



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE 'IOLANI 'OHANA,
A PARENT ORGANIZATION

'ELELE

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Five Questions for Mark Yamada, 'Iolani 'Ohana President

'Iolani 'Ohana President Mark Yamada is a man who apparently thrives under pressure. Although Mark was slated to serve as President for the upcoming 2007-2008 school year, circumstances were such that he had to take charge of the 'Ohana this current school year. From his impressive power point presentation in August 2006 to his grade level representative "discussion group" in March 2007, Mark has done his best to make sure all of us in the 'Ohana feel like we are "One Team".



Mark is a graduate of Farrington High School and Claremont McKenna College. He started at Coopers and Lybrand in Honolulu and was transferred to their Japan Office, where he remained for eight years. He recently started working as the Controller and Director of Finance at Hawaiian Host. As for free time, Mark explains, "Raising three boys with my wife, Lynn, I do not have much time for hobbies but I often reminisce about the days that I used to sleep in on weekends and spend five hours on the golf course."

QUESTION 1: DO MOST PARENTS SUPPORT THE 'IOLANI FAIR? HAS THERE BEEN ANY DISCUSSION IN THE 'OHANA ABOUT ALTERNATIVES TO THE 'IOLANI FAIR?

When Jayne Hirata-Epstein, the wonderful editor of the 'Elele, told me her idea of this feature, "Five Questions", I voiced my support without hesitation. The obvious value for 'Iolani parents would be to hear the opinions of and to better get to know the person on the "hot seat". Beyond this, however, I was even more interested in the kinds of questions the person in the "hot seat" would choose to answer.

Now that I am on the "hot seat", I have taken this opportunity to answer a question that relates to the single greatest point of confusion that I think 'Iolani parents have about the 'Iolani 'Ohana. The 'Iolani 'Ohana and planning committee of the 'Iolani Fair are separate organizations. The 'Iolani Fair is the single largest fundraising event for the school, whereas, the 'Iolani 'Ohana does not conduct fundraising activities. The 'Iolani Fair is organized by many dedicated individuals — administrators, teachers, students, parents and alumni — who primarily focus on the Fair, whereas, the 'Iolani

'Ohana consists of many dedicated parents and administrators whose focus is to "enhance the parent experience." The only organizational link between the 'Iolani 'Ohana and the 'Iolani Fair is that the 'Iolani 'Ohana Grade Level Representatives help to solicit volunteers for the 'Iolani Fair from their respective grade levels but the Fair is ultimately responsible for the Fair manpower.

This being said, you have raised some interesting questions about the 'Iolani Fair. Personally, I think the 'Iolani Fair is a great event because it brings people together to work toward a common goal. I do not know how much money is raised by the 'Iolani Fair but I wonder what kind of event (and more likely, events) would replace the revenue stream generated by the Fair. Nevertheless, the 'Iolani 'Ohana would not be the appropriate organization which would make such a significant decision. I believe this would be a question for the school administration.

QUESTION 2: WHAT DID YOU LEARN IN A PUBLIC SCHOOL THAT YOU THINK KIDS AT 'IOLANI NEED TO LEARN?

I am a "proud" graduate of Farrington High School — did you notice that there are only "proud" graduates of public high schools and no one puts "proud" in front of a private school graduate — the largest public high school on Oahu. When I tell my kids about my school days, they find it very amusing when I tell them that I tried very hard to NOT use the restroom when at school.

It may sound a bit strange but I think the high school restroom is the essence of the difference between public and private school. I think the 'Iolani School's administrators, teachers and parents do a wonderful job of creating a nurturing, safe learning environment for our children. Perhaps, too good a job.

As adults, we all realize that the world can be a cold, dangerous place and have learned this lesson at various times in our lives. Some learn it in high school while others learn it later in life. While it is comforting to know that my kids will not be afraid to use the restroom at school, a part of me is also concerned about this innocence. Thus, it is our responsibility as parents to teach our children to be alert and develop healthy skepticism.

