

# December 2024 Newsletter

# PAUOA

2301 Pauoa Road, Honolulu, HI 96813

<http://pauoa.k12.hi.us>

808-587-4500

*Happy  
Holidays!*



## Principal Arakaki's Message



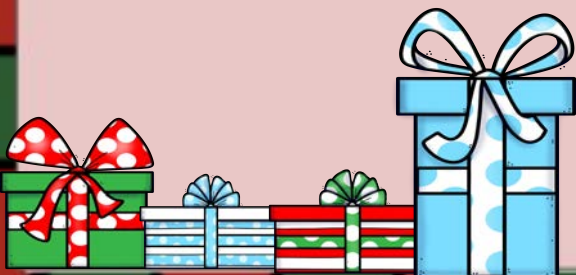
Dear Pauoa Ohana,

I can't believe our semester is coming to a close and so is 2024. What a year it has been. We just finished our WASC self study visit and I would like to thank the parents that participated in talking about our school to our visitors. They were really impressed with what you had to say about your experiences here and your feedback to make things even better. I can't reveal much at this time as the report has not been approved yet. More to come in a few weeks.

There is so much to be thankful for during this time of the year. December is a season full of joy, peace and love. Be thankful for what you have and enjoy this time with your family and friends. Thank you Pauoa Ohana for supporting and partnering with us with your child's education. This is a lifelong journey for your child. Please continue to work with them during the winter break. Be sure that they complete their iReady minutes each week; 45 minutes for those who are on grade level (green), 60 minutes for those less than a grade level behind (yellow), and 75+ minutes for those more than 1 grade level behind (red). The more your child can do the better, but please balance the time work with family time.

### Upcoming Events

- 12/9 - i-Ready Diagnostic #2 Begins
- 12/10 - Gr. 3 HTY Christmas Talk Story
- 12/13- i-Ready Diagnostic #2 Ends
- 12/17 - Gr. 4 HTY Christmas Talk Story
- 12/20 - Winter Song Fest
- 12/23 - 01/03 - WINTER BREAK
- 01/06 - Non-Student Day
- 01/07 - PC Day #2
- 01/13 - ACCESS Testing Begins





Enjoy the winter break with your child/children by working some family time such as doing a scavenger hunt around the neighborhood, going to the park, planning a meal, baking, doing art, going to the beach, or just watching a movie together. This quality time with your child or children will create stronger bonds within the family. Treasure this time with them because you will never get this time back. Ever!!! Take advantage of this as your child/children are only young once. Take a day off if you can or just a few hours. Your child will remember this quality time spent for life. My children have fond memories of our breaks.

Lastly, as we head into January, it is time for friends or other family members to submit their Geographic Exception form(s) (GE) for families who live outside Pauoa's boundaries and want to come to Pauoa. **This is for new students wanting to come to Pauoa.** If you know of friends or a family who are looking for a school in town, please let them know to fill out a GE form, get the home school principal to sign it and turn in the GE form to Pauoa El starting January 1, 2024.

Kindergarten GE process begins on February 1, 2025. Families must register their child at their child's home school first, fill out the GE form and turn in to their child's home school or get the principal to sign the GE form and turn it in to Pauoa as soon as you can for new incoming Kindergarteners who will turn 5 by August 1, 2025. Although the kindergarten GE process begins on February 1, 2025, you may turn in the GE form prior to Feb. 1, 2025.

**For our outgoing 5<sup>th</sup> graders, you will need to fill out a new GE for middle school.** If you have any questions regarding GE's, feel free to let me know.

Have a fabulous winter break. Stay safe and healthy.

Aloha,

Dale Arakaki, Principal

"Believe to Achieve! Stand up!

Be heard! Let's excel now!"





# Pauoa Ohana PTA

Aloha e Pauoa 'Ohana!

It's December already!! Time is going by so fast.

Thank you to all families and community members who came out to our Community Yard Sale on November 2 to shop or sell. A big mahalo to everyone who purchased the 'ono Molokai Hot Bread.

Our next event will be a family **movie night on Friday, January 31** . More information to come when we come back from winter break.

We are still looking for **4th grade parents** to join the PTA. Please email [PauoaOhanaPTA@gmail.com](mailto:PauoaOhanaPTA@gmail.com) if you are interested in joining the group or have any questions.

Happy Holidays! Hope everyone has a wonderful December and an amazing winter break!

