

HO'OLAULIMA I MOANALUA

WORKING TOGETHER FOR SCHOOL SUCCESS

Vol. XVIII, No. 1

August - September 2011



Welcome back to school! Hopefully, you all had a happy, safe and fun, albeit short, summer break and are raring to get our new school year underway! To our new students and families, we say, "*E Komo Mai!*" (welcome!) to Moanalua Elementary School. All of us -- faculty, staff, students and families -- want you to know how happy we are that you're here and, as "aloha ambassadors," will do all we can to help get you into the flow of into our school's routine.

Please be sure to say "*aloha*" and welcome our new faculty members: Mr. Ben Meyer, principal; Ms. Zareh Ma in Kindergarten; Ms. Elise Tamashiro in Grade 2; Ms. Brittney Kanetake in Grade 3; Ms. Carly Hayashikawa in Grade 5; and Ms. Audrey Chinen, Counselor for grades pre-school to 2. Our returning students and families will notice familiar faces in different roles this year: Ms. Colleen Fujikawa, formerly with Grade 5 has joined the Grade 2 team; Mrs. Lori Arai-Shiraishi will be our librarian and Mrs. Lauren Kamikawa is our Literacy Coach. All of us here at Moanalua Elementary are ready for an exciting year of connecting, learning and growth for ourselves, our students and families.

Under Principal Meyer's leadership, Moanalua Elementary will continue providing our students with high quality learning experiences and opportunities. Academic excellence is the result of parents and school working together to provide the best learning environment and experiences for our students. Our school strives to provide many ways for families to be involved and support our students' academic success.



- *stay informed -- know what your child is learning and what work & assignments your child's teacher expects;*
- *stay on top of school events -- read and respond to flyers and bulletins in a timely manner;*
- *attend parent workshops and events at school;*
- *volunteer to assist your child's teacher/classroom, in the library, lunchroom, or tutor/mentor other children;*
- *join and support our school's PTO; subscribe to receive e-mail updates at <www.moanaluapto.org>.*

PTO volunteers kicked off the school year providing beautiful complimentary portfolios filled with important info for each student at MES. Moanalua Elementary's PTO, now under the leadership of Ms. Lei Fukumura, will continue their "green" efforts this year (reducing their paper use & saving trees), thus the PTO's primary means of communication is electronic -- check their great web site <www.moanaluapto.org> to find the latest news, notes and needs. If you haven't already done so, please send in your membership, provide your e-mail address, place your T-shirt orders, and volunteer to support our students!

I hope you'll take the opportunity to get involved with this great group of folks this year! You'll meet other MES families, be providing much needed service and support to our PTO and school and demonstrating to your child how much your family values education.

We are finalizing details for the upcoming "Taste of Moanalua" events. These are parent enrichment sessions held during the school day in conjunction with an opportunity to join your child for breakfast or lunch. It is our hope that these mini workshops will help you understand and be better prepared to support your child's learning. Topics we plan on presenting include Common Core standards and online interactive math and reading comprehension programs. Flyers with more detail and sign-up information will be sent home in coming weeks via your youngest/only or designated child as soon as arrangements are confirmed.

Circle Thursday, August 25 on your calendar as the date for our annual HSA Results workshop. All are welcome to attend this event; this session will be of particular interest to parents of current 4th, 5th and 6th grade students. A printout of their child's 2010-2011 HSA scores will be distributed and Principal Meyer and Counselor Nakasone will be available to answer any questions about the tests that parents may have.



"*Ho'olaulima i Moanalua*" is a bimonthly newsletter distributed to MES families through their youngest (or only) child. This publication is created in-house through the PCNC with our school's families in mind; issues include a variety of articles such as discipline, homework, character education, academic issues pertinent to MES, a general events calendar, workshop announcements, and an "RSVP" to sign up for advertised activities or services. If there's a parenting issue you'd like to see addressed in print or in a workshop, please let me know. I'm Susie Okumura, editor of "*Ho'olaulima i Moanalua*" and PCNC Facilitator for Moanalua Elementary School. What is PCNC? It's the Parent-Community Networking Center, a program unique to Hawaii's Dept. of Education. PCNCs are staffed by part-time Facilitators who coordinate assistance to the school and teachers and help support students' and their families' success.

