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## Day starts on positive note with good advice



*Students in grades seven to 12 are fine-tuning what was formerly called "homeroom" period. Now, the "in" term used is **"Advisory."** Each group encompasses only about 12 students per teacher and is focused on developing four important dimensions of a student's life:*

- compassion and moral responsibility;
- personal, social and emotional growth;
- community building;
- academic skills.

Each weekday, students meet with their advisor and small-group peers to build a sense of connectedness to promote personal growth, as well as relationships with each other and their adult "mentor."

Through a structured curriculum, which is tailored to the needs and developmental stages of the students in each specific grade-level group, participants experience being mentored by caring adults who facilitate their growth in dealing with academic, social, and emotional issues.

Faculty advisors are not professional counselors, but

they come to know their "advisees" on a personal level and can guide them with wisdom and concern during their adolescent journey. Administrators and school counselors are also available for further consultation and support.

Woven into the quick-paced and, sometimes hectic, fabric of life at the Academy, Advisories are important places and moments for students to feel safe, nurtured and challenged to become strong, "Lancer Women."

**High School Student Council Moderator Melinda Rocha** (above with a group of freshmen), who provides overall leadership for the program, concluded, "Advisories put our students in a proper settling through prayer, reflection and celebration for the upcoming day of study at the Academy."

## From the Head of School

### DEVELOPING CONNECTIONS

*Even if you graduated from high school several decades ago, you probably had Advisories – most likely called something similar to “homeroom” or “home base.” However, the purpose of current-day Advisories is more refined and well-tuned. As described on page one, these group dynamics are depicted as transformative forces for improving school climate, and it is done intentionally and with purpose.*



*One of the most difficult factors in students' educational journey is having meaningful friends in their lives. Flashing back to my years in the classroom, I remember so well the answers shared when I asked my students to complete a short survey as a ninth grader. To the question “What are your fears?,” their answers always reflected their fear of not having friends.*

*Of course, this anxiety is very real. Often when students leave Sacred Hearts for other schools, it is revealed that they are most unhappy because they have not developed meaningful relationships with their peers or with their teachers.*

*Students are no different from adults – whether we are a kindergartener, a junior or a wage-earner on the job for 30 years, we all want to feel cared for and valued by the significant people in our world.*

*Talk to your daughter about her how the Advisories are “going.” If she is in Lower School, there is not a need to focus on Advisories because their days are filled with multiple opportunities to bond with friends and teachers!*

*Betty White*

## Summer spent stalking cyberspace

With increased focus being on Internet security, the **Air Force Association (AFA)** created a **CyberCamp** program to teach students important cyber safety and security skills, and the Academy hosted two 20-hour sessions this past summer.

Under the guidance of Academy's resident cyber expert, **Deborah Kula**, and a cadre of student volunteers, the Academy hosted the beginning camp from June 11 to 12 for participants from various local schools and Riverdale Country School in New York. The advanced camp ran from July 30 to August 3, also with a roster from across the State.

The beginners learned the basics of cybersecurity and how computers work, cyber ethics and principles, security tools and were introduced to a number of operating systems, including Linux.

The more advanced students extended and built on the basic knowledge and also explored networking security.

The first four days of each camp were focused on instruction and hands-on activities, with the fifth serving as a day of “mini competition.”

Kula (*below with Catherine Palmer, '18, and participants at the Academy Camp*) also shared her cyber knowledge throughout the Islands, serving as the local coordinator for 16 other camps, also held this past summer.

Due to the support and generosity of the **Cyber Hui**, a local organization of cyber security professionals dedicated to sharing education, the camps were provided free of charge!



## Summer for LIFE's sake

The Academy's **Living In Faith Experience (LIFE)** team was "in good hands" during this year's **Marianist Summer California Retreat** with alumnae moderators, **Michelle Coito Tuzon**, '65 (below with the Academy students), **Toni Mesina**, '92, **Makena Hamilton**, '10, **Kaye Tabios**, '15, and **Haylee Bennett**, '16. These mentors provided stellar examples of individuals living their lives based on a strong faith and helped the Academy LIFErs develop their Christian leadership skills.

This year's LIFE members, **Shadee Afoa**, **Agnes Brown**, **Olivia Bruce**, **Madeleine DeVos**, **Makaela Dolor**, **Trinity Martin**, **Jessica Medrano**, **Amelia Nofoagatotoa**, **Hunter Quon**, **Jasmine Policarpio**, **Ashley Sordillia** and **Megan Valente**, were "commissioned" at the end of the week's experience and returned to campus focused on sharing what they learned and fostering Jesus' message of "love" with the student body.