*Pauoa Elementary School  
Wishes You and Your Family*



**HAPPY  
HOLIDAYS**

Enjoy your holiday break!

# Shout Outs!

Thank you to Carmello Robinson, Gr. 1 and his family for the delicious donuts he shared with the front office. You glazed our morning with happiness! Aloha!

Thank You

Mahalo to the Keliiholokai / Manufekai Ohana for the Tea + snack treats. Appreciate it!

Grandma Nohea for stopping by and help with our Box Tops!

Thank You

Thank You





# Pumpkin Carving Night!!







# Halloween Spirit Week!







# Halloween Spirit Week!







# Halloween Spirit Week!





# Special Olympics!

## Holiday Classic Basketball Championship Game Hickam AFC - Saturday November 23, 2024



Thank you everyone for your support of Pauoa's Unified Basketball Team. We look forward to doing it again next year! Be on the lookout during the 2nd semester for updates on getting physicals and forms done before the school year starts next year. Getting those done soon will only help in the entire process. Thank you again!

Joven Asuncion  
PE Teacher/Basketball Coach





# PREschool

Ms. Hezekia (D1)





# Kindergarten

Ms. Derby (D2), Mrs. Hamada (D3), Mrs. Salcedo (D4)

Happy Holidays to the family and friends of the Kindergarten Team! December was another fun and busy month for our students. Your children have worked hard each school day and we are thrilled with the progress they have made. We continue to monitor and celebrate their growth and we appreciate all the support and encouragement you provide.

We look forward to seeing your child(ren) staying healthy and maintaining their attendance so that they may take part in all the special academic and enrichment lessons we have planned! Mahalo for the partnerships that enable us to all flourish and succeed! Have a happy and safe Holiday Season!

The Kindergarten Team





# First GRADE

Mrs. Sanbei (B3), Ms. Bierwert (B4), Ms. Keith (B5)

Happy Holidays Families!

We are almost at the end of the first semester! The first graders have worked really hard and have made a lot of progress. In ELA, we will continue to focus on nonfiction text features and structures in preparation for their final informational piece. In math, students will continue to work on addition and subtraction strategies and apply it to a variety of word problems.

Before break, our first graders will take the second iReady Reading and Math diagnostic test in school. We will be able to see their progress from their first diagnostic and use their scores to help guide our instruction in the upcoming months.

Winter break is 12/23/24- 1/7/25. Your child will return to school on January 8<sup>th</sup>. Please continue to do iReady reading and math at home to reinforce their areas of need. Enjoy the holidays with your families and stay safe. Thank you for your continued support and have a great break!

Aloha,  
First Grade Team





# First GRADE





# Second Grade

Mrs. Obayashi (C2), Mrs. Rickard (C3), Mrs. Guzzardo (C4)

## ❄️ Seasons Greetings, Grade 2 Families! ❄️

Another calendar year has flown by. We are **truly grateful** for all of Pauoa's families and staff for working together to help our students blossom into the best versions of themselves. Wishing you and your loved ones a wonderful holiday season full of **JOY!**

### Important Reminders:

- Please continue to have your child [complete i-Ready lessons independently at home](#) aiming for [100% passing rates](#) to help prepare for the upcoming [i-Ready Diagnostic #2 in December](#). Ensure your child gets a good night's rest and has a nutritious breakfast daily, especially during the diagnostic weeks.
- Remember to please [check and sign your child's planner every day!](#) First, check to ensure your child completed all their assignments correctly. Then, sign the bottom of the planner after. Signing the planner acknowledges that you checked all homework was completed thoroughly and accurately.
- [Winter Break: No school December 23 - January 7.](#) Students return to school on [Wednesday, January 8th.](#)

♥️ **Happy holidays!** ♥️

Grade 2 Teachers

## Spirit Week Costumes





# Third GRADE

Mrs. Wong (D6), Ms. Newberry (D7), Mrs. Lau (D8)



Aloha Grade 3 Families!

Our six months of third grade have quickly passed by and 2024 will soon come to an end. We have been working hard on our i-Ready lessons and we are excited to see improvements from their Diagnostic #1 that they took at the beginning of the school year (August). This month, we will be starting our iReady Diagnostic #2 in reading and math. Please remind your child to try their best on these assessments and in their everyday learning.

In ELA, we continue to learn about literary texts, non-fiction texts and opinion writing. In Math, we are continuing to learn about multiplication and division. Please continue to remind your child to read chapter books and be responsible with their planners daily. Thank you for all of your continuous support!

