



August 2017 | Vol. XXIV, No. 3

## VEX robotics teams are “In the Zone” this year

Over 115 students from around the Islands descended on the Academy’s campus on August 18 and 19 to kick off this year’s Hawai’i *High School VEX Robotics* season during the *East Oahu VEX Robotics Competition*.

Competition was fierce among the 23 teams entered in the event as they took on the 2017 challenge and ventured “*In the Zone*.”

This year’s quest involves manipulating some of the 80 cones placed throughout the competition zone with points earned for completing certain tasks, including stacking cones on goals and having the highest stacks of cones.

This early in the season, many teams, including the two *Lancer Robotics* groups, focused on working out “bugs” and testing team theories for how to master the annual challenge.

The Lancer Robotics groups have over a month to fix

and fine-tune their robot before their next competition at the end of September.

All logistics for the Academy event were coordinated by Academy *Robotics Advisor Peter Park* and his hard-working crew of students and parents who are extremely grateful for all those from throughout the State who volunteered and assisted at the event!



## From the Head of School

### SETTING TONE FOR YEAR AHEAD

"Meet the Parents' Night" this past Thursday was one of the best attended in recent years. The participation of parents of students in grades seven to 12 for the evening was greatly appreciated, and we feel confident it sets the tone for a successful and productive school year.



In the meantime, Lower School parents were ahead of the upper grades by holding their well-attended evenings with parents even before the school year officially began.

One of the school's major goals is developing leadership in its students. Activities Director Cleo Eubanks held a Leadership Workshop for many of the Academy's student leaders before school opened.

Yesterday, it was a joy to meet with the school's Christian Leadership Team, often referred to as LIFE, that experienced worthwhile training with other Catholic Schools in California this past summer; they are ready to do good things for the student community this year.

Then, this morning, it was a honor to attend the induction of the Lower School Student Council leadership. Their parents joined the ceremony and offered extra support to these young leaders.

Best wishes to each of our families for a bit of rest this weekend!

*Betty White*

## Using talent to analyze Astronomy intricacies

For three weeks this past summer, junior *Jenna Tanna* immersed herself in enhancing academic pursuits at the University of California at Santa Cruz as part of *Johns Hopkins University's Center for Talented Youth (CTY) Summer Program*.

During the July CTY session on Astronomy, Tanna investigated light, optics and other facets of Physics employed in the study of Astronomy and the myriad of details involved in the existence of the celestial world. Areas covered focused on the planets and all-things related to stars, including the Sun, quasars and black holes.

To reinforce in-class learning, the CTY students also visited a local observatory, a planetarium and a science center.

This was Tanna's fifth year participating in Johns Hopkins University's CTY summer offerings. Each year, she has not only benefited from studies in different academic areas but also adjusting to dormitory living and, more importantly, interacting with students from around the world.

The Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth focuses on identifying and developing the talents of academically-advanced students from around the world and providing resources for their families. The students in this prestigious program are some of the most "promising" minds of the next generation, and they are chosen based on their results from CTY's "Talent Search," which includes scores from standardized tests, such as the PSAT.



## Student urges others to “bee-ware” of losing pollinator

After a strong qualifying finish in the State round last spring, sophomore *Aubree Davis* took her project on bees to Chongqing in China to present at this year’s *Global Natural History Day (GNHD)* from July 19 to 25.

There, she earned a Silver Medal for her innovative and extensive project exploring the critical role *bees* play in food pollination, the global impact they have on economies and factors contributing to the decline of bee populations around the world.

As part of her project, she not only provided an analysis of the loss of bee pollinators and this impact on the world’s food supply, but also proposed solutions to combat their decline.

Students from countries throughout Asia and the United States participated in this year’s GNHD and focused on “*Scales of Nature: From Micro to Macro*,” the 2017 theme. Each participant tackled the challenge of exploring a science-related topic by conducting in-depth research and rigorous analysis. These findings were presented to a panel of esteemed scientists, researchers and educators.

GNHD is an international initiative aimed at inspiring interest in natural science and history among pre-college students.

Davis was accompanied on the trip by her project advisor, *High School Social Studies teacher Kinga Wojtas* (right).



Aubree Davis at one of China’s historical landmarks

## LEI of ideas for Leadership, Entrepreneurship and Inspiration shared

The *University of Hawai'i East-West Center's* annual *Changing Faces Women's Leadership Seminar* celebrates the *Leadership, Entrepreneurship and Inspiration (LEI)* of successful women in business and social endeavors.

These female mentors – hailing from China, India, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Tonga, Vietnam and the United States – visited campus and engaged with a group of Academy students on June 24.

They shared their personal stories about forging a promising business in their home country – which not only is financially successful, but has



strengthened their communities as well.

In addition to the campus visit with these inspiring women, another highlight for the students was participating in the annual *#galswithLEI Forum* at the University of Hawai'i on June 29.

Here, the students attended insightful panel discussions and interacted with established female leaders, bold millennials and the international 2017 Changing Faces women.

The information garnered during this annual event was purposeful, collaborative, dynamic and truly inspiring!

## Making an ice cream sundae - Kindergartners learn basics!

Think making an ice cream sundae is a "no-brainer" – think again!

Recently, the *Junior Kindergartners* in *Carrie Knebel's* class discovered that creating this culinary concoction requires reading, science and mathematics skills to do it just right.

Each got her "bowl" ready to hold the treat and, then, came the fun part:

**STEP #1** Using mathematics, the students counted and put three "scoops" of their favorite "ice cream" in the bowl.

**STEP #2** Employing scientific observation and deductive skills, the youngsters carefully added the appropriate amount of "sprinkles."

**STEP #3** Reasoning that the recipe was not complete, the students added a "cherry" on top before their sundae was completed and was enjoyed!