## Advocating to kick tobacco addiction

In her role as a youth council member with the **Hawai'i Youth Health Institute (HYHI)**, senior **Agnes Brown** works as an advocate, promoting a tobacco-free State and encouraging her peers to become the generation that ends cigarette use through a number of initiatives.



She brought one of these efforts to campus this past July with a presentation by a HYHI speaker for the freshmen during their **Summer Bridge Program**.

Brown also meets with student groups to share information about "Big Tobacco," the tactics used to promote product use and the negatives of using tobacco products and vaping.

Brown also meets with government legislators and participates in events at the State Capitol.

## Scavenging for nature's shapes

The fourth graders are delving into mathematics principles and concepts related to shapes, areas and formulas and went on a "**Geometry Scavenger Hunt**" on August 30 to reinforce their learning.

Students were given six Geometry Mathematics terms and scoured campus, searching for real-life objects related to a *concentric circle*, *regular polygon*, *parallel lines*, *perpendicular lines* and *congruent and obtuse angles*.

They documented their findings using an iPad, and many even continued their item search long after leaving campus at home!



# SPOTLIGHT ON ► NEW faculty and staff

## ► KRISTIN colburn

### COMPLETING DUTIES

Is focusing on the **Language Arts** areas with the **sixth graders**.



### COMPLETING EDUCATION

Holds a Bachelor's Degree in Family Resources from the University of Hawai'i at Manoa and a Master's from the University of Phoenix in Elementary Education.

### SEEKING ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES

Looks forward each morning to starting a new day with her students – reinforcing that each new day begins "fresh" and is filled with endless possibilities!

### PRAYING FOR PERSPECTIVE

Worked for the Department of Education, but enjoys Academy environment where matters of spirituality are not curtailed and praying with her students to inspire them is allowed and encouraged.

### FOSTERING FAMILY

Has three children with husband Craig Colburn, who works for Hawai'i Public Housing at Mayor Wright; two dogs and a guinea pig complete family unit.

### RE-EVALUATING READS AND RE-RUNS

Had love of reading "restored" after finishing her favorite book, "Harry Potter," and enjoys gaining new insight watching re-runs of the show "Gilmore Girls" with her daughter.

### LAYING DOWN LAW

Was a Political Science major focused on becoming a lawyer – glad she became a teacher instead!

## ► RUBY fernandez

### COMPLETING DUTIES

Returns to the Academy, where she formerly taught, to hone **English** skills of **eighth** and **tenth graders**.



### COMPLETING EDUCATION

A 1999 Academy graduate, she holds a Master's Degree from the University of Southern California in Education; also has undergraduate degrees in Humanities and Business Administration.

### FINDING LIFE'S CALLING

Chose teaching field because loves to read and write so pursued a career where she can share her passions.

### BACKING UP OPINIONS

Is focused on helping students realize that their ideas matter, that they can make a difference and how they can use logic and English skills to influence this.

### ACCUMULATING TRAVEL MILES

Returned to Hawai'i after moving to California to teach and pursue higher education 2010; wishes she could still enjoy California's street tacos, authentic Latin and Hispanic food and Disneyland Annual Pass!

### UNWINDING RANDOMLY

Loves reading, spending time with Shakespeare – her bunny, cooking, hiking and watching re-runs of "Friends" and "Gilmore Girls" and "random" programs on the Travel Channel.

## ► GAIL kuroda

### COMPLETING DUTIES

Is applying her studies from a Master's Degree in Library and Information



Sciences in over-seeing operations in the **High School Library**.

### LOGGING WORK EXPERIENCE

Chose to pursue Education career because of admiration and love for her own teachers. Fondness for her own English teachers is reason she pursued undergraduate studies in this area.

### FINDING LIFE'S CALLING

Became interested in Library Studies when interviewing an author for a local anthology, who also had taught English and made her realize the benefits of developing a love for literature, research and lifelong-learning through Library work.

### FOCUSING ON DISCOMFORT

Believes that an educator needs to be "comfortable" with discomfort – such as being willing to embrace new technology and adapt it.

### RE-EVALUATING READS

Enjoyed reading "Catcher in the Rye" by J.D. Salinger in High School; re-read book as an adult and found new intonation in the "voice."

### GRADING TESTS

Provided consulting duties for Reading and English portions of ACT, working on the ACT "campus" in Iowa City while reviewing clarity and fairness.