

Follow us:



to get the latest school news!

Chiefess Kapi`olani Elementary School

# Kōlea Pride

December 2023

966 Kilauea Ave.  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

## Kōlea Bots Host Robotics Competition

On Saturday, November 18, 2023, the Chiefess Kapi`olani School's Kōlea Bots hosted their first robotics competition.

Our students who participated in the competition placed 5th, 10th, 12th, 14th, and 15th in the league of 23 students. Awesome job! A huge shout out to our Robotics Advisors, Mr. Christopher Pike, Ms. Chelsie Santos, and Mr. Charles Bartley. The Robotic team also wanted to thank our Kapi`olani SBG (Student Body Government) Advisor, Ms. Chelsie Santos, and students Keaiwa Kim, Bryn Okamoto, U'ilani Orita, and Railee Matsumoto for raising money for the robotics team by selling food and drinks during this competition.

The following students, Nevaeh Molina, Tae Faust, Onyx Schutz, Naleigh Sione, Ren Aragaki, Alyssa Torricer, Charles Cross, Eldrick Jansen Tagalicud, Dexter Au, Xia Patao, Vienna Bighorse, Tygler Langidrik, Kanekoa Molina, Abilene Pulgados-Pacatang, Neije Mojilong, Kaia Kaeha, Aniese Colon, Aiden Justo, Jasper Pulgados, Alia Heu Odasco, and Jakob Ryen Malicdem all enjoyed working with teams from other schools, seeing new robot designs, and scoring lots of points in the competition.

Way to go Kōlea Bots!





## Principal's Message

Chiefess Kapi'olani Elementary School 'Ohana,

Last month, there was excitement on campus due to our Robotics team, the Kōlea Bots, holding their first on campus Robotics Tournament and fundraiser. We are so proud of the team for how far they've come and for working together. Also, we are thankful for their advisors, Mr. Pike, Ms. Santos, and Mr. Bartley, for the time and dedication they put into supporting the students at this event and all practices.

As we move into December, there is more excitement on the horizon with our school's annual Winter Literacy Night, which will be held in our cafeteria and the surrounding area on Thursday, December 7th. As a reminder, our grade 3 and 5 will perform and our 6th graders will be doing a special reading. In addition to this, there will be mini chili bowls served on a first come, first served basis, and exciting activities too. Lastly, because the event focuses on literacy, there will be book giveaways for all students in attendance, so we hope you can make it. The event begins at 5:15pm with the softball parking lot opening at 4:40pm.

Also, we'd like to remind you that for those of you who signed up and paid for Waiakea High School's Healthy Keiki Fun Run, that event will take place next Saturday, December 9th at Waiakea High at 9am. Also, students have been invited to participate in Hilo High's Color Run on December 10th at 3:00pm. More information can be found at the website included on the flyer sent home. Payment for this event must be mailed in. Additionally, our Kōlea are all invited to attend Hilo High School's Christmas Corners event on Monday, December 4th from 5-8pm at the school.

This month is often a time of excitement for our students and families as it is a time when so many come together to celebrate the holiday season. During this time, it is important to focus on spending time as a family and looking at ways we all can be there to support one another. As is always said, one's presence is more important than the giving of presents, so during this season I encourage all our Kōlea and their 'ohana to spend some quality time together.

In closing, as we finish up the semester, we'd like to thank the many parents who are calling in absences, as well as those ensuring students are attending school on a daily basis, when they are not ill. Attending school daily helps to ensure your child is able to follow along with content being covered in class, so students being present on a daily basis is very important. Attendance has slipped over the past few weeks, so we ask for your support with this, so we can ensure all our Kōlea are in school learning and growing.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at [Kimberly.Castillo@k12.hi.us](mailto:Kimberly.Castillo@k12.hi.us) or at 808-313-5100.

Have a wonderful holiday season!

