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## Spring has sprung on campus!

Spring is in the air as well as in the Academy's *Garden* tended to by the school's *After School Care (ASC)* students in grades one to six!

Already, several varieties of sunflowers are blooming, including the tallest variety, *Pike's Peak*, and the students are eagerly awaiting the flowering of the daisies and marigolds, the maturing of their herbs and the harvesting of the Thompson seedless grapes, edible Hawaiian yams called "*uhi*" and bite-size tomatoes.

The ASC planting effort, under the direction of *Dr. Jeffrey Boutain*, enriches the learning experience of the students, who have acquired a myriad of knowledge by working in the Garden and observing and impacting the cycle of life in the natural world. Their experiences have included:

- > Learning about energy from the sun and how to set up a solar panel to harvest its powerful rays. In turn, the energy captured in this process powers a pump that filters and aerates water into two "bug" aquariums filled with guppies and koa fishes, which the students observe daily.
- > Planting seeds in the school's six garden boxes and caring for the crops from infancy to maturity.
- > Mastering the logistics of the "*growth dynamic*" using aquaponics.
- > Using technology to monitor the health of the plants.

Indeed, the school's Garden is flourishing – an indication that Spring is definitely here!

Lower School students interested in enjoying additional scientific experiences can join *Dr. Boutain* during two *Summer Programs* sessions being offered – "*Protege of Science*" and "*Green Thumb Gardening and Aquaponics.*"

More information at [www.sacredhearts.org](http://www.sacredhearts.org).





## From the Head of School

### LEADING SCHOOLS INTO THE FUTURE

*Continuing professional development for educators is a must – for both teachers and administrators!*



*The stars are aligned perfectly this week with the first "Leading Schools of the Future Conference" on April 6 to 8 at the Ala Moana Hotel.*

*The big "educational guns," specifically the National Association of Independent Schools and the National Business Officers Association, are in Honolulu to join with the Hawai'i Association of Independent Schools for this Conference. Definitely, many power players will help enable Hawai'i educators to serve families and students better.*

*Such conferences are a perfect opportunity for educators to participate, collaborate and network with Hawai'i colleagues as well as visiting participants from the mainland United States, Australia, China, Singapore, Thailand and India.*

*The Conference closes late Saturday afternoon. And, based on Thursday's sessions, our administrators will find the sessions inspiring, thought-provoking and a catalyst for a bit of transformation.*

*In the meantime, best wishes for a good weekend with the family!*

*Betty White*

## Robotics steams ahead FIRST

At the FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) Hawai'i Regional from March 30 to April 1 at the Stan



Sheriff Center, 17 members of the Academy's *Robotics team* enthusiastically embraced this year's challenge theme – "*Steamworks*," based on the era when steam was used for power.

Their robot, "*Zippy*," and unbridled group spirit earned them the "*Judges' Award*," bestowed by the judging panel (below with *Aiyana Arnobit*) to the team exhibiting unique "efforts," performance or dynamics meriting recognition.

The group came up just short of winning the most prestigious FRC award, the "*Chairman's Award*," and the *Lancer Safety team* was the runner-up for the "*Industrial Safety Award*."

During the event, featuring 37 teams hailing from throughout the United States, Australia, China, Japan, Taiwan and Mexico, the Lancers gained valuable insight through the challenges that arose.

They are advised by *Peter Park* and a corps of community volunteers.





## Students band together to experience culture and traditions in Japan

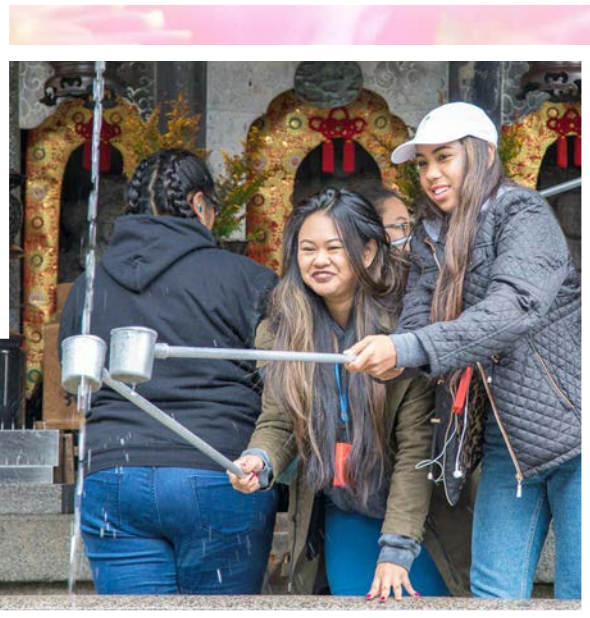
Focused on enhancing the educational experience of his students, Director Keith Higaki took 39 members of his *Band Program* on a cultural learning trip to Japan from March 9 to 18.

During the trip, the students delved into a variety of traditional, Japanese cultural experiences, including living in a traditional "ryokan" (Japanese-style inn), wearing of the summer "yukata" (kimono), eating a "kaiseki" or traditional-style meal and bathing in "onsen" (hot spring).

They also visited several significant and historical locations, including major temples and shrines, royal castles, the *Children's Peace Museum* and the *Hiroshima Atomic Bomb Museum*.



*LEFT:* The Academy group enjoys a Japanese meal after bathing at Ryokan Onsen.



*ABOVE RIGHT:* Band Director Keith Higaki, Taylor Rayray, Debra Chong and Adriana Choi offer prayers before presenting the 1,000 cranes folded by Band members at the Hiroshima Peace Park;

*MIDDLE RIGHT:* Christina Chen feeds resident deer at the Temple in Hara; *RIGHT:* Brianna Ho and Kayla Kealoha follow traditional practices at a Temple, collecting water from a spring to cleanse and purify themselves before entering.



## Fifth graders conquer challenges from up high

Forty-six Academy fifth graders, accompanied by teachers *Susan Phillips* and *Angela Sanborn* and 14 parent chaperones, excitedly embarked on the class' annual learning trip from March 8 to 10.

At *Camp Mokule'ia* on the North Shore, the students' adventures focused on increasing their awareness of the Island environment, promoting teamwork and problem-solving skills and enhancing self-esteem and confidence.

At the Camp, nestled between the Waianae Mountain Range and the ocean, the students explored the problem of "*opala*," or rubbish, that proves harmful to the native flora and fauna. In groups, the students collected and picked through debris, identifying items which could be ingested by the locale's albatrosses.

The unique Camp location, free of the bright lights of the city, also gave the group an amazing nighttime canvas to stargaze. And, using the stars like a compass, they learned basic celestial navigation techniques used by ancient Hawaiians during their travels.

The "highlight" of the trip was tackling the *High Ropes Course*, suspended up in the treeline. While daunting, the fifth graders were encouraged by their peers on the ground, with many facing their fears to successfully navigate to the course's finish line!



The fifth graders carefully work together as a team to complete a group challenge.



*LEFT:* Brielle Aguila carefully makes her way across the High Ropes Course; *ABOVE:* Asena Pouili and Abigail Aguirre discover a large amount of fishing line ingested by an albatross while examining a bolus sample.