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Girls gear up to “grow” grit throughout year

The “Girls Got GRIT” (GGG) program, a mentorship initiative for Academy students in grades 10 to 12, launched its second “phase” with a special gathering on August 13 in the Conference Room.

In addition to the student participants, the event included professionals from businesses partnering with the program, some of the nine GGG female mentors and family and faculty members.

The students shared what they learned through the program about business basics last school year – the first phase – from their outstanding mentors.

Then, on August 16, the students began the hands-on portion of the second phase of the program – actual internships with successful, local businesses.

Shelley Cramer, vice president and general manager of *Saks Fifth Avenue* and the mother of first grader *Ava* and eighth grader *Juliette*, was the catalyst for GGG’s development at the school.

She is passionate about this program because it builds “grit” in girls, which Cramer believes is the number one characteristic needed for long-term success. Also, participation will not only develop grit, but empower students to become leaders and expose them to real-life business success stories.

MAHALO TO FALL GGG INTERNSHIP PARTNERS

Alexander and Baldwin
Arcadia Family of Companies
Alston Hunt Floyd & Ing
Avalon Group
Castle Medical Center
First Hawaiian Bank
Hawai’i News Now
Honolulu Museum of Art
Howard Hughes Corporation
Kapiolani Medical Center
YWCA



TOP: Shelley Cramer of Saks Fifth Avenue, Academy Director of Development Emily Torres, Head of School Betty White and Sean O’Harrow and Denise Onishi of the Honolulu Museum of Art;

MIDDLE: Girls Got Grit Mentor Bobbie Lau of the Howard Hughes Corporation and senior Catherine Palmer;

BOTTOM: Ji Yeon Chun and Denise Yamaguchi of the Hawai’i Food and Wine Festival



From the Head of School

KICKING OFF ANOTHER STRONG YEAR

I am happy to report that the Academy is opening for its 110th year in a strong position, and all benchmarks and indicators bode well for this coming year.



We have few changes in the faculty and welcome Dr. Brandy Sato on the administrative team. And, we joyfully welcome each of you and your daughters to another school year.

Successful enrollment speaks to the strength of our faculty as well as the diligent efforts of Admission Director Karen Muramoto and her assistant, Carol Young.

Thank you for recognizing the dedication, commitment and creativity that our teachers bring to their curricular and outside-of-the-classroom responsibilities as they model for your daughters, both the younger and older ones, what it means to care deeply and to be passionately and joyfully engaged in the education process.

There will be much excitement this Thursday evening when our Junior High and High School teachers "Meet the Parents." Thank you for putting this evening at the top of your to-do list next week!

The school community is blessed to have the spiritual guidance, moral support and financial assistance from our Sisters of the Sacred Hearts. Also, we acknowledge the Board of Directors, led by Chair Dr. Scott Schroeder.

On behalf of our whole staff, I thank you for entrusting the education of your daughter to us at Sacred Hearts, and we look forward to a successful school year.

Betty White

Lancer Robotics reaches out to Philippines



Completing and conducting outreach and service activities is one of the areas judges review when scoring teams during competition in the various, national robotics challenges, including the *FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC)*.

This summer, *Lancer Robotics* got started fulfilling this requirement when junior team member *Aiyana Arnobit* spearheaded an outreach initiative during a trip to a public school for students in grades kindergarten to 12 in the Philippines.

At the *University of Philippines Integrated School (UPIS)* in Quezon City, Arnobit used a robotics kit to share her expertise with students and faculty. During the workshop that she carefully pre-planned, Arnobit demonstrated facets of fundamental robotics and basic programming. She also "mentored" the UPIS students when they got their "hands-on" the robot and eagerly applied their newly-acquired knowledge.

In addition, of her own initiative, Arnobit developed an educational robotics website for the UPIS educators to use in their classes when teaching robotics in the future.

The goal of this outreach initiative was not only to provide a robotics primer, but to develop a link between Lancer Robotics and students in the Philippines to inspire interest in the STEM fields.

To continue this goal, Lancer Robotics will ship 12 additional robotic kits to UPIS later this year.

Alumna returns to campus as new vice principal

This past week, *Dr. Brandy Sato* took the reigns as the new vice principal of grades seven to 12.

Dr. Sato may seem familiar to many in the school 'ohana – she is a proud alumna of the *Class of 1994* and taught *Social Studies* classes for three years beginning in 2000.

While her Academy ties run deep, Dr. Sato also brings a lengthy resume of hands-on and administrative experience in educational settings to the equation, as well as a doctorate in Curriculum Studies from the University of Hawai'i at Manoa.

Prior to returning to the Academy, Dr. Sato worked as the assistant superintendent of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston in Texas. In this capacity, she primarily applied her curriculum development and assessment skills to implement successful learning programs in Catholic schools throughout the Lone Star State.

Before her stint in Texas, Dr. Sato logged 10 years of experience at the



DR. BRANDY SATO "SELFIE"

- > Attended Catholic educational institutions throughout her early and collegiate life
- > Many family members are graduates of the Academy and Saint Louis School
- > Family is an extremely important priority – she loves spending time with family friends and dog "Coco," as well as reading
- > Earned her Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and Historical/Political Studies and Master's Degree in Secondary Education from Chaminade University
- > Holds doctorate in Curriculum Studies from the University of Hawai'i at Manoa

Kamehameha Schools, where she served in a variety of roles, including as director of curriculum, instruction and assessment for all grade levels.

Modeling methodology for year begins

Early into the new school year, teachers are determining and setting individual goals to help each child succeed.

Focusing on this, *Melody Coloma's third graders* recently tackled a project based in creativity, self-expression and writing.

Using modeling clay, the students, including (left) *Sofia Graham*, with her "turtle" trio, crafted an item of their choosing. Then, they interpreted it by making a color picture of the item and wrote details the creation – explaining why it was chosen and describing its visual characteristics, function and purpose.



Senior shows off Super Spartan skills

After months of training this past summer, senior *Dorothy Sanidad* tackled the grueling *Spartan "Super" Race* on August 6 at Kualoa Ranch.

Sanidad carefully navigated the 8.7-mile course, nimbly completing the 25 challenging and varied obstacles along the way, including portions entailing a (right) fire jump, (far right) monkey rings and a rope climb about 30-feet high.

Her meticulous training paid off, and Sanidad finished in just 2:25 hours, placing first in her age group, eighth out of the 453 competitors in the female division and 64 overall among both male and female contestants!



Fifth grade scientists focus on "Walking on Sunshine"

The Academy *fifth graders* are enthusiastically delving into their new Science unit focused on the

"Earth and Sun." They began their studies with the *"Sun Investigation"* portion and a hands-on activity requiring some time spent outdoors.

Working in pairs, one student stood facing the sun, and their class partner used chalk to outline the corresponding shadow on the asphalt and noted the time of the tracing.

Later that day, the fifth graders ventured back to the same spot and compared the difference between the original and the shadow cast at this later time.

The students concluded that their shadow changed lengths, angles and directions based on where in the sky the sun was located.

In the coming weeks, these aspiring scientists will build on these observations while exploring the properties of the atmosphere, the details of energy transfer from the Sun to Earth and the dynamics of weather and water cycling in the atmosphere.



Darien Inoue compares her shadow visible at 8 a.m. with that cast later that day.