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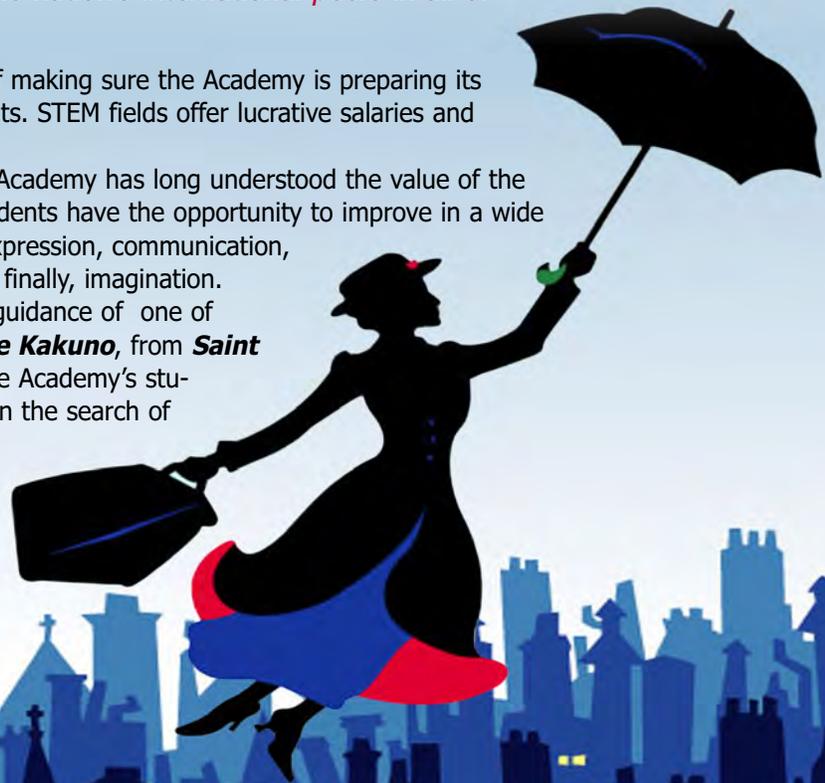
Drama enriches Academy's curriculum

Over the past decade or so, an increasing emphasis has been placed on the importance of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)-related classes in primary, junior and high school education in our country. The reason for this direction is well-founded – research and test scores from over two decades showed that America's students had fallen behind the nation's international peers in all of the critical subject areas.

The Academy has also been very mindful of the goal of making sure the Academy is preparing its students to be financially independent as they become adults. STEM fields offer lucrative salaries and are in high demand.

However, in the rush of playing catch-up in STEM, the Academy has long understood the value of the **Visual** and **Performing Arts**, including **Drama**. Here, students have the opportunity to improve in a wide range of areas, such as self-confidence, self-esteem, self-expression, communication, collaboration, interpersonal skills, aesthetic awareness and, finally, imagination.

The Academy is very appreciative to have the guidance of one of Hawaii's outstanding Performing Arts directors, **Kyle Kakuno**, from **Saint Louis School**. He works "magic" in helping the Academy's students create, make, explore and respond in the search of their true selves and meaningful connections with others and the world around them.



Disney and CAMERON MACKINTOSH present

MARY POPPINS JR.

TRYOUTS

GRADES NINE TO 12 ▶ APRIL 27, 28 AND 29 ▶ MAMIYA THEATRE ▶ 5:30 TO 7 P.M.

(PrePare one song to sing acaPPella or with a minus-one track and a joke to tell)

From the Head of School

CLEAR VISION EVEN IN STORM

We were headed into a full week of school when the threats of Hurricane Lane touching Hawai'i forced us to close school on Thursday and Friday.



However, the students are well into the Academy's 109th year, and it is rewarding to experience their energy, enthusiasm and laughter on campus.

This is an exciting time to be a student at Sacred Hearts! Along with the academic curriculum, the students are learning core leadership competencies, such as vision, voice and determination, which prepare them to be leaders on a primary and secondary level – and in their future careers where they will boldly contribute to the common good.

The specific vision for Academy students this year includes:

- That when something does not "gel" with the school's core values and mission, then, as a community, we call it out and make it right – thus, becoming more aligned with Jesus' teachings.
- That they will be guided and mentored by exceptional faculty and staff.
- That they will live and learn with an incredibly diverse group of students who "will give them a broader concept of life."

Thank you for reviewing these concepts with your daughter, and we thank God for bringing us through the storm, a little tattered as a State, but enjoying the sun again!

Betty White

VEX team reaches Turning Point

Almost 100 students, coaches and mentors descended on the Academy's campus on August 17 and 18 to kick-off the Hawai'i **High School VEX Robotics** season during the **East Oahu VEX Competition**.

Lancer Robotics Advisor Peter Park, about 15 members of the Academy's **VEX IQ** and **VEX** teams and a cadre of parent volunteers hosted and staffed the competitors from over 20 teams from around the State. Teams hailed from near and far, including groups Molokai, Maui and the Island of Hawai'i.

In addition to the volunteers, the Academy boasted one team which competed in the event – **Team 2737A** of (below) **Kammie Ardo**, **Ayla Hakikawa** and **Nanami Mehring**.

The trio moved up from the VEX IQ to the High School level, and they definitely "left their mark" and reached the **"Turning Point,"** this year's competition challenge.

