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VEX teams use IQ in quest for world championships

After notching strong performances throughout the season and at the *aio Hawai'i State Championships*, four teams from the Academy will pack their bags for the *VEX IQ Worlds*



competition from April 23 to 25 in Kentucky.

Six of the Academy's VEX IQ teams qualified to vie for the State title on February 20 – two on the Middle School level and four in the Elementary School competition.

When the final results from the State Championships and throughout the season were tallied, the Academy teams earning a World Championship spot on the *Elementary level* are:

- Aureanna Vendiola and Abigayle Vendiola (*Team 2436A*, right working with their match alliance partners at the Championship meet), who finished in second place for the State's overall Elementary Championship and won the meet's *Robot Skills Award*;
- Lauren Kealoha, Reese Machida and Sophia Ramos (*Team 2436C*), who earned the *Build Award* at the State meet;
- Gabrielle Castro, Sara Inao and Sadie Takaki (*Team 2436D*), who qualified based on season standings.



On the *Middle School level*, the trio of Kammiee Ardo, Ayla Hakikawa and Nanami Mehring (*Team 2437A*) took the *Energy Award* for enthusiasm at the State meet and earned a spot in the World Championships for the second consecutive year.

Of the 550 World Championship slots available for teams from around the world, 24 were secured by Hawai'i teams after the State Championships.

In Kentucky, the teams will be advised by Peter Park (above at the State Championships with all of this year's VEX IQ participants) and a host of parent mentors.

From the Head of School

SIGNIFICANCE OF RINGS EMPHASIZED



This past Thursday evening, the Academy Chapel was filled with members of the junior class and their families.

The atmosphere was joyous, and just a bit serious, as the students received their class ring or the pin for their uniform tie.

Although the first modern day class ring was given in 1835 at the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York, the tradition has remained with us as a long-standing tradition in American culture.

The girls and their parents were reminded that these symbols, ring or pin, signify respect for the mission of our school whose name will be following them on applications, resumes and important documents for the rest on their lives.

The students left the traditional Ring Ceremony understanding that the ring symbolizes a spiritual respect to a school that has taught them that they are loved by God and that they are women of faith and of integrity.

Betty White

Sisters join world to read aloud

Members of the Academy's *Lower School* joined millions of other students and adults in more than 100 countries to participate in this year's *World Read Aloud Day* on February 16.

The global effort, sponsored by *Scholastic*, celebrates "the power of words" and brings attention to the importance of reading, sharing stories and creating a community of readers.

At the Academy, the fifth graders spent their Language Arts period reading to their Junior and Senior Kindergarten "little sisters."

The youngsters eagerly returned repeatedly to the book cart for more books – which their big sisters happily read aloud!



Looking for some good books! (For the Big Book Swap)

Donated books to swap should be almost-new – paperbacks only – with no tears, discoloration or name labels and appropriate for newborn to age 12.

Drop-off on Mondays to Fridays from March 1 to 24 in the *High School Library*, *Lower School Library* or grades kindergarten to six classrooms.

Class Swap days are March 29 to 31

Creating music after crash course

Melodious music filled the Auditorium on January 31 when *Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra (HSO)* members *Iggy Jang*, a concertmaster violinist, and *James Gallagher*, a double-bass player, visited with the Academy's Lower School students.

The musicians provided a "crash course" in stringed instruments which included performances of music pieces rooted in different parts of the world.

A few eager volunteers, including (*below with Jang*) *Maia Moya*, were chosen to go on-stage and play "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star" under the watchful eye of Jang, who let them use his personal violin!

The visit by these expert musicians was made possible by the HSO Education and Outreach Program.



Symposium gets students stoked for STEM

Over 325 girls in grades five to eight and over 250 parents were welcomed to campus on February 18 for the *Science Symposium for Girls*.

Dr. Holly Olson, the keynote speaker, and a cadre of local professionals, who conducted engaging workshops packed with fun, hands-on activities, inspired participants about pursuing studies in the fields of *Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)*.

The students were exposed to a variety of STEM areas during the discussion and activities in their chosen workshops, focusing on topics such as (*top*) veterinary medicine, (*below right*) emergency medicine, robotics, (*below left*) Entomology, Chromography and much more.

Dr. Olson encouraged students to install a "growth mindset" into their lives and constantly look to improve no matter where they are on their educational journey.

While the students were in their hands-on workshops, their parents enjoyed a panel session with five STEM experts, moderated by *Dr. Helen Turner*.





Seniors celebrate 'ohana during lu'au luncheon

Over 200 friends and family members joined the Academy's *Class of 2017* at the *Senior 'Ohana Luncheon* on January 22 at the Pomaika'i Ballrooms.

Following the Lu'au theme, the food, fun and festivities included several song and hula performances by members of the class, who were joined on-stage by some members of their family.

This annual event marks the beginning of several activities leading to the Class' countdown to *Commencement Exercises* in May.

It also is a time for seniors to express gratitude to their families for their support and devotion.

Uncovering food facts through chemistry

Ever read a food label and wonder what "soy lecithin" was or how peanut butter is made? The students in *Erin Flynn* and *James Bell's*

Chemistry classes set out to answer these questions during a recent project examining the history and chemistry of various foods and

drinks.

Each student was tasked with creating an interactive slideshow filled with interesting information about a food or drink of their choosing, including its manufacturing process, traditional and modern uses, chemical compounds and health benefits.

However, instead of standing in front of the class and delivering an oral and visual presentation, the students created fliers, which were posted around campus, "advertising" their chosen focal item and featuring a QR code linked to their presentation.

Each project could not only be accessed by the chemistry student, but the entire student body simply by scanning the QR code.



Chemistry students Trinity Martin and Mikaela Dolor participate in a class "scavenger hunt," looking for food fliers, scanning the QR code to access the presentation and answer questions for future class discussions.