



# RLSMS Newsletter

Stevenson Middle School - News, updates, and announcements

February 2024

## Principal's Message

Thriving despite changes and challenges is a skill set to develop. It doesn't happen organically. Rather, it comes from developing a growth mindset that welcomes challenges, utilizes gifts and talents, and is shaped by context. It also takes practice, lots of practice.

During the past several years, education has had the opportunity to change how instruction and assessment were accomplished and even examined if the resources were appropriate or relevant. The shifts challenged teachers, students, and families, yet we moved forward.

This school year we have placed a greater emphasis on AA and deepened our understanding of adolescent development. This is another shift, and I have asked teachers and staff to consider the developmental needs of middle school-aged students and not only consider the academic content. There is a delicate balance between understanding the social and emotional needs of our students and wanting to prepare them academically for the next level. Both have to work hand-in-hand for our students to thrive.

Students' growth mindset develops through persevering through challenges with mentoring and coaching. I've asked teachers to host conversations with students rather than telling them what to do. We use questions to have students think, consider, and problem-solve. We've held student forums to gather student insight. When possible, we include students in problem-solving, such as offering an apology when needed, mediating differences, and facilitating restorative circles.

Often, teachers release more responsibility to students during the spring semester, which can be overwhelming. Please assure your students that we are here to support them. Should they have questions or concerns, we will listen. Share that they have the capacity to figure things out. Tell them that you believe in them. We will too.

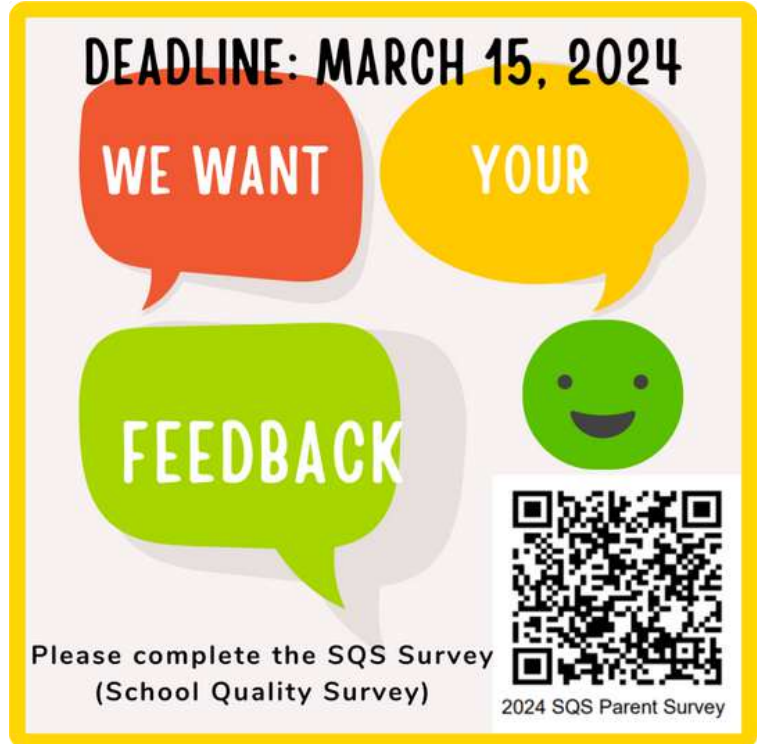
Mahalo,  
Laurie



# General Announcements

## School Quality Survey

- Parents and guardians, please fill out the SQS. Start by scanning the QR code on the flyer or go to the link underneath it.



Link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2024SQSParent>

## Yearbook Purchase Deadline

- The deadline to pre-purchase a yearbook was on February 1st. Once the school receives an extra shipment, yearbooks will be available for purchase on a first come, first serve basis.

## School Uniforms

- Uniforms are not being sold at the front office. Please order uniforms on the school website.
- Students **MUST** be in uniform daily.



