



Aloha families,

It is hard to believe that this school year is coming to an end; it seems to have zipped past. It has been a busy, and productive year. I want to thank all of you for your support of me during my first year as principal, and for your continued support of our staff and our school.

Next week, May 7 – 11, is Staff Appreciation Week. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who works at Kamali'i Elementary School. All staff members truly care about our students and give of themselves every day. I invite all families to show their appreciation to our staff during the week ~ a kind word or note from your child would be welcome.

As this is the last newsletter of the year, I want to wish all of our families a memory filled summer break. I look forward to working with you again next school year.

From the Garden,

Thank you to the Makena Golf and Beach Club for being our school's community sponsor for the second year in support of our garden. Grow Some Good provides our garden program. Our commitment is to attempt to cover 50% or more of our garden expenses. Grow Some Good incurs on our behalf. With support from our PTA, Makena Golf and Beach Club, and the student Garden Change Drive, we were able to meet our obligation this year. This is an excellent program aligned to our science standards, and is enjoyed by our students. A garden harvest day will be held the week of 5/14/18 to celebrate the work of our students in the garden this year.

New Website Coming...

Our school will be migrating to a new website over the summer. Our new site will be located at kamaliischool.org. The site is currently under construction, and will be live by July. We are excited for new features on our site, which will include featured videos and photo slideshows, an information ticker tape, and a twitter feed. Our site will also have an app that families can load on their phones to access the website easily. More information about the new website will be sent home with the back to school letter in July.

Book Fair

Support our library by attending our Book Fair. The Book Fair will be held in the school library from May 7th through May 12th. Purchases may be made in person and also online. Volunteers are needed. If you are able to volunteer, please call the school and ask for Cassie Martin, our librarian. More information about the book fair can be found at this website <https://bit.ly/2pVL09p>. Flyers will also be coming home with information about the book fair and the schedule of when the classes will be visiting the library to participate in the event. In order to accommodate our families' schedules, the book fair will be open on Friday, 5/11 from 5:00 - 7:00pm during the PTA movie night. It will also be open on Saturday, 5/12 from 9:00 – 2:00.

Homework surveys

Thank you to the families that returned the homework surveys from the March newsletter. We had approximately 100 surveys returned. We appreciate the many responses and especially the comments shared. Our staff read through the comments as we discussed our homework policy for next year. At this time, we have not yet finalized the guidelines, but have determined that homework will be consistent within each grade level and also consistent in progression between grade levels. The final homework policy will be included in the student handbook which will be sent home with students at the beginning of the year and also posted on the school website.

Grading Public Schools: Absenteeism and Student Achievement

Every year, Honolulu magazine rates and grades all of Hawaii's public schools. Our rating this year, based on last year's data, is 26 out of 171 elementary schools. In reviewing the data, it is notable that while we have higher test scores and lower gap rates than some of the schools ranked above us, our percentage of chronic absenteeism affected our rating. Our absenteeism rate for last year was 12%. Many of the other schools are less than 9%. Our current rate of chronic absenteeism, with a month of school left, is 13.9%. Chronic absenteeism is defined as 15 or more days absent per year, both excused and unexcused.

While our teachers work very hard to provide the best education possible for our students, the one factor we cannot control is absenteeism. We cannot teach

Kamali'i Elementary School

Newsletter May, 2018

students that are not in school. We want our parents to keep their children home if they are not feeling well, but we are imploring our families to please schedule family trips during our intersessions and breaks. A copy of next years calendar was sent home with the April menu and is posted on our website to help with your planning.

Please keep this chart below of important dates for next year and plan family trips when students are not in school. SY 18 / 19

8/6/18	Students first day of school
8/17/18	Statehood Day Holiday – no school
8/20/18	Waiver Day – no school for students
9/3/18	Labor Day Holiday – no school
10/8 – 10/12	Fall Intersession
11/1/18	Complex Waiver Day – no school for students
11/6/18	Election Day – no school
11/12/18	Veteran's Day Holiday – no school
11/22 – 11/23	Thanksgiving Holiday – no school
12/24/18 – 1/7/19	Winter Break Teachers report 1/7/19
1/8/19	Waiver Day – no school for students
1/21/19	Dr. Martin Luther King Holiday – no school
2/15/19	Institute Day – no school for students
2/18/19	President's Day Holiday – no school
3/8/19	Complex Waiver Day - no school for students
3/18/– 3/22/	Spring Break
3/26/19	Prince Kuhio Day Holiday – no school
4/19/19	Good Friday Holiday – no school
5/27/19	Memorial Day Holiday – no school
5/31/19	Last day of school for students

School Community Council (SCC)

Thank you to members of the School Community Council for your input and participation this year. The last SCC meeting of this school year will be held on Thursday, 5/17/18 at 3:00 in the Library. The SCC is always looking for parents and community members that want to join the council and the meetings are open to everyone.

Class Assignments SY 18 / 19

Families will receive a welcome back to school letter in July, which will include the child's class placement for the next school year. Supply lists for next year will be sent home with the report cards.

PTA

The PTA will be meeting on Thursday, 5/10/18 in the STEM lab beginning at 3:00. They will be nominating officers for next school year. Please come out and support this great group of parent volunteers that do so much to support our school. Thank you to this year's board members for all of your time and efforts for our school.

The final PTA event of this school year will be a movie night on Friday 5/11/18. Come and enjoy a fun family outing, visit the book fair and watch a movie under the stars. Students are voting on the movie in their classes this week.

New Messenger System

Beginning on May 1st, the DOE switched the company that provides the service for delivering home messages via phone and email. This is the system that is used every week to deliver the Sunday message. The message this week may appear from a different number and the intro message will be different. I am hopeful that there will not be any glitches using the new system this week. I am still working with the new company to set up the phone message to be delivered when a student is absent. If I am not able to have it working by the end of the year, I will have it in place when we return in August.

Upcoming Events:

May 7-12 Book Fair
May 7 – 11 Staff Appreciation Week
May 10 – PTA Meeting 3:00 STEM lab
May 11 – PTA Movie Night
May 17 – SCC Meeting 3:00 Library
May 23 – Full Day 2:45 Dismissal
May 25 – Ho'olaule'a **
May 25 – Early Dismissal 1:00
May 30 – Full Day 2:45 Dismissal
May 31 – Student Last Day 1:00 Dismissal
June 1 – Teacher's Last Day

**Families are invited to watch our Ho'olaule'a program on Friday, 5/25/18. The program will begin at 9:00. All of our classes will be participating.

Thank you for taking the time to read through this newsletter. If you have questions, suggestions or concerns, please contact Principal, Cyndi Rothdeutsch, through the school office at 875-6840, or by email at crothdeutsch@napueo.k12.hi.us