more salty, tasty goodness. It doesn't take anything more than a three-year old to tell you more is better. Offer either of my boys a piece of cake and they will agonize for a couple minutes to make sure they pick the largest slice. Guess it is a

Important Dates to Remember

- October 3rd-7th – Scholastic Book Fair in the Library
- Monday, October 10th – PTO Fundraiser kalua pig ticket monies due & HMS is in session.
- October 11th – 12th – Middle School Camp
- Wednesday, October 12th – Community Open House 5:30-7:00pm (spread the word to anyone interested in finding out more about our school)
- Saturday, October 15th – 8th grade HI-5 fundraiser Pali Long's 9am-2pm
- Sunday, October 16th - “Holiday Craft Fair” on the Temple grounds 9am-1pm
- Thursday Oct. 20th – DOH Flu Clinic (K-8th grade)
- Saturday, Oct. 22nd – 4th grade corn fundraiser pick up 10:00am-1:00pm (HMS blacktop)
- Thursday, October 27th – Fall Picture Retakes with all service groups and sports teams
- Monday, October 31st – Student Council's Halloween Fun Day!

part of human nature to want more.

But sometimes more is not better. I am not talking about obvious things like mosquitoes and acne. No one wants more of those. In this case, I am thinking about students and teachers and classes. Hongwanji Mission School is not a large school. At around 325 students attending preschool through 8th grade this year, we are dwarfed by the Costco schools that have enrollments of three to four times that many regular students. Yet somehow HMS offers most of the programs and classes available at competing larger schools, and some that are truly unique. But there is something more.

One of the truly outstanding aspects of an HMS education is the opportunity to learn and grow in a small, intimate classroom setting. People I speak with outside of HMS are shocked to hear that Parker's second grade class has 15 students. Zachary's preschool class has 18 students, but two teachers (I am no math whiz, but I calculate that to be a 9:1 student:teacher ratio). In a state where I understand the average student:teacher ratio in many classrooms is 30:1 (accurate statistics on this are very difficult to find), HMS is offering half of that.

The benefits that come from the personal attention our children get at HMS are obvious. Our teachers have the time and opportunity to work one-on-one with each of our kids and really get to know them. Parker's teachers have discovered his strengths and weaknesses, his interests and what motivates him, what frustrates him and what makes him feel important and supported. They have earned his respect and trust (and mine) because they have invested themselves in him and his success both as a student and as a person. There is consistent and repeated interaction between the teachers and each of the students, and that makes all the difference.

Not to take anything away from our teachers and the great work they are doing (we are so fortunate to have highly-skilled, dedicated, and caring teachers), but we have to appreciate that it is the classroom environment we have at HMS that helps make this possible. You can't have the kind of daily interaction between students and teachers that our kids enjoy every day when there are 30+ students in a class with one teacher. The simple logistics of administering lessons, running the classroom, grading papers, etc., would consume too much of a teacher's time. Everything from disciplinary issues to lost homework, to bathroom breaks, to explaining directions so everyone understands an assignment would combine to prevent teachers from getting to spend meaningful time with each student each day. I am not saying that teachers cannot successfully teach larger classes. Good teachers can. But the atmosphere, the environment, the interaction and the opportunities are all different.

What we have as a result of the smaller class sizes at HMS is something very special that we should appreciate and embrace. Parker and Zachary are not just numbers and grades next to names in a class log book. Their teachers know them personally and care about their happiness and successes even after they have moved on to the next grade. How many schools can you say that about? I guess sometimes less is more. But I am still going to buy my pretzels by the barrel.

HMS Student Receives Award

By Dr. Carol Riley

Naho Umitani, second-grade student at Hongwanji Mission School, recently received an award from Maui County for her participation in a poster contest at her school in Maui last year. Naho drew a picture of what happiness means to her. Both her mother and her father joined the Head of School in the presentation made on September 26, 2011 at Hongwanji Mission School. We are so proud of her!



Student Council News

By Skyler Nishiyama

Student Council's first activity of the year was Spirit Week. We thought it was great! It was amazing to see all of the enthusiastic HMS students and teachers participating and showing some dolphin spirit!

To achieve our theme and goals of "Making a Positive Difference" within ourselves and in the lives of others, Student Council held Spirit Week from September 26-30, 2011. Each day, we had a different theme that showed our school spirit and also helped those around us.

