

JANUARY 2026

Newsletter

PAUOA ELEMENTARY

2301 Pauoa Road, Honolulu, HI 96813

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

808-587-4500

Principal Hosoda's Message



Upcoming Events

- 1/05 - Teacher Workday
- 1/07 - PTC 2nd request sent home
- 1/08 - Gr. K Keiki & Plow
- 01/12 - 2/27 - WIDA ACCESS Testing Window
- 1/12 - ASP & AST Session 3 begins
- 1/14 - Quarter 2 report cards sent home
- 1/15 - Movie Night
- 1/16 - Pauoa Waiver PD Day #3
- 1/19 - MLK Day Holiday
- 1/22 - Royal Hawaiian Band
- 1/30 - Gr. 3 Kualoa Ranch Keike Challenge

Happy New Year! Hope you had a restful and wonderful winter break filled with quality time and lasting memories with your family.

As we reflect on 2025, we are incredibly excited to turn the page and look forward to the great things 2026 has in store for our school community.

As our students transition back for the second semester, our classrooms are already filled with energy and excitement. Students are picking up right where they left off, channeling the momentum they built during the second quarter into new challenges and deeper learning. Our teachers and staff are dedicated to ensuring this transition is smooth and that every student feels supported as they dive back into their studies.

Beyond the classroom, the second half of the year promises to be a vibrant time for our school culture. There will be many opportunities for you to engage and collaborate with us: Movie Night (sponsored by the PTA), English Language Arts Parent Night, Ho'ike, Ho'omau and more.

We are grateful for your continued partnership in making this school year a success. Let's make 2026 our best year yet!

Pauoa Ohana PTA

Aloha e Pauoa 'Ohana! Hau'oli Makahiki Hou!

It's 2026 and the start of a new semester! We hope everyone had a happy, restful, and rejuvenating winter break.

Mahalo nui to everyone who joined us or picked up food at our McDonald's McTeacher Night fundraiser in December. What a fun night! Thank you to the teachers and parents who volunteered, helping deliver orders and keeping the tables and area clean. Thanks also to Dillingham McDonald's for the opportunity.

We have some fun activities coming up for our Pauoa 'Ohana including a movie night, bingo night, and our annual Fitness Challenge for the keiki. First up is our January Movie Night.

A Minecraft Movie

Thursday, January 15, 5:30-7:30 pm

Pauoa Cafeteria

Bentos for those who bought presale. Free popcorn.

Snacks, drinks, and Dippin' Dots available for purchase (bring cash).

Bring blankets to sit on



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

Please email PauoaOhanaPTA@gmail.com if you have any questions.



McTeacher's Night



Thank
You

MAHALO

Thank
You

To All the wonderful families for all the goodies!
SO MANY SWEETS, that we will all need to go on
a diet for 2026! You are the best!

- Ellie Takase Iwami - Chi Chi Dango
- Jaden Onuma - Japanese Cookies
- Emma & Liam Takai - Fresh Ulu & Cassava Chips
- Kailer Ige - Homemade Brownies
- Mars Anoché - Merci Chocolates
- Declan Fiesta - Huff N Puff Furikake Arare Delights
- Naia Quinto - Diamond Bakery Xmas Cookies
- A+ Box of Chocolates, Coco Puffs & Mochi Donuts
- Carmello Robinson - Danish Cookies
- Sheldon Leung - Cran Panettone & Linder Chocolates
- Mahina Kekoa - Homemade M&M Cookies
- Remy Oberes - Strawberry French Cookies
- Joyia & Joshua Takahashi - Strawberry Baumkuchen
- Florenza, Isao, & Kasper Rafail - Dubai Chocolates
- Lara Cody - Speculoos Cookies
- Zollie Thorpe - Chex Mix & Pretzels
- Sitka Lee - Pizza for Kinder class + Office
- Cody Matsukawa - Xmas Shortbread Cookies
- Kekai & Kalai Lees - Homemade Baked Cookies
- Saraphina James - Crabby Patty Gummies
- Ellie & Bella Bishai - Kusmi Wellness Tea

Kindergarten

Ms. Cambra (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!



First Grade

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

Happy New Year First Grade Families! 🎉

Welcome back to school in 2026! We hope that you had a joyous holiday season filled with good health, blessings and relaxation!

This month, we will be diving into our informational writing. In math, we will be focusing on numbers using base ten and balancing equations.

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



Second Grade

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

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

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

Please **continue reading for 15 minutes daily.** Reading fluency and comprehension are important skills that 2nd graders need to be proficient in.

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

Let's focus, work hard and have a great year in 2026!

Grade 2 Teachers

Pauoa Express Spirit Week 2025



Third Grade

Mrs. Wong (D6), Mrs. Chanhboursy (D7), Mrs. Lau (D8)

Aloha 3rd Grade Families!