# General Announcements (cont.)



## Jamba Juice Fundraiser



Flavors are:

- White Gummi
- Orange Dream
- Strawberry Whirl (non-dairy)

Jamba will be back in our patio area at 2:15 pm on the following Tuesdays:

- February 13
- February 20
- February 27

Cost is \$5.00 exact cash. Limit one per person



## Panda Express Fundraiser

### When

Place your order for pickup or delivery on February 23, 2024

### Where

Available at Panda Express locations nationwide [www.pandaexpress.com](http://www.pandaexpress.com)

### How

Apply code [921072](#) in the Fundraiser Code box during online checkout at [pandaexpress.com](http://pandaexpress.com) or via the app

**VIRTUAL COMMUNITY**  
FUNDRAISERS



# Office Messages



## Student Absences

Parents may either call (808) 307-3300 or submit an online form to report a student's absence by 8:30 a.m.

To submit online: go to our school website, [rlsms.k12.hi.us](https://rlsms.k12.hi.us), click Forms from the homepage, then click Absence Request Form.

If absences are not reported, a robocall will be sent out.

## Meal Accounts



In-person deposits are cash only and must be made at least one day before it is needed in the account.

Deposit Drop Box is located at the front office counter. Loans will not be issued.

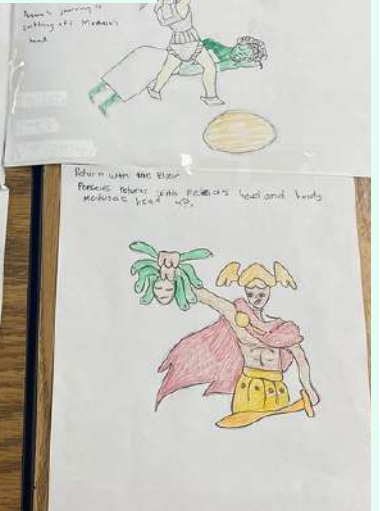
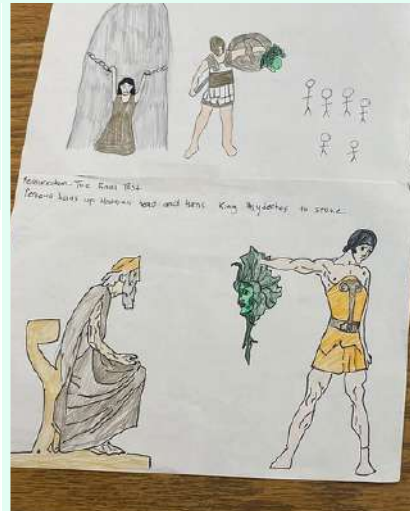
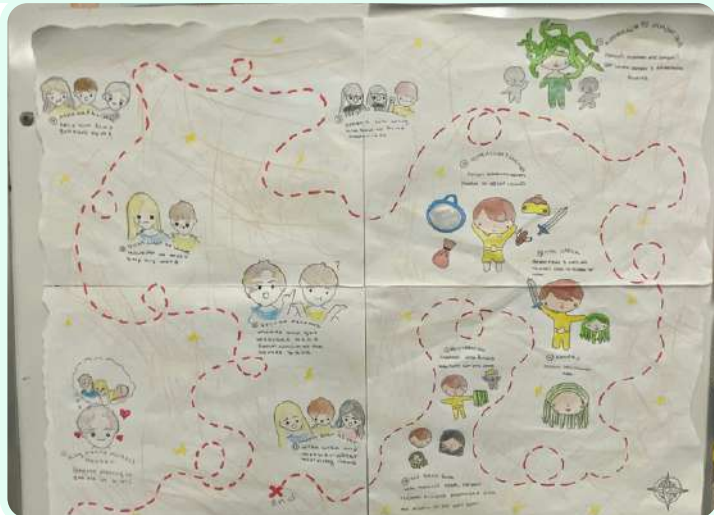
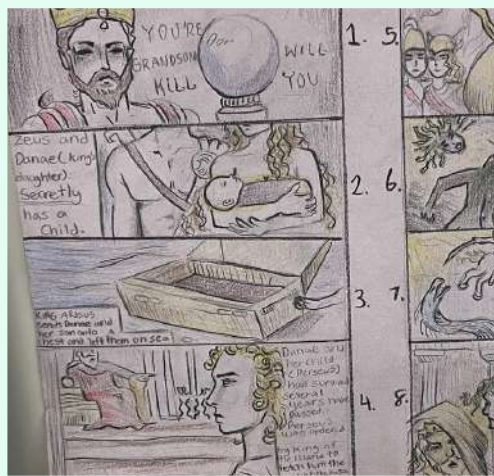
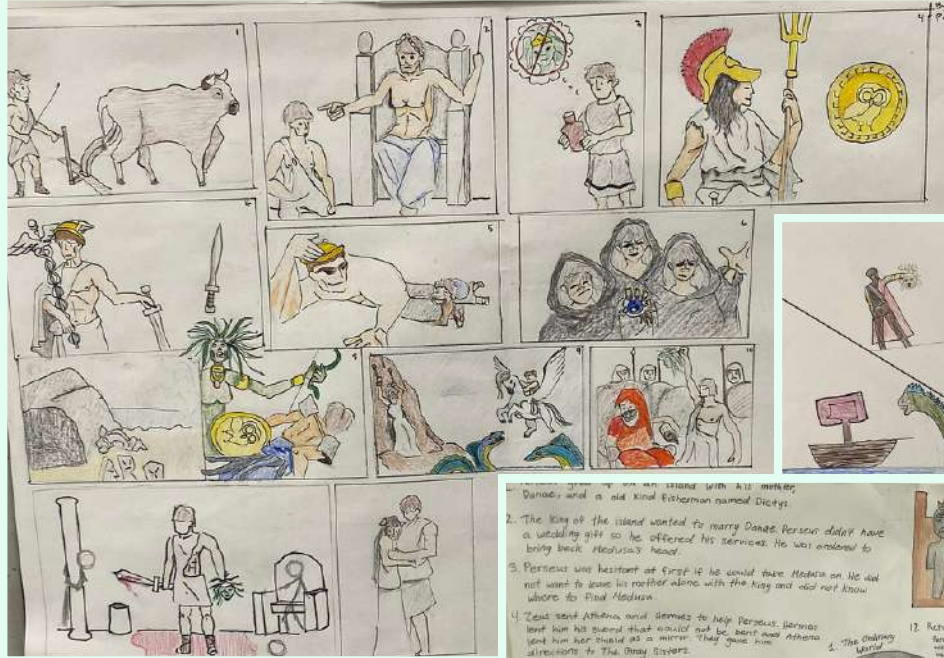
Parents may call the school to inquire about balances at (808) 307-3300.

We highly encourage parents to register at [ezschoolpay.com](https://ezschoolpay.com) to monitor the student's account, make credit card payments (for a small fee: \$0.13 convenience fee + 1.99% transaction fee) and set low balance reminders.

# 8th Grade

## English

Students in 8th grade ELA created beautiful works of art as they analyzed the hero's journey of Perseus and his battle with Medusa!



Next up, they create their own hero for the culminating project of the narrative writing unit.

