

Student leaders EMERGE for Taking On Tomorrow

Cultivating students to become empowered “changemakers” of the future is the key focus each year of the **EMERGE Conference** and its sponsoring organization, the **Center for Tomorrow’s Leaders (CTL)**.

This year, 54 Academy students in grades nine to 12 benefited from the EMERGE experience on November 6 at the Hilton Hawaiian Village.

They united and networked with students from across the State and 29 visionary local leaders while exploring the theme **“Taking On Tomorrow: My Future, Our Hawai’i.”**

These leading innovators, who are influencing the direction for Hawai’i and hail from a wide array of industries, shared their knowledge during dynamic sessions.

The students concur that there are two highlights that were most impactful – listening to the wide array of speakers and their motivating and varied stories about their roads to success and realizing that the decisions they make and actions they take today will have lasting impacts far into the future.



ABOVE: Donalyn Dela Cruz, the vice president of the public affairs and communications firm S360 Hawai’i, shares about her experiences as press secretary to the late Sen. Daniel Akaka and Gov. Neil Abercrombie with Academy EMERGE attendees.



LEFT: Kimberly Canepa Morris, who attended the Lower School at the Academy, networks with junior Chanah Tanioka and discusses her work as chief operating officer of Girl Scouts of Hawai’i.



From the Head of School

SEASON OF THANKFULNESS BEGINS

There is really little down time in the life of the school. The successful run of Mary Poppins Jr. was quickly followed by an abundance of Lancer Robotics events. As you can see on page 3, the teams are enjoying continued success, and our coverage here does not include our Lower School FIRST LEGO League team which is headed to State Championships on December 1.



In the meantime, the students and your families are involved with various Thanksgiving, Christmas and Performing Arts functions.

We thank parents for generously contributing items for "Sharing Our Blessings," our Thanksgiving tradition of collecting food items to help those less fortunate. The major recipient of the collection will be the Outreach Program of Saint George's Parish.

With the often hectic environment of the holiday season, the Academy's Performing Arts programs will give your family an extra boost of Christmas spirit! Thanks for noting these important dates with more details to come next week:

- **DANCE CONCERT** > December 1
- **BAND CONCERT** > December 3
- **CHOIR CONCERT** > December 7
- **LOWER SCHOOL CHRISTMAS SHARING** > December 14
- **HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE AND DANCE PROGRAM** > December 15

Also note, the Cheer Team will compete for the State title on November 17 at 2 p.m. at the Neal Blaisdell Arena.

Betty White

Finding fascinating flora – and even some fauna – in urban area

The Academy's first graders spent the morning of October 25 exploring a vast and impressive array of flora which are growing on the grounds of **Foster Botanical Garden**, including tropical plants, trees, shrubs and flowers.

Located Downtown, this one of the oldest botanical gardens in the State, and some of the massive trees were planted as far back as the 1850's! The group was awed by the sheer size of the different root systems and some of these older tree species.

The students and teachers **Danica Baylor** and **Veronica Prislin** enjoyed exploring and learning about some of Hawai'i's native plants and trees as well as varieties brought from destinations around the globe.

During this nature "quest," the students were also thrilled to spot varied and colorful caterpillars and butterflies and observe tropical birds.



Lancers VEX competition during weekend meets

The weekend of November 10 was a dynamic one for the Academy's **High School VEX** and **Junior High** and **Lower School VEX IQ** teams which, perhaps, "vexed" the other participants during their competitions!

Two Lancer groups of freshmen, (*right*) **Team 2437A** and **2437B**, trekked to Waialua High and Intermediate School for the **North Shore VEX EDR Tournament** on November 10. Their accomplishments here among the 48 competing teams were outstanding and award-winning!

Also on November 10, (*right*) four teams competed in the **VEX IQ Challenge** at Stevenson Middle School. **Junior High Teams 2437A** and **2437B**, all eighth graders, and **Teams 2436A** and **2436C**, comprised of sixth graders, "echoed" that of their High School counterparts, and received numerous accolades.

Congratulations to the following teams for their weekend accomplishments:

▶ HIGH SCHOOL VEX

TEAM 2437A

(*Kammiee-Marie Ardo, Ayla Hakikawa and Nanami Mehring*)

- ▶ Added to their growing list of VEX accolades, earning the "Build Award" for their outstanding robot.
- ▶ Finished ranked fifth in scoring.
- ▶ Had secured berth in *State Championships* on January 22 at prior weekend's competition.

TEAM 2437B

(*Han Nguyen, Katie Rebugio and Sharyn Paronda*)

- ▶ Continued to modify and improve their robot as the season has progressed and finished just out of the top ten in overall scoring..



▶ JUNIOR HIGH AND LOWER SCHOOL VEX IQ

TEAM 2437A

(*Vanessa Laub, Mei Wai Lee, Anna Takegawa and Hyatt Yoshioka*)

- ▶ Finished top among 32 teams in overall scoring.
- ▶ Won both the "Excellence Award" and "Robot Skills Champion Award."
- ▶ Secured a spot in their *State Championships* on February 23.

TEAM 2437B

(*Agegail Aguirre, Madison Iwashita ' and Reese Machida*)

- ▶ Scored seventh overall.
- ▶ Took the "Design Award" and also earned a berth in *State Championships*.

TEAM 2436A

(*Gabrielle Castro, Lindsey Dimaya, Sara Inao and Sadie Takaki*)

- ▶ Outdistanced the field and won the "Tournament Champion Award."
- ▶ Secured a spot in their *VEX IQ State Championships* on March 2.

TEAM 2436C

(*Alyssa Giang, Lauren Kealoha and Zoey Lee*)

- ▶ Finished one spot ahead of their sixth grade counterparts in overall scoring.

Building bridges with ingenuity

During their exploration of different building and construction techniques, the **High School** students in **Peter Park's Introduction to Engineering classes** delved into the intricacies of the "**Da Vinci Bridge**" on November 1 and 2.

Specifically, they followed a model to create a rather large, self-supporting bridge structure which was built without using any nails or screws!

For this type of construction, downward pressure on the structure – such as walking centered on top of it – makes it strong. Whereas, sideways force would make the structure weak and rather unstable.

Park shared this build with the Lower School students in his second and sixth grade **Robotics and Engineering classes**, who were thrilled to test out the bridge built by his High School students.

Then, they observed how a small-scale model was built before putting together their own, life-size bridge.



Running small business takes savvy determination

On November 1, 22 students in **Whitney Grohowski's Economics class** visited the boutique "**Ten Tomorrow**," located in Kaimuki.

This successful small business is owned and operated by **Allison Izu**, a prominent local designer and a 1994 Academy graduate.

Izu's business partner, co-owner and fellow designer, **Summer Shiigi**, graciously hosted the group and gave them an in-depth tour of their shop and fashion workplace.

For the fall semester, these Economic students are working in small groups to "create," "plan" and "operate" their own small business from the "ground-up."

This requires them to complete many of the actions needed to run a small company, including building a business plan and portfolio, creating a website of products and services, planning for daily operations and putting together a financial blueprint for expenses and income.

Shiigi met with each group and listened to the concept for the industry on which their business was based and their blueprint for its operation.

Then, she offered them valuable, expert advice for improving their business and its products and services. She even helped them calculate estimates for expenses and potential profit margins.

