

# January 2025 Newsletter

# PAUOA

# ELEMENTARY

2301 Pauoa Road, Honolulu, HI 96813

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

808-587-4500

Happy  
NEW  
YEAR



## PRINCIPAL ARAKAKI'S MESSAGE



### Upcoming Events

- 1/8 - Quarter 3 Begins
- 1/10 - Quarter 2 Recognition Assembly
- 01/13 - 2/28 ACCESS for ELLs Testing Windows
- 1/15 - Quarter 2 Report Cards Sent Home
- 1/20 - MLK Jr. Day Holiday - NO School
- 1/31 - PTA Movie Night
- 2/14 - Teacher Institute Day
- 2/17 - Presidents' Day Holiday - No School

Happy New Year Pauoa Ohana!!! I hope 2025

is off to a good start for you all. Through our trials and tribulations, we come out stronger together. Only through our relentless work, can we move forward **together**. Changing lives by disrupting the educational norm is what I learned on Friday, 1/3 at our Hawaii Principal's Forum from our Keynote speaker, Hamish Brewer, the tattooed skateboarding principal, author of the book *Be Relentless!*, and Virginia's National Distinguished Principal and many more accolades. His relentless work to improve the lives of each student that comes his way is unreal. His relentless pursuit to give others less privileged a chance is what education is all about.

As we come together in the coming weeks, we will be relentless in our pursuit of leadership for student success. We will need to be all in on our partnership working together to bring a quality education and experiences to every student here at Pauoa. We each need to lead by example through supporting one another in this relentless pursuit of improvement for our haumana, our children. Be relentless in making sure your child gets back into their school routine sleeping early, waking up early, being at school everyday and on time, and making sure your child has a good breakfast in school or at home. Be relentless in making sure your child has a nice quiet spot at home to complete his/her homework, checking his/her planner, and having conversations about how your child's day went. Be relentless in being involved at Pauoa through our activities as a volunteer, involved with our Ohana PTA, or in your child's classroom.





The relentless pursuit of leadership for student success starts with the right mindset and attitude. As we accept our roles and responsibilities, it is our job to work together as a school community. It is our responsibility to love each child and let them know they are loved and cared for especially when times are tough. We never will turn our backs on your child. We will never turn our backs on each other as partners. We will keep moving forward one day at a time. We will be **RELENTLESS!**

Lastly, as we head into January, it is time to submit your Geographic Exception forms (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 including new Kindergarteners.** If you know of friends who are looking for a school in town, please let them know to fill out the GE form, get the principal to sign it and turn in the GE form to Pauoa El starting January 1, 2025. Kindergartens' GE process starts Feb. 1, 2025 but can be submitted prior to that. Just remember any new Kindergartner must be 5 by Aug. 1, 2025 to be eligible.

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

Aloha,

Dale Arakaki, Principal





# Pauoa Ohana PTA

## Hau'oli Makahiki Hou!

Welcome to 2025 and the start of the second semester! We hope everyone had a happy, restful, and rejuvenating winter break. We've got some great activities coming up for our Pauoa 'Ohana including a movie night, bingo night, and our annual Fitness Challenge for the keiki. Our PTA continues to work hard to support the school and families but we couldn't do it without your help. Mahalo nui!

**Pauoa 'Ohana Movie Night!**  
**Friday, January 31, 2025**  
**5:30 - 8:00 pm**

**Informational flyer will be sent home with students in early January**

We are excited for spring and wish all our Pauoa families a very happy and healthy new year!

Please email [PauoaOhanaPTA@gmail.com](mailto:PauoaOhanaPTA@gmail.com) if you are interested in joining the group or have any questions.

We welcome any **4th grade parents** who would like to join the PTA.



# Shout Outs!

Mrs. Donna Shigezawa, Thank you from the office for the beautiful floral pens and packages of regular pens too! We're so grateful!

ありがとう

Reese Maeyoshimoto, former student and family. Thank you for the delicious box of chocolate mochi.

Mahalo to Ellie Takase-Iwami for the delicious Trader Joe's Dunker Cookies

Thank you to Ms. Carol Kishimoto for the delicious assortment of Manapuas. It was absolutely delicious!