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Five Questions for Mark Yamada, 'Iolani 'Ohana President

(Continued from page 1)

QUESTION 3: ARE THERE MORE DADS INVOLVED WITH THE 'OHANA? IT SEEMS TO BE THE MOMS WHO ARE PREDOMINANTLY INVOLVED.

Although the majority of 'Ohana Council members are moms, there are also a number of dads that are active at all level of the 'Ohana Council, from officers to chairpeople to committee members. In fact, the 'Iolani 'Ohana President for four of the past five years has been dads and the incoming President, **Kyle Sakumoto**, is also a dad.

At one of the first 'Iolani 'Ohana meetings that I attended, we went around the room and introduced ourselves. Many of the moms said that they did not attend 'Iolani but their husbands did. When it came to my turn, I felt I had something in common because I did not attend 'Iolani but my spouse did.

Thus, the ripple effect from 'Iolani changing to a co-ed institution back in 1979 has reached the 'Iolani 'Ohana. I am sure I will not be the last dad who did not attend 'Iolani, have had a spouse who graduated from 'Iolani School and who will serve on the 'Iolani 'Ohana Council.

QUESTION 4: WHY SHOULD I VOLUNTEER TO HELP THE SCHOOL WHEN I ALREADY PAY TUITION?

Granted, tuition continues to rise as the cost to maintain the standards of an 'Iolani education continue to rise. Personally, I look at the tuition I pay as an investment, not an expense, for my child. And, with any investment of considerable value, I want to monitor my investment closely and measure my return on the investment. I find that the best way to do this is to volunteer and be involved at the school.

I am certain that the primary return that you hope to realize with this investment is that your child gets into a good college (and hopefully gets a scholarship) and gets a good job.

However, there is an incidental, often overlooked return. This is the return you realize by meeting other parents, sharing dreams and disappointments, and taking advantage of 'Iolani's opportunities for your own personal development. As this potential benefit for the parents was identified, from our strategic planning process last year (2006), we easily arrived at our theme for this year's 'Iolani 'Ohana. The theme came naturally — 'to enhance the parent experience.'

QUESTION 5: WHAT WAS YOUR MOST MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE AS A MEMBER OF THE 'OHANA?

I have been involved with the 'Iolani 'Ohana for almost two years now and I continue to be impressed with the intelligence, commitment and energy of each parent and administrator that I have worked with. It is the special people associated with 'Iolani School that make participating in the 'Iolani 'Ohana a memorable experience.

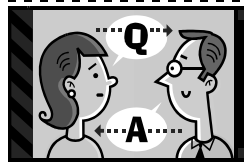


The 'Elele would like to thank **Dr. Val Iwashita, Mr. Kevin Wada and Mr. Mark Yamada** for their participation in "Five Questions" for this current school year. Each expressed appreciation for the time that parents took to submit very insightful questions and each put great effort into preparing their respective answers.

Is there anyone at 'Iolani that you would like to see featured in future "Five Questions"? Please send your requests to eleneews@aol.com or leave a message for the 'Elele at 943-2322.



Ask 'Elele



I keep reading about the Keables' Chair. Who is Mr. Keables and why is he important to the school?

According to the 'Iolani School website, Harold Keables enjoyed a remarkable teaching career that spanned 55 years and 3000 miles. He began teaching at Denver's South High School in 1935 and was named National Teacher of the Year while in Colorado. He taught creative writing and AP English at 'Iolani from 1965 to 1980. *Life Magazine* named him Teacher of the Year in 1960. Yale University and the University of Colorado awarded him honorary degrees. *Time Magazine* said he possessed a "brimful of a passion to teach."

The most significant accolades, however, came from his students. Not only did they dominate national writing contests, but they also paid Mr. Keables the compliment of practicing the lessons he taught them.

The legacy of Mr. Keables lives on in the awards given in each year in his and his wife's name, in the Keables' Chair which brings distinguished artists, writers, and teachers to 'Iolani for two weeks. The award is given in the Spring in commemoration of his birthday (his 100th birthday was in the year 2000).

