

HO'OLAULIMA I MOANALUA

WORKING TOGETHER FOR SCHOOL SUCCESS

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December 2011 - January 2012



At Moanalua Elementary School, the second quarter of the school year is traditionally packed with activities. This year was no exception -- Book Fair, Parent-Teacher conferences, Pumpkin Mania & Food Drive, flu shot clinic, field trips, Student Council Spirit Week and a super awesome PTO Fun Fair.



Our nation's financial status continues to prove challenging to many, but Moanalua Elementary School is blessed with dedicated and caring parents, community, faculty and staff determined to provide our students with quality learning opportunities. It's easy to focus on things that we don't have but let's not allow negativity to overshadow the things we are grateful for... family, friends, neighbors, co-workers and, sometimes, even strangers who care and provide moral support. It's important for children to see the adults they look up to value more than money and material things and see these adults modeling attributes, values and skills such as positive communication, problem-solving, working together, showing appreciation, showing respect for people and property, and compassion for others.

I am grateful for the many parents and community members who volunteer their time and talents for our school -- Xeroxing & laminating, clipping boxtops, being flu shot clinic escorts, and supporting our Book Fair and Pumpkin Mania. Sincere thanks, too, to our soldier friends from Tripler who give up their lunch breaks for our "Read With Me" partnership. The presence of these many volunteers on campus show our students how much these caring adults value education.



Special *mahalo!* to the Ishikawas, our school's photographers, for their generosity donating their time, talents, and sitting fees from our October family photo event. Families were happy to have a professional photographer take their picture together -- no one missing from the photo because they were behind the camera or looking flustered after rushing into the frame before the timer snaps the picture!

We hope that you've been able to attend the parent workshops and family events we've designed to help you learn more about our school, your children, and how school and families support each other's efforts as we work together preparing our children for happy and productive lives.

Please contact us if you, or someone you know, is willing and able to support our school. Some of the ways you can help include, but are not limited to... read to, tutor or mentor students; share your career or hobby with students; provide clerical assistance to our front office staff.



As we approach the end of the calendar year and mid-point of our school year, this is a good opportunity to look back and reflect -- as individuals, as a family, as an organization -- on goals and milestones we've reached and what remains on our "to do" list going forward.



Assessments, data and reflection are critical parts of school life as they provide evidence about how well the plans and strategies in place are working and if adjustments are needed to meet student needs & school goals. You can use a similar method to determine how effective your family's academic support strategies are. For example, here are some thoughts and strategies that promote student achievement...

- **Is everyone in your household a contributor?** or are your children behave more like guests -- where parents provide catering/housekeeping/chaffeur services?
- **Does your family have agreements and policies regarding time spent on television & video games?** Limit the influence of the electronic childcare -- no matter how much the children enjoy it -- schedule and spend time reading or playing board games together as a family.
- **Are extra-curricular activities in balance with school and family time or are they adding to family stress?** Having children involved in athletics, music & dance is great enrichment for them but if the time you're spending at practices, games and performances plus the time spent commuting to and from these activities adds up to another full-time job, then it may be time to scale back on these extras.
- **Have you demonstrated to your children how much you value education by being knowledgeable about your child's work, school policies & programs, volunteering and attending school events?** If you answered, "Yes, all the time," that's wonderful -- we love our involved and knowledgeable parents!! If you answered, "No," or "Sometimes," that's okay... there are many opportunities to get on board at MES!"

The end of the calendar year is just the midway mark of the academic year -- there's still plenty of time to make purposeful efforts that support your child's academic success. Now is a great opportunity for you and your children to reflect on how much you've all grown and learned in 2011. Planning on ways you will take care of yourselves, each other and our community is the best gift you can give or receive.



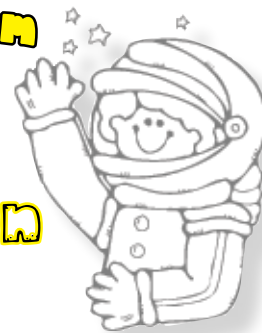
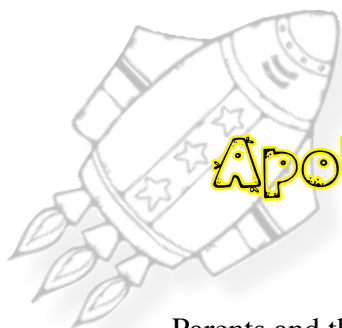
What will you resolve to do in 2012?