Thank you to Liam Thompson and his family for the yummy cranberry/lemon muffins and chocolate muffins. It made our day so sweet!

A big mahalo to Emma and Liam Takai and family for the Poi donuts. Your generosity is as sweet as these donuts! Thank you!



Lennox Tam & family for the homemade X-mas Cookies to the office staff! Thank you!



# Shout Outs!

Grandma Nohea for her Box Top receipts and her sweet treats!

Grandpa Richard for his homemade boiled peanuts.



Mr. Gareth Russell, neighbor, Thank you so much for your generous monetary gift. We are so grateful!

Nuuanu YMCA, Thank you for the Sea Salt ROCA.

**Lilliann & Mikiala  
Saito-Lai & ohana for  
the Kukkia wafers!**

Jaden Onuma and family, Thank you for the wonderful wafer cookies. They are truly delightful! We love it! The office

Hendrich Caberto and Family, Thank you for the delicious Pepperoni Pizza. We enjoyed every slice!

## Gracias

Declan Fiesta & Family for the yummy Donna's Cookies.





# Gracias

Grandma Manufekai and Keli holokai family, Thank you for the cookies and chocolate! We enjoyed every bite!

Marcus Loo and family, Thanks a million for the delicious banana bread. We all enjoyed it!

謝謝

Sheldon Leung and family, Thank you so much for thoughtful gift of chocolate truffles and cappuccino drink mix. We appreciate it!

Angelina Dong & family for the Crisproll & Matcha Chocolates

*Aaysen Demaya and family, Thank you for the poi donuts. It was a delightful treat!*

Kailer Ige & family for the practical scrubbies to wash our dishes with.





# MAHALO!

A great big Mahalo to Mr. Vincent Ishida, alumni, for his generous monetary donation to the school. We cannot Thank you enough!

He came to donate funds to our school with great memories of his time at Pauoa. He expressed gratitude to a former teacher who left a great impression on him and supported his struggles and worked with him so he could thrive.

He had Mrs. Aoyama for 2 years in different grades and because of her, he strived hard and was able to become a successful engineer. He came by to give back to the school who made him what he is today.





# PREschool

Ms. Hezekia (D1)

Aloha and Happy New Year!

Our class is excited for the new year and the learning that will take place this semester! Some reminders for the classroom.

## School Schedule

MTTHF 7:55am to 2:15pm (pick up starts at 2:00pm)

W 7:55 to 1:30pm (pick up starts at 1:30pm)

Please continue to bring:

Nap mat and blanket (weekly)

Snack and water bottle (daily)

Please continue to keep your child home if showing any signs of illness: green mucus, sneezing, coughing, fever. If your child is unable to wear a mask, wipe their nose without assistance, please keep them home. We will send them to the health room if showing signs of illness and you may be required to pick up your child.

Kanoe Hezekia

(Ms. Melva, Ms. Heaven and Ms. Hohono)

D1





# PREschool

Ms. Hezekia (DI)



# Kindergarten

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

Happy New Year, Kinder Families!

We hope you all had a wonderful, restful winter break with your loved ones. Thank you all for your kind and generous thoughts, words, and gestures during this holiday season! We are so excited to be back and we are so ready to pick up right where we left off! We've already seen so much growth in our kinders during the first semester, we can't wait to see how they apply their learned knowledge and skills as we dive into our projects and work this quarter! Cheers to another fantastic quarter!

The Kindergarten Team

Reminder:

- EL WIDA testing will begin this month.



# Kindergarten

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





# First GRADE

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

Happy New Year First Grade Families!

Welcome back to school in 2025! We hope that you had a joyous holiday season filled with good health, blessings and relaxation!

This month, we will be diving into our opinion writing that is aligned with our Leo Lionni author study unit. In math, we will be focusing on numbers using base ten and balancing equations.

Please be on the lookout for a field trip form that will be sent home soon. Thank you for continuing to support your child in their daily school practices that help support their progress, growth and independence. Your child completed their second iReady diagnostic. Please review your child's scores and next steps. We look forward to this next semester, continuing to work, learn and grow together.

