Student Highlights

Hōʻike Haumāna

NĀ KUPUKUPU

Nā Kupukupu, which means “the sprouts” is made up of 31 children. Our multi-age hui includes 14 keikikāne (boys) and 17 kaikamahine (girls) in kindergarten and first grade.

Our theme this year is Ke mālama ‘oe i ka ‘āina, na ka ‘āina e mālama ia ‘oe, which means, when you take care of the land, the land will take care of you.

For the first quarter, we are focusing on how to mālama kekahi i kekahi (take care of one another). In order to have a better understanding of ourselves and our fellow classmates, nā kupukupu begin our afternoons by practicing our hoʻolauna, or self introduction in Hawaiian. Other daily Hawaiian language routines include reviewing our numbers, the daily calendar, as well as the Hawaiian moon calendar. We also make predictions about farming and fishing activities based on the moon and practice our chants.

In addition, we are familiarizing ourselves with the names of our body parts in Hawaiian as we learn to mālama our bodies through TPR (total physical response). We use TPR in Hawaiian to do our warm ups and stretches before learning and practicing our Makahiki games. Last week we reviewed two (2) makahiki games: ‘ulu maika and hakamoa. While playing these games, the students took great care to mālama each other by displaying aloha, kōkua and mahalo.

Through TPR we are also learning the Hawaiian names and parts of the plants in our māla ‘ai or garden, where we implement the suggested practices of pruning, weeding and planting. Our first crop, which we planted two weeks ago with Aunty Suzy, was soy beans. As we continue to mālama kekahi i kekahi, we will continue to sprout and grow as the kupukupu that we truly are.

Kihikihi Makua

NĀ KUMU O NĀ KUPUKUPU

Aloha, my name is Aunty Suzy Andrade and I live in Ahualoa with my husband, Billy, and my daughter Eliana. This will be my 19th year as a Hawai‘i public school teacher and my 4th year at KANU.

This school year, my primary responsibility will be teaching Language Arts to our students in grades K-1 and making sure that they have a strong foundation in reading and writing. Like last school year, I chose to work only half-time, so that I can spend quality time with my 16 month old baby girl, Eliana. I am looking forward to having a fun and productive year as we get to know one another better.

Aloha, my name is Aunty Keala Kahuanui. I am originally from Waimanalo, O‘ahu and have been part of the KANU ‘ohana since our start-up in 2000, first as site staff, and then teaching primarily physical education and health in hui and workshops. I am certified in lifesaving and CPR and enjoy teaching makahiki games to KANU students and setting up peer teaching experiences with other public and private school students.

Aloha, my name is Katy Whitman. This is my third year teaching at KANU. I live in Waimea with my husband John and two of my children, Joey (15) and Ana (11). My oldest son Billy (18) just graduated and has gone off to college on the continent. My primary responsibility this year will be teaching Math, as well as assisting with Reader’s and Writer’s Workshop. I am excited about the upcoming year and look forward to working with our kupukupu and their parents.

I am also intricately involved in KANU’s makahiki celebrations and competitions, our Kā Waimea Makahiki, now in its fifth year, as well as KANU’s participation in Kā Molokai’s Makahiki. This is my first year with nā kupukupu where I will integrate Hawaiian language and culture with sports and competition, water safety, health and wellness.

Each day offers us the gift of being a special occasion, if we can simply learn that, as well as giving, it is blessed to receive with grace and a grateful heart.  ~ Sarah Ban Breathnach, American Author

Visit our website: http://kanu.kalo.org
September 9, 2010

Hau‘oli Lā Hānau E Lili‘uokalani – September 2 is Queen Lili‘uokalani’s Birthday. No School on Monday, September 6, 2010 – Labor Day

5th Grade Aho Loa Drop-Off & Pick-Up – Reminder to all 5th grade students. Every Friday, haumāna in grade 5 must be dropped off and picked up at Hālau Ho‘o‘olako. Drop-off is no earlier than 7:30am and pick-up no later than 12:15pm on Fridays.

STUDENT Portraits – Students’ portraits will be done by Kelvin Nakano of Positive Image. Submit your payment (checks payable to Positive Image) in an enclosed envelope with the order form that was included in August 19 HUNEHUNE KALO to either of the KANU offices. Order forms and payment are due by Tuesday, September 7. On picture taking day, all students must wear a KANU shirt to school. Students may also bring aloha attire to wear for the picture taking only. Note that KANU’s dress code applies for aloha wear. If students wear inappropriate attire, they will have their picture taken in their KANU shirt. Please contact Aunty Sasha at 890-8144 if you have any questions.

Local School Board Meeting – KANU’s Local School Board (LSB) meets on the second Wednesday of every month at 4:00pm at Hālau Ho‘o‘olako in the Lōkahi Room. Next scheduled meeting is on Wednesday, September 8, 2010. Meetings are open to staff, students, parents and the general public. For more information, contact Margo Kawamoto at 890-8144.

