

HSD B NEWSLETTER

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Hawai'i School for the Deaf and the Blind



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@HSDB_ASL

Principal's Message:

What a great way to end the 2023-24 school year. For the 1st time in HSDB history the Lt. Governor will be speaking at commencement - Lt Governor Sylvia Luke. Seven students will be graduating - all with diplomas - with some continuing their education at a postsecondary institution and others going straight into the workforce. It's been a very successful year for HSDB and our students, and we are looking forward to the new school year. Here's wishing you all an enjoyable summer. Stay safe.



Watak and Zoey volunteered at the Lo'i.

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- Dave & Buster - Reward day
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Students and staff took a tour at State Capitol.



MARCH

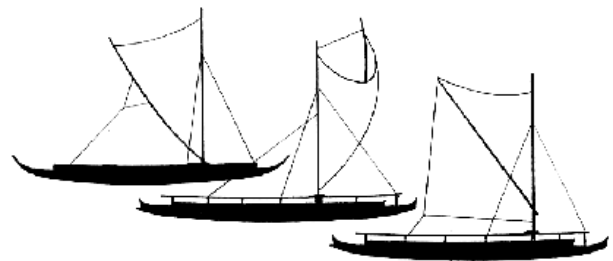
TRIP TO HO'AKEA

HSDB attended the 2nd annual Ho'akea: Mauka to Makai Navigating our Future event on Friday, March 8th at Kualoa Regional park. This event honored the rich history and tradition of Hawaiian voyaging. Sponsored by the DOE, various wa'a (canoe) and aloha 'āina (land and ocean) organizations provided hands-on learning experiences that perpetuate foundational values and perspectives of the canoe and those who came before us.

While there were many events happening simultaneously, some of the HSDB's students participated in:

- Ho'oulu Aina - Rope work, making shakas, easy knots, square knots, bowline, lashing
- Kamaola - Food on the Wa'a (students enjoyed tasting the Ulu fruit prepared in different ways)
- Ho'ala'ainakupono - Learning to make Ti-Leaf Lei
- HIMB Coral Resilience - workshop on coral feeding and students built their own coral polyps.

A good time, and an abundance of learning new things was had by all. Thank you Mahealani Treaster, program director of the Kanehunamoku Voyaging Academy for inviting us, sharing, and coordinating this event! We hope to see you next year!



SBG FUNDRAISED ON CAR WASH

In the week leading up to the prom, SBG organized a car wash on Saturday, March 23rd, during spring break, which raised a total of \$600. Several HSDB teachers showed their support by having their cars washed, and familiar faces from the community also turned out to support us, making the day truly rewarding. SBG didn't stop there; they went on to host another car wash exclusively for campus staff the following week, raising nearly \$100, bringing the combined total from both events to \$700. It was a remarkable success!



APRIL

STARS OF THE NIGHT @ PRINCE WAIKIKI HOTEL

The high school prom was finally restored after four years, taking place at the Prince Waikiki Hotel on Thursday evening, April 4th. The theme was 'Stars of the Night,' and high school students and staff dressed up in their best attire, thoroughly enjoying the event. The prom featured DJ and photo booth services, shows, games, prizes, and the crowning of the Prom King and Queen, which occurred before the night ended. The prom would not have been possible without the hard work and fundraising efforts of the SBG, especially thanks to the generous donation made by Mr. and Mrs. Laracuate, ensuring a night to remember.



**PROM KING AND QUEEN 2024:
DISNEY RAFOL & ODREICH MASKELL**



SEA LIFE PARK – ASL DAY

Sea Life Park hosted its second annual celebration of National American Sign Language (ASL) Day in partnership with the Comprehensive Service Center on April 15th. On this beautiful, sunny day, the event welcomed several deaf and hard-of-hearing programs from the state of Hawai'i to the park, with ASL interpreters stationed throughout the park grounds. Our students had the opportunity to immerse themselves in fascinating presentations and discussions about marine animals, such as what makes sea turtle shells hard and different from others, how monk seals prefer to swim in shallow water, and what distinguishes penguins from other vibrant, colorful birds.