Happy Holidays!

Grade 3 Teachers ☺

## **Reminders for December**

Field Trip to HTY's "Christmas Talk Story" is on Tuesday, December 10th

- Form and money is due on December 3rd
- Students need to wear a red (Pauoa) shirt, socks and shoes

iReady

- Diagnostic #2 will be the week of December 9th
- Please support your child is meeting their weekly iReady goals for reading and math


End of quarter 2 is on Friday, December 17th

Winter Break starts on Monday, December 23rd



# Third GRADE

Mrs. Wong (D6), Ms. Newberry (D7), Mrs. Lau (D8)

## HŪ

Kukui Nut Top

**Introduction:**  
Hū, or kukui nut top spinning is generally a quiet game for children to play. Sometimes players might compete in spinning their tops longer than their opponents. Avoid hitting or dropping the top, it might crack or break.


**How to play: (self directed)**

- 4-6 players will sit around the taped off square.
- Players will count to three and spin their kukui nut.
- If their kukui nut goes outside of the square, they are out.
- If their kukui nut hits another or is hit and falls, they are out.
- The goal is to be the last kukui nut spinning.

There is no winner for today's event, students are simply challenging each other. There is no scores, just have fun!

**CAUTION:**

- Play fairly by following the count down. Do not spin later than the rest as this is an unfair advantage.
- Try to avoid hitting other kukui nuts, but remember, if yours is hit, it is an accident, no piliia.



## KŪKINI

Foot Racing

**Introduction:**  
In ancient Hawai'i skilled runners raced from the pahukū (starting point) to the pahu hope (goal) for sheer fun or for prizes. Certain firm sandy beaches provided excellent courses for a number of runners who raced in competition.\*

**Rules for SPRINTING (Grade 2-5):**

- Make 14 lanes (7 per classroom) with even number of players in each lane.
- Players will wait in the safe zone while the first row of player move up to the start line.
- At the WHISTLE, players will sprint their fastest.
- FIRST ROUND:
  - THREE player to finish first in each heat, moves to the next round. Total of 9 runners per HR run in semi finals
- FINAL ROUND (gr. 2-3):
  - Player to pass the finish line first is named the HR winner.
- SEMI-FINAL ROUND (gr. 4-5):
  - Player to pass the finish line first is named the HR winner and competes in the finals after lunch.

**Rules for Foot Racing (Kindergarten - Grade 1):**

**CAUTION:**

- Listen for the whistle before running
- While waiting in line, face forward, be ready for your turn.
- NEVER stand in the runners path.

Meet on the courts




## 'ULU MAIKA

Rolling Stone Disk

**Introduction:**  
'Ulu maika was the most popular sport in early Hawai'i. A skill game where competitors roll stone disks ('ulu) between two stakes. This game would develop the arm and leg muscles of the player as well as their skill in handling the stone disk.\*

**How to play:**

- Make 8 lanes (4 per classroom) with an even amount of players in each lane.
- Student line up in the safe zone while first player move to the player line.
- ONE WHISTLE: player picks up the 'ulu and readys themselves
- TWO WHISTLES: player will roll their 'ulu low and far
- THREE WHISTLES: rolling player collects the 'ulu, places it on line, and goes to the back of the line.

**Point System:**

- 1 point each time your 'ulu goes through the stakes.
- After at least 3 rounds, player with the most points move on or wins!

**CAUTION:**

- Listen for the WHISTLE
- Face forward, watch the 'ulu
- NEVER stop an 'ulu with your toes, use your heel instead or let it stop on its own.
- No tossing or throwing 'ulu
- When in doubt, don't release the 'ulu





# Fourth GRADE

Ms. Chung (B8), Mrs. Chanhboursy (B9), Mrs. Takesue (B10)

Aloha 4th Grade Families,

This month, our fourth graders had the wonderful opportunity to participate in Bike Ed, where they learned about bike and road safety. Not only did they gain valuable knowledge, but they also had so much fun! Some students ventured into the Pauoa neighborhood, while others practiced their riding skills right on campus. Everyone did an amazing job—we are so proud of them!

A big mahalo to all of our fourth-grade families for your continued support in making this a successful year for your child. We are grateful for all you do and wish you and your family a joyful holiday season!