Aloha,  
Grade 1 Teachers



# First GRADE

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





# Second Grade

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

 **Happy New Year, Grade 2 Families!** 

Welcome back to school! We hope all of you had a wonderful time with your family and friends during the Winter Break.

Please encourage your child to continue reading for 20 minutes daily. Reading fluency and comprehension are important skills that second graders need to be proficient in.

Math fluency (math facts), and addition and subtraction of 2 and 3-digit numbers are essential skills that will help students solve math word problems.

**Let's focus, work hard, and have a great year in 2025!**

Grade 2 Teachers

## Holiday Spirit Week 2024

A **BIG MAHALO** to **Kumu Imada** and **Mrs. Ladines**

for all of your hard work and dedication in helping our second graders learn the dance moves and practice for our Winter Song Fest!



**Long Winter Nap**



**Winter Song Fest**



**Candy Cane Day**

# Third GRADE

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



Aloha 3rd Grade Families!

Welcome Back to School! We hope everyone had a restful winter break and spent lots of time with family and friends! In Quarter 3, we will still be focusing on informational and literature texts in reading. In math we will be learning about measurement in using perimeter and area. Please continue to have your child read chapter books at home and practice their multiplication/division facts (0-12).

This quarter, we will also start our Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) preparation. Please be on the lookout for more information as we start our preparation for this assessment occurring in the fourth quarter.

We're looking forward to a great start to 2025! Please contact your child's teacher if you have any questions.

Thank you so much! 😊

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

## Important Dates

- Monday, January 6th - No School Non-Student Day
- Tuesday, January 7th - No School PC Day
- **Wednesday, January 8th - Students return to school**
- Monday, January 20th - No School Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday



# Third GRADE

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

## HTY'S CHRISTMAS TALK STORY PLAY



## JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT FINANCIAL LITERACY LESSONS



## WINTER SONG FEST







# Fourth GRADE

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

Aloha parents,

Welcome back to Quarter 3, and Happy New Year! We hope everyone had a relaxing winter break filled with quality time spent with loved ones. It's so heartwarming to see students return with joyful stories and cheerful smiles. We sincerely appreciate your support in planning and creating a Christmas ornament with your child. The imagination and originality brought into the classroom were truly delightful to witness! Moreover, we had an incredible time visiting the Honolulu Theater for Youth. The play and singing performances were inspiring, and the students thoroughly enjoyed the experience. We hope you got to hear more about it from your child—they had so much fun! As we begin the second semester, we kindly request your support in helping your child re-establish their daily habits and routines:

- iReady: Please oversee your child's iReady homework to ensure consistent progress.
- Backpack: Assist your child in organizing and maintaining their backpack and homework folder for easy access to materials.
- Planner: We appreciate your help in keeping your child on track with their homework and signing their planner daily.
- Practice Multiplication Facts: Continue encouraging your child to master their multiplication facts (1 - 10). Here are some fun ways to practice at home:
  - [www.multiplication.com](http://www.multiplication.com)
  - Math Drills Lite app
  - Quizlet flashcards (accessible via Google Classroom)
  - Multiplication War (If they haven't yet, have your child teach a family member how to play!)

Mahalo for your continued partnership!

# Fourth GRADE

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



# Fourth GRADE

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



# Fifth GRADE

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

Happy New Year! Welcome to 2025! We hope you all enjoyed spending time with your family and friends. We had a successful first parent event where we shared various math games! Thank you to the families that came out to play. We hope you enjoyed your time.

We visited and had an orientation at Kawananākoa Middle School. Thank you to the band, orchestra, and clubs, for sharing some of the different activities that middle schoolers are able to participate in.

Middle School Registration has begun. Please contact your projected home school even if you plan on submitting a Geographic Exception to another school.