For more information on Harold Keables and the Keables' Chair, visit www.iolani.honolulu.hi.us/Keables/

Why are there so many police cars parked outside of the Kamoku Parking Structure?

This question is apparently on the minds of the community as it was raised at the January 3, 2005 meeting of the McCully/Moiliili Neighborhood Board. According to Honolulu Police Department Detective Futa (District 7, Property Crime Division), 'Iolani School provides office space for HPD officers to do paper work or take a break.

Got a question about 'Iolani School but need an answer? Send your questions to "Ask 'Elele" at eleneews@aol.com or leave a message at 943-2322.



'Iolani 'Ohana Profiles: Caring Beyond Kamoku Street

At the 'Iolani 'Ohana Council meeting in March 2007, the focus was on trading Grade Level Representatives' "war stories". One of the statements made by a Grade Level Representative was that her child was shocked to learn that one very involved mother was actually a volunteer and not an 'Iolani employee. He had made this assumption because she helped out at every grade level event and seemed to "live" on campus. It does seem as though some of the 'Ohana Council members are permanent fixtures on campus, helping out at school every day (even weekends) at all hours of the day. However, you may be surprised to learn that many of these volunteer projects were for non-'Iolani organizations, including the following

YOUTH OUTREACH BACKPACK PROJECT

Lori Arashiro (*2nd Grade Representative*) writes: "This past Christmas, the Second Graders learned about youth living on the streets of Waikiki from **Jeff Kaplan**, Director of Youth Outreach, an organization providing outreach services to homeless youth. Jeff's presentation touched the hearts of many students who gained a new appreciation for their families and their lives. The students packed 70 red/black backpacks with slippers and socks, all generously donated by a group of 2nd Grade parents. They also filled the backpacks with other toiletries, including sunscreen and a toothbrush and toothpaste, which were also donated by 2nd Grade families. Each student personalized a gift tag and proudly tied it onto their backpack.

Jeff Kaplan wrote, 'The efforts by the 2nd Graders and parents is greatly appreciated...Our holiday celebration for the Youth Outreach kids was an absolute success. We could not have provided such a terrific event without all of your support. Surviving on the streets is difficult for our kids, the 'Iolani students made a significant contribution for making their lives a little better.'

One 2nd Grader with tears in his eyes asked to fill the backpack with toys after learning that the Youth Outreach children had few possessions, mainly essentials, which they toted around in plastic shopping bags. Another wrote on his gift tag, 'You are worth more than 25 karats of gold anytime.'

Thanks to the dedication, time and energy of Chairpersons **Melissa Chee** and **Carole Lau**, and through the contributions of generous families, our 2nd Graders experienced the magic and true spirit of Christmas."

(The Youth Outreach Project [YO] provides medical, health and social services to runaway and homeless persons 21 and under. Please call 942-5858 for more information or to make a donation to their "wish list". Read about the Youth Outreach Project at starbulletin.com/2005/11/07/news/story01.html).

QUEEN KA'AHUMANU SCHOOL BACKPACK PROJECT

Jayne Hirata-Epstein (*Elele Coordinator*) writes: "For their Christmas Community Service project, the 3rd Graders also did a backpack project but the recipients were 5th Grade students in **Mrs. LeeAnn Kakuda's** class at Ka'ahumanu School. Each backpack was filled with two books, a bag of school supplies, a bag of snacks and a toy - all generously donated by the kids themselves, their parents and the 3rd grade teachers (**Ms. Susan**

Maeda, Mrs. Patti Nagami, Mrs. Susan Okino and Mrs. Pamela Shim). Of course, we had to get something educational in there so each 3rd Grader also wrote a holiday letter. The Iolani kids seemed genuinely stunned to learn that many Ka'ahumanu students use plastic grocery bags as 'backpacks' and that for some, the toy they received would be their only Christmas present. Many parents were surprised to learn that about 40% of the student body at Ka'ahumanu are ESL children and additionally, about 40% come from disadvantaged homes. I know I assumed that there is very little need for supplies or donations at 'town schools'.