HUI KALO MEETING SEPTEMBER 10-12 – This year’s HUI KALO Taro Conference, hosted by Waipi‘o taro farmers and KALO, and will take place at Hālau o Waipi‘o from Sept 10 – 12. This annual conference, sponsored by the Queen Lili‘uokalani Children’s Center, brings together taro farmers and enthusiasts from throughout the islands for a weekend of sharing knowledge about taro farming, as well as learning hands-on from some of Hawai‘i’s most renowned taro experts. All KANU students and ‘ohana members are invited to attend Saturday’s workday, which includes workshops on taro varieties, Hawaiian water rights, how to make poi pounders, how to pound poi, how to make inamona and pulled nîÿau, as well as opportunities to work in the Queen Lili‘uokalani Children’s Center, brings together taro farmers and enthusiasts from throughout the islands for a weekend of sharing knowledge about taro farming, as well as learning hands-on from some of Hawai‘i’s most renowned taro experts. All KANU students and ‘ohana members are invited to attend Saturday’s workday, which includes workshops on taro varieties, Hawaiian water rights, how to make poi pounders, how to pound poi, how to make inamona and pulled nîÿau, as well as opportunities to work in the lo‘i alongside Hawai‘i’s most knowledgeable taro farmers. Van shuttle departs the Waipi‘o Lookout at 8:30 am on Saturday morning and returns to lookouts at 4 pm. For more information contact Waimakalani Iona at 890-8144.

LEARNING AS TRANSFORMATION: CLEARING THE “GOOD MIND” – Save the Date! Monday, September 13, 2010, 3:30pm to 5:00pm at Hālau Ho‘o‘olako. Diane Hill from the Mowhawk Nation will be holding a presentation in exploring an indigenous model for learning and teaching. All are welcome.

35th ANNUAL WAIMEA PANIOLO PARADE – KANU will once again participate in the annual Aloha Week Parade on Saturday, September 18, 2010. The parade starts at 10:00 am at Church Row and ends at Waimea Community Park. All KANU students, staff and ‘ohana are encouraged to join the KANU marching unit. Permission Forms and Indemnity and Hold Harmless Agreement Forms are forthcoming. Visit http://www.hawaiislandfestival.org for a schedule of events starting on Saturday, September 4, 2010.

 Aloha Mai Kākū

Our theme for this school year and the title of this year’s hula dance is HULU KA LIMA I KALO, which literally means “turn your hands down” and metaphorically refers to working hard in order to achieve your goals. This statement also points to the fact that if we physically take care of the land, the land will take care of us. One of our goals for our second decade as a Hawai‘i-based public charter school is to achieve food sustainability, by growing, as much of our own food as possible, and providing not only a cheaper, but also more nutritious diet to our students. In order to be successful these goals must involve all of our ‘ohana, as well as our outside learning ‘ohana.

Another area we are focusing on this school year is to fine tune our positive behavior support system, which again translates into our learning ‘ohana. By now each ‘ohana should have been contacted by their child’s personal adviser and have read our KANU handbook, which outlines our expectations, as well as the consequences for non-compliance. One way that we as parents can alleviate our children's transition to model positive behavior at home. Rather than expressing negative feelings by attacking or criticizing, “You are so unlikeable. You think the TV belongs to you.” we can use a technique called “I” message, where we express our feelings like this: “I feel annoyed when you switch the channel without asking. I wanted you to finish watching this show.”

Without doubt, our most important priority this school year is to increase the number of KANU students who meet state proficiency standards in Mathematics. As most of you know, only three (3) out of ten (10) of KANU students met or exceeded math proficiency on our 2010 Hawai‘i State Assessment. While this data is typical for Hawai‘i public school students, these statistics do not align with KANU’s mission of kūna‘ika‘ina and are not acceptable given that we have provided free after-school math tutoring for two years now. To assist low performing students to reach their highest potential in math – we have initiated a mandatory math study hall on Friday morning where students receive individual help. In addition, it is not too late for 8-12 students performing below grade-level to enroll in our FREE after school Math study hall on Thursdays from 3:30 to 4:30 pm, which is taught by a highly qualified math teacher. In addition, all 8-12 students are required to do a minimum of 30 minutes of DAILY math practice outside of class and document this practice in their math notebook. Students are also responsible to collect data from their daily life, which should also be recorded in their notebook and checked daily. It is the parents of the student to ensure that these assignments are completed.

It is also a parent's responsibility to make sure that your child brings homework planner to school every day and that you monitor teacher homework assignments. If you cannot work together, each of us can reach our highest level.

Me ka aloha pūnaha,

Xe Kakalakou, Ph.D.
Director

Ôlelo No’eau

 Mahalo i ka mea loa‘a.
Be thankful for what you have.