

# THE SCHOOL NEWS

## 1 WAIALUA

### St. Michael School

Our school is bursting with pride as we celebrate the outstanding achievements of our very own **Madilyn Coker**. "Maddy" demonstrated unparalleled brilliance and dedication in this year's science fair, soaring to new heights at both the district and state levels as her project earned her the prestigious first-place position in her division at the state level. Congratulations, Maddy! ... This year marks another milestone as we bade farewell to **three exceptional seniors**. For the third consecutive year, our high school celebrates a 100% graduation rate, with each graduate poised to continue their educational journey at esteemed institutions. They have been accepted at 12 colleges in Hawaii, California and beyond. Congrats seniors! ... Our hearts are filled with gratitude for the spectacular 80th anniversary **Gala Night** at the Hawaii Okinawa Center April 19. It was a vibrant celebration of our community's spirit and the dedication to our school's mission. The gala showcased the diverse talents of our students, from musical performances to the awarding of scholarships, all underscored by the unforgettable humor of local comedian **Frank De Lima**. Mahalo to the more than 350 people who joined us and contributed to making the event a resounding success! Students **Mariah Carter** (grade 11) and **Kamuela Dabaluz** (grade 12) were the emcees for the event, which began with an oli by pastoral assistant **Joshua Kapika** and an invocation by **Bishop Larry Silva**. The entertainment also featured the Waialua group **Jubilation**. The evening included various presentations and awards including the St. Michael School Award to **Paul Ladao Jr.**, the recently retired maintenance supervisor who worked at the church and school for over 27 years. Concluding the festivities was a performance by the students highlighting hits from the '80s. St. Michael School was established in February 1944 by the **Congregation of the Sacred Hearts**. It remains the only Catholic school on the North Shore of Oahu, serving students preschool through high school. Pictured are students performing at the gala. (Reported by Dallas Carter Jr.)



## 2 WAIALAE-KAHALA

### Mary, Star of the Sea School

Our school's **Class of 1974** gathered on the weekend of May 3 to commemorate its 50th anniversary of graduation. Members toured the school, attended the **East Honolulu Food Festival** fundraiser, and enjoyed a special welcoming Mass by **Father Junvic**. Alumnae shared stories, with some traveling from far away and others joining virtually. The event was filled with laughter and good memories. Some reminisced about the cost of tuition back then, which was \$350, and recalled how some of the girls had to work to help their family. (Reported by Lorena Vogeler)

## 3 HONOLULU

### Maryknoll School

The **seniors** were grateful to host **Bishop Larry Silva** at our annual **Bagels with the Bishop** event. His presence and shared wisdom were truly inspiring. He reminded our soon-to-be graduates as they go out into the world that having a relationship with Christ is important. No matter what kind of suffering we go through, if we trust in Jesus there is hope! Pictured from left, **Kainoa Salazar**, **Hayley Smith**, **Bishop Silva**, **Te'a Uemura**, **Kaniala Woo**. (Reported by Lori A.K. Carlos)

## 4 KAILUA

### St. Anthony School

The first two weeks of May were a whirlwind of excitement as students, teachers and parents celebrated two cherished events: **May Day and Field**

**Day**. These schoolwide festivities, filled with joy and camaraderie, showcased the spirit of perseverance and teamwork. The dedicated May Day Committee — **Tiana Estabilio**, **Shawna-lei Smith**, **Claire Shannon**, **Kathy Johnson** and **Erin Studt** — orchestrated the celebrations under the leadership of **Kepa Stern** and **Desiree Tupou**. The day included a reverent May crowning of the statue of the Blessed Mother, adorning her with leis from each class and singing "My Hawaiian Madonna." With the theme "Huaka'i Imua Me Ka Ho'omanawanui, Our Journey Forward with Perseverance," May Day continued the long-standing tradition of honoring our Hawaiian culture and heritage. "Our students and teachers worked hard to put together wonderful performances that showcase what Hawaii is all about, the beauty and the people that call these islands home," reflected Mr. Stern on the vibrant displays of talent and cultural pride. Following May Day, Field Day on May 8 allowed students to demonstrate teamwork and individual physical prowess. The school took a spirited walk to Kailua District Park, where an array of activities awaited. Led by PE teacher **Mr. Rayson Romero** and supported by teachers, staff, parents, and volunteers from **Marine Corps Air Station Kaneohe Bay**, students eagerly participated in various events. "It was heartwarming to see everyone

come together and enjoy the day," said Mr. Romero. The day concluded with lunch provided by the Student Council and PTSG, featuring delicious fare from **Bob's Pizza**. Administrators treated everyone to popsicles before the sweet finale, the highly anticipated teachers versus the eighth grade kickball game. The eighth graders emerged victorious while the teachers are already gearing up for a rematch next year. As the school year winds down, the school remains committed to fostering a supportive and vibrant community where traditions are honored and achievements are celebrated, ensuring that every student's journey forward is filled with joy and fulfillment. (Reported by Bernie Camuso)

## 5 HONOLULU

### Saint Louis School

On March 15, students from **Kumu Kawika's Hui** classes and **Mr. Akeo's Indigenous Science Class** ventured to East Oahu to investigate topics concerning **Waihee Valley** including hydrology, geology, conservation, moolelo, native/invasive species management, water quality, water quantity, public access and community engagement. The students participated in a service-learning project and were allowed special access inside the 1,500-foot dike tunnel that provides fresh drinking water to Windward Oahu, from Kahaluu to Kailua.