What particularly touched my heart was the generosity of the Ka'ahumanu students. In a thank you letter to the 'Iolani 3rd Graders, Mrs. Kakuda mentioned that the Ka'ahumanu 5th Graders decided to share their holiday goodies by donating the school supplies from their new backpacks to needy children in the 2nd Grade."

(To learn more about Ka'ahumanu School, visit their website at power2.k12.hi.us/index.cfm?siteID=30).

The Ready to Learn [R2L] Program provides classroom supplies for needy students from Kindergarten to 12th grade. Call 536-7234 or visit www.helpinghandshawaii.org for more information.)

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY PROJECT.

Linda Mae Jaress (*11th Grade Representative*) writes: "The Habitat for Humanity Project was organized by teacher **David Roberts** aka 'Jungle Bob' (*Art Department Head*) and took place on a Saturday, near the end of the first semester in August 2006. My son, **David Jaress** (*an 'Iolani Upper School student*) had been looking forward to it, having mentioned it to me more than once. Jungle Bob teaches two similar one semester industrial design classes, and both classes supplied the manpower that day. The students met at school that morning, and went together to the site in Papakolea. It was a total makeover of the residence for (if I recall correctly) the **Lisa Frank** family. Lisa mentioned to me that portions of the original house floor had been off limits, due to structural concerns. Lunch was brought to the site by an 'Iolani counselor who told me that a school service club that he supervises had prepared the food. I do not recall the counselor's name but if I understood him correctly, some club members are too young to be allowed on a construction site, while others are old enough but the number of "builders" is limited to class members.

After that day, my son must have talked to Jungle Bob about the project, because my son reported that Jungle Bob agreed to include my son if the second semester class also does a Habitat for Humanity project, despite the fact that my son is not signed up for the second semester class. So I know that my son enjoyed the reality, not just the anticipation, of the project."

(Visit the local Habitat for Humanity's website at www.honoluluhabitat.org for more information on local programs and to make a donation. You can still volunteer to help with ongoing construction at the Frank family home. To learn more about the Frank family project, please go to starbulletin.com/2006/08/21/news/story05.html.)



Academic Pressure, Final Exams and Peanut Butter Sandwiches

by Christian Brady, 'Iolani Upper School Student

It is amazing, the unifying power of adversity.

There are many moments in our academic careers that lend themselves to competition, to striving to surpass and even totally annihilate the expectations of one's peers and instructors. They are moments of glory, and there moments which set us apart from each other. They divide and they remind each and every student (as if we could forget sometime between the moment we fall asleep and the moment we arrive back at school) that one's performance is nearly always relative. How, then, is it possible for competitive students to foster peaceable relationships with others in what seems to be such a hostile environment? I found the answer during the age-old ritual of vexation, dread, and fear: semester exams.

For as long as there have been semester examinations after the winter holiday, there have been students groaning, moaning, and grimacing at the thought of returning from a nice, cozy vacation to the grim realities of cumulative subject tests. This December, I was one of those grimacing students. As a junior, this is my first year taking Advanced Placement classes and my first encounter with the nerve-racking, brain-numbing AP United States History test. I was intimidated, even after a week and a half of intense review sessions in class.

The week of the exam, the days passed unbelievably slowly. Sometime between the first and third hour of looking up keywords from the Reconstruction Period on Tuesday night (history exams were on Thursday), I began to wonder what I had gotten myself into. After a particularly productive review session on Wednesday, my teacher **Ms. Melanie Soares** (*Upper School History instructor*) announced, "Remember, guys, if you can come in early tomorrow, I'll be serving peanut butter and mint tea up here in class to clear the mind and keep up your stamina! But don't come with questions about the exam, because when it comes down to it, the best you can do is study hard this evening, get a good night's sleep, and come in tomorrow without feeling stressed."