The highlight of this event was witnessing scuba divers signing “Happy ASL Day” underwater and being able to communicate with them through the tank. The diver explained the species of shark residing in the tank, specifically the white tip shark, and shared insights into its dietary preferences. Some of our elementary students expressed concern about the diver’s safety, but they were reassured to learn that white tip sharks are rarely aggressive towards humans, making the whole day educational, memorable, and fun.



FUN DAY TRIP AT LO'I



On April 16, 2024, the Middle School and Elementary School of HSDB visited Kāko‘o ‘Ōiwi in Kane‘ohe. Students had the opportunity to experience caring for the land and cultivating kalo (taro). They learned various aspects of Hawaiian culture and connected with the Pacific islands. Haumāna (students) engaged in hands-on activities and fostered connections with the land and community. Ms.



Ms. Jazmine Young, Middle School Social Studies and Hawaiian teacher, recognized the significant value of this field trip and hopes to make it an annual experience to further enrich our Hawaiian Culture & Language at HSDB.



IT'S TAIKO DRUM TIME!!

This has happened through Brien Nakamoto who has been involved with the taiko drum sessions with Sensei (meaning “teacher” in Japanese) Chizuko Endo of the Taiko Center of the Pacific for the past six years. He was asked by Sensei Chizuko Endo to provide taiko drum classes at HSDB through the Artists in the Schools (AITS) program. Chizuko has been involved in teaching several of our high school students in the spring semester for the past 4 years including that year when the pandemic shuttered our school. In the class composed of high school students, they learn about rhythm and create music through taiko drums. Our high school students provided a magnificent performance of taiko drumming to the school community, then we had few great performances provided by the ensemble of the Taiko Center of the Pacific through Sensei Chizuko Endo and her husband, Sensei Kenny Endo. We were also featured on the Hawai’i News Now segment. HSDB students and staff were in awe of their performances, especially the performance given by our high school students. Brien Nakamoto is really proud of them and is grateful to bring and share his hobby of taiko drumming with HSDB!



STATE CAPITOL TOUR

After learning about Sexual Violence Prevention (SATC's program), HS students were shocked learning about the Age of Consent Law in Hawaii. They asked about how the law was being made. Their question unfolded their curiosity and led us to a field trip to the State Capitol in Hawaii in April. They had an enriching and educational tour, visited the chambers, met with Senator Chang, and held a mock legislative session. Most of us wanted to go back for a longer tour and watch legislative session in real time. Let's say our future is bright.



MIDDLE SCHOOL WAVING SIGN RALLY IN MARCH

Middle school students took a quarter learning about Sexual Violence Prevention and they read a news about middle school's sexual assault incident on Oahu. They were appalled and touched about it, they decided to hold Advocacy and Awareness Walk rallying against Sexual Violence. They created posters and practiced their presentation skills before going out in the community and waving their signs. On the corner of Leahi and Kapahulu Ave. waving for an hour, they were inspired by car's beeps and horns, supports, and shakas.

LET'S SAVE THE EARTH TOGETHER!

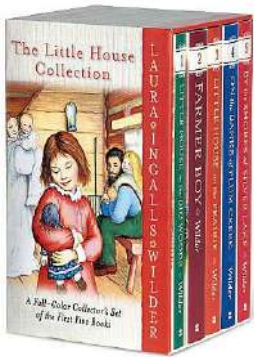


On April 22nd is Earth Day! Our annual Earth Day trip, we had to be creative to boost our productivity. Students from Elementary, Middle, and High School were assigned to different zones. This led to a significant rise in trash collection in less time than last year. We also had hands-on activities at school, split into three 20-minute sessions. Looking ahead to next year, we're excited to push our productivity even further. Always keep in mind that every day is Earth Day, not just once a year. Thank you for making our Earth clean and beautiful.

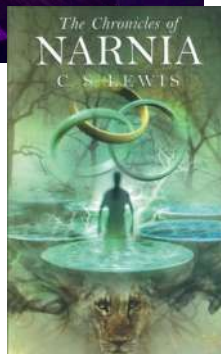
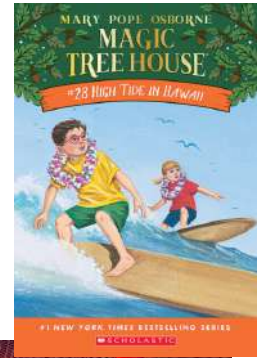


MAY

DAVE & BUSTER'S REWARD DAY!



