

# March 2025 Newsletter

# PAUOA ELEMENTARY

2301 Pauoa Road, Honolulu, HI 96813

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

808-587-4500



## Principal Arakaki's Message



### Upcoming Events

- 3/3 - 3/7 Diagnostic #3  
Gr. 3-5
- 3/14 - Fitness Challenge
- 3/17 - 3/21 - Spring  
Break
- 3/26 - Kuhio Day  
Holiday - NO School
- 3/28 - Quarter 3  
Recognition Assembly
- 4/2 - Q3 Report Cards
- 4/5 - Speech Festival
- 4/9 - Mae'mae Track  
Meet @ RHS (4th & 5th)

Dear Pauoa Ohana,

March madness (quarter 3 ends and spring break) is upon us already. How quickly this year has passed us by. Quarter 3 ends on March 14. Students are currently finishing diagnostic 3 on iReady for grades 3-5. Grades K-2 will be taking theirs in late April or early May. Our students and teachers are working extremely hard in the classroom and you too families are working really hard at home. I thank you very much for partnering with us. This strong partnership is showing our student's progress in learning and a bond that can never be broken. This strong partnership is so vital to our school's success. Continue to partner with us in our upcoming activities; March 7 is our Family Stem Night and March 14 is our Pauoa Fitness Challenge from 1:15-2:00 pm

Spring Break is from March 17-21. No school during this week. Please enjoy the time off with your child/children. Please do take a day or more if possible to spend with your child. Like I've mentioned before, making time for your child means the world to them. Don't regret this golden opportunity. Now that two of my girls are in college, I find myself wondering if I could only go back in time and spend more of their breaks with them. School will resume on March 24 and that marks the beginning of quarter 4. We are at the home stretch everyone. Hang on for an exciting finish to the school year.

March also marks the end of the Geographic Exception period. If you know of anyone wanting to attend Pauoa Elementary, please have the parent complete the Geographic Exception form. Also, if you know of any child that will be the age of 5 by July 31<sup>st</sup>, please have them register for Kindergarten at our school if they are in our home district. If not, the family will need to get a Geographic Exception from their home school in order to register at Pauoa.



# Principal Arakaki's Message (continued)



Lastly, come to our school community council community mtg. #2 and learn about what is currently occurring at Pauoa and what new things are in store for next school year, SY 25-26. At this meeting, you will learn about the success we have been having this school year and what the future will look like at Pauoa Elementary. You will be given the opportunity to give feedback during this process. Please use this opportunity to give your feedback on how we are doing, how we can grow and how you can help.

Stay safe everyone and have an amazing Spring Break Pauoa Ohana.

Aloha,

Dale Arakaki, Principal

“Believe to Achieve! Stand up! Be heard! Let’s excel now!”

 *Happy*   
*St. Patrick's Day!*

# Pauoa Ohana PTA



Happy March!

We hope everyone had fun at our Pauoa 'Ohana Bingo Night!! Mahalo nui to all the families who participated and supported the bake sale, either by donating food/drinks or by purchasing goodies. Thank you to everyone who donated prizes, donated to the lucky number drawing, volunteered their time, and/or helped clean up. Congratulations to all our winners!!

Third quarter is almost finished! Our keiki have one more event this quarter, the annual Pauoa Fitness Challenge on Friday, March 14.

We welcome any **4th grade parents** who might like 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.

Your Pauoa 'Ohana PTA wants to take this opportunity to send our heartfelt appreciation and aloha to Principal Arakaki. Mahalo nui loa for your visionary leadership, your unwavering commitment to Pauoa Elementary, and your heartfelt care for our keiki. While we hope to see you back next year, we wish you and our Kawananakoa 'ohana all the best this year and beyond.

Have a wonderful, happy, safe, and restful spring break!



# Shout Outs!



Thank you so much to Mr. Gareth Russell for the delicious Coco Puffs. We enjoyed it. We truly appreciate your annual visit.



Sergio Alcubilla for the La Tour Cafe macarons.

Manning & Mars Anoché & Family for the donation of the water jug. Will come in handy for the Fitness Challenge.

Arigatou! Ellie Takase-Iwami for the Tokyo Disney Choco Crunch.



Grandma Nohea for the Box Top receipts!



Thank you to the Henrick Carberto and family for the delicious assortment of Diamond Head Bakery Cookies.

# PREschool

Ms. Hezekia (D1)



# Kindergarten

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



Aloha Kindergarten Families!