On Monday we had "Make a Friend Day". We all dressed alike with a buddy and got paired up with an awesome buddy class. The purpose of this activity was to make a new friend, and we hope that everyone was able to! On Tuesday, we had "Earth Kindness Day". Classes showed off their amazing hats made of recycled materials and also cleaned up our campus. Wednesday was "Grape Out Day". On Grape Out Day, we all wore purple attire to show our school spirit and brought canned goods to give to the Hawaii Foodbank, an organization that helps the less fortunate. Thanks to your generosity, we collected 32 boxes full of cans! We planned this event so we could make a positive difference in the lives of others in the community. Thursday was "Cultural Awareness Day." On this day, we picked a country and put information and pictures about that country on our bulletin board. We also wore clothes or accessories from the cultures of different countries. We wanted to help everyone learn about different cultures. Finally, on Friday, we had "Trail Mix and Match Day". We mixed and matched our clothes and we made a yummy trail mix that we all contributed to.

We hope everyone enjoyed Spirit Week and we hope you will enjoy our next activity, which is our Halloween Relay Race Activity. GO DOLPHINS!

Join us on Twitter
#hongwanjissionschool



The Adventures of Preschool 3s

By Your Friends in P-21 and P-22

“Apples are red. The grass is green. The sky is blue and the clouds are white. Bananas are yellow. Oranges are orange. Black is the color of the sky at night,” joyously sing the students of the 3-year-old program as they point to the matching colors within their own clothing and dance to the music. We kick-started into our school year, beginning with our color concepts. Exploring a new color each week, we go on color hunts, taste colorful foods, sport colorful outfits, paint colorful journals, read aloud books on colors, and so much more. Yet, we have not only jumped into the wonderful world of color but have also been busy exploring how we can work, play, and grow together with our friends by our sides! Hand-in-hand, we have discovered that learning is a fun adventure we journey together!

If you should peek inside our classroom communities, you may hear us singing out loud and proud or see us dancing, moving, or participating in dramatic play. Come on down to visit! Have fun using your entire body in multisensory activities to learn not only your colors but letters, shapes, numbers, as well as monthly units integrating science and social studies!

For our alphabet studies, we are learning to identify our letters and sounds and link them to familiar words. We exercise our fine motor skills by apple printing for Aa, pasting buttons on the capital and lowercase Bb (to later trace with our fingers), finger signing the letter Cc, or decorating doughnuts for Dd! We read-aloud books on astronaut alligators, bowing birds, colorful cats, and detective dogs. We enjoy trying alphabet snacks that our preschool ohana lovingly and generously prepare. We sing, search for, and practice tracing/writing our letters. With our world of letters crawling right onto our fingertips, we can't wait to catch more!

Interweaved is our own science concepts which get even more of our senses involved. We touch, smell, taste, listen to, and/or examine mystery items that link to the letters we learn. Apples were a hit in the taste department for Aa and balloons being filled with air or emptied were fun sounds to listen to for Bb. Cotton balls were fun to feel and create clouds for the letter Cc. We look forward to learning even more about fruits, weather, and uncovering the further “mysteries” of our world.

And what would our world be like without us? For our social studies unit about self, it was truly ALL ABOUT US! Starting with our physical bodies, we explored our parts, gestures, expression, and linked them to our feelings, actions, and words.

Did you know that you can tell a lot about how people feel by just looking at their face? We discovered just that as we examined our own faces in the mirror, drawing our own creative first self-portraits. Through experiences like this as well as others, we learned that the expressions we see can help us identify how our friends feel. From there, we can “fix” some of the choices we make in our thoughts, words, and actions to be the kind of friends we wish to have ourselves. In our community, we learn that every day is a new day to learn, grow, and become even better choosers, people, and friends.

We look forward to continuing our journey! Should you have

a free moment, we invite you to come on down and play with us. Please share in our smiles, laughter, fun, and learning! Adventure awaits!!!



A Day in the Life of a Preschooler

By Your Friends in P-4 and P-5

Come on in! Come join the fun! Our preschool day has just begun! Let's sign in and play with our friends. Let's build a tall building! Let's pretend to be doctors! Let's draw a picture for mommy and daddy! Oh it's time to clean up for “Circle Time”. Let's help each other clean up and put everything in its proper place. “Clean up, clean up, everybody, everywhere! Clean up, Clean up, everybody do their share!” Criss cross, apple sauce, hands in your lap! Morning circle has begun!

