



KALIHI UKA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

WELCOME NEWSLETTER

Home of the Eagles

Est. 1921 Celebrating over 100 Years of Learning!

2411 Kalihi Street Honolulu, Hawaii 96819 - August 16, 2023



Kalihi Uka Students are Enthusiastic Active Growing Learning Engaged and Successful!

OPEN HOUSE THURSDAY 8/17/2023

4:30

Sign-In Begins (@ Cafeteria)

5:00

Program

Principal's Message

Aloha Kalihi Uka Families, Friends and School Community,

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year here at Kalihi Uka Elementary! To those of you who are new to our Kalihi Uka `Ohana, I am Derek Santos, the extremely proud principal of this wonderful school. I am humbled that each day I get to work at the VERY BEST SCHOOL filled with amazing students and families, teachers and staff. I grew up in Kalihi Valley near the pink store and am a proud graduate of Farrington High School. I love what I do here, and I love this school and our Kalihi Uka `Ohana!

Please help me in welcoming our new school team family: Ms. Katherine Jones in Kindergarten, Ms. Tammy Tomita in Grade 1, Mr. Parker Sipe in Grade 4 and Ms. Kylee Ancheta, School Counselor. We are planning to have our fun student events like our Fun Run, Turkey Trot, and Spirit Weeks, as well as our wonderful family activities such as Science Night and Curriculum Day. This year we will continue to push students academically - challenging students to be critical and complex thinkers. We want our students to be articulate and self-advocating individuals who will help this community be a better place. We will be challenging the students' thinking to help them see various perspectives and be able to accept other ways of thinking even if they may not agree. We are also focused on building positive relationships with all students - seeing students for who they are and ensuring students feel confident in and outside of the classroom. We want students to be vulnerable as learners, reflective in their thinking, and confident that they will continue to grow and develop. We want our entire community to be "Purple People," don't worry if you do not know what this means yet, I will be sharing this throughout the school year.

This school year our theme is: *He waiwai nui ka Lōkahi - Unity is a precious possession*. The Hawaiian word Lōkahi translates to unity. Unity is certainly a precious possession and must be carefully nurtured by all. Lōkahi's deeper meaning is centered around unity or harmony between land, community and spirit (our own physical/ mental/ emotional well being). With Lōkahi, how can we as a school family work together as a united front? How might we nurture each other as a school `ohana (family) to develop a feeling of lōkahi on this campus?

As we start this school year, we want to be partners in education and learning for all students. We know that all students can succeed and we will challenge each other to move learning forward and deeper. I thank each of you for being a part of our Kalihi Uka `Ohana! By working together, our EAGLES will achieve, they will fly high and soar across the world! Stay safe, stay healthy and here's to a great school year! I look forward to seeing you at tomorrow's Open House!

With much gratitude,
Derek Santos
Principal

Upcoming Events

August

- 8 Students' First Day
- 17 ELL Parent Meeting: 4:00pm Room: C31
- 17 OPEN HOUSE: 5:00 Sign In Begins/5:30 Program
- 18 Statehood Day **NO SCHOOL**
- 21 Picture Day
- 21-25 Back to School Spirit Week

September

- 4 Labor Day **NO SCHOOL**
- 11 PC Day **NO STUDENTS**
- 25 Book Blast Launch
- 29 Complex Volleyball Tournament

**Due to life-threatening allergies:
WE ARE A PEANUT-FREE SCHOOL
No peanuts or tree nuts please!
-NO Nutella-**

October

- 6 First Quarter Ends
- 9-13 Fall Break **NO SCHOOL**
- 16 Students Return to School / Quarterly Dress day / GOTCHA Store
- 18 Unity Day
- 23-27 Red Ribbon Week
- 30-31 Parent Teacher Conferences, **12:30 p.m. Early Release Daily**
- 31 Halloween Parade

November

- 1-3 Parent Teacher Conferences, **12:30 p.m. Early Release Daily**

INTRODUCING...

Ms. Katherine Jones
Grade K

Ms. Jones is our new Kindergarten teacher! She grew up in Northern Virginia and recently moved to Hawaii. Ms. Jones received her Bachelor's Degree from University of South Carolina and graduated from UH Manoa this past May. One of her favorite hobbies include hiking and her favorite food is Mexican food, especially fajitas. Ms. Jones is most looking forward to establishing relationships between her students, their parents, and her co-workers!