Welcome Back to School! Happy New Year! 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 continue to 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 2026! Please contact your child's teacher if you have any questions.

Thank you so much! ☺

Mrs. Wong (D6), Mrs. Chanhboursy(D7) & Mrs. Lau (D8)

Important Dates

- Specials on the following days: Thursday 1/8/26, Tuesday 1/20/26, Wednesday 1/28/26
- Friday, January 16th - No School - Waiver Day
- Monday, January 19th - No School Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
- Friday, 1/30/26 - Grade level off campus field trip to Kualoa Ranch

Third Grade

Mrs. Wong (D6), Mrs. Chanhboury (D7), Mrs. Lau (D8)



Fourth Grade

Ms. Chung (B8), Ms. Takesue (B10)

Aloha Parents,

Welcome back to Quarter 3, and Happy New Year! We hope everyone had a refreshing winter break filled with special moments shared with family and friends. It has been a joy to see students return with bright smiles and enthusiasm.

As we start the second semester, we appreciate your help in supporting your child as they rebuild strong daily routines:

- **iReady/IXL:** Please help ensure your child completes their iReady & IXL assignments regularly to maintain steady progress.
- **Backpack:** Support your child in keeping their backpack and homework folder neat and organized for easy access to school materials.
- **Planner:** We are grateful for your assistance in checking homework and signing your child's planner each day.
- **Multiplication Facts Practice:** Please continue motivating your child to strengthen their multiplication facts (1-10). Below are some engaging practice options at home:
 - www.multiplication.com
 - Math Drills Lite app
 - Multiplication war

Mahalo for your ongoing support and partnership. We look forward to a positive and successful semester ahead!

-Ms. Takesue and Ms. Chung

Fourth Grade

Ms. Chung (B8), Ms. Takesue (B10)



Fourth Grade

Ms. Chung (B8), Ms. Takesue (B10)



Fifth Grade

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

Happy New Year! Welcome to 2026! 🎉

We hope you all enjoyed spending time with your family and friends.

The 5th graders are the new graduates of Pauoa's D.A.R.E program!! Officer Pratt taught the students many strategies when dealing with social and emotional issues. The students will benefit greatly as they transition into middle school. Thank you Officer Pratt for your many years of service and dedication to our community.

Congratulations to the DARE essay contest winners, Mason Imoke (C8), Anna Nguyen (C9), and Isabella Matautia (C10)! These students wrote about how they will use the skills they learned in DARE to help them make good decisions now and in the future.

Our 5th grade students attended an orientation at Kawanānakoā Middle School in early December. The students were exposed to a life as a middle schooler. We got to visit classrooms, learn about KMS's wheel options, listened to the band and orchestra, watched a K-Pop club perform, and saw some familiar faces and siblings. Even Principal Arakaki came to say "Hi"!! Middle School Registration has begun. Please contact your projected home school even if you plan on submitting a Geographic Exception to another school.

Second semester Parent/Teacher conference is scheduled for February 4th. You will be notified if a parent/teacher conference is requested, please confirm and return the form to your child's teacher as soon as possible.

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 in advance for your support.

Your Fifth Grade Team,
Ms. Zeng, Mrs. Takahashi, Ms. Shigezawa

Fifth Grade

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



Fifth Grade

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



Resource Department

Ms. Hezekia (D1), Ms. Shigematsu (B1), Ms. Oyama (B7) Ms. Sinchak (C1), Ms. Yamasaki (D9)



Student Supports

Stephanie Nguyen (Student Services Coordinator) and Darin Uetake (Counselor)

Nā Hopena A‘o (HĀ)

Strengthened Sense of
Excellence:

‘A‘ohe ‘ulu e loa‘a i ka pōkole o ka lou *
(There is no success without preparation)

I believe I can succeed in school and life and am inspired to care about the quality of my work. A sense of Excellence is demonstrated by a love of learning and the pursuit of skills, knowledge and behaviors to reach my potential. I am able to take intellectual risks and strive beyond what is expected.

- a. Define success in a meaningful way
- b. Know and apply unique gifts and abilities to a purpose
- c. Prioritize and manage time and energy well
- d. Take initiative without being asked
- e. Explore many areas of interests and initiate new ideas
- f. Utilize creativity and imagination to problem-solve and innovate
- g. See failure as an opportunity to learn well
- h. Assess and make improvements to produce quality work

Parents/Caregivers: Reflect on a - h with your keiki

- What are your areas of strength?
- Where can you improve?
- How are your home values of Excellence and school values of Excellence similar and different?

SPECIALS

Physical Education (P.E.) - Mr. Asuncion

Happy
New Year!