Here in preschool - we play together, we work together, and we learn together! While playing, we learn to share and take turns. We learn to talk things out with our friends and solve problems. In addition, we are responsible for keeping our classroom neat and orderly. In our class, we have jobs like leader, light monitors, mat monitors, and more. During the week, we get to visit Saito Sensei in Japanese and Religious Education, Mrs. Ellis in Music, Mr. Kimura and Ms. Whitney in P.E., and Mrs. Okamura in Library. It's fun to spend this time with all the different teachers.

Within our classroom, we begin by reviewing and learning the different colors and shapes. Did you know that there are colors and shapes all around us? We also learn alphabet identifica-



tion, phonics, number identification and counting. We practice writing the different letters and numbers too. We even learn neat things about the different holidays and themes! Come on in and check out our cool art.

What do you like about Preschool?

(Quotes from a few children)

“Playing on the playground” – Vincent

“I like to play dollhouse. I like to draw. I like to play puzzle.”
– Sophie

“Circle time because I like to sing songs.” – Lillian

“I like to draw hearts. I like to draw stars.” – Jasmine

“I like everything like eating snack and signing in.” – Pomai

“I like to play outside on the slide.” – Emi

“Draw a cat for the letter Cc.” – Alyssa

“I like to play table toys.” – Elysia

“Play and read book.” – Reyn

“I like to go to exercise, P.E.” – Luyanda

“Play Legos . . . like the building.” – Ahren

We are very busy during our preschool day but learning with friends is FUN! FUN! FUN!

4th Grade Meets Peggy Chun

By: Randy Castello

The fourth grade has been studying the theme of courage in Mr. Castello’s Language Arts class. One of the stories in their textbook is about Lou Gehrig and his brave struggle with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) – a fatal disease that slowly paralyzes the entire body. In fact, the disease has been

nicknamed Lou Gehrig Disease after the great Yankee player. Hearing of this, Ms. JoAnn Jacobs suggested that the class might visit the Peggy Chun Art Gallery since artist Peggy Chun also struggled with ALS and died in 2008.



Well, the gallery is no longer in existence but something even greater came of that. Mrs. Kimi Morton, daughter-in-law of the artist and one of her caregivers enthusiastically agreed to come and talk with the fourth graders on Tuesday. She brought with her examples of Mrs. Chun’s works from various stages of her illness. Peggy refused to let ALS get in the way of her passion for painting and her positive, happy take on life. When she could no longer use her dominant hand to paint, she switched to the other one. When her hands stopped working, she painted with the brush held in her mouth. Then the muscles there failed and she used a computer system called ERICA to digitally paint images using her eye movement. Her final painting was actually done by grade school children following her directions communicated through a spell board. That last painting – of St. Damien, now resides in the Vatican in Rome.

Our fourth graders heard Peggy’s story with rapt attention. It was recycled hat day as part of Spirit Week and they discovered that Peggy loved dressing up in costumes and wearing hats and she would have loved the original hats that they were wearing. They had many questions after the presentation. Their reflections ran the gamut from sadness that such an upbeat and talented person died - to wonder at the technology that enabled her to continue painting with her eyes and finally with her brain waves. Mrs. Morton left several prints and photographs with us which will be displayed in room 12 along with the students’ written reflections.

On Thursday, the class even experimented with spell boards – using them to practice their weekly list of spelling words. It was not an easy task communicating individual letters only with the eyes looking at certain parts of the board.

The incredible courage that enabled this woman to deal with this disease in such a determinedly positive way absolutely came alive for the children. A theme in a textbook became a living lesson.

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Hongwanji Mission School’s Facebook Page.
www.Facebook.com/HongwanjiMissionSchool**



Peace Day 2011

By: Barbara Ellis

On September 20th, the students at HMS celebrated Peace Day. September 21st is known as the International Day of Peace and is celebrated by countries all over the world. Our students began the day with a temple service. During the service, class representatives rang the peace bell and sang songs. Mitsuyo Saito led the Preschool and Kindergarten in singing and Mrs. Ellis led the 1st through 6th graders in a song. The service ended with the song, "Candle for Peace" with the middle school students lighting candles during the singing. This song has now become a tradition that we sing every year for Peace Day.

Other events that took place to commemorate the day included a bulletin board display outside the library by 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade students as well as various activities with buddy classes.