Mrs. Chanhboursy, Ms. Chung, and Ms. Takesue

## Friendly Reminders:

- **iReady Diagnostic #2** - Begins on **Monday, December 9**
  - Be sure your child has working headphones.
- **HTY “Christmas Talk Story” Field Trip - Tuesday, December 17**
- **Reading Log**
  - Your child should be reading at home regularly to reach their weekly goals.
- **Multiplication Facts**

Please continue to encourage your child to master their multiplication facts (1–10). Here are a few fun ways to practice at home:

  - [www.multiplication.com](http://www.multiplication.com)
  - Math Drills Lite app
  - Quizlet flashcards (available in Google Classroom)
  - Multiplication War (If they haven’t yet, have your child teach a family member!)
- **Celebration Treats**

For the health and safety of our keiki, please ensure all treats brought to school are **nut-free**.



# Fourth GRADE

Ms. Chung (B8), Mrs. Chanhboursy (B9), Mrs. Takesue (B10)





# Fourth GRADE

Ms. Chung (B8), Mrs. Chanhboursy (B9), Mrs. Takesue (B10)

Dirt Cups with  
First Grade  
Reading Buddies



Bike Ed







# Fifth GRADE

Mrs. Takahashi (C8), Ms. Zeng (C9), Mrs. Shigezawa (C10)

## December

Happy Holidays! During the week of December 9th, students will be taking the second iReady Diagnostic. Please remind your child to sleep early and have working headphones.

Please encourage your child to keep up with daily assignments in class and at home as this impacts your child's quarter 2 grades. In order to progress to the next grade level, your child needs to show adequate understanding of the grade level standards.

Every student participates in school service by helping out in the cafeteria. On their assigned day, students need to come to school meeting the following requirements:

- Covered shoes. (Crocs with socks do not meet safety standards)
- Top with sleeves
- Clean fingernails
- Hair tied back, out of face

Please remind your student of these requirements on their assigned day.

Our Winter assembly is upcoming! Our grade 5 attire will be comfortable jeans (to allow them to move freely), a white top, and shoes.

We are having a field trip to Kawanānakoā for a 6th grade orientation, regardless of your projected middle school, on Wednesday, December 3rd. Your child must wear their red Pauoa shirt and covered shoes, as we will be touring the school. Crocs with socks are not acceptable footwear for this day.

Our 5th grade Math Festival is Friday, December 6th from 5:30pm-6:30pm. Come out and play math games with your child and have some fun! Light refreshments will be provided.

Thank you for your continued support!

Merry Wishes From Your Fifth Grade Team

Ms. Zeng, Ms. Shigezawa, Mrs. Takahashi



# Fifth GRADE

Mrs. Takahashi (C8), Ms. Zeng (C9), Mrs. Shigezawa (C10)

## C8 with Kinder buddies



## C9 Spirit Week







# FSC Teacher

Ms. Shigematsu (FSC, B-1)

Hi Parents,

Happy Holidays! We have now come to the last month of the first semester of this school year. This semester has come and gone very quickly. We have been joining our friends for more recess time and joining the grade level during Specials.

Please remember to check your child's bag and folder for any papers being sent home.

Have a great holiday season and see you in the next year!

Thanks,  
Ms. S





# Resource Teacher

Mrs. Lum (Grades K-2, B2)





# Resource Teacher

Ms. Oyama (Grades 3-5, B7)

Aloha B7 Families,

As we end quarter 2, we will be taking our Winter iReady Diagnostic 2. We are learning about multiplying and dividing large numbers, order of operations, and beginning to learn about decimals in math. We are expanding our vocabulary with different prefixes and suffixes in OG morphology and working on summarizing texts. We are also researching about different animals online for our informational writing.

Have a happy and healthy holiday break!

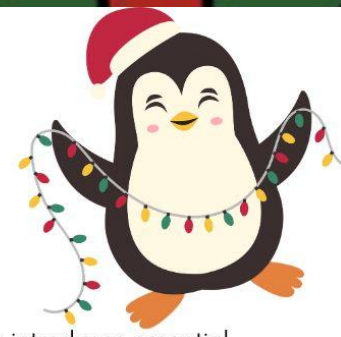
Mahalo,  
Ms. Oyama





# SPECIALS

## Teachers



### Computer Science - Mr. Sutherland

Aloha Parents,

Our 2nd and 3rd graders are diving into the world of coding with Code.org! This fun and interactive program introduces essential computer science concepts through engaging lessons that spark creativity and build problem-solving skills.