Please contact me if you can share your time and talent as a school volunteer, if you need more information, or have questions about ways you can support your child's school success. You can use the RSVP reply form in this newsletter, drop off a note at the school's office, call my direct line at 831-7884, or e-mail <mes_pcnc@yahoo.com>. I am attempting to update home & school communication so I have set up a Twitter account <mes_pcnc> and a FaceBook page; search for <[Moanalua Elementary PCNC](http://MoanaluaElementaryPCNC)> and LIKE us. While a PCNC web page is still in the planning stages in the meantime, I hope you will find at least one of these communication channels works for you.

I hope to talk with you soon!



You are invited to join us at our

Principal's Coffee Hour

Thursday, Aug. 11
at 8:10 a.m. in room F-2

meet our new Principal, Mr. Ben Meyer,
and hear how Moanalua Elementary will
meet the needs of our 21st Century learners

What is the Learning Criteria?

- Rigor, Relevance and Relationships
- Learner engagement
- Personal Skill Development
- Foundation Learning & Stretch Learning

How do parents & family factor
into students' success?

your RSVP is not required to attend but is appreciated
so we can adequately prepare materials



Good for our school good for our planet



last school year MES earned \$2297 with Box Tops!!
#7 (of 455 schools) in Hawaii in earnings!

keep those labels coming in!

Boxtops for Education



General Mills / Betty Crocker
Pillsbury / Progresso / Yoplait
Green Giant / Chex Mix / Totino's
Hamburger Helper / ZipLoc
Avery / Hefty / Kleenex & Cottonelle

check the PCNC bulletin board for complete
listing

of eligible products and register to support
MES at: www.boxtops4education.com
to shop online and get product coupons

Campbell's Labels for Education



Swanson / Prego / Pepperidge Farm
V-8 / Franco-American / Pace



Got any old, broken or unused
cell phones gathering dust at home?
drop them off at MES
we'll recycle them for a good cause!

We also accept empty laser & ink printer cartridges for
recycling -- drop off donations in the library!



MEDITATIONS FOR PARENTS WHO DO TOO MUCH

BY JONATHAN AND WENDU



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(SIMON & SCHUSTER)

*Our greatest danger in life is in permitting the
urgent thing to crowd out the important.*

-- Charles E. Hummel

As parents who do too much, we are often
prioritizing. We will put aside the medical checkup,
staying in touch with family or a friend --
because there are "important" things to get done
-- things that need our immediate attention.

But let us not confuse urgency with importance.
Just because something sits up and begs at our feet,
does not mean we have to throw it a bone.

The things we get done first are usually the ones that
are least important but most persistent -- the phone
calls, the shopping, the cleaning -- the list of "must
do's." The really important things -- time spent with
our children, for example -- may get put on hold.

*I may not be the best judge of what
is truly important in my life.*

*Today I'll juggle the schedule a bit and see
if I can't change the order of things.*

Ho'olaulima i Moanalua

is a bi-monthly publication of

Moanalua Elementary's



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Susie Okumura
Parent Facilitator & Editor

Home & School Connecting for Success



Research studies indicate that children whose parents are well-informed and actively involved do better in school. Here are some ideas to strengthen the learning connection for your child.



Education is too important to entrust to the schools alone. But who has the time to help these days? *Surprise!... You Do!*

First, though, it's important to understand why your investment of time is so critical. The nation's largest education organizations agree that when parents get involved in their kids' education -- and stay involved from elementary all the way through high school -- their kids do better in school.

The U.S. Department of Education says that parent involvement can lead to improved student achievement, increased school attendance, reduced drop-out rates, and decreased delinquency. What's more, these improvements result no matter what the economic, racial, or cultural background of the family.