Breakfast Menu for Hongwanji Mission Schools

Revised 7/22/2011

Menu subject to change without notice

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
3-Oct	4-Oct	5-Oct	6-Oct	7-Oct
Portuguese Sausage, Egg and Fried Rice	Pancake with Bacon	Vienna Sausage, Egg and Fried Rice	Grilled Cheese Sandwich and Portuguese Sausage	Spam, Egg and Rice
Spam Musubi	Spam Musubi	Spam Musubi	Spam Musubi	Spam Musubi
Cereal with Milk	Cereal with Milk	Cereal with Milk	Cereal with Milk	Cereal with Milk
Milk, Juice, or Coffee	Milk, Juice, or Coffee	Milk, Juice, or Coffee	Milk, Juice, or Coffee	Milk, Juice, or Coffee
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
10-Oct	11-Oct	12-Oct	13-Oct	14-Oct
Portuguese Sausage, Egg and Fried Rice	Pancake with Bacon	Vienna Sausage, Egg and Fried Rice	Grilled Cheese Sandwich and Portuguese Sausage	Corned Beef Hash, Egg and Rice
Spam Musubi	Spam Musubi	Spam Musubi	Spam Musubi	Spam Musubi
Cereal with Milk	Cereal with Milk	Cereal with Milk	Cereal with Milk	Cereal with Milk
Milk, Juice, or Coffee	Milk, Juice, or Coffee	Milk, Juice, or Coffee	Milk, Juice, or Coffee	Milk, Juice, or Coffee
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
17-Oct	18-Oct	19-Oct	20-Oct	21-Oct
Portuguese Sausage, Egg and Fried Rice	Pancake with Bacon	Vienna Sausage, Egg and Fried Rice	Grilled Cheese Sandwich and Portuguese Sausage	Spam, Egg and Rice
Spam Musubi	Spam Musubi	Spam Musubi	Spam Musubi	Spam Musubi
Cereal with Milk	Cereal with Milk	Cereal with Milk	Cereal with Milk	Cereal with Milk
Milk, Juice, or Coffee	Milk, Juice, or Coffee	Milk, Juice, or Coffee	Milk, Juice, or Coffee	Milk, Juice, or Coffee
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
24-Oct	25-Oct	26-Oct	27-Oct	28-Oct
Portuguese Sausage, Egg and Fried Rice	Pancake with Bacon	Vienna Sausage, Egg and Fried Rice	Grilled Cheese Sandwich and Portuguese Sausage	Corned Beef Hash, Egg and Rice
Spam Musubi	Spam Musubi	Spam Musubi	Spam Musubi	Spam Musubi
Cereal with Milk	Cereal with Milk	Cereal with Milk	Cereal with Milk	Cereal with Milk
Milk, Juice, or Coffee	Milk, Juice, or Coffee	Milk, Juice, or Coffee	Milk, Juice, or Coffee	Milk, Juice, or Coffee
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
31-Oct	1-Nov	2-Nov	3-Nov	4-Nov
Portuguese Sausage, Egg and Fried Rice	Pancake with Bacon	Vienna Sausage, Egg and Fried Rice	Grilled Cheese Sandwich and Portuguese Sausage	Spam, Egg and Rice
Spam Musubi	Spam Musubi	Spam Musubi	Spam Musubi	Spam Musubi
Cereal with Milk	Cereal with Milk	Cereal with Milk	Cereal with Milk	Cereal with Milk
Milk, Juice, or Coffee	Milk, Juice, or Coffee	Milk, Juice, or Coffee	Milk, Juice, or Coffee	Milk, Juice, or Coffee