Mr. Delzotto

# 8th Grade (cont.)

## Science

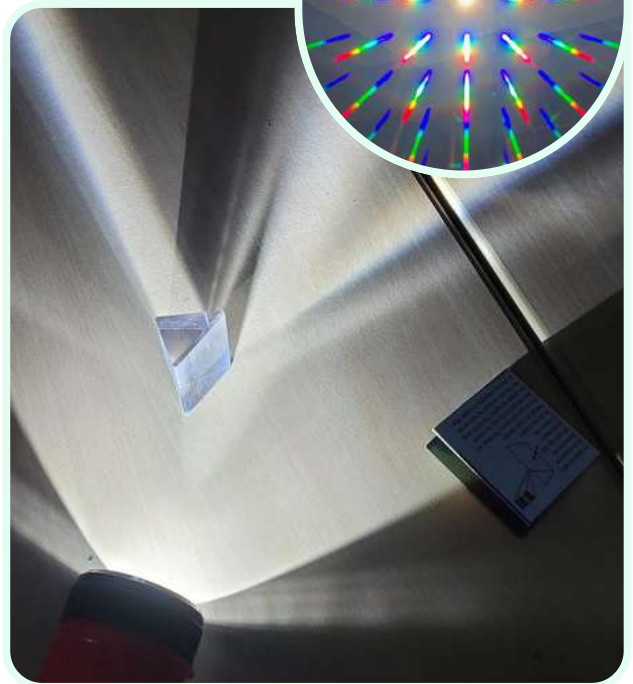
In January, our 8th graders learned about light waves and energy.

We reviewed the electromagnetic spectrum and analyzed data to narrow down the cause for the high number of skin cancer cases in Australia.

We viewed spectral lines with diffraction lenses, used an infrared camera, discovered reflection rates of colors, used prisms to display examples of refraction, and had the opportunity to take home a few ultraviolet beads.

What an enlightening experience!

Julia Segawa



# 8th Grade (cont.)

## Science Fair

### Congratulations to all Science Fair Participants

Special recognition to all students who participated in our RLSMS Science Fair. The projects were well designed and implemented.

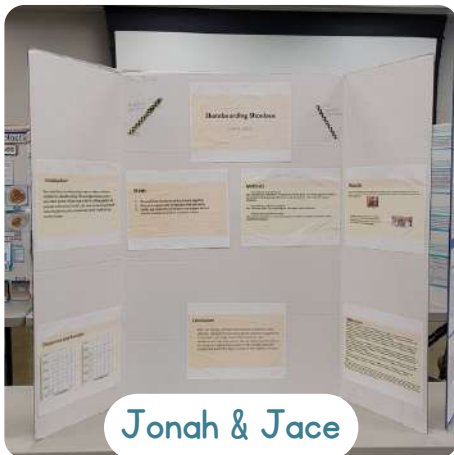
Mahalo to all judges who took time during their school day to support our scientists. They enjoyed listening to the presentations.

Ten projects have advanced to the Honolulu District Science and Engineering Fair to be held at Kaimuki High School on February 17.

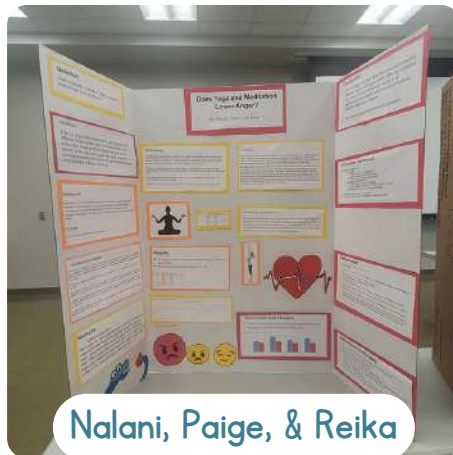
Congratulations to all participants!