So how can you get involved in a positive way and make your school work for you and your children? We've gathered simple steps you can take to ensure your child's success in school. Consider these strategies:

GO TO SCHOOL

Too many parents set foot in school only for teacher conferences or to attend special events such as recitals. But that's not nearly enough, says Pat Henry, president of the National PTA. "Parents have an obligation to be in school so they can understand its needs firsthand," she says. Working parents may have to give up an occasional lunch hour, but the dividends are worth it. Besides sending a positive message to teachers that you're a concerned parent, you'll have a whole new set of things to discuss with your child at the dinner table. Once you've met your child's classmates and seen the classroom's art centers, reading corners, and so on, they'll have a new meaning for you.

In addition, get to know your school's educational goals and philosophy. Call and make an appointment with the school's principal if you have any questions or concerns. If you're pleased with what you observe, make a point of telling the principal. "Be complimentary as often as possible," advises Henry. "Then, when you have a legitimate complaint, someone will be more likely to listen."

OFFER TO VOLUNTEER

Henry says, "Parents must work to see that the educational goals of the school are met. And that means working for the good of all children, not just their own." Some schools have coordinators that inform parents and concerned citizens about volunteer opportunities (*Hawai'i's public schools PCNC Facilitators serve in this capacity*). Call and ask what you can do to help. It might be as simple as spending an hour listening to a child read aloud or helping a teacher prepare teaching materials.



JOIN THE PTO

Millions of parents nationwide are already members of the PTO and other parent-teacher organizations. In this way, parents can address a variety of educational needs and positively affect the process by being informed and speaking with one voice. Success stories abound, with informed parents doing everything from lobbying for music programs and media centers to lowering student to teacher ratios.

BE SUPPORTIVE AT HOME

Studies prove that creating a positive home learning environment has a powerful impact on student achievement. To foster such an atmosphere, keep an upbeat attitude towards education and let your children know you have high expectations for their success.

In school, many students improve with extra attention and help. Kids can make even greater strides when the help comes at home, from their parents. For example, you might review your child's homework with them or suggest potential sources of information for research projects.

Happy, healthy families have solid routines. Children benefit from knowing what to expect and a good routine can allow for regular meals, plenty of sleep and alone time which are important for everyone.

BECOME AN INFORMED PARENT

Fortunately, there's an abundance of free information available to parents who wish to learn more about getting involved in schools. To get started, try:

- www.pbs.org/weta/twoschools/getinvolved/empowering
 - The Busy Parent's Guide to Involvement
 - 100 Ways for a Parent to Be Involved
- www2.ed.gov/parents/academic/help/hyc.html
U.S. Dept. of Education series of PDF articles that can be viewed online or printed as booklets or brochures
 - "**Helping Your Child...**"
 - ... Learn Science, Mathematics, History
 - ... Become a reader
 - ... With homework
 - ... Become a responsible citizen
 - ... Your Preschool Child
 - ... Through Early Adolescence"
- www2.ed.gov/parents/academic/parentpower/booklet.pdf
June 2010 U.S. Dept. of Education PDF booklet:
"**Parent Power: Build the Bridge to Success**"



Please feel free to contact Susie Okumura, MES PCNC Facilitator, for other resources or just to talk to a veteran parent. Call me at 831-7884 (voice mail is on "24-7") or e-mail me at <mes_pcnc@yahoo.com>.



M.E.S. News & Notes

August

- 11: Principal's Coffee Hour
- 16: PTO Open House
- 19: **Statehood Day - school closed**
- 24-25: Student Picture-Taking
- 25: **HSA Results Workshop**
- 31: **Grade 1 Parent Workshop --**
Problem Solver & Reading Response strategies
bento pickup at 5 p.m.; workshop starts at 6 p.m.



register on the RSVP form or contact PCNC (e-mail or phone)

September

- 5: **Labor Day - no school (federal holiday)**
- 9: Moanalua High School homecoming parade



"Another Taste of Moanalua" - Parent workshop series

- 14: **grades K-3** - lunch with your child & mini workshop
- 21: **grades 4-6** - breakfast with your child & mini workshop
- 28: **Grade K-2 parents** - breakfast with your child followed by "Introduction to Common Core Standards"