Mahalo,  
Kimberly Castillo  
Principal

## Important Dates

### **December 1 - Friday**

- Kapi'olani Kash Day
- Hilo Intermediate Band Performance  
- Grade 4, 5, 6

### **December 7 - Thursday**

**"Snow What Fun!"**

### **Winter Literacy Event**

5:00 pm - Cafeteria

### **December 12 - Tuesday**

### **PTO Board Meeting**

5:00 pm - Library

### **December 18 - December 21**

Winter Spirit Week

### **December 21 - Thursday**

- Deposit Day - 7:15am - 8:00am
- End of Quarter Incentive Day

### **December 22 to January 4**

Winter Break

### **January 5 - Friday**

Teacher Workday - No School

### **January 15 - Monday**

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day - No School

### **January 16 - Tuesday**

PC Day - No School

### **January 18 - Thursday**

Deposit Day - 7:15am - 8:00am

### **January 26 - Friday**

Kapi'olani Kash Day - 7:15am - 8:00am

## **Kindergarten Always Reading**



### **Preschool/Kindergarten Always Reading Announcements**

Congratulations to our Always Reading Super Readers! The Super Readers for the month of October are.... Eliyannah-Marie Perea-McCormick, Adaline-Love Kaleileiki-Kahalepauole Mailou, Avery Garcia, Catalina Long, Kale'a Hunter, Mariel Jade Lactaoen, Mia Colon, Trinity Torricer, Allen Kumiji-Branco, Kylena Gracida, Pearl Duggan, Anela Joyce Jauculan, Asa Ksendzovsky, Emma Andersen, Gabriella Arulong, Mikayla Okuma, and Ofa Pauta.

### **Great job Super Readers!**

Remember, everyone can be a Super Reader by reading for 15 minutes or more, 3 times a week to reach the goal of 180 minutes a month!

### **Be a Super Reader!**



### SEL Over the Holiday

Remember to practice mindfulness as we continue spending time with friends and family through the holiday season. Let us focus our awareness on the present moment while being respectful, responsible, safe, and hardworking. Remember to communicate effectively by cooperating with others, using kind words and actions, listening politely, resolving conflicts peacefully (*Stop, Walk, Talk*), and following expectations to keep yourself and others safe. When we find ourselves in challenging situations, remember to demonstrate prosocial and positive behaviors by minimizing responses to potential triggers and working to manage our emotions and actions. Let us take responsibility for our actions and their effect on others. We never know what experiences others may be reacting to. Let us be a positive model to those around us. Enjoy the season with wonderment and awe!

## Vice Principal's Message



It is unbelievable that 2023 is coming to a close already. I wish you and your 'ohana a wonderful and restful holiday season as we near our winter break. Let's fill our hearts with love and light! Always remember when your world gets full of busy thoughts and actions that, an act of kindness, no matter how small, will transform your worried, hurried mind. It is easy to get caught up in the hustle and bustle of the season. I hope you can spend this time surrounded by love and laughter.

Ensuring the safety and well-being of our students, last month, we conducted our off-campus tsunami evacuation drill on November 9th. I commend everyone on a job well done; our dedicated teachers and staff played a crucial role in the drill's success, and the cooperation and discipline displayed by our students during the drill were exemplary. The purpose of this drill was to practice and reinforce the importance of safety in the event of an actual tsunami. By simulating an off-campus tsunami evacuation, we aimed to familiarize students with the necessary procedures and instill a sense of preparedness.

This month, we will conduct fire and lockdown drills. Assuring our students know what to do is important to keep our Kōlea 'Ohana safe in an emergency. Through these drills, we aim to equip our students with the knowledge and skills needed to protect themselves and others during unforeseen circumstances.

Enjoy the holiday season by making memories that last a lifetime!

*Mrs. Umemoto*

## Tsunami Evacuation Drill



# December

December 22 - January 4 - Winter Break

## Reminder:

1<sup>st</sup> semester is almost over! It's important to have good attendance & complete all assignments!

Have a Merry Christmas and enjoy your winter break!

Skill of the Month:  
*Show a positive attitude*

Contact: Counselor  
Mr. Bartley at 313-5100

Fun things to do at home during Christmas break

## HAVE A CUP OF POSITIVI-TEA



## PCNC Corner

Aloha Kapi'olani 'ohana,

Check out these **free** resources during the winter break.