Lunch Menu for Hongwanji Mission School

Revised 7/22/2011

Menu subject to change without notice

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
3-Oct	4-Oct	5-Oct	6-Oct	7-Oct
Chicken Nuggets	Spaghetti	Hot Pocket	Beef Ravioli	Hot Dog in a Bun
Tater Tots	Garlic Bread	French Fries	Dinner Roll	Chips
Carrot Sticks	Tossed Salad	Carrot Sticks	Tossed Salad	Carrot Sticks
Oranges	Pears	Apples	Pineapples	Banana
Milk	Milk	Milk	Milk	Milk
Taco Salad	Chef Salad	Asian Salad	Caesar Salad	Somen Salad
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
10-Oct	11-Oct	12-Oct	13-Oct	14-Oct
Corn Dog	Shoyu Chicken	Pepperoni Pizza	Spanish Macaroni	Chili
Fries	Rice	Carrot Sticks	Rolls	Rice
Carrot Sticks	Mixed Vegetables	Apple	Tossed Salad	Corn
Oranges	Applesauce		Applesauce	Pineapples
Milk	Milk	Milk	Milk	Milk
Taco Salad	Chef Salad	Asian Salad	Caesar Salad	Somen Salad
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
17-Oct	18-Oct	19-Oct	20-Oct	21-Oct
Sloppy Joe	Cheeseburger	Fried Chicken	Tuna Sandwich	Fried Saimin
Tater Tots	Fries	Rice	Fries	Eggroll
Carrot Sticks	Carrot Sticks	Mixed Vegetables	Carrot Sticks	Mixed Vegetables
Apple	Oranges	Applesauce	Banana	Mandarin Oranges
Milk	Milk	Milk	Milk	Milk
Taco Salad	Chef Salad	Asian Salad	Caesar Salad	Somen Salad
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
24-Oct	25-Oct	26-Oct	27-Oct	28-Oct
Chili Cheese Nachos	Teri Burger	Chicken Patty with Gravy	Chili Dog	Chicken Curry
Tortilla Chips	Fries	Rice	Rice	Rice
Tossed Salad	Carrot Sticks	Mixed Vegetables	Corn	Mandarin Oranges
Pineapples	Oranges	Peaches	Pears	
Milk	Milk	Milk	Milk	Milk
Taco Salad	Chef Salad	Asian Salad	Caesar Salad	Somen Salad
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
31-Oct	1-Nov	2-Nov	3-Nov	4-Nov
Chicken Nuggets	Spaghetti	Hot Pocket	Beef Ravioli	Hot Dog in a Bun
Tater Tots	Garlic Bread	French Fries	Dinner Roll	Chips
Carrot Sticks	Tossed Salad	Carrot Sticks	Tossed Salad	Carrot Sticks
Oranges	Pears	Apples	Pineapples	Banana
Milk	Milk	Milk	Milk	Milk
Taco Salad	Chef Salad	Asian Salad	Caesar Salad	Somen Salad



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 	3 <i>Book Fair</i>	4	5	6	7	8
9	10 School is Open <i>PTO Kalua Pig monies are due</i>	11 <i>Middle School Camp</i>	12 <i>Community Open House for new prospective families 5:30-7:00pm</i> <i>Waikiki Fire Dept. Preschool</i>	13	14 <i>12th Annual Kindergarten Grandparent's Day 9:00-10:00am</i> <i>Betsuin's Social Hall</i>	15 <i>8th grade HI-5 fundraiser at Pali Longs parking lot</i>
16 <i>Betsuin's "Holiday Craft Fair" 9am-1pm on the Temple grounds</i>	17	18	19	20 <i>DOH Flu Clinic K-8th grades</i>	21 <i>Sea Life Park Kindergarten</i>	22 <i>4th grade corn fundraiser pick up. 10am-1pm</i>
23	24	25	26	27 <i>Picture re-take day; HMS service and athletic group photos</i>	28	29
30	31 <i>Student Council Halloween Celebration</i>					

HMS Open House for Prospective Parents

October 12, 2011 at 5:30 pm. If you know of any families who are interested in learning about our school, please let them know about this open house! Thank you!

Mahalo Nui Loa

Thank you to all the families that donated canned food for the student council food drive. Thank you to the new parents for coming to our New Parent Social. Mahalo nui loa to Andrew Polkinhorn for donating LEGOs

Accepting Applications for 2012-2013

Please go to www.HongwanjiMissionSchool.org for information & applications or call the HMS office at 532-0522.

New breakfast prices go into effect on Monday, October 17th. Our cafeteria will continue to open for breakfast at 6:30 a.m. Mahalo nui loa for your input and understanding.

HMS Golf Enrichment Classes

Class meets every Wednesday on campus!
3:00 PM – 4:00 PM
Session begins Wednesday, November 2nd with Coach Oliver Oliquiano
Registration Deadline: November 1st
Call the HMS Office for details at 532-0522

HMS PTO Movie Night

Please join us on November 4th at 5:30 pm. The movie will be shown in the Social Hall.

Do Not Forget

- 12th Annual Kindergarten Grandparent's Day Oct. 14th, 9:00 am in Social Hall
- DOH Flu Clinic Oct. 20th for grades K-8th
- Student Council Halloween Celebration Monday Oct. 31st