Nearby is a swimming area, once a small bathing pool but since enlarged by concrete abutments, referred to by local youths as stone pond or ice pond. Mahalo to our hosts, **Honolulu Board of Water Supply** and the **Koolau Mountain Watershed Partnership**, for sharing their time and 'ike with us. Thank you to Kumu Kawika, Mr. Akeo and **Mr. Los Banos** for their support in offering this special opportunity for our gentlemen! ... Congratulations to seven **sixth graders** who received awards for their poems about peace for the **Martin Luther King Jr. Peace Poem Contest**. Honolulu Deputy Manager Director **Krishna Jayaram** and president of the United Nations Association-Honolulu **Joanne Tachibana** presented awards to **Ryder Kekua**, **Cruz Moniz**, **Cody Santos**, **Devyn Cole Baldeviso**, **Aukahi Patoc**, **Hialoa Ilae-Paik** and **Julian Brown**. Hialoa was recognized for his poem written in olelo Hawaii. Aukahi Patoc was awarded the grand prize. (Reported by Nada Ashraf)

## 6 HONOLULU

### Holy Family Academy

We recently honored our **eighth graders** during a school Mass celebrating their graduation. We pray that God provides them a sense of purpose in their next steps and shows them how to serve others during their high school experiences. A special mahalo to the

parents of our eighth grade class for choosing Holy Family to provide a Catholic education for their children. As educators, we are humbled to serve each family and contribute to our student's academic and faith journeys. We also offer **Father Rheo Ofalsa** a bittersweet aloha as he will soon depart Holy Family to serve at **St. Jude Church** in Kapolei. Mahalo, Father Rheo, for your thoughtful guidance, steadfast leadership and clutch dodgeball skills. (Reported by Julia Hudson)

## 7 KEKAHA

### St. Theresa School

Here on Kauai, we take the school learning expectation of being "called to be stewards of the land and to care for God's Creation" to a whole new level. Nestled serenely along the pristine shores of Kekaha, our school stands as a testament to both natural beauty and untapped potential. Positioned on an unobstructed beachfront, the school has embraced its destiny as an **ocean guardian institution**. Spearheaded by the visionary leadership of **Kumu Shantel Santiago**, the seventh-grade **Hawaiian civics class** has embarked on an unprecedented journey. With resolute determination, these students have claimed the title of the world's first inaugural **Middle School Ocean Guardian Youth Ambassador** classroom in the United States and its territories. This not only underscores their commitment as stewards of the sea but also establishes them as pioneers in global environmental leadership, granting them unparalleled access to the wealth of resources offered by NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration), empowering them to delve deeper into marine ecosystems while cultivating essential skills in leadership, project management and civic engagement. Beyond the confines of the classroom, these ambassadors of change transcend boundaries, catalyzing tangible, lasting impact within their community and beyond. Backed by the NOAA staff and fueled by boundless enthusiasm, these young guardians are poised to make waves, leaving an indelible mark on ocean conservation. **The NOAA Ocean Guardian Youth Ambassador Program** presents an extraordinary opportunity for youthful leaders ages 13-18 to spearhead transformative initiatives within their local communities. With only 250 students selected annually in the nation, this program represents a beacon of hope for the future of our oceans. (Reported by Wendy Castillo)

## 8 KAILUA

### St. John Vianney School

Our school sponsored a booth at the **1 Love Kailua Town Party** on April 28. Volunteers from the **School Board**, the **Parent-Teacher-Student-Hui**, principal **Caryn DeMello** and pastor **Father Vincent Vu** greeted people who stopped by the booth. They distributed 100 bags with our school's name and a brochure inside with school information. It was a wonderful way to showcase our school to the Kailua community. ... On **National Principal Appreciation Day**, May 1, we showed Mrs. DeMello how much we appreciate her. We are so grateful that our Lord sent her to lead and guide us. She shows us daily how powerful the gift of love and compassion is. We appreciate everything she does to make our school such a wonderful place! ... We joyfully celebrated May Day on Friday, May 3, with songs and hula honoring Hawaiian island culture. The event took place in our beautifully decorated parish hall; the **Royal Court** was absolutely stunning. It was a wonderful and magnificent celebration. ... May 31, will be the last day of school. We wish our students and staff an enjoyable summer break and look forward to their return next school year. We anticipate another very successful year and look forward to welcoming many new students. (Reported by Earl Walker)

EDITOR'S CHOICE