We are looking forward to every member of the Pauoa Ohana for making our Fitness Challenge a memorable event! It is a great way to stay active and show your Pauoa pride! We realize how busy our families are and appreciate the continued commitment to ensure the successes of your amazing children. Thank you to all community members for the hard work everyone demonstrates daily! Mahalo to the family members that were able to come in and read to us! As we wrap up our third quarter together this month and finish our school year strong, the Kindergarten Team would like to thank everyone for their support and dedication! Keep it up Kindergartners—we are so proud of you!

The Kindergarten Team



D3 listened to a legend in Marshallese with Ms. Malolo!



Mahalo Mrs. Anoché for reading to us and teaching our grade level about bees!



Thank you Mrs. Parker for reading to us 2 cool books that we can tie into our writing!



Thank you Mrs. Takahashi for reading to us in Japanese!

# Kindergarten (Continued)



Thank you Mumu!



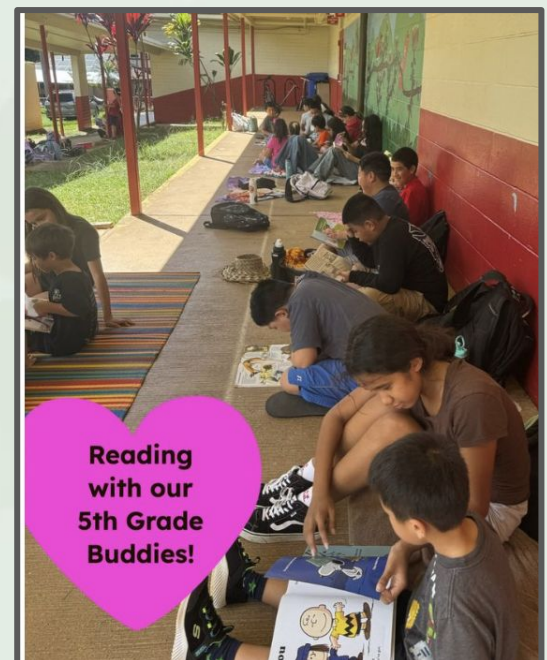
Kicking Off Read Across America Week With Grandma Nohea!



Mahalo Aunty Megan!



Mahalo Mr. Tam!



Reading with our 5th Grade Buddies!

# Kindergarten (Continued)



Mahalo Tio 'Ohana for the special visit to our class! Thank you, Mrs. Tio, for reading aloud to us in Japanese. Thank you, Jace, for translating the story in English. What a memorable experience for our class!



Mahalo Firefighter Makani for sharing some local stories with us! We loved it! Mahalo Stanley 'Ohana for the yummy popcorn!



Mahalo Caberto 'Ohana for reading a Scottish tale to our class and for the goodies! We loved seeing your kilts and observing the map of Scotland!





# Kindergarten (continued)



Reading in the dark in D3!  
Thank you Salcedo family for the  
glow sticks!



What a super BRIGHT  
experience as we  
*shined a light on*  
reading!



We swapped screens for  
green as we kicked off Read  
Across America Week with  
Reading on the Lawn!  
Special shoutout to our  
Grade 5 Buddies for reading  
aloud to our kinders!



# First GRADE



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

Aloha Families,

The third quarter is coming to an end this month and the end of the school year is just around the corner. Your children have been working so hard every day. We are so proud of all the progress they have made so far! We have been working hard practicing all the skills we are learning. Please have your child work on iReady Reading/Math, reading log, and journal writing over the break.

Thank you for your continued support and have a wonderful break!

Mahalo,  
First Grade Teachers



# First GRADE (Continued)



# Second Grade



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

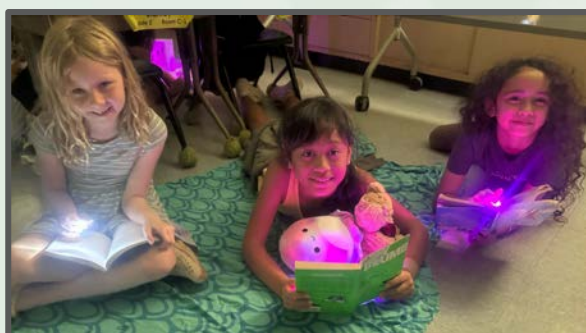
☘ Happy March, Grade 2 Families!

- 🕒 Please **be prompt every day** to maximize learning. School **starts at 8:00 a.m.** and **ends at 2:15 p.m. (Wed. 1:30 p.m.)**
- 👤 **i-Ready Diagnostic #3** will be taken in **late April/early May**. Please continue to do **i-Ready reading and math lessons** at home to prepare for our upcoming final diagnostic.
- 📖 Continue to practice **fluently adding** and **subtracting within 20** using mental strategies. (Math 2.OA.2 - **Know from memory all sums of two one-digit numbers.**)
- 😊 Quarter 3 ends on March 14th. Keep **reading daily** and continue to **work hard** to finish this year off strong!
- 🌸 **Have a fun and safe during Spring Break!** No school Mar. 17-21.