I took the advice to heart, having heard about the dangers of study overload in the final nights leading up to exams: namely, falling asleep in the middle of a test essay after having pulled an all-nighter. That evening, I glanced over my study guide sheets, which my classmates and I had put together so diligently over the last two weeks, and, feeling as prepared as I was ever going to be, promptly retired to bed.

The next morning, I woke up early and walked into Weinberg with the stoic composure of a battle-hardened warrior (six years of 'Iolani will do that to just about anyone). The scene I saw as I



opened the door to my history classroom was surreal. After two frantic fact-stuffed weeks, the room was quiet. The aromas of chunky peanut butter and mint mingled in the air like courting butterflies, instantly putting me at ease. Two of my classmates were already sitting together at a group of desks that had been pulled up beside one another. I grabbed a sandwich, yawned a grateful "Thank you," to Ms. Soares, and found a seat next to them.

"So, what do you think would be the most evil essay to put on the exam?" I asked.

Both of the girls piped up with equally daunting answers: "Development of the Republican party!" and "Overview of Transcendentalism!"

We laughed.

Others filtered in and pulled up chairs to join in the multiple conversations that had sprouted. People stifled giggles and chuckles, offering ridiculous multiple-choice questions, coming up with the most hopeless prompts for our two essays, and it seemed that for a little while, the gravity and gloominess that had always followed in the footsteps of the words "Semester Exam" were entirely forgotten. Gone were the hair-pullers and obsessive pen-clickers; in their places were smiling, weary-eyed juniors sipping warm tea and munching delicious peanut butter sandwiches.

When our teacher stepped out to prepare the library for examinations, no one followed after her. We were in no rush to leave. Whether our reluctance had to do with the chattering clusters of students or simply a mortal fear of acknowledging the inevitable, I have my own opinions. At any rate, when we were ready, we filed out together.

Two and half hours later, it was over. Every student came out alive—his or her extremities intact, brains warmed to an appropriate 37 °C (although slightly chilled by the air conditioner), and fingers still twitching with fatigue.

It struck me that the idea of a roomful of students joking and smiling at 6:50 AM on an exam day was highly irregular. Who would have guessed that, after two weeks of isolated studying, and fully cognizant that the chance of a curve depended solely on the performance of one's peers, classmates would still have the energy and the good humor to cheer each other up? It just goes to show that beyond the grades, the incessant academic competition, the rigors of testing and

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Academic Pressure, Final Exams and Peanut Butter Sandwiches

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studying, the anxiety, and the stress, 'Iolani students value friendship above all else. We comfort each other just as easily and as readily as we seek comfort; and know how to savor a moment as much as possible.

Although students dread the semester examinations after every winter holiday, the experience is as much a time of bonding as it is a time for gauging individual performance. Thank goodness for mint tea and peanut butter.



We asked author Christian Brady to provide some autobiographical information and a photo for his article. This wonderfully charming and witty response is what he sent to us.

"I especially liked the (accompanying) photo. It's one of me reveling in the fact that I completed a circuit in my physics class. (:

At any rate, I'm a student at 'Iolani, writing for the CEC (Character Education Committee)...I was in the latest Spring Musical, *High School Musical*, co-starring at the 'Worm'. If you were unable to procure tickets, the DVDs will probably provide a fairly accurate depiction of my *integral* role in the production. I enjoy long nights up doing homework, staring at the beach from afar, wishing I would be out there instead of doing physics homework...Pretty much the common, everyday 'Iolani student trying to hang onto his sanity and a decent GPA before college applications need to be sent in. (:

Along with being a theater student for the last six years of my academic career, I also dabble in writing, and seeing movies with my good friends."



Learn More About Lower School Clubs

by Lori Arashiro, Second Grade Representative

Contrary to local "urban legends", 'Iolani School is not all about the academics. For children in the Lower School, there are a wide variety of extracurricular clubs that they can join at the start of the school year. As we all know, it is never too early to start planning for Fall 2007.

