



Principal's Message



Aloha Lihikai 'Ohana,

Happy New Year! I hope you had an amazing Winter Break, a great start to 2024 and have adjusted well to being back in school and the daily routines.

As a reminder...Students need to be in school by 7:45am daily and we are aware this continues to be a challenge for so many. For some, you may not be aware there is an actual time before your child is marked tardy. For some, timing is an issue or family routines need to be revisited in order to get to school by 7:45am. For others, your child may present challenges. Tardies and absences are major factors stunting student readiness, learning and academic growth. Furthermore, reducing absenteeism is an initiative of HODOE's Strategic Plan and our school's attendance rate is reflected annually on our annual StriveHI Report.

Please reach out to your child's teacher or counselor if you need support. We will do all we can to help your child get off to a positive start to the day. I appreciate your understanding and effort in this important aspect of helping your child be in school on time as well as develop positive attitudes and habits to promote lifelong success.

Partnership...It is important to recognize and remember that a strong partnership between school and home can support and enhance a child's success - in school, home and in his/her overall growth and development. As we move through the second semester of this school year, please don't ever hesitate to reach out to us, so that **together**, we can guide and develop your child to bring out the very best of his/her potential.

We are actively preparing for our upcoming WASC (Western Association of Schools and Colleges) Accreditation self-study visit (March 4-7). This is an important process that engages all schools across Hawaii at different cyclic times. We'll share more details as we get closer to the date. Our last visit was March 2017. Much has changed since then, but not the dedication towards excellence or the heart of Lihikai's amazing 'ohana!

Stay well friends...and mahalo nui for your ongoing support!

Aloha,

Barbara Oura Tavares

Important Reminders for Parents:

PARKING LOT/DROP-OFF/PICK-UP: If you are driving to/from school, please remember the following to keep everyone safe:

1. The SPEED LIMIT in our lot is 5MPH - there are lots of people walking, as well as our JPO crossing guards. We need to keep everyone safe.
2. Please stay in the designated lanes, and LOOK CAREFULLY before moving into another lane. We have had many close calls with vehicles weaving in and out of lanes trying to pass one another. We appreciate your patience and mindfulness of safety first.
3. When dropping-off and picking-up, please PULL FORWARD as far you can to help with traffic backing up. Especially in the mornings, please continue to the front of the office to drop-off so the traffic doesn't back up by the cafeteria and onto Papa Avenue.

SCHOOL MESSENGER: If you haven't already, sign-up to receive the latest information, updates and reminders from Lihikai. Just text "Y" to 67587.

CONTACT INFO: We are having trouble contacting you! Please keep our school office and your child's teacher updated with any changes in your contact info. (phone, address, etc.) This is especially important in an emergency or if there is an urgent need regarding your child.



Choose Love is the program we use to teach positive behaviors and support each student's social and emotional learning. Please discuss with your child this month's focus with your child.

We are focusing on (till 3/1)...**forgiveness**

We choose love by having **forgiveness** (letting go anger towards others or myself). I choose to:

- Take forgiveness breaths to help my mind, body and heart relax, especially when I have big feelings.
- Let go of any anger or resentment I might have towards others who have made mistakes, or done something hurtful to me or someone I care about.
- Let go of any anger or resentment I might have towards myself for making mistakes, causing an accident, or hurting someone because of my actions

As a "Choose Love" school, we believe that courage, gratitude, forgiveness, and compassion-in-action are the way forward.



FRESH FRUIT & VEGETABLE PROGRAM

With the staggering growth of childhood obesity in the US, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) devised the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program, which is separate from our daily meal service. This program aims to introduce children to a variety of fresh produce to encourage them to choose eating more fresh fruits and veggies, rather than less healthier, processed foods. The US Federal government provides qualifying/participating schools with supplemental funding to provide these fruits and vegetables to our students.

Lihikai has been a long participant in this program. This year so far our students have enjoyed: blueberries, cantaloupe melon, pineapple, mandarin oranges (cuties), honeydew melon, and red grapes. Along with their fruit/vegetable, children are given some basic information about what they are eating (ex. the name, where it is grown, why it is healthy, etc.)

We hope this continues to encourage our students and families to eat more fruits and veggies. Yum, yum!!!



*Check out <https://www.fns.usda.gov/ffvp/fresh-fruit-and-vegetable-program> for more information.

LIHIKAI ROBOTICS is BACK

We have brought back our dearly missed Robotics program! In association with VEX Robotics, and under the guidance of our awesome volunteer advisors, Mrs. Imada, Mr. Vince-Cruz, Mr. Fukushima and Mrs. Orikasa, our robotics students are learning to design, engineer, build, code, drive (the bot), and most importantly, to work as team.

Robotics incorporates all the fundamentals of STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) learning in a largely team-based setting. Students work together to create and problem-solve. They work through challenges, feel the satisfaction of accomplishing their goals, and celebrating their wins whether big or small.

An invitational meeting was held earlier in November for interested third, fourth and fifth graders.

Practices are held every Friday after school. Go go go, Surferbots!



SURFER-of-the-MONTH ROLE CALL!!!

Congratulations to the following students for being named "Surfer-of-the-Month" in DECEMBER.

Kindergarten

Nevaeh Akina,
Kaweal'imilani Dickinson,
Ion Igarashi,
Chancelynn-Marie
Moepono-Costa, Emma
Jane Pagdilao.

3rd Grade

Ezra Hifo, D'Millio
Magbual-Moore, Rey
Mercado, SJ Micky, Kenzi
Visitacion.

4th Grade

Persephone Hew,
Kamauliola Plunkett,
Gabriel Rabanes-Charley,
Ethan Remegio, Genevie
Ujano.

1st Grade

Meko Kajimwe, Harland
Lucas, Renzlana Fruean,
Samson Shane Ramos,
Shaeston Romias,
Jeandee Visitacion.

5th Grade

Shazylin Agustin, Sophia
Ai, Rheean Cachero,
Dominic Celestine,
Cassie Fukushima,
Janessa Tumacder.

2nd Grade

Zemirah Banchiran,
France Clores, Trixie
Estudillo, Maya Losano,
Asia Mia Pascua, Anela
Santos.

You can be Surfer of the Month too! Remember to follow the GLOs, be responsible, respectful, and safe, and choose love every day.

UPCOMING DATES:

FEB 16 _____ Teacher Institute Day (no school)
FEB 19 _____ Presidents' Day Holiday (no school)
MAR 8 _____ Complex PC Day (no school)
MAR 18-22 _____ SPRING BREAK (no school)
MAR 25 _____ STUDENTS RETURN (Q4 Begins)
MAR 26 _____ Kuhio Day Holiday, observed (no school)
MAR 29 _____ Good Friday Holiday (no school)