### Family & Community Engagement Resources

🌴📖 Hilo Public Library - [November 2023 Calendar of Events](#) 🌴

- Scrabble & Board Games: 5 years and older **Library cards** (free for initial and renewal) are needed to check out games but patrons are welcome to bring their own board games to play with others.  
<https://www.librarieshawaii.org/how-do-i/use-the-library/get-a-new-library-card/>
  - Writing Critique Group: Led by Casey Simpson and suitable for adults
  - Storytime with Partners in Development: Recommend for ages 2 and up with adult supervision. Caregivers and families welcome.
  - Ulu Adventures: Requires registration using this <http://dabux.org/ulu-adventures>
    - Free for families eligible for SNAP-EBT
- Other library services our families may be interested in with a library card:
- Wifi access is **free**.  
<https://www.librarieshawaii.org/how-do-i/use-the-library/use-the-library-wi-fi/#:-:text=We%20have%20free%20Wi%2DFil&text=The%20Hawaii%20State%20Public%20Librar%20valid%20HSPLS%20library%20card.>
  - Patrons can also **borrow an 'ukulele** for three weeks at a time.  
<https://www.librarieshawaii.org/browse/physical-collections/other-materials/ukulele-lending-at-your-library/#:-:text=The%20'Ukulele%20Lending%20Program%20is.Loan%20Agreement%2C%20and%20photo%20ID&text=How%20do%20I%20borrow%20an%20'ukulele%3F&text=Complete%20a%20Loan%20Agreement.>
  - There are 10 computers available for 60-minute sessions at the library but **reservations** can be made one reservation at a time up to four times per day per person. All files must be saved in google drive or on a flash drive.  
<https://www.librarieshawaii.org/how-do-i/use-the-library/computer-reservations/>
  - Computer printing 15 cents per page.
  - Photocopying 20 cents per page.
  - Students can access ebooks in the [SORA collection](#) (de Silva, Haaheo, Hilo Union, Kalaniana'ole, **Kapi'olani**, Keaukaha, Waiakeawaena, HIS, WIS, Hilo High, Waiakea High)
  - **Kanopy streaming service** (9 free tickets per month)  
<https://www.librarieshawaii.org/kanopy-stream-movies/>

## NURSE'S CORNER

### Gratitude for Health and the Holidays

With the Holiday Season approaching quickly, it is common for many of us to feel stressed and anxious. We may feel as though there is too much to do and too little time to do it. It may be easier said than done, but it is important to remember to take a step back, take some deep breaths, and look around at the love and support that surrounds us. Expressing gratitude, which is the state of being grateful, for our family, friends and health is so important especially in these busy times. Gratitude has been associated with better physical and psychological health. Grateful people experience more positive emotions, feel more alive, sleep better, and even have stronger immune systems. As a role model and caregiver, we should all try to practice gratitude and encourage the children around us to notice and think about who and what they are thankful for and why.

When you start to feel that stress and anxiety creeping up over the holidays, remember some of these tips and maybe try them out:

- ★ Be in the moment of your day and really experience it
- ★ Think of 3 things you are grateful for before going to sleep at night
- ★ Thank people for their service
- ★ Be thankful for yourself instead of criticizing yourself
- ★ Be more conscious of things around you
- ★ Be grateful for small things like a kind word or smile from a stranger
- ★ And this holiday season, have a meal with someone you love \*\* with no distractions\*\*

We all need that reminder to take a step back at times, and hopefully some of these tips come in handy this holiday season!

**Sarah de Silva, BSN, RN**

Waiakea Complex RN

Hawaii Keiki: Healthy & Ready to Learn

## Librarian's Message



### 808Reads Statewide Quarter 1 Report

6,769 readers at 153 schools logged 2,675,967 minutes of reading! Students at Chiefess Kapi'olani Elementary School logged 98,070 minutes of reading during Quarter 1. Our school is on the list of the top ten performing 808Reads schools. We ranked #7 for Quarter 1. Thank you very much to our teachers and parents/guardians for encouraging our students to read every day for 20 minutes.

If your children need books to read during their winter break, please take them to the nearest public library to borrow books. Or, you can access thousands of ebooks and audiobooks through the Sora app. You will need to use a device such as a tablet or smart phone.

## Have you tried Sora yet?

Log in using your 10-digit student ID number. Your student ID number can be found on your report card.

- Download the Sora app  
<https://soraapp.com>
- Look for Chiefess Kapiolani Elem.
- Enter your student ID number
- Find a book to enjoy!



Aloha!