In this current school year, there are 21 Lower School clubs including seven service oriented clubs and three run by 'Iolani parents. The meeting times for the clubs vary with some meeting during the school day (at recess or after lunch), some after school, and a few even meeting on the weekends. This is a list of the 2006-2007 Lower School Clubs and the grades of the students who may participate in club activities:

- Acolytes (grades 5 - 6)
- Artsy Kids Art Club (grades 3 - 6)
- Chess Club (grade 2)
- Choir Club (grades 2 - 3)
- Craft Giving Club (grades 2 - 6)
- Cub Scouts (grade 1)
- Dance Club (grade 4)
- Dancing Stars (grade 2)
- Girl Scouts Troop 845 - Brownies, Daisies and Jr. Girl Scouts (grades 2 - 6)
- 'Iolani Christian Fellowship (grades 4 - 6)
- 'Iolani First Lego League (grades 4 - 7)
- 'Iolani Golf Club (grades 4 - 6)
- 'Iolani Tea Club (grades 1 - 6)
- Justice and Peace Officers Club (grades 5 - 6)
- Library Club (grades 3 - 6)
- Litter Patrol (grades 3 - 4)
- Math Club (grades 5 - 6)
- Musical Theatre Club (grades 4 - 5)
- Pen Pal Club (grades 5 - 6)
- SIT (Students In Touch) Prayer Group (grades 2 - 6)
- Student Council (grades 4 - 6)

When school starts up in the Fall, clubs that will be active for the academic year will post informational flyers on the Student Club Bulletin Board outside of **Mrs. Patti Nagami's** Third Grade classroom (C-101, First Floor—facing the Art Building). These flyers will usually include the club's meeting dates and times, location and name of the teacher(s) and/or parent(s) serving as instructors or advisors. The clubs are a great way for students to make new friends from different classrooms and other grades as well as learn many interesting things. For parents, it is a wonderful opportunity to be involved in something your child loves as well as get to know other parents and teachers.

If you are a Lego-maniac, the 'Iolani Robotics Club needs you to serve as a parent leader for the 2007-2008 school year. Club members will learn the principles of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics), disciplines important for their future. The current parent leaders are moving along with their children to the Upper School Lego League. This team, the Roboraiders, entered their first local competition last year and brought home two trophies!! Next year's club could choose to enter as well. Parent leaders should have some interest in Lego but more importantly, should have patience, creativity and a strong commitment to the program. Engineers, computer specialists, teachers and any resourceful individuals with good organizational skills would qualify as leaders. Please contact **Mrs. Joann Stepien** (Lower School Assistant Dean) if you are interested in helping or for more information.

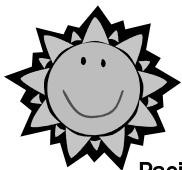


“Summer school for your child - 'Iolani or elsewhere?

What factors influence your decision on this matter?

Any programs or classes that you would highly recommend?”

by Nancy Lamport-Hughes, *‘Elele* Reporter



RESPONSES FROM LOWER SCHOOL PARENTS

I'm a fan of Mid-Pacific Institute's swimming

program. I sent both my daughters there. That's where they both learned to swim...just during the summers for eight weeks, five days a week (including July 4th). They get to swim everyday which helps to reinforce what they've been taught. I like the student/teacher ratio (Tiny Tots [ages 3-5] is 3:1; while ages 6 and above is 5:1). The summer swim program consists of four sessions (2 weeks per session) so some parents only sign up for two or three sessions depending on their school schedule or travel plans.

The swimming instructors are great and they pay particular attention to form as the swimmers become more advanced. They are so good at encouraging students to try and not give up. At the end of each session, the more advanced swimmers get to play games like water polo. Some of the younger swimmers can choose what they'd like to do like dive for toys or swim certain strokes. But the cutest part is when the instructors pass out small goodies to their kids and they give each child a card which is like a certificate of accomplishment.

My daughters have fun getting to know students from other schools. Not only to we see some of the same families every year, we sometimes get to meet up with some old friends (parents we knew from when my girls attended preschool). That's always fun.

