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Girls with grit unveil savvy ideas for community partners

The Academy's Girls Got Grit (GGG) program is a unique initiative focused on cultivating business and leadership skills to help students succeed in their chosen careers after they depart the Academy. These junior and sophomore participants recently celebrated two milestones during their completion of this semester's program components.

Throughout this semester, the GGG students worked with their team partners, including two prominent community professionals chosen to mentor their group, to tackle the challenge, "If I were governor, what would I do to make Hawai'i better?"

Each team chose an area of need and focused on creating an action plan enacted if they were the State's governor.

Then, over the course of three days – April 10, 17 and 18 – team members formally presented their plans and unique ideas for nullifying their chosen State issue during a gathering that included prominent business and community leaders. Some of the project areas covered included vaping, pedestrian safety and taking care of the 'āina.

With their project presentations completed, the GGG participants reached another milestone – presenting their action plans at the **State Capitol** on April 22 by special invitation of **Gov. David Ige**!

Accompanying the GGG students were the programs 10 mentors and members of the Academy's administration.



ABOVE: Mentors Gidget Ruscetta, chief executive officer of Pali Momi Medical Center, and Suzie So-Miyahira, a director with Kapiolani Women's Medical Center, and their team unveil their plan to tackle teen vaping on April 10. Their proposal included addressing education and outreach to all age groups, ranging from elementary school-aged children to their parents; **ABOVE LEFT:** Gov. David Ige congratulates Academy mentors and members of the administration for their work with the GGG student-leaders.

From the Head of School

HONORING OUR CHERISHED MOTHERS



I join most of our mothers as members of the work force and readily acknowledge that being a mother is the most challenging and difficult, yet the most rewarding, job of all.

My children are now adults, and as I observe the situations they are experiencing in being good parents, I quickly conclude the challenges remain much the same.

Regardless the age, the dilemmas are similar – "Are we giving our daughters enough of our time?;" "Are we instilling the values of compassion, truth and honesty?;" "Are we being successful in helping them build an inner moral compass?;" "How much is too much pressure?"

I often conclude that I am much more confident in my professional life than I was, or am, as a mother or grandmother.

On this Mother's Day weekend, congratulations on the fantastic job our mothers – and our dads – are doing as parents!

The staff joins me in thanking you for entrusting your daughters to our care.

This evening, the Choral Concert will be in the Chapel at 6 p.m., and on May 13, the Honors Convocation will be in the Gymnasium at 5:30 p.m.

Betty White

First graders honor moms with "Cup of Tea"

The Academy's first graders extuberantly welcomed their mothers to campus on May 10 and honored them during a morning **"Cup of Tea for You and Me!"**

The students paid homage to the over two dozen mothers in attendance during a special program of song, dance and spirited sentiment before indulging in - of course - tea and sweet pastries!

Leading to **Mother's Day** on May 12, this was a special opportunity for students to thank their mothers for the special "job" they hold and to bond and enjoy the company of these special women!



Second grade shops benefit charitable causes

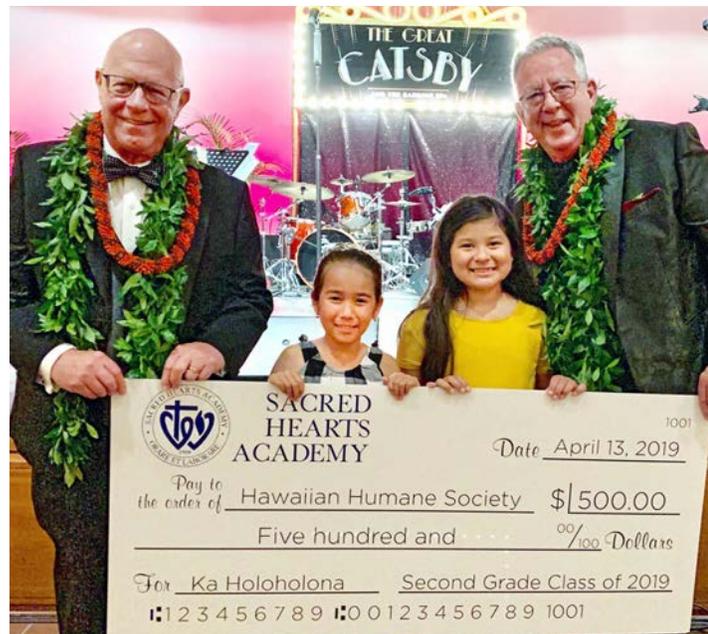
Part of being an entrepreneurial-savvy business leader is understanding the benefits of “giving back” to the community.

The Academy’s second graders enthusiastically embraced this important aspect while working to master their project-based unit, “**All About Work.**”

All proceeds from the “operations” of their **Second Grade Shops** on March 5 were gifted to a number of charitable organizations.

On April 13, representatives from the second grade presented a check for \$500 to executives from the **Hawaiian Humane Society** during its “**Tuxes & Tails**” fundraiser gala at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel. In addition to the Humane Society, the students in **Jolene Yoshioka** and **Amanda Bobbitt’s** classes opted to donate Shop proceeds to **Shriner’s Hospital for Children**, the **Hawai’i Foodbank** and **Family Promise of Hawai’i**, an innovative program that helps homeless transition to sustainable independence.

The Second Grade Shops project is held annually during the spring semester, with students conducting research and logistical planning each opens their own “business.”



Professional share expertise with students studying Economics

With semester studies culminating, the **Economics** students have benefited from visits and expertise shared by a number of professionals from the community.

On April 4, students welcomed (right) **Dillon Ancheta**, a reporter and social media director with **Hawai’i News Now (HNN)**, for an engaging, informative and lively discussion.

Ancheta shared about his experience as a student studying **Journalism** at the **University of Hawai’i at Manoa** and how he created opportunities by venturing to random events around Oahu and providing “freelance” media coverage. This effort eventually earned him internships at KHON and HNN, and eventually, led to securing his current position and prestigious portfolio of media stories – all by age 23!

Also, on April 23, the students presented their business project ideas to parents who are business professionals. **Melanie Quon**, mother

of **Emma Premeaux**, and **Brendon Friedman**, whose daughter is **Patience Friedman**, listened to each student’s ideas and gave them tips and ideas for improving their plans.





Seniors earn prestigious accolades from community

At the **Soroptimist International Awards Breakfast** on April 12 at the Waialae Country Club, seniors **Aiyana Arnobit** and **Emily Truong** were two winners of this year's "**Violet Richardson Award.**"

Student recipients of this award demonstrate leadership by identifying a world or community issue important to them and devising and conducting a volunteer initiative to help negate its effects.

Arnobit (*below with parents **Sandy Arnobit** and **Ed Arnobit***) and Truong (*below right with mother **Mina Truong***) are active community volunteers with an number of outreach initiatives, including with **The Center for Tomorrow's Leaders**.



Mass held in memoriam of loved ones and to honor Mary

Members of the Academy 'ohana gathered together for a special **First Friday Mass** celebration on May 3 to honor Mary, the mother of Jesus, who was crowned as "Queen of the May" by (*bottom*) senior **Clarissa De Smet**.

This special Mass was also conducted in memory of those who have died in the past year, including 79 alumnae and family members of current students and staff.

Approximately 125 special guests, relatives of those being remembered, honored these loved ones during the *Prayers of the Faithful*.