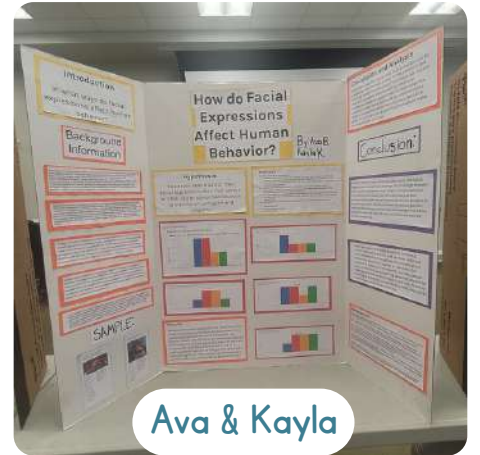
Aran



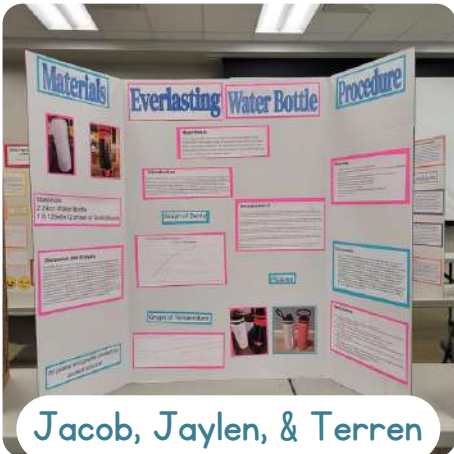
Jonah & Jace



Nalani, Paige, & Reika



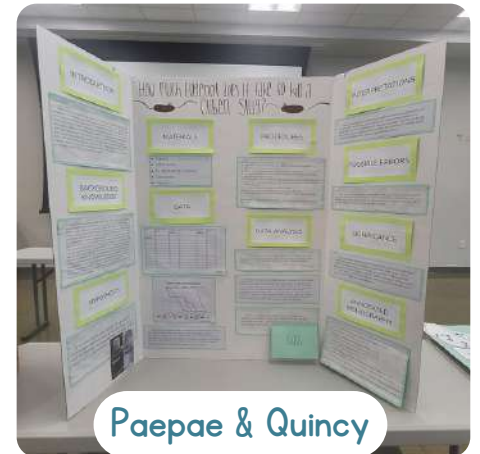
Ava & Kayla



Jacob, Jaylen, & Terren



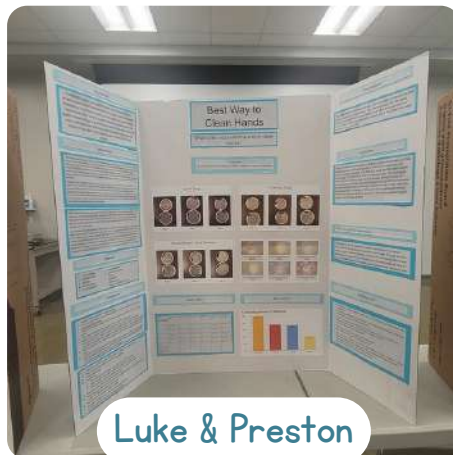
Brayden, Chris, & Jason



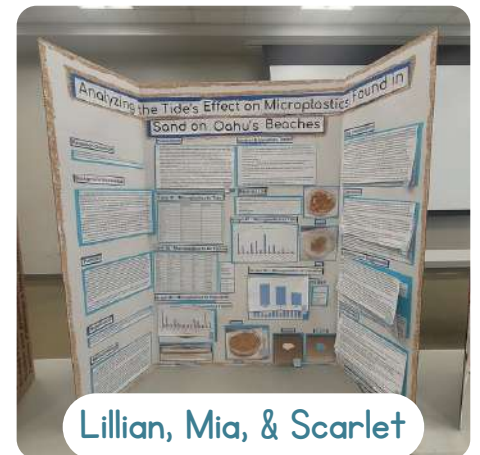
Paepae & Quincy



Evan & Gio

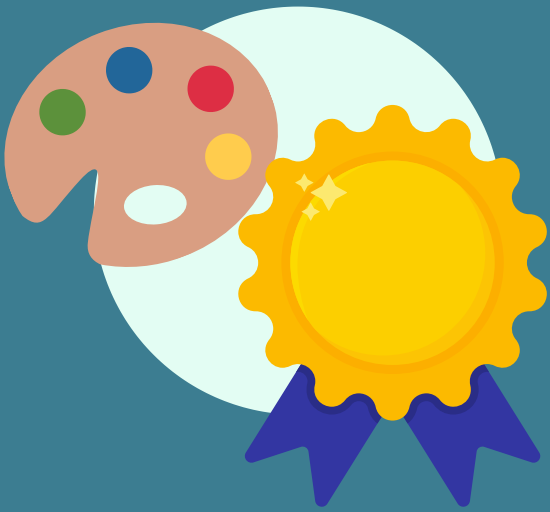


Luke & Preston



Lillian, Mia, & Scarlet

# 7th Grade



## CTE

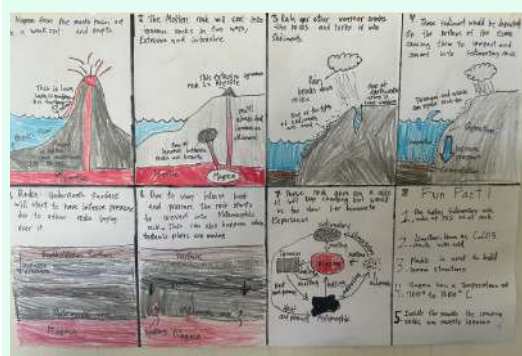
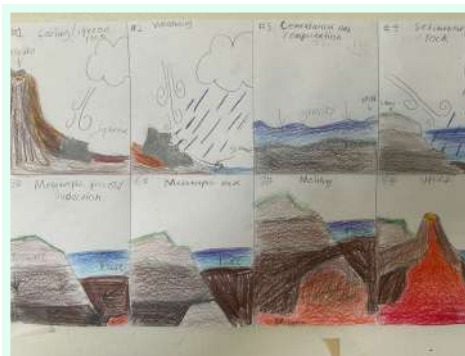
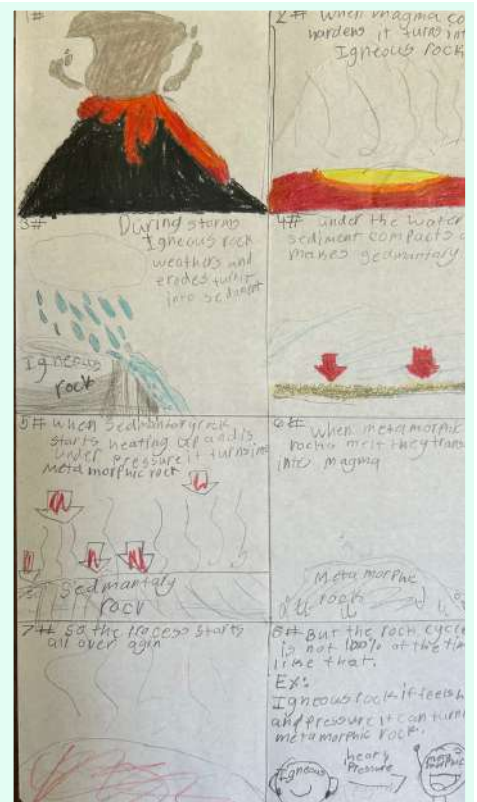
Congratulations Viana Kazuma, Kaitlyn Howard, Luke Kobashi, and Nathan Ji on your winning entry in the 2024 "Civics, Civility, and Collaboration" Calendar Contest!

Your entry will be featured on the 2024 calendar and you will receive a \$25.00 gift card. Great job!

Mrs. Brewer

## Science

So excited to have just finished up our unit on Rock Transformation. Students culminated their unit with a comic strip that shows the rock cycle.



Students are now working on Phase Changes and will be creating Trifolds with their groups to show what happens to matter molecules when thermal energy is added or removed from pure substances.