Mid-Pac has a beautiful campus in Manoa. Sometimes when I get a little bored waiting for my kids, I'll take some laps around their grassy football field. There's always a cool breeze there. The lessons are only 35 minutes long. Sometimes I have just enough time to drive over to Manoa Marketplace to quickly pick up some things from

Safeway or Longs or go to the bank.

The administrators and security guards that I've met at Mid-Pac are always very friendly and make us feel welcome every year.

If you have a new Kindergartener, I would definitely sign up for the **Entering Kindergarten class at 'Iolani**. My children were the only students admitted from their very small preschool so they were a little anxious about not knowing any other kids as well as trying to cope with a large campus. By taking the Entering Kindergarten class, they made a lot of new friends, became comfortable in the classrooms and were already attached to the Kindergarten teachers when school started. The only down part was that they had made friends with some kids who were on the 'waiting list" and were disappointed when those children were not there in the Fall.

My son has taken classes at 'Iolani every summer so far. He will not even think about going to another school at all. He really loved the **Life, Lab and Literature** class and the new **Magic School Bus** class (complete with Ms. Frizzle-esq field trips). However, his absolute favorite is **Celebrate Diversity** and wants to take it again. The kids learn about a variety of countries and do crafts, learn songs, speak the language and (a favorite) cook native foods.

A major reason to choose 'Iolani Summer School is the Fourth of July parade - that is truly the highlight of any parent's or grandparent's summer. No matter how many times I see **Mrs. Cheri Keefer** don that coonskin cap, I still get chicken skin!

If you have a little superstar at home, you should seriously consider the **Musical Theatre Experience summer program at the Diamond Head Theatre**. There is a morning session for elementary aged kids and an afternoon session for older kids. The children learn singing, dancing

and acting at a professional level by teachers with years of experience on the stage. They learn how to write a stage resume and even how to audition. Best of all, they put on a performance at the end of the program on the actual DHT stage - lighting, costumes, everything. My daughter has taken this for three years and will not even look at any other program in the summer.

If you are interested in this program you need to sign up on the DAY registration opens since the "veteran" families know it fills up fast. They take only 30-40 kids for each session. Chances are, if you wait more than a few days, there will be no openings.

If you would like to stay at 'Iolani, I would recommend the **Bearable Experience class in Lower School**. The kids also put on a performance at the end of the session and it is just heartwarming. The teacher, **Mrs. Chun** (I think) really brings out each child's talent and showcases it.

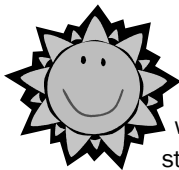
For artsy kids, enroll them at the summer program at the **Honolulu Academy of Arts**. There are morning and afternoon sessions, Thursday through Friday. The teachers are some of the leading art educators and/or fine artists around town. Students create and tour the HAA galleries. If you have a toddler, there is a parent/child program offered on Mondays (only for the summer).

The Contemporary Museum in Makiki offers one to three day workshops or weekly classes which is a great alternative to parents who are commitment phobic when it comes to summer programs. It's hands-on in a variety of media from printmaking to collage to clay. Many of the instructors are artists whose names you will recognize. If the class is not filled and you have a toddler, they may let you and your little one participate in the class too.

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Parents' Perspective

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RESPONSES FROM UPPER SCHOOL PARENTS

I highly recommend the **Musical Theatre program** at 'Iolani which is taught by **Christina Pellegrini**. It is offered for students in grade 7-12.

My daughter is taking **Bible** and **Gym (PE)** this summer at 'Iolani. She always goes to 'Iolani for Summer School. She tries to take courses to ease the load during the normal school year. I think that many of the Iolani students do this.

My son (who is a Senior this year) is taking the summer off after he graduates and goes away to college on the Mainland. He deserves it. He has been working hard and needs to take the time to rest, enjoy, and plan for the future.

