



Friday August 28, 2020

Important Upcoming Dates

Date	Time	Event
Monday September 7th	No School	Labor Day

Aloha Parents & Guardians,

We have completed our first two weeks of school, and things have settled into a regular rhythm with daily lessons being presented to the grades classes. Each class has its own arrangement on when and how instruction is presented to its students. It is wonderful to see the magic and miracle of learning taking place again even though this is having to take place remotely at this time.

School Year Theme and Goals

Every year the faculty begins the school year a week prior to the first day of school in a training and orientation time we call "Summer Institute." This year's Summer Institute was very productive. We met for half of each day engaging in team-building activities, going over such things as the staff handbook (the teachers performed dramatic and humorous skits on various policies and procedures), and engaging in professional development. A highlight of the five days of the Summer Institute was identifying our goals and the schoolwide theme of the year.

Theme for the Year: Weaving Connection. This theme arose from the image of our new Hawaiian Cultural Practices Program, and how this will both teach our students how to weave, such as in learning how to make knots, work with hau cordage, and weave lau hala, and also will weave the rich culture of Hawaii into our Kona Pacific community again. This weaving image is joined with our strong desire to stay deeply connected with all members of our KPPCS ohana during these challenging times when our connection often has to be of a remote nature.



Educational / Pedagogical Goals. Our first and foremost educational goal this year is the development of what is known as our **RTI (Response to Intervention) Program**. This might more accurately be called our “Response to Instruction” or “Response to the Learning Process” program, in that through RTI we determine how well our students have responded to (learned) what they have been taught, and then we provide small group and possibly 1-on-1 instruction for students who need extra help in mastering any given academic skill. RTI, by whatever name it’s called, is essential to any school, and we look forward to our RTI program being robust and effective. Our second pedagogical goal this year will either be writing or the fundamentals of reading.

Schoolwide Non-Pedagogical Goals. The Faculty / Team’s first and foremost non-educational goal this year is the development of what is known as our **Outreach Team**, which is an umbrella group that will oversee four crucial functions in our school: grant writing, fundraising, marketing, and managing the receiving of gifts from parents, extended family members, friends, and community members. If you would like to help us in one or more of these four areas, please contact Phil at philc@kppcs.org. The second non-pedagogical schoolwide goal of the Faculty / Team is the development of our **School Guiding Documents Committee**, which reviews all of our school guiding documents and makes recommendations for revisions, where needed, to the appropriate decision-making team or person. If you would like to join us in this important process, please let Phil or a member of the Leadership Committee know.

Breakfast & Lunch Program

Just a note that our Nutrition Program Coordinator, Finance Committee, and Governing Board are working on getting our Breakfast and Lunch Program started this year as soon as possible. In preparation for this, we ask that all families who have an overdue balance from last year please pay these balances as soon as possible. Our school budget is very tight this year due to state funding cuts that are a result of the COVID-19 crisis, and every dollar counts even more so than normal. Thanks for your help in resolving these overdue balances. Please contact our



Finance Manager, Edie Lupien, to arrange a payment plan if this would help. We will announce the start of our Breakfast and Lunch Program as soon as all details have been worked out.

From Our 1st Grade Teacher, Mr. Jamie Coulter

Sparkle Stories: your key to an enriching experience that “babysits” without the need for the dreaded screen! I can’t tell you how much I recommend this app full of amazing audio stories! Created and told by Waldorf teacher David Sewell-McCann, Sparkle Stories offer several concurrent story lines to choose from whenever you want. I’ve subscribed for years at \$15/month and all of my kids have enjoyed them, even the older ones. Even me! My favorite is the Junkyard Tales about a bunch of animals who live quietly in a junkyard “where everyone looks after each other.” The characters are charming and unique.

We can make a bulk order for only \$4/family/month for a six month subscription which gets access to everything they have: hundreds, if not thousands, of hours of stories. Or \$5/month/family for 3 months. That’s a 66% discount. It will serve your whole family well. **Let me know at jamiec@kppcs.org if you’d like to participate in this special offer, and I’ll get the school to invoice you.** When the money is collected, the order will be placed and you’ll get a discount code.

Sparkle Stories will potentially decrease screen time, fill the house with a “Waldorf sensibility,” increase vocabulary, teach community-minded values such as compassion, etc., and can be filtered for particular pedagogical needs such as anxiety, courage, etc.

CHROMEBOOK ROLLOUT

We have had a successful week distributing Chromebooks to students in need and still have a few more if your family has technological needs. Please contact David at davidd@kppcs.org if your family is in need of technology. The HDOE has launched



the 'Ohana Help Desk' to support students and families with distant learning. You can reach the help desk at 808-643-3375 Monday through Friday from 7am-8pm or online 24/7 at ohanahelpdesk.org for self-service support and information.

Thank You's

There are too many people to thank individually as we look back on these first two weeks of school, and the three weeks of preparation leading up to our first day of school. All members of our wonderful Kona Pacific Team always give 100% to help our students and community thrive. However, some recent efforts should be noted:

- Our campus is sparkling, thanks to the hard work of our Campus Steward, Uncle Shane, supported by the campus readiness team that formed after Summer Institute ended and leading up to the first day of school.
- Each team of teachers (Kindergarten, Grade 1, etc.) has worked diligently, some over the many weeks of summer, to prepare their classrooms for the new year of learning adventures, and these spaces are simply beautiful.
- Our school bulletin board on the Office wall facing the Piko is glowing, thanks to the imagination and efforts of our Receptionist, Falcia White.
- Uncle David has sat at the table in front of the Office every school day so far, first making sure everyone was checked in for their materials pick up the first week, and this week making sure the distribution of Chromebooks went smoothly.
- Our student records are organized and in good order after the biggest rush of the year thanks to the tireless work of our Student Records Coordinator, Jen Brant.
- In spite of significant financial challenges facing the school due to how the pandemic is impacting state funding, our financial dynamic duo, Julie and Edie, with the support of the Finance Committee, continue to steer us into safe waters.
- The teachers and their assistants, including Aunties Jackie and Cheyenne, and Uncle David, are making learning come alive for their students in spite of our challenges, which is the reason we are all engaged in Kona Pacific.
- Parents, thank you for patiently working with us as we work out the details of how to meet your child's and family's needs during this unusual time.



Mahalo to everyone!

IMPORTANT EMAIL ADDRESSES FOR PARENTS

Here is a list of commonly requested email addresses for KPPCS:

- Phil Centers, Executive Director - philc@kppcs.org
- Leadership Council - leadershipcouncil@kppcs.org
- Governing Board - gb@kppcs.org
- Student Records/Jen Brant - students@kppcs.org
- Nutrition Program Coordinator/Melissa Miller - nutrition@kppcs.org
- Receptionist/Falicia White - reception@kppcs.org; office@kppcs.org
- Human Resources/Edie Lupien - hr@kppcs.org