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Atomic Squad is dynamic and washes away competition

The Academy's "**Iconic Alert Squad**," the **FIRST LEGO League (FLL)** team of sixth graders, "washed away" the competition and won the **First Place Championship Award** in robotics action at the **Hawai'i FLL Expo** on December 2 at the Blaisdell Exhibition Hall!

With this amazing victory, ranking them top in the State, team members (*right*) **Reese Machida, Madison Iwashita, Cadence Kasprick, Abigail Aguirre** and **Victoria Fang-Yee**, will pack their bags in April and head to Texas to compete in the **FLL World Championships!**

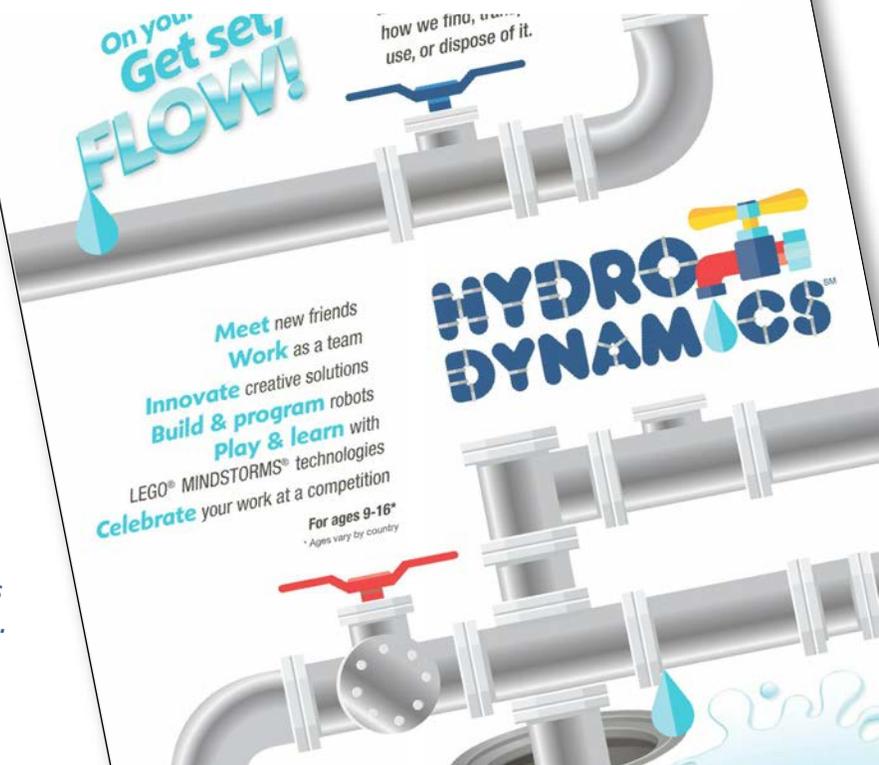
The Alert Squad earned their victory for their work on this year's FLL challenge, "**Hydro Dynamics.**"

Like the FLL Jr. Challenge, the older students were tasked with thinking like scientists and engineers to solve a real-world problem surrounding water sourcing, its delivery system and usage. Along the way, they put together a Project piece and built an autonomous robot using **LEGO MINDSTORMS** technology to complete related "Hydro" missions.

The team not only excelled in the Project and Robot Design and Performance pieces of the challenge, but exhibited innovative thinking and solid Core Values.

Mentors **Jennifer Arthur** and **Kana Takahashi** are extremely proud of this hard-working and dynamic team!

Also at the Expo, the Academy's FLL Jr. teams also conquered a water challenge (See page 3).



From the Head of School

SEASONAL CELEBRATIONS AND EXAMS

During the Advent season, our students have multiple opportunities to share their talents with hundreds of people as the semester draws to a close.

Our youngest Lancers will have their Christmas Sharings for parents and grandparents on December 14. These programs will be live-streamed, and Vice Principal Reme Tam warned me not to be late for the Kindergartners' program, which is usually quite short, but ever so joyous!

Congratulations to Director Keith Higaki and the Academy Band for their appearance in the Kaimuki Business Christmas Parade last evening. Confidentially, I think they were in a "class of their own," bringing holiday spirit to Kaimuki. They looked sharp and played flawlessly.

Joining the school for this morning's Mass of the Immaculate Conception were the 50th year graduates. It was a joy to welcome them and launch their year of celebration of their golden anniversary. The school Choir, directed by Zach Moore, "caroled" them with grace and skill.

Enjoy this e-Parentline which showcases the strength of our Robotics Program. The Lower School, with its mighty band of parent volunteers and teachers, can humbly boast of one of the best elementary programs in the state.

For grades seven to 12, next week means "hitting the books" and getting ready for exams, and they are encouraged to focus on study guides posted on Edline.



Betty White

Fourth graders satiate and stimulate scientific studies

The fourth graders have delved into a bevy of scientific studies surrounding ecology and environmental factors.

First, they focused on answering "What is soil?" and analyzed a variety of samples, including some harvested from the campus. Using what they learned, the students even "made" their own "soil sample" using a specialized blend they formulated.