In 2nd grade, students are learning the basics of sequencing, loops, and algorithms. For example, they might help a character navigate a maze or create a fun dance routine by coding patterns of movement. They also enjoy hands-on “unplugged” activities, like acting as robots to stack cups or draw pictures based on their classmates’ instructions, helping them understand coding concepts without a screen.

Our 3rd graders are taking it a step further with lessons on conditionals, storytelling, and debugging. Imagine your keiki creating their own interactive stories or solving puzzles in a Minecraft-themed activity where they code “if” and “then” scenarios like “If there is lava, build a bridge.” These activities inspire creativity, build logical thinking, and teach perseverance as they debug and improve their programs.

For our keiki in Hawai‘i, these lessons are especially valuable. Coding teaches skills that will prepare them for a technology-driven world while encouraging them to incorporate elements of their culture—like designing animations or stories inspired by Hawaiian legends or local landscapes. By learning these concepts early, our students gain confidence as creators and innovators, ready to shape the future of our island community and beyond.

Mahalo for supporting your child’s learning journey as we explore the exciting world of coding together!

Mr. Sutherland

### Physical Education - Mr. Asuncion

Message on previous page regarding Special Olympics page.

### Papa ‘ike Hawai‘i - Kumu Imada

Our first **Makahiki** events was a blast! This school-wide celebration featured a variety of traditional Hawaiian games, including Kūkini (foot racing), Moa Pahe‘e (wooden dart sliding), ‘Ulu Maika (stone rolling), Hū (kukui nut spinning), and Ho‘olele Lupe (kite flying).

A special highlight of the event was a competition between 4th and 5th grade students, two winners from each grade levels faced off for one final round to determine the school-wide champion for each event. This year, the winners of Moa Pahe‘e, ‘Ulu Maika, and Kūkini were all talented 5th grade students all from C9 Ms. Zeng’s class, demonstrating impressive athleticism and skill.

Throughout the event, all students exemplified excellent sportsmanship, embracing the spirit of the Makahiki games and honoring the traditions of Hawai‘i’s past. The joyful sounds of cheers, laughter, and excitement filled our valley, setting a festive tone for the holiday season and strengthening our school community’s pride in Pauoa.

SHOUT OUT to all the family volunteers, staff and students for making this event the best it could have been!



Ho‘olele Lupe - Kite Flying  
(Kindergarten & Grade 1)

## MAKAHIKI GAMES 2024



Kūkini - Foot Racing (Kindergarten & Grade 1)



Moa Pahe‘e - Wooden Dart  
Grade 4 & 5



Hū - Kukui Nut Top Spinning  
Kindergarten & Grade 1



Kūkini - Foot Racing (Grade 2 & 3)



‘Ulu Maika - Stone Disk Rolling - Grade 2 & 3



# Title 1/ Curriculum Coordinator

Mrs. Nakamura (Front Office)

Happy December!

As we near the end of our first semester, students are getting ready to take their iReady Winter Diagnostic in Reading and Math. We expect to see significant growth in students' Diagnostic scores. Please help by making sure your child is getting a good night's rest and eating a healthy breakfast. Encourage your children to try their best!

Session 3 AST and ASP:

- Be on the lookout for After School Tutoring (AST) letters during the week of Dec. 16.
- After School Program (ASP) information and catalog is available on our ASP website now.  
\*Please see the attached Guide for directions.
  - For classes offered by Pauoa, the registration form will open on Dec. 17.
  - For classes offered by outside vendors, you may register on your own at any time; these classes are on a first-come-first-serve basis.

Important dates:

- Dec. 17 - Session 3 AST registration forms will be sent home; ASP registration will be available online
- Dec. 20 - Session 3 ASP & AST forms due
- Dec. 20 - Last day of Session 2
- Jan. 8 - Session 3 confirmation/wait list letters sent home
- Jan. 8 - 2nd Semester Parent-Teacher conference forms sent home. Your child's teacher will be in contact with you if they feel a conference is necessary.
- Week of Jan. 13 - Session 3 starts
- Feb. 5 - 2nd Semester Parent-Teacher conferences (only if you received a form)

This is a busy time of the year both in school and with family. One of the best things you can do for your child is to keep them on their schedule: be consistent with their homework routines and make sure they are getting plenty of rest. We need them to stay healthy and be in school every day!