Future Flight Hawaii

Summer Family Exploration Program

June 9-10, 2012



Apollo: the Next Generation Return to the Moon

Parents and their children join together in a unique mission team to explore science in a two-day, weekend Future Flight program. Topics may include Earth Moon Math, Center of Gravity, Math Magic, Kitchen Science, Robotics, Spin Science, Illusions.

Eligibility: students in grades 2 through 5 (as of January 1, 2012) accompanied by one parent.

Future Flight Hawaii is a space-themed educational program designed to catalyze a child's interest in science, technology and the future. Participants experience a variety of training modules with a mission context. Since 1991, over 9,000 student and parent participants have voyaged on journeys of exploration to the moon, Mars and our own planet, Earth, the Blue Planet.

The Future Flight Hawaii Mission Control team includes professional educators from the Hawaii Department of Education, private schools and other educators and scientists. The training modules and other program elements are designed by the staff educators, with contributions from Hawaii Space Grant Consortium scientists and NASA resources. Join a crew of explorers as we explore Earth's moon.

visit <http://www.spacegrant.hawaii.edu> to download the 2012 brochure and enrollment form.



MEDITATIONS FOR PARENTS WHO DO TOO MUCH

BY JONATHAN AND WENDY



©1993 FIRESIDE/PARADE BOOKS
(SIMON & SCHUSTER)

Life must be understood backward.

But it must be lived forward.

-- Søren Kierkegaard

Parenting is a road we travel. There are no signposts, no mileage markers. We set the speed limit -- and most of the time we find ourselves going too fast. We're not sure where the road leads, but we have the feeling we'll know where we're going when we get there.

This is a journey we make alone -- a pilgrimage of sorts. Sometimes it is as if we are in a dream where nothing makes sense. Just when we feel secure, at peace, things change. Just when we think we know our children, they grow older and seem strange to us. We are outsiders in their world -- a world we used to find comfortingly familiar.

For now, we must continue forward on this journey. It will make sense to us only when it is over, when we look back.

.....
*I will try to face each day with a positive outlook,
secure in the knowledge that what I do not
understand today I may understand tomorrow.*

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Elementary's**



**Parent
Community
Networking
Center**

1337 Mahiole Street
Honolulu, HI 96819

phone: (808) 831-7884

Twitter: [mes_pcnc](#)

e-mail:
mes_pcnc@yahoo.com

Susie Okumura
PARENT FACILITATOR & EDITOR



Parent's Page

positive steps you can take to help your kids

What do Teachers Want?

Here are some suggestions that don't need gift-wrapping and don't cost any money

Top 10 Things Teachers Wish Parents Would Do

Brought to you by the National PTA®

- 1. Be involved.** Parent involvement helps students learn, improves schools, and helps teachers work with you to help your children succeed.
- 2. Provide resources at home for learning.** Utilize your local library, and have books and magazines available in your home. Read with your children each day.
- 3. Set a good example.** Show your children by your own actions that you believe reading is both enjoyable and useful. Monitor television viewing and the use of videos and game systems.
- 4. Encourage students to do their best in school.** Show your children that you believe education is important and that you want them to do their best.
- 5. Value education.** Emphasize your children's progress in developing the knowledge and skills they need to be successful both in school and in life -- being critical thinkers and problem-solvers, being respectful, honoring deadlines and commitments, taking responsibility for their choices and actions, and the importance of producing thorough, quality work.
- 6. Recognize factors that take a toll on students' classroom performance:** Consider the possible negative effects of extracurricular activities (social networking and time spent with online media) and don't forget to address health maintenance -- proper nutrition, physical exercise and getting adequate sleep to sustain and nurture growing bodies and brains. Work with your children to help them maintain a balance between school responsibilities and outside commitments.
- 7. Support school rules and goals.** Take care not to undermine school rules, discipline, or goals.
- 8. Use pressure positively.** Encourage children to do their best, but don't pressure them by setting goals too high or by scheduling too many activities.
- 9. Call teachers early if you think there's a problem** while there is still time to solve it. Don't wait for teachers to call you.
- 10. Accept your responsibility as parents.** Don't expect the school and teachers to take over your obligations as parents. Teach children self-discipline and respect for others at home -- don't rely on teachers and schools to teach these basic behaviors and attitudes.