Thank you for your support at home!

Grade 2 Teachers 😊😊😊❤️

**Read Across America  
Week Photos!**



# Second Grade (Continued)

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

Read Across America Week Photos  
*Reading is FUN!!!*



# Third GRADE

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



Aloha 3rd Grade families!

And just like that...March is here! Here's what we will be working on this month. In reading, we are continuing to work with literary texts, focusing on the structure of stories, plays and poems to build understanding texts. In math we will be focusing on equivalent fractions as well as comparing fractions. Please continue to have your child practice their basic multiplication & division facts at home. We are also encouraging students to complete iReady lessons in school and at home.

As a reminder, we start our Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) preparation in quarter 4. If you have time at home, please visit the website and get acquainted with these smarter balanced assessments with your child. There are example questions for your information and usage. These practices will help your child be even more prepared for the assessment that is coming up at the end of the school year. Here is the website: [Starting Smarter](#).

Please contact your child's teacher if you have any questions. Thank you so much for supporting your child! 😊

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

Reminders:

- Last day of the quarter: Friday, March 14th
- Pauoa Fitness Challenge: Friday, March 14th
- Spring Break Week: March 17th-21st
- Prince Kuhio Day Holiday: Wednesday, March 26th

# Third GRADE (Continued)

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



## Read Across America



# Fourth GRADE



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

Aloha 4th Grade Families,

As we approach the end of the 3rd quarter, we are proud of our students' hard work and dedication. With testing on the horizon, we encourage everyone to stay focused and continue putting forth their best effort to achieve academic success.

Below are a few announcements and reminders:

## **Ready Diagnostic #3**

During the first week of March, our fourth graders will be completing their final iReady reading and math diagnostic tests for the year. Each student has set personal goals and is working toward achieving them. Please check in with your child after testing to discuss their progress and celebrate their efforts.

## **Standards Based Assessment (SBA)**

The coming months will be busy as we continue preparing for the annual Standards-Based Assessment, which begins in early May. To support your child at home, please encourage them to:

- Work toward their monthly reading goals.
- Complete Learning Logs with quality.
- Complete iReady lessons and assigned homework.
- Practice using the [Smarter Balanced Practice & Training tests](#) to familiarize themselves with the test format and navigational tools.

## **Headphones Reminder**

For the upcoming iReady and SBA tests, students will need **headphones or earbuds** for the listening portions. Please ensure your child brings a pair to school.

## **iReady Homework Expectations**

We have set new iReady homework expectations for both reading and math, with a goal for all students to reach **Level E by the end of April**. Students currently in Levels A-D are encouraged to go beyond the minimum requirement to accelerate their progress.

Thank you for your hard work and ongoing partnership at home.

Ms. Chung, Mrs. Oliveira (substitute for Mrs. Chanhboursy), and Ms. Takesue



# Fourth GRADE (Continued)

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



# Fourth GRADE

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



## Read Across America Week



# Fifth GRADE



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

Aloha 5th grade families,

Woo Hoo!! The 5th graders have completed the first round of NGSS (Science) state testing. Everyone tried their best and will get another chance to improve their scores in early April. In addition, the Hawaii State Assessment (SBA) in Reading and Math will begin late-April. The third and final i-Ready diagnostic is right around the corner.

Please be sure to encourage your child to remain steadfast with their learning mindset, completing all classwork and homework assignments with quality, and continue to have a positive attitude. The teachers are striving to prepare students to be independent in their academic skills, work habits, and actively engaged in their learning. This is essential for achieving success as they transition into middle school. Please have a safe and restful Spring Break. Let's be ready to return to school rejuvenated in order to endure the challenges during the fourth quarter.

Mahalo,

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

## Read Across America



# Fifth GRADE (Continued)



Enjoying  
reading with  
our buddies!!



# FSC Teacher



Ms. Shigematsu (FSC, B-1)



# Resource Teachers

Mrs. Lum (Grades K-2, B2)



# Resource Teachers



Ms. Oyama (Grades 3-5, B7)

Aloha B7 Families,

Our class is continuing their narrative writing about fairy tales. Students continue to build reading fluency, use OG phonics sounds in reading and spelling, and work on morphology. In math, we are learning about multiplying fractions, word problems, and building our fact fluency with math games.

Before we end quarter 3, our students will also be taking the iReady Diagnostic. We hope to see more goal getters in this next diagnostic!

Some reminders~

- Please make sure spelling homework is completed daily.
- Bring a water bottle and necessary supplies to class.
- Come to class ready to learn with a positive attitude!