Computer Science - Mr. Sutherland

In our computer science classes, students will be learning to code through LEGO SPIKE Robotics in ways that reflect our school's theme of laulima, or working together. As students build and program their robots, they collaborate to plan steps in the correct order, repeat actions, and make decisions using simple "if-then" thinking. No robot is built or programmed alone. Students share ideas, listen to one another, and combine their strengths to solve problems. Through this process, students learn that success in computer science comes from cooperation as much as creativity.



Robotics also teaches important values such as kuleana, or responsibility, and perseverance. When a robot does not work as expected, students take responsibility for improving their design, testing new ideas, and trying again. They learn that mistakes are part of learning and that progress comes through patience and effort. By practicing laulima in the classroom, students grow not only as coders, but as thoughtful and confident learners who understand that working together helps everyone succeed and reflects aloha in action.

SPECIALS

Hawaiian Studies - Kumu Imada



Friday, May 22, 2025
9:00 am on the Big Field
Ho'ike performance

WORKING TOGETHER



Laulima no Pauoa
FOR PAUOA

Our School, Our Students, Our Community

Our school's theme this year is "working together to make Pauoa an even better place."

In Hawaiian Studies, students are learning the concepts of *Laulima no Pauoa* (working together for Pauoa) and how helping our community can be beneficial for everyone even beyond our beautiful Pauoa valley.

The Ho'ike performance will showcase the students' learning within Hawaiian Studies in connection with *Laulima*. Each grade level is learning a topic that is similar or related to their performance song/dance.

We will share more details soon and ways you can support our students with their performances.



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! Coming back from a long break is a difficult transition for some. 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 and maybe even weeks, but hang in there! Consistency is your friend!

Here is some important information to start off the new year:

Second round of Parent-Teacher conferences

- If a second conference is necessary, your child's teacher sent home a Request Form on Jan. 7 for you to fill out. Please be sure to fill it out and return it right away.
- Conferences will be held on Wednesday, February 4.

School Quality Survey, SQS

- A letter with directions was sent home on January 7.
- 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! (This means 1 survey per child!) 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.
- Again, 1 survey is needed for each child at Pauoa.
- Please fill out the pink 1/2 sheet once you complete the survey. You will be entered in a drawing for a fabulous prize!

Session 3 after school tutoring and programs

- Starts the week of January 12 and ends on March 6.
- A confirmation letter was sent home on Dec. 17 for those that filled out a registration form. Waitlist letters were sent via email using the address listed on the registration form.
- 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.
- Registration for classes provided by an outside vendor is still open!

Report cards

- Will be sent home on Wednesday, January 14. If you have any questions or concerns about your child, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher.

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)

It's a new year... new energy... new motives... new goals.

Please continue to communicate any health situations to your child's homeroom/SPED teachers to serve you and your 'ohana.

May 2026 be a year of new blessings and positive vibes for you! 



EL/ML Coordinator

Mrs. Newton (Library)

Multilingual Learners

Here's to fresh start in the New Year!

I hope you had a joyful holiday season. As we welcome the new year, we want to remind you that the ACCESS for ELLs testing window will take place from **January 12th through February 27th.**

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.

Parent Involvement

Movie Night

Join us on January 15th from 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm for a fun family movie night! We're looking forward to a great evening together. We hope to see you there!

Front Office

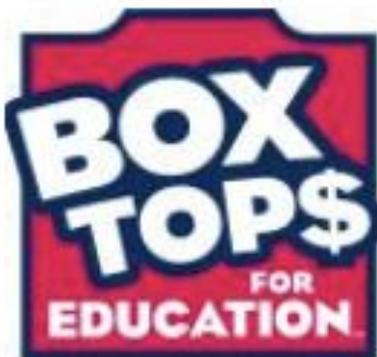
Mrs. Oshiro, Mrs. Tanoue, Mrs. Fraga-lino, Mrs. Ramirez

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.

GEOGRAPHIC EXCEPTION SY 2026 - 2027

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.) Outgoing 5th Grade students - please apply for a NEW GE for Gr. 6 if you are not planning to go attend your home school. Submit your request to Pauoa. GE applications for the next school year shall be submitted between January 1, 2026 - March 1, 2026 to facilitate a decision before the end of the school year. You DO NOT need to re-apply for GE once you are accepted at Pauoa. 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



BOX TOP for EDUCATION

Please visit <https://www.boxtops4education.com> Box Top have gone digital! Download the Box Top for Education App from the app store and scan your receipts within 14 days from purchase. It's quick and easy Front Office

LOST & FOUND

Please label all your personal items such as jackets, hats, and hydro flasks etc with the student's name so we can return them to their rightful owners. STICKERS are NOT labels as we can't identify who to return lost items to. During office hours we will leave the items outside our office on the cart. Unclaimed items will be discarded after a period of time.

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