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Academy 'ohana shows spirit and compassion during run

The Academy community (*below*) turned out in force and displayed an abundance of school spirit during this year's *Great Aloha Run (GAR)* and its related events.

These annual events raise funds for 50 local charity organizations while promoting a healthy lifestyle among island families.

GREAT ALOHA RUN

Again this year, *D. Otani Produce* and *Dwight and Trese Otani* generously sponsored the 133 participants in the GAR on February 19, including students in grades seven to 12 and a number of parents, faculty and staff.

Whether walking or running the 8.15-mile distance from Aloha Tower to Aloha Stadium, participants exhibited the event's spirit, this year themed "*The race with compassionate love.*"



KEIKI GREAT ALOHA RUN

Over 50 Lower School students, their family members and several of their teachers kicked off the Academy's GAR efforts on February 17 during the *Keiki GAR*. The group, organized by *Elizabeth Loo*, laced up their running shoes and tackled the 1.5-mile course around the Neal Blaisdell Center and McKinley High School.

The Keiki GAR participants not only got a healthy start to their day, they raised funds to support nutrition education and physical activity programs in Hawai'i's elementary schools.



See *Race Aloha*, page 2

From the Head of School

CLASS WEBSITES AS ADDED RESOURCE

Mahalo to the Star-Advertiser's Donica Kaneshiro for capturing the dilemma of thousands of parents in her piece "Classwork web-sites enable helicopter parenting," on Sunday, February 4, 2018.



This article created much worthwhile discussion here at school, not only for teachers and administrators, but for students as well. Many Academy educators believe Edline serves a useful purpose for many students. However, it often comes down to how well parents know their daughters.

Classroom websites, such as Edline are available for those parents who know their daughters need to be monitored and actually prodded from time to time; for those who have self-motivated daughters, there is little worry because they actually have little cause to access such websites.

One of our teachers shared, "Often there is an unwillingness to allow children to experience anything uncomfortable or unfair or disappointing. Even a logical consequence of not fulfilling responsibility ends up creating huge hurdles for them – and parents do not always realize their daughters are not crippled by adversity but can grow stronger through it."

There does not seem to be clear answers, but definitely teaching students to be responsible is a long and arduous process for parents and educators. However, as they go off to college, if our sons and daughters still need this type of monitoring and prodding that the classroom websites offer, then we must sadly admit that we have failed.

Betty White

Race aloha shared by volunteers

Continued from page 1

While the Academy boasted about 200 walkers and runners in the *Great Aloha Run (GAR)* and *Keiki GAR*, a number of others from the school showed their aloha by volunteering.

This year, these included eight members of the *Leo Club*, including (below) *Tiadii Lum*, *Isabella Francisco*, *Kendra Torii* and *Kea Char*, who teamed with their colleagues from *Saint Louis School*, *La Pietra* and *Kapolei*, *Moanalua*, *Roosevelt* and *Waipahu High Schools* to aid the effort.

Arriving at Aloha Stadium well before dawn, the Leos unloaded boxes of finisher t-shirts and organized them by size. These volunteers then spent over seven hours cheering on the walkers and runners as they completed the race course and distributing finisher t-shirts to the participants.



Mahalo D. OTANI PRODUCE
AND DWIGHT AND TRESE OTANI

FOR YOUR GRACIOUS SPONSORSHIP OF
STUDENTS IN GRADES SEVEN TO 12 AND THE
ADULT MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL 'OHANA IN
THIS YEAR'S GREAT ALOHA RUN!!

HAWAIIAN HEALTH
GREAT ALOHA RUN
KE KUKINI ME KE ALOHA PAU'OLE

Students immersed in stimulating STEM studies

The Academy staged another highly successful *Science Symposium 4 Girls* this year, aimed at stimulating learning and interest in studies in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

Over 325 girls in grades five to eight and 175 of their parents descended on campus on February 17 for a morning filled with STEM-focused activities and information.

Dr. Kim Binsted (below right with two participants) created excitement about exploring the "HI-Seas" of STEM during her keynote address. The principal investigator of the *University of Hawai'i at Manoa's Hawai'i Space Exploration Analog and Simulation (HI-SEAS)* project, she shared many details about its work with NASA, focused on space exploration.

