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Lei O Lanikuhonua Hula Festival hosts students

Twenty members of "**Na Wahine Waipahe,**" the "*Gentleladies*" of Sacred Hearts (*below*); **Jordan Asing**, their Kumu, and **Whitney Miyahira** were thrilled and honored to participate in the annual **Lei O Lanikuhonua Hula Festival** on February 26 in Ko Olina.

Unlike other hula festivals, participants do not compete or win prizes – instead, this day-long event is a "gift" of renowned hula masters who come together to share their knowledge with high school students during a celebration of Hawaiian culture and dance.

Sponsored by the Lanikuhonua Cultural Institute, the day-long event is held on beachfront property dedicated by the James Campbell Company for the preservation of Hawaiian culture.

In its tenth year, the festival hosted approximately 500 students from public and private schools who benefited from the knowledge shared by the Kumu.



Whitney Miyahira; Suzanne Avina, a 1965 Academy graduate who attends the Lei O Lanikuhonua Hula Festival regularly; and Kumu Jordan Asing



From the Head of School

THOUGHTS GOING INTO SPRING BREAK

The school is ready for a break as we move swiftly into the year's final quarter. Academically, the next few days are important to the students at various grade levels. Our seniors, mentored closely by College Counselor Randy Fong, will be hearing about their college acceptances around March 15.



Third quarter grades are required to be on Edline by Tuesday, March 22. As these grades are discussed with your daughters, please remember that the school is committed to providing students, who are not successfully learning, with extra tutoring and support. The school's mission is to ensure that all students learn. Although a majority of our students are on the Honor Roll or Principal's List, we must provide support and opportunities for others who need additional assistance. Providing students with second chances and giving extra help will hopefully teach them how to swim, rather than sinking.

Take the opportunity to examine third quarter grades carefully; call the counselors or teachers and see what we can do as a team to help every student succeed and end the year on a high note.

The school will be open during Spring Break, but with a reduced staff. However, phones will be answered and emails consistently checked so please do not hesitate to contact us if your family has specific needs.

As we continue the journey in Lent, let us remind ourselves that this time of "dying" is really a time for preparing for "new life"

Betty White

Girls have aspirations in computing

Four Academy students will be recognized for their technology skills as part of **Aspirations in Computing**, a national talent development program, at an awards ceremony this month.



Aspirations in Computing is an initiative of the **National Center for Women and IT (NCWIT)**, and the NCWIT Award is given to high school girls based on their computing-related achievements in technology and computing, leadership ability, academic history and post-secondary education plans.

Senior **Aimee Pak** (above second from right) is a national runner-up; her classmates (with **Deborah Kula**) **Michaela Graves**, **Malia Libby** and **Weiyi Huang** are State winners.

It's time for spring cleaning!

BIG BOOK SWAP

Almost new, gently-used books, with no tears, discolorations or names, can be dropped off in the **Lower School Library** through March 24.

Books should be appropriate for ages newborn to 12-years-old.

Students who donate books to can take home the same number of books during the Swap from March 30 to April 1.

Students share global vision

Juniors **Megan Backus**, **Faizah Shyanguya** and **Jennifer Ung** and sophomore **Taylor McKenzie** received a “wordly” perspective at the **Global Vision Summit** organized by the **Pacific Asian Affairs Council (PAAC)** on March 5.

The Academy students joined PAAC members from other public and private schools across the State during the conference to better understand the issues surrounding homelessness in the Islands and to develop innovative and creative solutions to alleviate this issue.

The Academy students were joined by the conference by **Kinga Wojtas**, the Academy’s PAAC advisor, and **Social Studies** teacher **Mario Dilello**.



Megan Backus answers questions from attendees at the PAAC Global Vision Summit about the Academy group’s solutions to combat the problem of homelessness – having a forum to collect donations and exchange information about the issues.

Spelling into State

After winning the Academy’s **Spelling Bee**, **Isabella Johnson**, an eighth grader, battled 33 competitors at the **Honolulu District Regional Competition** on January 30 and is one of two qualifiers from the area to compete on the State level.



This marks the first time an Academy student has moved on to compete in the State round of the **Scripps Spelling Bee**, slated for April 1.

Sarah Silverberg is Johnson’s advisor.



Junior is Precise

Junior **Dorothy Sanidad** represented the Academy at the **Interscholastic League of Honolulu (ILH) Precision Air Rifery Championships** on March 5 at Mid-Pacific Institute.

She finished seventh among the 20 Varsity shooters and was ranked first going into the competition with a season average of 379.8.

On the Junior Varsity level, sophomore **Brianna Ho** led the Lancers and was ranked in the top 20 with a season average of 314.3.

Trading language notes in the Southwest

On March 4, Academy **World Languages** teachers (*below*) **Jordan Asing**, **Nami Grafia**, **Keeley Ohman** and **Sean Rist**, attended the **Southwest Conference of Language Teaching (SWCOLT)** in Waikiki where they networked with colleagues to gain valuable insight into the direction World Language programs will take in the future.



The Conference featured presentations that emphasized the need for curriculum focused on students' interests and reflecting 21st century skills.

In addition to developing the talents of his Academy students, **Dr. Alec Schumacker** (*below left*) stays active and involved in the local Choral scene as **State-President Elect** of the **American Choral Directors Association (ACDA)**.

Corralling choral directors

The last weekend in February, he and **ACDA State President Dr. Miguel Felipe** (*below right*) attended the Association's Western Division Conference in Pasadena, California where they were recognized by **National Executive President Tim Sharp** (*below middle*) for increasing state membership.

Dr. Alec Schumacker (*below left*) stays active and involved in the local Choral scene as **State-President Elect** of the **American Choral Directors Association (ACDA)**.



Safety is the key

At the **Los Angeles Regional** of the **FIRST Robotics** competition, (*left*) **Samantha Lee** and **Katherine Christian**, the Academy's **Safety Team** captains, were named co-winners of **"The Star of the Day" Award** as competition opened.

In addition to this event, the team will compete in the Hawai'i Regional later this month.



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