Middle schoolers were tasked with an outstanding reading of 400 books and passing with 80% or higher on the comprehension assessment for each book from December to May. Each student was responsible for reading 40 books to earn a game play card. By the end of the school year, students read well over their goal, reaching 747 books. They were rewarded with lunch and game play cards on May 20th at Dave and Busters.



— MOVING UP CEREMONY —



**Goodbye
Middle
School**



**Hello
High
School**



YOU DID IT!

**Goodbye
Elementary
Hello
Middle School**



CLASS OF 2024 HO'OMAIKA GRADUATES!!

Hawaii School for the Deaf & the Blind



ALSTIN QUISQUIRIN-SABACALA

MAKANAHAI'ALI'I JETNIL

CHEVY ANDRADE

JAYDEE MALAMA- CARDENAS

JESSIE P. PASCUA

DISNEY RAFOL

VELAINE JORAUR

Wishing you the best of luck in all of your future endeavors and may you get all of the success and happiness you deserve!

With love from HSDB

A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM ED..

Aloha to all Parents in our community network of Deaf and hard of Hearing (HoH) students,

As summer approaches, I hope this letter finds you well and is looking forward to a wonderful break with your families. Summer is indeed a special time for bonding and creating lasting memories with your students. I want to take this opportunity to emphasize the importance of fostering communication within our families, particularly through American Sign Language (ASL). Spending quality time together can greatly enhance family conversations and strengthen our connections.

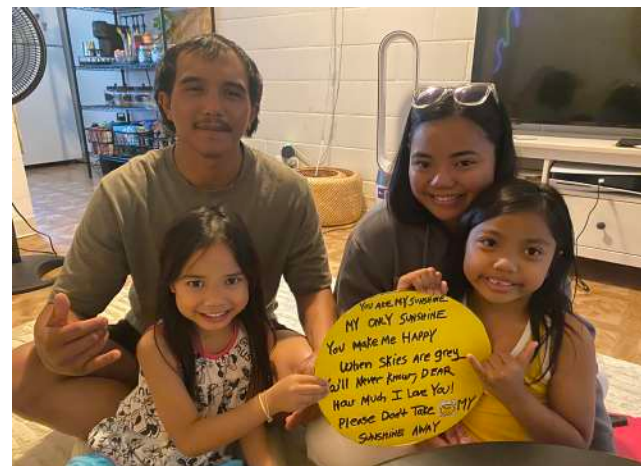
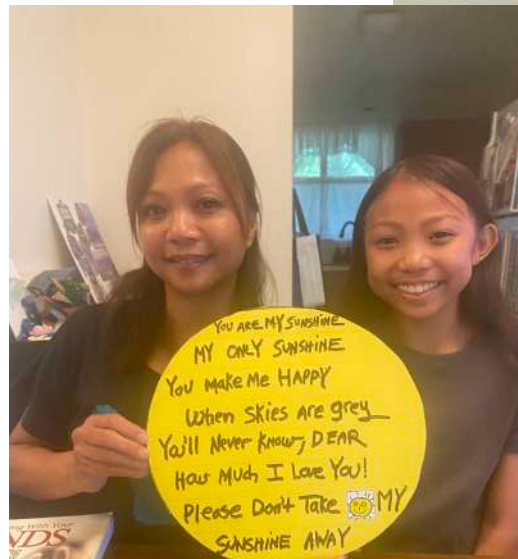
As the coordinator of our Parent Community Network, I'll be taking some time off until August, just before the school year resumes.

Upon my return, I look forward to reconnecting with you all and exploring new opportunities to enrich the lives of our students. Together, we can open up a world of possibilities for them. Wishing you all a rejuvenating and joyful summer break!

Warm regards,

Ed Chevy
Coordinator, Parent Community Network

“You are my sunshine, my only sunshine
you make me happy.
When the skies are grey
You'll never know,
dear how much I love you!
Please DON'T take my sunshine away”



MAHALO FOR A GREAT SCHOOL YEAR!