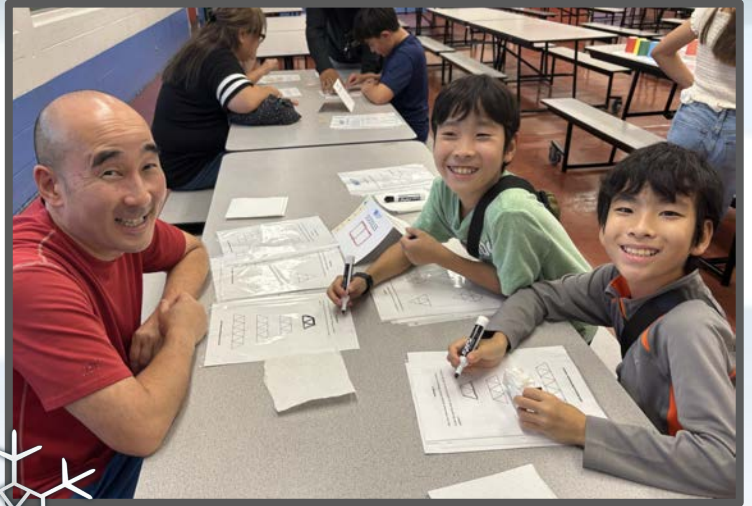
We are halfway through 5th grade! Please continue to bring your child to school daily and on time as this helps your child progress towards grade level standards. Report cards will be sent home in the second week of 3rd quarter, please sign and return as soon as possible. Thank you for your continuous support.

Your Fifth Grade Team



# Fifth GRADE

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



FSC

Teacher

Ms. Shigematsu (FSC, B-1)



Resource

Teacher

Mrs. Lum (Grades K-2, B2)





# Resource Teacher

Ms. Oyama (Grades 3-5, B7)

Aloha B7 Families,

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a fun and restful winter break. In December, our students finished taking their iReady Diagnostic #2. We saw lots of growth in just a few months and also know in which areas we want to continue to grow!

This month our class is working on finding area and continuing our learning about division and decimals. We are also continuing OG phonics/morphology and finishing our informational essays about different animals.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Some reminders~

- Bring a water bottle and necessary supplies to class.
- Come to class ready to learn with a positive attitude!

Mahalo,  
Ms. Oyama



## PAUOA'S FASTEST CLASS DECEMBER 2024

Below, you will find the results of each class and where they stand. A picture of the poster (found across the front entrance to the main office) is also attached.

### Fastest Class Competition Rules

Each class was given 5 minutes to run laps around the court, with the course marked by cones and the court lines. During this time, a counter kept track of the total number of laps completed by each student. At the end of the 5 minutes, the total number of laps run by all students in the class was divided by the total number of students who participated that day. This provides an average score for the class.

### Example:

If a class of 20 students ran a total of 130 laps in the 5-minute period, the total laps (130) would be divided by the number of students (20), resulting in an average score of **6.5 laps per student**.

Now that the students have a better understanding of how to improve their scores, we're hoping to see increased motivation and higher average scores in future competitions.

Let's continue to encourage our students to push themselves and give their best effort!

### Fastest Class in each grade level:

- Kindergarten - D3, Mrs. Hamada
- Grade 1 - B3, Ms. Bierwert
- Grade 2 - C3, Mrs. Rickard
- Grade 3 - D7, Ms. Newberry
- Grade 4 - B9, Ms. Chanhboury
- Grade 5 - C9, Ms. Zeng

**DECEMBER'S FASTEST  
CLASS AWARD GOES TO  
GRADE 4, B9  
MRS. CHANHBOURY**

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I just wanted to take a moment to express my gratitude for the opportunity to work with your wonderful children this semester. Whether in our PE classes or as coach of the basketball team, it has been a joy to watch them grow, learn, and develop their skills. Thank you for your ongoing support.

During the second quarter, we focused a lot on developing throwing techniques (both overhand and underhand) as well as improving catching skills. It's clear that Pauoa is home to many talented and athletic children, and I'm excited to see how they continue to progress.

Please continue to support your child's education, both in the classroom and through physical activities outside of school. I'm looking forward to seeing your children in the second half of the school year and continuing to foster their growth and development.

Wishing you all a safe and happy holiday season!

Warm regards,

Joven Asuncion

PE Teacher & Basketball Coach





# Title 1/ Curriculum Coordinator

Mrs. Nakamura (Front Office)

Happy New Year!