Mahalo,  
Ms. Oyama

# Specials Teachers



## BUILDING FUTURE INNOVATORS WITH LEGO SPIKE ROBOTICS



Here at Pauoa Elementary, we have been teaching coding to our 2nd and 3rd graders using LEGO SPIKE robotics, giving students an exciting hands-on experience in STEM learning. Through designing, building, and programming their own robotic creations, students develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills while exploring key concepts in coding, engineering, and mathematics. This interactive approach allows them to break down challenges, experiment with different solutions, and see their code come to life —making learning both engaging and meaningful.

Beyond technical skills, working with LEGO SPIKE fosters collaboration, creativity, and perseverance. Students work in teams to brainstorm, test, and refine their ideas, learning the importance of communication and teamwork. As they troubleshoot and improve their designs, they build confidence and resilience—skills that will benefit them far beyond the classroom. By introducing robotics and coding at an early age, we are preparing our students for the future, equipping them with the knowledge and mindset needed to succeed in a world increasingly shaped by technology.



Mr. Sutherland - Computer Science Teacher



Pauoa Elementary Ho'ike Performance  
Friday, May 23 at 9:00 am  
More information coming soon!

# Title 1/ Curriculum Coordinator



Mrs. Nakamura (Front Office)

Happy March everyone,

A last reminder for the **School Quality Survey, SQS**. (If you were at Bingo Night last week, you already know about the following.)

We are at a 53% family return rate right now. This is puzzling because many of you turned in the blue half-sheet to enter into the drawing for prizes. So I am thinking 1 of 2 things: 1. Parents haven't taken the survey yet, or 2. Only 1 survey was filled out even though there are multiple children at Pauoa.

If you need to take the survey, the link/QR code is below. If you have more than 1 child at Pauoa, an SQS needs to be completed for each child. For example, if I have a 4th grader and a 2nd grader, I will need to fill out 2 surveys; I will fill out 1 survey with my 4th grader in mind **and** I will fill out a second survey with my 2nd grader in mind.

We need you to take the survey; please take some time to voice your thoughts.

- 1 survey per child at Pauoa.
- Feedback is anonymous.
- The questions cover topics such as the safety and well-being of your child and your satisfaction and your involvement/engagement with the school.
- Hard copies of the survey are available in the front office.

Here is the link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2025SQSParent>

Or, here is the QR code:



The **deadline** for the survey is **March 12, 2025**.

Thank you for your support!

## **Dates of interest:**

After School Programs and Tutoring

- March 7 - Last day for Session 3
- March 10 - Session 4 registration opens
- March 14 - Session 4 registration forms due
- March 25 - Session 4 confirmation and waitlist letters go home
- March 31 - May 16 - Session 4

Take care and be safe,

Mrs. Nakamura

[lisa.nakamura@k12.hi.us](mailto:lisa.nakamura@k12.hi.us)



# Health Aide

Mrs. Ladines (Front Office)



Did you know that every time you frown, it takes a minute off of your life?  
Did you know that a pessimistic attitude can wreak havoc on your health, and people have a greater chance of passing away from coronary heart disease?

Did you know that smiling floods your body with plenty of positive emotions?  
Did you know that making a daily gratitude list can boost your mood?

Try being OPTIMISTIC and taking a moment each day (morning/day/evening/night) to reflect and write down at least three positive reasons that you're grateful for.

Find ways to end on a high note and prolong your life!

# EL Coordinator

Mrs. Newton (D9)



## English Language Learners

WIDA ACCESS testing has been completed. Test results will be available around first or second week of May. I will share the test results with you before the end of the school year.

## Parent Involvement

The Pauoa Fitness Challenge 2025 is just around the corner! If you're interested in volunteering, please [Click Here](#). Only parent volunteers will have the opportunity to watch the event. Don't miss out, sign up to be part of the action!

# Front Office



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

## **Kindergarten Registration ongoing**

Kindergarten Registration started on Feb. 1st. Do you have a sibling or someone who lives in the district that will turn age 5 by July 31, 2025? If you reside in the Pauoa district you may begin to register for Kindergarten beginning February 1, 2025. If you live outside of our district, please make sure to follow the GE process and submit to your home school between (Jan 02 - March 01, 2025). \*\*Add'l Kinder info may be found at: <http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org/ParentsAndStudents/GradeLevelOverview/Kindergarten/Pages/home.aspx>

## Box Top for Education

Keep it up. Every little bit helps! Mahalo for making our school a better place 10 cents at a time!

\*\* Remember to scan your Box Top receipts within 14 days of purchase. \*\*



## *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)*