Whether you're traveling or just chillin' out here during the break, make time to keep reading. Here are some suggested "Best New" titles provided by Parents.com:



By Mary Lyn Ray, illustrated by Maria Frazee Ages: 3 and up

This sweet ode to stars begins and ends with the night sky. In between, *Stars* explores all sorts of other places where stars can be found, both literally and figuratively: on pajamas or school papers; in snowflakes or the flowers in a pumpkin patch. A star can transform a stick into a magic wand or a kid into a sheriff. Ray's simple prose and Frazee's playful illustrations combine to create a lovely stream-of-consciousness feel that encourages a child's mind to wander and wonder.

Bottom line: Reading with your child is sure to spark conversation and inspire star-related crafts and a star hunt of your own.



The Jewel Fish of Kranak

By Graeme Base Ages: 5 and up



In ancient Egypt, two greedy and not-so-smart thieves, Ibis and Jackal, have been caught stealing in the town market. The Cat Pharaoh offers to pardon the two friends if they will journey up the Nile and retrieve a precious jeweled fish sculpture taken by the Crocodile Prince. But she warns the pair not to steal anything else while there and not to let the fish get wet. Needless to say, the two ignore the warnings and disaster follows when the fish gets away. Base's drawings are sumptuous and the book is packed with Egyptian lore. But the real treat is the puzzle he's built into the story with Hieroglyphic tablets and an ingenious mechanical device on the back cover that holds the final key.

Bottom line: The ideal book for young puzzle-lovers.



Liesl & Po

By Lauren Oliver Ages: 8 and up



Locked away by her conniving stepmother since her father's death, Liesl lives in a tiny attic room. Her only companions are mice and shadows. Then one day Po — a ghost from the Other Side — comes to help Liesl take her father's ashes home. The two become friends and Po helps her escape. They soon collide with Will, an alchemist's apprentice who sets them all on a dangerous course when he mixes up the box containing the ashes of Liesl's father with one holding "the Most Powerful Magic in the World." Part fairy-tale, part adventure story, *Liesl and Po* (\$11.19) shows how generosity can conquer greed and how friendship can brighten even the darkest of places.

Bottom line: Older elementary schoolers and young tweens will appreciate the fairy-tale elements and clearly drawn lines between good and evil.





M.E.S. News & Notes

MES Redeems & Recycles

December

7: "Junior Engineering Night"

- "Water Purification" (all grades)
- "Birdie Bones" (all grades)
- "Slewing Balloons" (all grades)
- Bridge Competition (Gr. 5 students)

15: last day of Q2/S1

Dec. 16: Winter Break/Intersession begins

January

- 4: Students return to school
- 16: *Martin Luther King Jr. Day Holiday*
- 18: Gr. 3 Parent-Child Science Activity Night
- 31: *HSA Testing: round 2 begins*

February

- 2 - 10: *HSA Testing: round 2 continues*
- 17: **"Let's Get Fit" Fun Run**
- 20: *President's Day Holiday*



FEBRUARY 17, 2012



General Mills'

Boxtops for Education



Campbell's Labels for Education

Toner Cartridges

drop off in library



Cell Phones

(working or broken phones accepted!)

drop off at office or PCNC

Nike Reuse-A-Shoe® program

New sneakers for Christmas? Don't throw away your old pair -- bring them to MES and drop in the bin outside the computer lab door beginning in January 2012.

athletic shoes only, please!

any brand of athletic shoes are accepted

Nike cannot recycle dress shoes, sandals, flip flops; sorry...no metal, cleats/spikes or muddy/wet shoes.

The Nike Reuse-A-Shoe program promotes environmental stewardship and recycles athletic shoes into "Nike Grind," a material used for sports and playground surfaces.

Landfill space on this island paradise that we call home is becoming scarce and this program helps reduce our landfill waste and creates new places for people to play on.

visit <http://www.nikereuseashoe.com/> to find out more about "Nike Grind."