Mrs. Reeder



# 6th Grade



## English

Hi Students and Families,

This semester English Grade 6 students will be applying their prior knowledge of "The Power to Change" to their new Quarter 3 work on Argumentative Topics for Reading, Writing, and Researching. Students will focus on citing text evidence from various sources and read "Mysteries and Investigations" to determine fact from fiction. Students will evaluate evidence for a specific claim while visualizing how they weigh the significance and credibility of the evidence presented for, and against, each presented theory. We have previewed some Academic Vocabulary words that students are learning to lead up on the Smartboard.

Some questions to discuss with students at home are: What is the difference between Informational Texts and Literary Texts? What are some new Academic Vocabulary words have you been learning, that you can explain in your own words? I look forward to seeing what students explore and discover through their literary journeys this quarter!

All the best,  
Ms. Amano

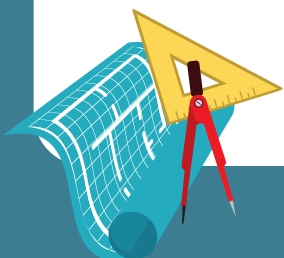
# ESOL/EL Program

## EL AITS Showcase

We had our second EL AITS (English Learners, Artists in the Schools) Showcase! Our EL students have been working hard on their creative projects based on the book *If the World Were a Village*.

On January 25-26, students had opportunities to be our docents (leaders) and present to our teachers and staff! Students also came in as audience members to learn more about each continent and how the architectures were built.

Thank you to all of our faculty, staff, and parents for supporting our EL students!



Saki Kashimura

# Stevenson APT



## Teen Dating Presentation

Last month the APT hosted a Parent Engagement Event “Social Media and Responsible Tech Use” with guest speaker, Ms. Patricia Kickland, Program Manager for the Students, Teachers, and Officers Preventing School Violence (“STOP”) program.

In February, the Teen Alert Program (TAP808) of the Domestic Violence Action Center (DVAC) will give a presentation to parents/guardians about the dynamics of teen dating violence, warning signs, and how to react in a supportive way.

We invite you to join us to learn how to identify and safely plan for teen dating, and find out what resources are available to provide support. Be on the lookout for an announcement with more details. If you have suggestions for other Parent Engagement topics, please contact us at [rlsmsapt@gmail.com](mailto:rlsmsapt@gmail.com).

February 8, 2024

5:00pm

Multi-Purpose Room

\*This is an event for parents/guardians; No children.

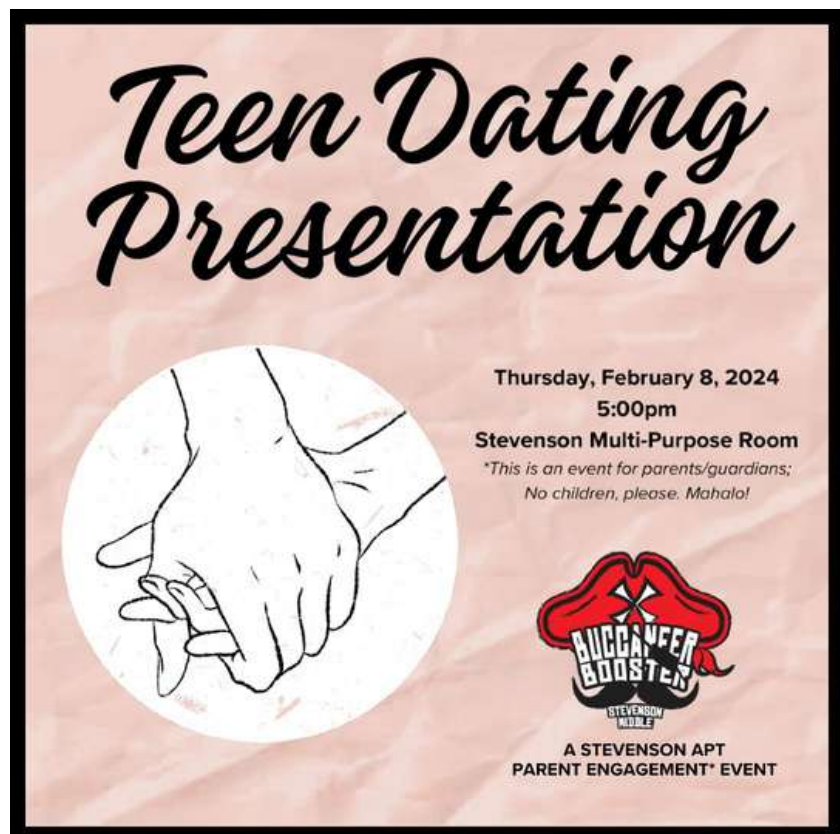
To RSVP,

Scan:



or visit this Link:

[https://bit.ly/RLSMS\\_APT\\_parentengagement?r=qf](https://bit.ly/RLSMS_APT_parentengagement?r=qf)



# After School Activities

## Robotics

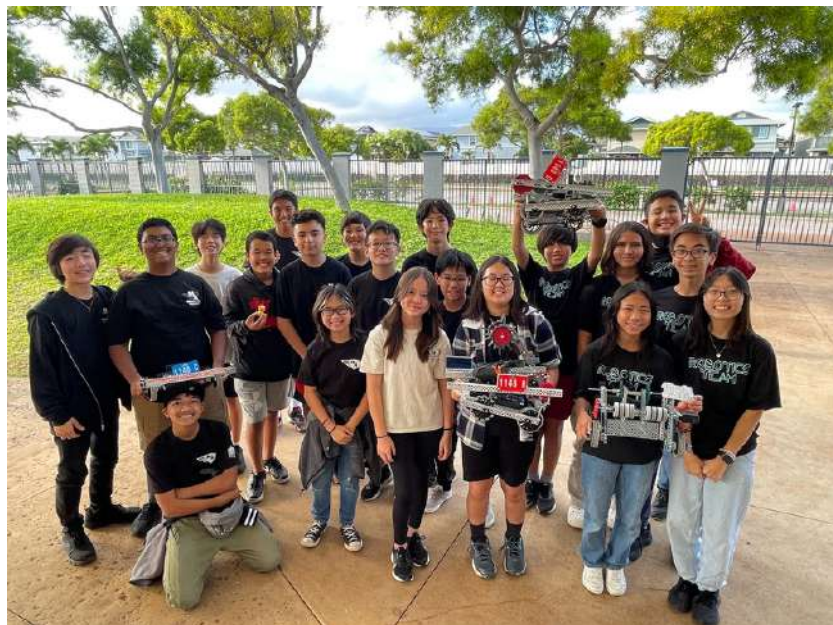
Congratulations Vex IQ Team 1048A for qualifying for States during the Hokulani Robotics Tournament!



Team 1048A also took home the CREATE AWARD for most creative design at this tournament. Woohool!

After only 4 months, our 2 Competitive Robotics Class and 2 Afterschool Teams represented us proudly against seniors who have competed for 7 years. Their positive, never quit attitudes kept them competitive throughout the entire tournament.

Props also to our After school and the Elective Robotics teams who competed at their first tournament this year!



Mahalo to Stevenson Admin & the Leadership Team for supporting Robotics!  
Mahalo to the AFCEA Grant for making this all possible this year!

# After School Activities (cont.)

## Basketball

Our basketball teams are currently competing in the HPD PAL league and the King Intermediate Tournaments! For more info about the games, visit our school website's calendar.



Roosevelt High School Varsity coach, Adam, and JV coach, Mick, along with three players (two of whom are Stevenson alumni, Mateo-senior, and Javen-junior) shared about what to expect in high school basketball and how to prepare for it.

They answered many questions we had for them.



## Important Dates

- February 05, 2024 - Waiver Day #2 (no school for students)
- February 12, 2024 - Teacher's Institute Day (no school for students)
- February 19, 2024 - Presidents' Day (no school)
- February 27, 2024 - RLSMS SSC Meeting #4



For more information and up-to-date info visit our Website

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