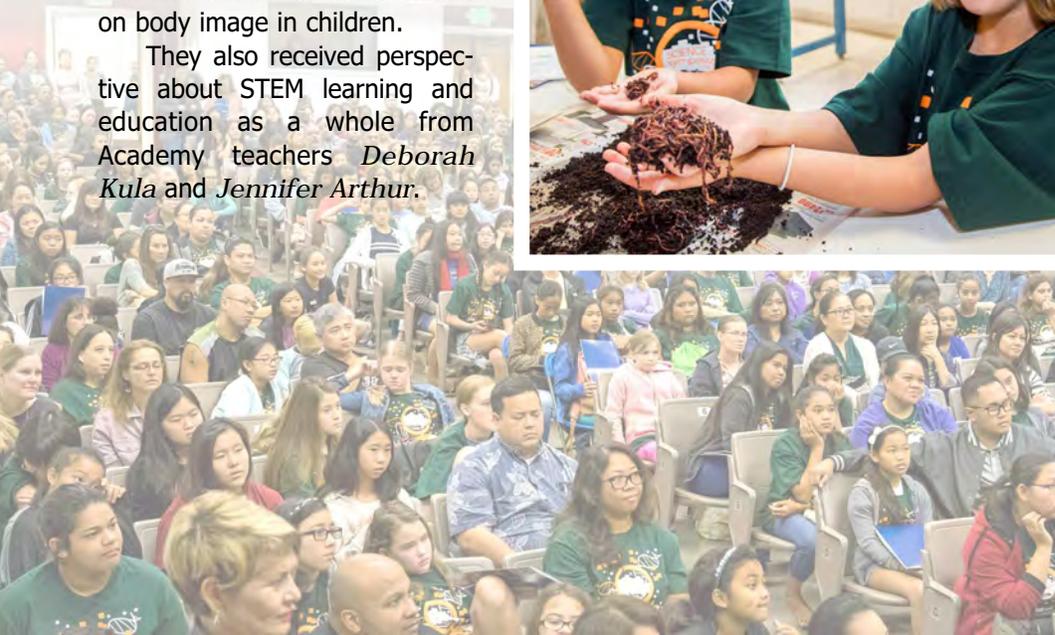
After her insightful address, the students were immersed in two exciting sessions filled with hands-on activities that canvassed the entire STEM spectrum – from marine biology to firefighting to entomology to astronomy. They were able to build robots, solve forensic mysteries, explore the chemistry of food and much more!

While the students dabbled in STEM, their parents participated in an insightful session with *Family Therapist Danielle Miller* which covered a myriad of topics, including cyber-bullying and the effects of social media on body image in children.

They also received perspective about STEM learning and education as a whole from Academy teachers *Deborah Kula* and *Jennifer Arthur*.



LEFT: Students prep samples they collected for further examination under the direction of one of the veterinarian staff; *BELOW LEFT:* Participants unearth an entire colony during their in-depth study of worms and their living "environment;" *BELOW:* Using intricate technology, one of medical experts helps students get an up-close and internal "look."



RED HEARTS ACADEMY
SCIENCE

Exploring life on Island up-close proves enlightening

Accompanied by teacher *James Bell*, 18 *Advanced Chemistry* students experienced some hands-on laboratory learning during a trip to the *Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology (HIMB)* facility on *Moku o Lo'e*, better known as "*Coconut Island*," on February 6.

While the students were able to explore the unique and diverse marine environment supported by the Island, located in Kaneohe Bay, the main focus was in-depth learning about the chemistry behind ocean acidification – the reaction caused when carbon dioxide is absorbed by seawater and the resulting effects this process has on the marine ecosystem.

The students set out to examine the effects this phenomenon has on living coral and shells in the reef.

They learned more about the various types of coral, shells and urchins living in the ocean, even getting the unique experience to examine them up-close in one of the Island's touching pools.

Then, in small groups, they developed a unique hypothesis about acidification and coral and tested their theories during a two-hour "inquiry lab." The students, including (above) *Christina Dang* and *Jenna Tanna*, were thrilled to utilize the collegiate lab's abundant samples, resources and supplies during the process.

According to Bell, "This was an awesome opportunity for the students to experience a science lab as it would be conducted on the collegiate level using university-type supplies and resources over the course of two to three hours – as opposed to our labs at school which are only about one-third as long."



Cycling through nature

The second graders discovered amazing facts about the five "*Cycles in Nature*" during a trip to *Hawai'i Nature Center* on January 23.

At the multi-acre site's forest and freshwater locales, the students explored the varied environments and discovered how nature's cycles interact. They also learned the important responsibility each person has in maintaining nature's natural ability to sustain life through caring for the environment.

Among the highlights were fishing in Makiki Stream, getting up-close with decomposers in the forest and collecting a myriad of flora in the forest.