A few weeks later, hand-in-hand with their soil and environmental studies, the fourth graders visited **He'eia Fishpond**. Here (top), they used their senses to make observations about their surroundings, including fish behavior near the "makaha," or gate, of the fishpond.

The students also learned about the cultural fishing practices of the ancient Hawaiians before completing service work, (bottom) loading coral into buckets to help fix

portions of the fishpond's ancient wall to assist with its restoration.



Aspring junior programmers navigate water challenges



AQUA ADVENTURESM

The Academy was well represented in **FIRST LEGO League (FLL)** action on December 2 at the Blaisdell Exhibition Hall during the **Hawai'i FLL Jr. Expo**.

Forty Academy students in grades one to three comprised seven of the 20 teams to participate in this year's FLL Jr. Expo.

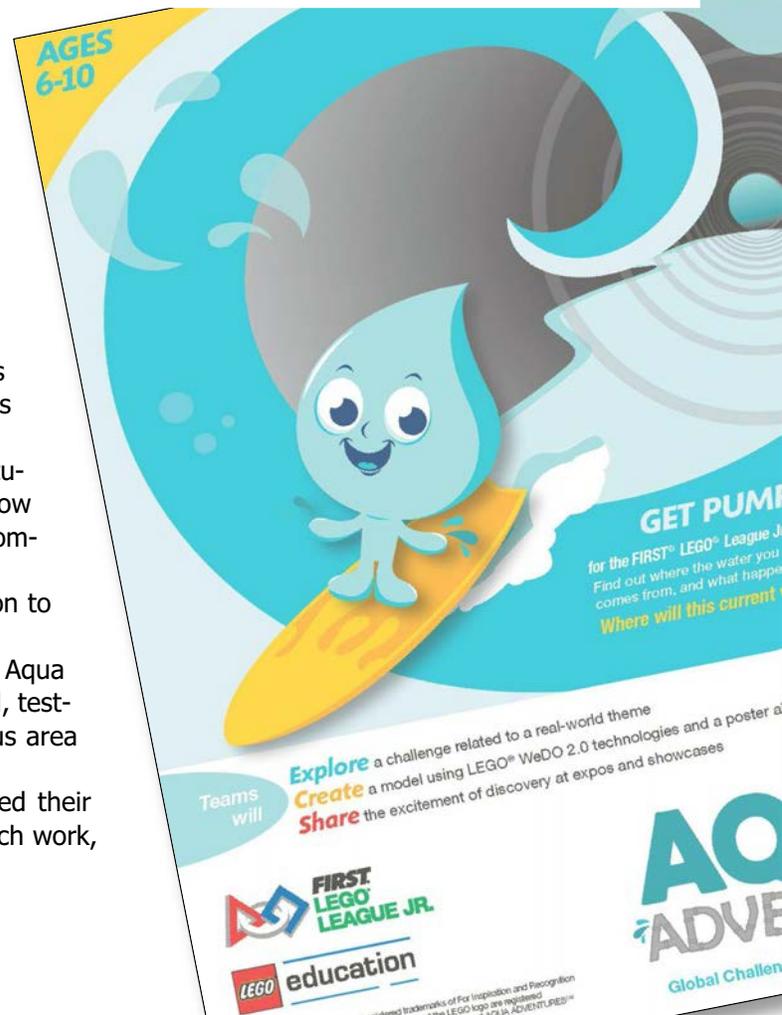
Joining more than 40,000 children throughout the world, these programmers took on the "**Aqua Adventure**," this year's FLL Jr. Challenge and "navigated" the uncharted waters of this important resource.

Under the guidance of enthusiastic parent-coaches, the students devoted afternoon Wednesday sessions to exploring how water is used and its "journey" to homes and throughout the community.

They picked one part of this system and designed a solution to improve this process.

Using LEGO components, including a specially-designed Aqua Adventure water pump, the teams designed, built, programmed, tested and modified a "Team Model" to illustrate their chosen focus area and their improved idea.

After months of hard work, the excited students showcased their finished products, including their engineering model and research work, and definitely "made a splash" at the Hawai'i Expo!



School community shares its blessings with those in need

Throughout November, the school community focused on the spirit of being grateful and sharing blessings with others. This effort was especially evident during the food drive, during which each homeroom collected canned or packaged food items for those in need.

The drive concluded on November 20 when these items were presented during the annual **"Sharing Our Blessings"** prayer service in the Gymnasium.

Each student in grades one to 12 brought up their food donations and placed them in festively-decorated boxes.

A total of 53 full boxes of food items were collected, with half benefiting *Saint George Waimanalo Outreach* and the remaining portions given to the *Waikiki Youth Outreach*.



An English Christmas – Charlie Brown-style

The High School students in the **"Stage and Screen"** class regularly attend plays at **Diamond Head Theatre (DHT)** throughout the semester to enhance and reinforce what is learned in the classroom.

And, on December 29, 13 students and their teacher **Chloe Smith** (left with members of the cast) attended the preview production of DHT's **"A Charlie Brown Christmas."**

The play received good reviews from the Academy group, who analyzed the production and shared their critiques upon returning to class.