As always, please let me know if you have any questions.

Take care and be safe,  
Mrs. Nakamura  
lisa.nakamura@k12.hi.us





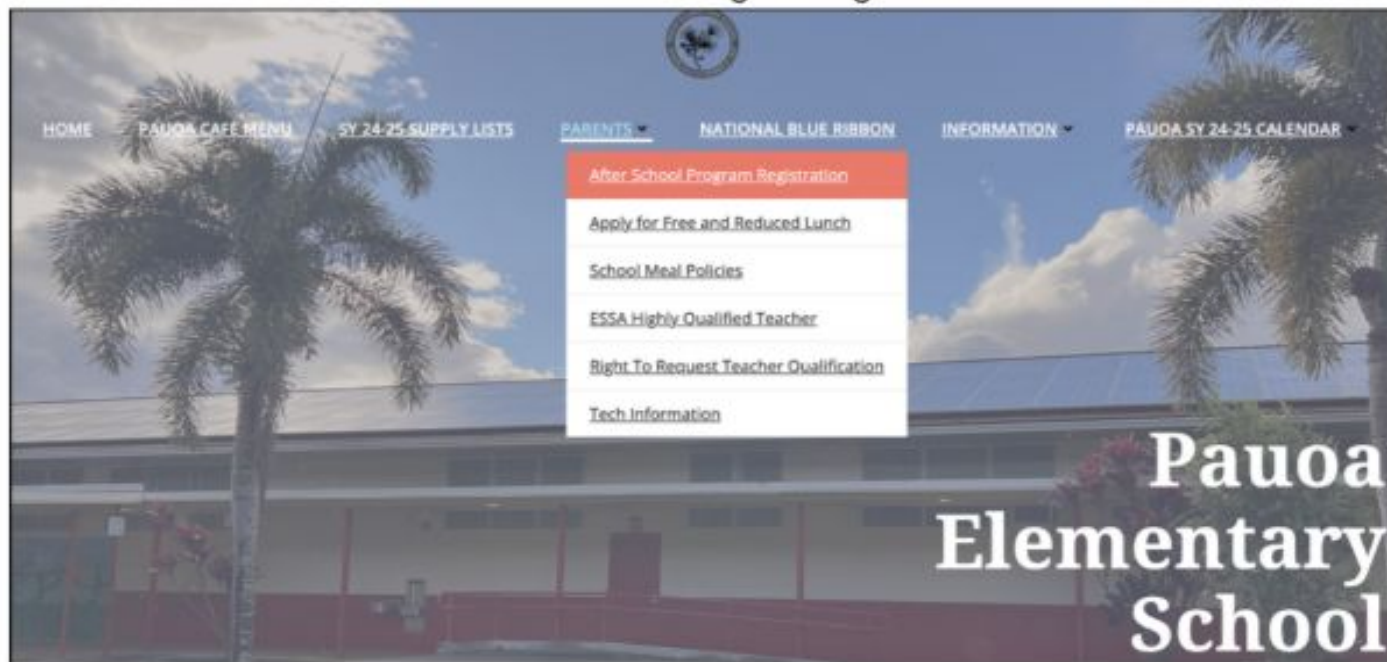


## Guide to accessing our After School Program website

We are moving exclusively to our **After School Program website** and **online registration**. The Home page contains information previously provided in the parent letter that was sent home with students.

**Step 1:** Go to our school's website, <https://pauoa.k12.hi.us/>.

Find the Parents tab and click on "After School Program Registration."



This will take you to our After School Programs website:





Use the tabs to navigate to the Home page, Course Catalog, Registration Form, and Schedules.  
Note: The date at the top of each page reflects the last time the page was updated.

- **Home** page - Announcements, general information, next steps, and other important information.
- Course Catalog - Course descriptions and schedule of classes
- Registration Form - Online form to register for classes (filling out the registration form enters your child's name into the lottery)
- Schedules - Session dates, registration dates

Step 2: View the **Course Catalog** BEFORE registering for a class.