Ms. Tammy Tomita
Grade 1

Ms. Tomita is our new first grade teacher! She brings 20+ years of K-5 and EL teaching experience. Ms. Tomita was born and raised in Honolulu. She has graduated from UH Manoa and Chaminade. Ms. Tomita also enjoys reading magazines in her free time and loves Hawaiian food! This school year she is looking forward to having fun teaching and learning with the students!

Mr. Parker Sipe
Grade 4

Mr. Sipe is our new fourth grade teacher this year! Mr. Sipe is from Seattle, Washington and moved to Hawaii about 4 years ago and recently graduated from UH Manoa this past May. One of Mr. Sipe's favorite hobbies include scuba diving and he also enjoys eating Spaghetti alla Carbonara. He is looking forward to meeting all of his students!



Ms. Kylee Ancheta
Counselor

Ms. Ancheta is our new school counselor! She was born and raised in Hilo and recently moved to Oahu. She graduated from Chaminade this past May. Ms. Ancheta enjoys all things sports and being outdoors, and her favorite food is Filipino food. This school year she is looking forward to connecting with students, families, and the community!

SAFETY FIRST

- Please use caution when entering and exiting the campus.
- Please use the Student Drop-Off Zone on Nihi Street for K-5 students.
- Students 8 and under must use a child safety/booster seat when riding a vehicle.
- Children are not allowed to ride as passengers on mopeds.

Need to Contact Your Child?

Please be sure your child knows their after-school plans—whether it is going to A+, getting picked up, or walking home. If something comes up and you need to contact your child during school, please call the school office at (808)305-6200 and your message will be passed on to your child. Students turn off their phones when they come to school and keep them in their backpacks. They may use their phones to check texts or contact parents **after** school. Thank you for helping us to minimize classroom distractions.

PARKING LOT

All K-5 parents need to use the Nihi St. Drop Off Zone. Campus Monitors and staff members will help guide your children to their classrooms. The parking lot is reserved for staff members so classes can start on time. Thank you for your understanding.

**Take the EAGLE Challenge to be our
Parent Partners!**

**Join us at our first 2023 -2024
family events:**

August 17 Open House
Oct 30 - Nov. 3: Parent-Teacher Conferences

Please pay for meals online or
with cash at the office between
7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Please check out & follow our school
website & social media platforms!

<https://www.ukaeagles.k12.hi.us/>



@kalihiukaeagles

Meal Prices

Breakfast

Regular Student Breakfast	\$1.10
---------------------------	--------

Reduced Student Breakfast	\$0.30
---------------------------	--------

2nd Student Breakfast	\$2.40
-----------------------	--------

Adult Breakfast	\$2.40
-----------------	--------

<u>MILK</u> only	\$0.75
------------------	--------

Lunch

Regular Student Lunch	\$2.50
-----------------------	--------

Reduced Student Lunch	\$0.40
-----------------------	--------

2nd Student Lunch	\$5.50
-------------------	--------

Adult Lunch	\$5.50
-------------	--------

Attendance is the Key to Success

We all want our children to succeed. When children do well in school, we know they will be able to have better options in their lives. They can get scholarships and go to college. They can get good jobs. One of the most important things parents can do to help children lead successful adult lives is to enforce regular school attendance. If children miss 10% of the school year, they end up missing almost an entire month of classes! This can really hurt their academic progress! In fact, recent studies are showing that being absent even two (2) days a month is considered “chronic absenteeism” and has a negative impact on learning. Students who are absent over 14 days are considered *chronic absentees*. Some parents don’t realize that attendance in kindergarten and first grade is vital. Studies show that kindergarten and first grade students who have poor attendance struggle academically in later years. They often have trouble mastering reading by the end of third grade. Math achievement is especially sensitive to attendance. Attendance affects test scores and graduation rates. We need to set positive school attendance habits in preschool, kindergarten and throughout elementary school years so children will continue to value school attendance in middle and high school.

Kalihi Uka School faculty and staff are dedicated to helping every child do well. We can’t do that if students aren’t in school. If children are struggling with learning, the only way we can help them is if they are in school.