I hope this newsletter finds you healthy, rested, and ready to start the new year! What better way to start off the new year than to hit you with dates and important information!

## Second round of Parent-Teacher conferences

- If a second conference is necessary, your child's teacher sent home a Request Form for you to fill out on Jan. 8. Please be sure to fill it out and return it right away.
- Conferences will be held on Wednesday, February 5.

## Session 3 after school tutoring and programs

- Starts the week of January 13.
- A confirmation letter or waitlist letter was sent home on January 8 for those that filled out a registration form.
- A couple of reminders: if your child is going to miss their after school class, an adult needs to let their homeroom teacher, the front office, or me know. Please make every effort to pick up your child on time.
- If you registered for an after school program provided by an outside vendor, your start date may differ. Please direct any questions to the email they provided.
- If your child is interested in a class provided by an outside vendor and still hasn't signed up yet, you can still register! Please visit our After School Program site via our school website.

## School Quality Survey, SQS

- Sent home on January 9. The SQS measures your perceptions of the safety and well-being of your child and your satisfaction and involvement/engagement with the school.
- We are looking for 100% participation! We encourage you to fill out the survey because your feedback is important to us and we use the information to help us improve. Your responses are anonymous.

## Report cards

- Will be sent home on Wednesday, January 15. If you have any questions or concerns about your child, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher.

Coming back from a long break is a difficult transition for some children. Having a routine for homework, bed time, and getting ready in the morning will help your child with this transition and be successful in school. It may be rough for a couple of days, but hang in there! Consistency is your friend! Thank you in advance for your support at home.

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



# Health Aide

Mrs. Ladines (Front Office)

"People don't get along because they *fear* each other. People fear each other because they don't **KNOW** each other. They don't know each other because they have not properly communicated with each other." ~Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Yay, 2025 

New year... More adventures... Continue to have those important conversations with your little one(s). Stay well!

# EL Coordinator

Mrs. Newton (D9)

Happy New Year Parents!

I hope you had a wonderful holiday season. As we begin the new year, we want to remind you that the ACCESS for ELLs testing window will take place from **January 13th through February 28th.**

To help your child succeed during this important assessment, we kindly ask for your support in the following ways:

- Ensure your child gets plenty of rest each night
- Make sure your child eats a good breakfast
- Make sure your child arrives on time each day

If you have any questions please feel free to email me at [ivy.newton@k12.hi.us](mailto:ivy.newton@k12.hi.us).





# Front Office

Mrs. Oshiro, Mrs. Tanoue, Mrs. Fraga-lino

## GEOGRAPHIC EXCEPTION SY2025 - 2026

If you know of anyone who is interested in coming to Pauoa they can fill out the GE Application form, and submit to the home school (for new students) or current school for students (e.g. Outgoing students 5th graders ) who are already enrolled. (The home school serves the geographic area of the child's residence.) GE applications for the next school year shall be submitted between January 1, 2025 - March 1, 2025 to facilitate a decision before the end of the school year. You **DO NOT** need to re-apply for GE once you are accepted. **Please keep the school informed if you have moved residences during your time at Pauoa.**

Don't forget to include with your GE application: SASE (Self Addressed Stamped Envelope) and Proof of residency document (e.g. Utility bill). For more info please visit: Hawaii DOE | Geographic exceptions ([hawaiipublicschools.org](http://hawaiipublicschools.org))

## Moved? / Phone number Changed? Please complete a change form

Please keep the school updated at all times. Especially if your phone numbers have changed. We may need to contact you in case of an emergency.

## Medical Notes / Extended Travel

Please remember to inform your teachers if you are going on an extended trip or are ill. Provide a doctor's note or dentist note if you take your child out during school hours. Pick up a travel form if you are going on an extend trip as it needs to get signed by your teachers too.

## Check out our Cafe Menu:

<https://honolulu.nutrislice.com/menu/pauoa-elementary>

## Box Top for Education

Help our school earn money \$.10 cents at a time. Check you grocery items that you may have purchased during the holiday season. Look for the Box Top Icon.. You may turn in your receipts within 14 days of purchase





*happy new year*

### *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](mailto: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](mailto:crco@notes.k12.hi.us)*