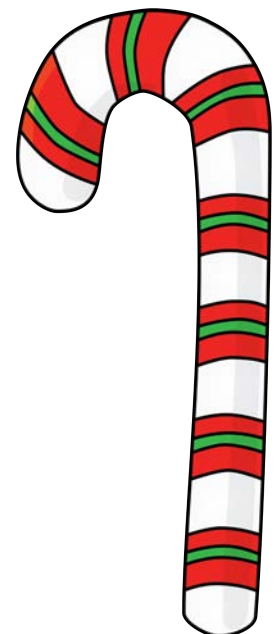
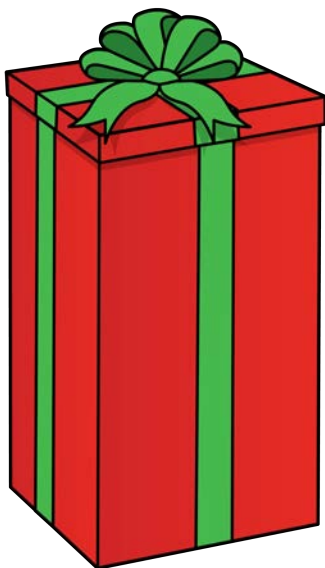
- Pay special attention to the age group and schedule.
- Make sure your child fits the age group and will be able to attend all classes.

Step 3: **Register** using the online Registration Form.

- Once received, your child will be placed in the lottery.
- If you need a hard copy registration form, contact your child's teacher or Mrs. Nakamura, (808)587-4500/ [lisa.nakamura@k12.hi.us](mailto:lisa.nakamura@k12.hi.us)

Step 4: Wait for a confirmation letter or waitlist letter; this is usually sent home the week before classes are scheduled to begin.

- If you registered your child for a class and did not receive a letter, please let your child's teacher or Mrs. Nakamura know right away.





# Health Aide

Mrs. Ladines (Front Office)



Mahalo nui loa parents for being mindful and communicating with our staff regarding the needs for your keiki(s).

Please continue to demonstrate and monitor positive choices with good hygiene and safe practices.

Find time to jingle to some music and cherish those precious moments together!

As we near the end of 2024, may your holidays gleam with wonder and your hearts be hugged by the warm embrace of A-L-O-H-A ❤️ ❤️ ❤️

# EL Coordinator

Mrs. Newton (D9)

Dear Parents,

ACCESS Testing window starts on January 13th - February 28th. Parent letter will be sent home before and after winter break. To prepare for the test:

- Help your child get plenty of rest each night
- Make sure your child eats a good breakfast
- Gets to school on time

Cordially,  
Ivy Newton



Wishing you a Happy Holiday  
and a joyful New Year!



# Front Office

Mrs. Oshiro, Mrs. Tanoue, Mrs. Fraga-Lino

## Returning to Pauoa SY 25-26

A form was sent home to the oldest & only students in grades K - 4, please reply by **due by Dec. 11, 2024**  
This is to inform us if you will be returning next school year.



## Box Top for Education

It's the Holiday season and many things that may be eligible for Box Tops purchases. Please use your phone to digitally submit your receipts with 14 days of purchase. If you would like us to do it for you, please come to the office.

## Name Badges

Students should keep their name tags at the school at all times. If they are lost, they can use an old name tag OR use an old tag. If NO replacement can be found, there is a \$5.00 replacement fee.

## Geographic Exception (GE) Season starts Jan. 01 - March 01

Our office will be closed on Jan.1, 2025.

Info on GE process can be found here:.

<https://www.hawaiipublicschools.org/ParentsAndStudents/EnrollingInSchool/Pages/Geographic-exceptions.aspx>

Don't forget to bring your self-addressed stamped envelope and necessary documents if applying for a GE.





## LOST & FOUND

We have a few clothing items jackets, hydro flask and miscellaneous items in the gray bin. Please come to get them before we clear them out for donations or disposal. Write your child's name on personal belongings, PLEASE!



### *Notice of Non-Discrimination*

*HIDOE will not tolerate retaliation for reporting discrimination and/or harassment on the basis of race, sex, age, color, national origin, religion, or disability, and will take steps to protect those who wish to report the harassment. Please direct inquiries regarding HIDOE nondiscrimination policies to: Section ADA/504 inquiries Krysti Sukita, ADA/504 Specialist Civil Rights Compliance Office Hawaii State Department of Education P.O. Box 2360 Honolulu, Hawaii 96804 (808) 586-3322 or relay crco@notes.k12.hi.us*

*Title VI, Title IX, and other inquiries Anne Marie Puglisi, Director Civil Rights Compliance Office Hawaii State Department of Education P.O. Box 2360 Honolulu, Hawaii 96804 (808) 586-3322 or relay crco@notes.k12.hi.us*