Attention:
MES PCNC

© Jennifer Pook

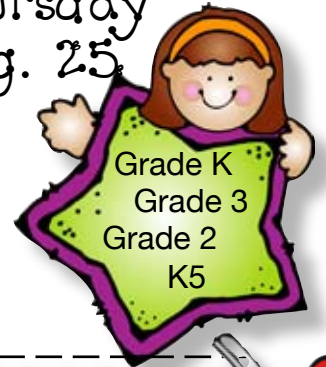
Students' Picture-Taking



Wednesday,
Aug. 24

Grade 6
Grade 5
Grade 4
Grade 1

Thursday
Aug. 25



Grade K
Grade 3
Grade 2
K5

Note to parents:

all students will be photographed

please make sure your child is dressed appropriately for picture-taking
a variety of photo packages are available on a pre-pay basis
price list and order envelopes have been distributed to students
class schedules & sample of sizes is on the PCNC bulletin board
(corner of library building near main office)



R.S.V.P

Please print clearly and return to MES PCNC



Parent's Name(s): _____

Phone#(s): _____ E-mail address: _____

Child's Name(s): _____ Gr. (s): _____ Rm(s): _____

Please call me, I have Questions Suggestions Concerns regarding:

I can help with school/teacher support (library, copying, laminating, etc.) I can help with student support (reading, tutor, mentor) Other

The best day(s) and time(s) for me are: _____

I will attend the "Principal's Coffee Hour" on Aug. 11th RSVP by Aug. 10

I will attend the "HSA Test Results Workshop" on Aug. 25th RSVP by Aug. 22

I will attend Grades K-3 "Taste of Moanalua:" Lunch & mini workshop event on Sept. 14th
I enclose \$5.00 x ___ adults for a total of \$_____ in cash RSVP by Sept. 7

I will attend Grades 4-5-6 "Taste of Moanalua:" Breakfast & mini workshop on Sept. 21st
I enclose \$2.20 x ___ adults for a total of \$_____ in cash RSVP by Sept. 14

I will attend Grade K-2 "Taste of Moanalua:"
breakfast & "Intro to Common Core Standards" on Sept. 28th
I enclose \$2.20 x ___ adults for a total of \$_____ in cash RSVP by Sept. 21



Hawaii **S**tate **A**ssessments
school year **2010 - 2011**
RESULTS WORKSHOP

Attention! Parents of
students currently in
grades 4, 5 & 6

Thursday
Aug. 25, 2011
6 p.m.

MES Library

Mark this date on your calendar and
plan on joining us for this informative
session! Why should you attend?
At this session, you'll get...

- the printout of your child's scores
- comparison data for our complex area & district schools
- information about your child's areas of academic strengths and challenges
- ways parents can make a difference

Please let us know you will be attending
RSVP by Monday, Aug. 22nd

your pre-registration assures that we'll
have your child's test scores ready for you.

"Taste of Moanalua"

feed your body & your mind

- enjoy a meal with your child
- get interactive experience with tools & programs your child uses
- learn how families can support students' school success at home

Gr. K-3: Wed., Sept. 14
(RSVP by Sept. 7)

10:00 - 10:50 a.m. = parents meet in Library
10:55 - 11:25 a.m. = lunch w/your child in the caf

Gr. 4-6: Wed., Sept 21
(RSVP by Sept. 14)

7:15 - 7:55 a.m. = breakfast w/your child in the caf
8:00 - 9:00 a.m. = parents meet in Library

Gr. K-2: Wed., Sept. 28
(RSVP by Sept. 15)

7:15 - 7:55 a.m. = breakfast w/your child in the caf
8:00 - 9:00 a.m. = parents meet in Library

Complete & return the RSVP form
in this issue with pre-payment for
your meal. I'll e-mail you detailed
confirmation prior to your event.

Questions? Contact Susie Okumura, MES PCNC Facilitator.
Call 831-7884 or E-mail <mes_pcnc@yahoo.com>.