Monthly Perfect Attendance

Once again, we will be celebrating students who have perfect attendance for the month with a free dress day in the following month. Students who qualify will get a letter sent home with them that verifies they qualify for the free-dress day. Perfect Attendance is counted if students are on-time and remain in school every day.

10 Tips: What Parents Can Do To Help

1. Get your child to school on time every day. If a delay is unavoidable, it is better to be tardy than to miss a full day of learning.
2. Follow the school’s guidelines and attendance policy. Report excused absences immediately.
3. Check homework and sign your child’s planner.
4. Schedule 10-11 hours of sleep for your child.
5. Stay updated on school events and announcements.
6. Limit the amount of time your child misses school. Schedule family events and appointments with your child’s school schedule in mind.
7. Stay home if you are sick. Please follow the protocols to return to school if sick which include COVID testing or 5 day quarantine or doctor’s note.
8. Promote good health. Exercise, eat healthy foods, limit TV and Video games to weekends. Make sure your children eat breakfast at home or in school (7:15-7:40 a.m.)
9. Create a positive and peaceful home environment.
10. Communicate regularly with teachers and the school.

OPENING DAY PACKET

The office prepared an informational folder of important information and forms for you to review, fill out and/or send back to school. The forms in the **right side pocket** should be completed and returned to school if applicable. These include:

- KUES Emergency Card - **complete and return**
- Free and Reduced Lunch applications: Please follow online application instructions or complete paper application. Need help with the online application? Come to the office or you can call (808) 305-6200 between 7:45-8:15 this week. Someone will help you to complete the form online. If you have a SNAP number, please have it with you.
- Student Publication/Audio/Video Release Form- **complete and return**
- Questionnaire to Determine Eligibility MV1 - **complete and return**
- Stop Flu at School permission - **complete and return if you'd like your child to receive this free flu protection**
- Kokua Kalihi Valley Tooth Decay Preventative Program permission - **complete and return if you'd like your child to receive this free dental assessment and care by Aug. 31st**

In the left pocket you should have received:

- School Calendar - post at home
- August Breakfast and Lunch Menu
- Student Information Privacy-Documents, Notices and Forms Booklet
 - o Note: All NEW students to KUES must turn in a completed Technology Responsible Use Form found on page 17
- Lower Grade Students: Kalihi Uka School Student Handbook - review with child (Upper Grade students have the handbook included in their student planner-please review the planner with your upper grade student)

ALL EAGLES WILL BE LIFELONG LEARNERS!

E - Enthusiastic

A - Active

G - Growing

L - Learning

E - Engaged

S - Successful

Let's have a wonderful school year Eagle Ohana!

KALIHI UKA SCHOOL IS A WELLNESS SCHOOL

Please **DO NOT** bring cake, cupcakes, candies, balloons, and goodie bags to celebrate birthdays in the classroom. Birthday Parties can interrupt class time, cause “sugar rushes/crashes” and may trigger food allergies/sensitivities. Instead, a class gift, like a book, would be greatly appreciated. Children can create or fill out a special bookplate saying the book is from them in honor of their birthday. We also recognize book donors in our newsletters.

BIRTHDAY BOOK CELEBRATION PROGRAM

Here is how our healthy alternative Birthday Book Celebration Program works:

- Complete and return the form below to your child’s teacher.
- Purchase and bring the selected book on or before your child’s agreed upon celebration day (please let us know if recommendations can be suggested)
- A special book plate honoring your child’s birthday and donation will be placed in the book during their scheduled celebration
- Your child’s birthday book will be read by a person of his/her choice (if available) to his/her class in celebration of their special day
- This special birthday book will be added to the library of your child’s choice- either their class library or the school library
- School library donations are displayed as a featured celebrated book for one month
- The birthday child may be the first to borrow their special book.

-----Detach Here-----

Kalihi Uka Elementary School’s Birthday Book Celebration Program

*I would like to celebrate my child’s birthday this year by participating
in the school’s Birthday Book Celebration Program!*
(Please submit to your child’s teacher at least 1-2 weeks in advance)

Child’s name: _____Teacher/Room:_____

Child’s Birthday:_____Preferred date of celebration:_____

Title of Book being donated:

Book being donated to (select one): _____Class Library _____School Library

Name of special reader being requested (Teacher? Principal? Parent?, etc.):

(Additional forms may be picked up at the school office)