After a day of stiff competition, the team finished seventh overall and won the **"Design Award,"** given for the robot with the most complete and innovative design.

To meet this year's challenge and reach the Turning Point, teams work in alliances to outscore a competing, allied group. Points are accumulated by reaching "Caps," "toggling" Flags and "parking" robots in alliances and on raised platforms.



SPOTLIGHT ON NEW faculty and staff

JANINE letoto

COMPLETING DUTIES

Teaching the three- and four-year-olds in the Academy's **Junior Kindergarten**.



COMPLETING EDUCATION

Graduated from Kalani High School and holds an undergraduate degree in Early Childhood Education from Chaminade University.

LOGGING WORK EXPERIENCE

Accumulated 13 years working with pre-schoolers, including at Saint Patrick's School and Central Union Pre-School, as well as one year teaching second grade at Saint Francis School.

FOCUSING ON RESULTS

Motivated by seeing young children grow in their love for learning and striving for joy found in seeking success.

LOOKING AHEAD

Fosters development and student bonding during class "Circle Time," her favorite part of the day, when students gather to sing, move, read and just have fun while learning more about themselves and others.

FOSTERING FAMILY

Husband Scott Kiyono is a first grade teacher at Laie Elementary; they share a love for teaching and for their many pets.

UNWINDING AT HOME

Especially enjoys, watching movies at home. Her favorite is "Ready Player One," which she has re-watched and finds something new each time she does.

VANESSA maldonado

COMPLETING DUTIES

Guiding the **Junior High** and **High School Choral** and **Drama** students.



COMPLETING EDUCATION

An alumna of Kapolei High School and the University of Hawai'i at Manoa (UHM), holding a Bachelor's Degree in Music and Choral studies.

MAKING THINGS BETTER

Chose being a Performing Arts educator after reflecting on the challenges children face growing up in today's society – thinks the Arts teach them to respond and combat their challenges in a positive and beautiful way.

LOOKING AHEAD

Looks forward each day to being in the classroom, listening to student ideas and witnessing what they have to offer.

FOCUSING ON RESULTS

Wants her students to know they are each loved by God, and that each carries ideas, experiences and voices that are unique, valuable and essential to the world.

SINGING NEW SONG

Thoroughly enjoys singing and playing contemporary worship music and "will never not sing" Disney music. Has many favorite songs with one of the top picks being "Transfiguration" by Hillsong.

CHILLING OUT

Besides singing, loves reading and going to the beach since both activities "chill" her out – and doing both simultaneously is "ideal!"

JESSICA pereira

COMPLETING DUTIES

Fostering the talents of the **Junior High** and **High School Dance** students; also is teaching **Yoga**.



COMPLETING EDUCATION

After graduating from Mid-Pacific Institute, earned a Master's Degree in Teaching from the University of Southern California.

LOGGING WORK EXPERIENCE

Most recent teaching stint was at Ali'iolani Elementary School with the first graders.

MAKING THINGS BETTER

Motivated to become an educator in order to make a difference and positively impact students' development. Wants them to challenge themselves and, as a result, feel a sense of accomplishment from great results.

KEEPING IN-STEP

Putting on her own toe shoes, enjoys the challenge of dancing ballet, her favorite genre. While ballet looks effortless, it requires much effort, is challenging and reminds her "there is always room to grow."

FOSTERING FAMILY

Heralds a substantial family unit, including three Tibetan Spaniels, a German Shepherd, two bunnies and three birds.

RECOMMENDING READING

At least once a year, reads her favorite book, "The Alchemist," and based on current life experiences, always finds new meanings and interpretations each time.

Taking calls for good cause

Members of the Academy's **Girls Got Grit (GGG) Program** volunteered at this year's **Kapi'olani Radiothon for Kids** on August 10.

The Radiothon efforts are conducted each year in partnership with the **Children's Miracle Network**, which raises funds to support research and defray patient costs for **Kapi'olani Medical Center (KMC)**, which emphasizes medical care for Hawai'i's keiki.

The GGG volunteers, **Xavier Downy-Silva**, **Rin Inuzuka**, **Tiffany Ng**, **Kayla Oka** and **Jalen Tam**, were accompanied by **GGG Coordinator Noe Oliver** and **Angie Golis-Yamamoto**, the Academy's director of Development, as well as **Kimi Tokunaga**, a 2018 Academy graduate and former GGG member.

The Academy contingent worked a one-hour shift, answering calls and collecting donation information and calling donors who had pledged Radiothon support in previous years.

The GGG group thoroughly enjoyed seeing **Dr. Angela Pratt** of KMC who served as a GGG mentor last year. Dr. Pratt warmly welcomed the students before joining the live radio broadcast. On-air, she conducted a drawing for tickets to the upcoming Bruno Mars concert.



ABOVE: Dr. Angela Pratt of Kapi'olani Medical Center and Kimi Tokunaga, '18



LEFT: GGG members Xavier Downy-Silva and Kayla Oka



Fourth graders connect dashes and dots!

Although the school year only recently began, the Academy's fourth graders are fully immersed in their robotics curriculum for the year – and they are loving it!

During their recent sessions on **Robotics** and **Engineering** with **Peter Park**, the students "connected" technologies – using an iPad to complete basic programming for their robot named **"Dash."**

One of their first tasks was to have Dash move to retrieve and pick-up a block and bring it back to the blue, "starting" line. After accomplishing that task, the students are ready and eager to connect more "dots and Dashes" on a more complex task!