Our daughter went to a **camp on one of the islands off Puget Sound, near Seattle**. The kids roughed it in cabins with minimal amenities. They canoed, did crafts, and sang songs by the campfire. It was a good experience for her to meet other kids.

My daughter went to a **music camp at the University of Colorado, Boulder**. The students live on campus in the dormitories. She had individual lessons, played in an orchestra, and enjoyed the three week session so much that she now hopes to go to the University of Colorado when she graduates.

My son is taking **sailing lessons at a Yacht Club**.

I tried to get my son to consider another summer school on Oahu, just because it might be fun to meet some new kids, try some new things, etc. But, he wouldn't consider it. His friends are here at 'Iolani. He doesn't want to be considered a "traitor".

'Iolani has some great summer courses. The campus kind of slows down. You can work or you can take something easier. It is all up to you.

There seems to be a differing of opinions about what kids should/could do during the summer. Some parents think about the summer as an opportunity to learn something new, others think kids should have fun, rest, relax and enjoy the time off, and still others think it is a time to prepare for the future. Parents try hard to find a balance between work and play. We all agree that youth is a precious and important time.



FALL 2007 'PARENTS' PERSPECTIVE QUESTION

"Where are your favorite family friendly 'cheap eats' near 'Iolani School?"

Please send your answers by September 15, 2007 to elelenews@aol.com

or leave a message for the 'Elele at 943-2322

All answers will be kept anonymous but indicate if you are an Upper or Lower School parent.

Reflections on Our First Year at 'Iolani School

by **Mark and Doris Morisaki**,
Kindergarten Representative

Life as a kindergartner is great. The exposure and experiences in just this short period have been incredible. They are discovering the wonders of inventive spelling, learning math through baking, and making their own sunscreen. How cool is that? Who knew that a soccer game wasn't the only place that you could receive a yellow card? And how fortunate is it that they have EIGHT teachers from such a young age?



Doris Morisaki (*middle*) with her fellow Kindergarten Representatives, Shari Inouye (*left*) and Kim Sonson (*right*)

We realize that our child did not enter this educational institution alone, but rather our family has joined one larger family. Family participation and support is an integral component and the best way to reap the benefits that the school has to offer. In the pure 'Iolani spirit, one becomes embraced immediately by the warmth and welcome of the 'Iolani family. Despite the short time on campus, the bond was evident at our very first homecoming football game. Our swelling pride was seen as the Kindergarten classes enthusiastically cheered on our Raiders from the stands, oblivious to the progress and outcome of the game. You quickly learn which color combinations are appropriate and are gently reminded about which ones are not the best choices.

Looking a few doors down to the First Graders' classrooms, the poise and confidence they exhibit is amazing. Such a miraculous change seems to occur after Kindergarten. For now, the Kindergarteners are enjoying their status as the "littlest Raiders" of the school. It is such a precious yet fleeting moment.



**'IOLANI 'OHANA
CALENDAR OF EVENTS
May 2007**

- Thursday, May 3
- 7:00 am
- **'Iolani 'Ohana Council Meeting**
- Art Gallery Conference Room
- *Please bring your updated 'Ohana binders to this final meeting of the school year.*
- Monday, May 21
- 11:00 am
- **2007-2008 'Iolani 'Ohana Council Orientation**
- Waialae Country Club
- *Information session for all new and returning Council members to meet the new Officers and learn about 'Ohana procedures for the upcoming school year.*
- Monday, May 21
- 12:00 noon
- **'Iolani 'Ohana End of the Year Luncheon**
- Waialae Country Club

**CHECKED
OUT
YOUR
WEBSITE
LATELY?**



Visit the official website of the 'Iolani 'Ohana at **www.iolaniohana.org**

Keep connected via your child's grade level webpage.

Tour the photo gallery of 'Iolani events, including 'Ohana sponsored activities

Print out needed school forms.

Learn about upcoming programs geared towards parents.

Sign up for the weekly 'Ohana e-mail blast.

Meet the members of the 'Ohana Council and find out how you can get involved.



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