My name is Jazamin Ishibashi, also known as Jaz. Most of you know my husband, Mr. Ishibashi, but you will now know him as Jaz's husband. Haha. I was born in Upstate, NY in a little place called Cortland. I've traveled and moved around my whole life, from Africa to the Middle East; all of which sparked my love for new cultures, people, and languages! I am fluent in Armenian and have learned other languages along the way. I love kids and I love my 'ohana, and I am super excited and grateful to be here at Chiefess Kapi'olani Elementary because I get to be with both: kids and my 'ohana! I am currently a tutor in 6th-grade and I love getting to know the students and staff! I look forward to working with all of you! Please don't hesitate to say hi! :)



Aloha, my name is Karen Zindric, aka Miss Kalena. I really enjoy working here as an EA. I love teaching children anything from academics to stage performances. Creative and analytical by nature, I have developed many programs throughout my career. I am a professional hula hooper (kinda retired) and hope to share some tricks with the students. See you around; :)



Hi! My name is Megan Yonamine. My students call me Ms. Y. I am from Oahu, and I recently moved to the Big Island this past summer. My husband to be is from the Big Island and grew up in Waimea. I enjoy exploring the island and taking care of my cat, Gizmo, and dog, Chicken Nugget. This will be my 9th year teaching, but my first year teaching 1st grade. I'm really excited to work at Chiefess Kapi'olani Elementary and I have been really enjoying getting to know all of the students and staff!



Hi everyone! My name is Keani and I am an EA here at Chiefess Kapi'olani Elementary! A little bit about me: I was born and raised here on the Big Island. I had the privilege of playing college basketball in Bellevue, WA, where I earned my Associates degree. I feel very honored and blessed to be here, as the culture at this school truly feels like family. Speaking of family...some of you may know my mom...Mrs. Oda! I look forward to learning and having a positive impact on our students and look forward to meeting you all! :)



Aloha!

My name is Justin Moke, and this is my first year becoming a part of the cafeteria staff at Chiefess Kapi'olani! I was born and raised in Hilo, HI, and graduated from Kamehameha Schools Hawaii Campus, Class of 2006. My passion for cooking derives from my grandma, who knew how to put a smile on everyone's face through her famous family recipes (like Lemon Meringue Pie). I watch anime and play Minecraft and Fortnite. I love gardening and cooking in my free time. I'm excited and looking forward to serving our students and staff at Chiefess Kapi'olani!



Aloha, I am Ms. Masey and I work in the school office as an Office Assistant. In my spare time, I love to spend time with my family and pets. I also like going to the river and doing arts and crafts.



Check out our next newsletter as we introduce a few more of our newest employees.



## Ambassadors of Aloha



On November 20, 2023, our student Ambassadors of Aloha helped to take our Hilo-Waiakea CAS Kanehailua, Principals, and Complex Area Staff on tours around our school campus. We are so proud of our Kōlea for teaching our visitors about what makes Chiefess Kapi'olani so special.



## Chiefess Kapi'olani's Winter Spirit Week December 18-21, 2023

### Mouth Watering Monday

12/18/23

Dress in your favorite candy cane colors/designs.



### Too Cold Tuesday

12/19/23

Dress for the cold.  
Beanies, gloves, christmas sweaters, snowflakes, etc.



### Wake Up Wednesday

12/20/23

Wear your holiday pajamas.



### 'Tis The Season Thursday

12/21/23

Dress in your festive gear.



### NO School

12/22/23

Stay Home-  
Winter Break Begins



Dress code applies: if not participating, school uniforms are required.

# Come Join Us December 7, 2023

Chiefess Kapi'olani Elementary School

## "Snow What Fun!"

Family Literacy Night  
Thursday, December 7, 2023  
5 pm to 7 pm  
School Cafeteria

4:40 pm Upper Field Parking Area Open for Families to Park and Sign In Begins  
5:15 pm Student Performances  
5:45 pm Winter Activities  
6:00 pm Mini Chili and Rice Bowls will be Served (First come first serve until bowls runs out)  
Winter Book Read-a-Louds

Create  
a  
card

Performances by:  
Grade 3 and  
Grade 5 students,  
plus readings  
from 6th grade students

Chili  
and  
Rice

Literacy gift  
for  
each child

Also, a special visit from a very  
jolly fellow and his helpers.

Make and  
Take  
Ornaments



# Thanksgiving Bulletin Board Winners

## Most Thankful Board



## Most Creative



## Best Student Work



### Continuous Notice of Non-Discrimination

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) and its schools do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, disability, and religion in its programs and activities. Please direct inquiries regarding Department nondiscrimination policies as follows:

Civil Rights Compliance Branch  
Hawaii State Department of Education  
P.O. Box 2360  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96804  
(808) 784-6325 or relay  
CRCB@k12.hi.us

Beth Schimmelfennig, Director  
Rhonda Wong, Compliance  
Aaron Oandasan, Title VI  
Toby Yamashiro, Title VII  
Nicole Isa-Iijima, Title IX  
Krysti Sukita, ADA/504