

Ka Lau

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LCPCS Students Attend International Conference in Japan



Front, L to R: Royce Baun, Philip Navalta, Ariana Kayla Jabilona, Irish Marzan, Marriene Jabilona. Back row (waving): Gabriel Navalta

Last spring, LCPCS got an unusual but exciting call from the Japanese consulate in Honolulu. LCPCS had been chosen to represent the United States at a summit for high school students in Japan in celebration of World Tsunami Awareness Day. Six students were selected to attend, and they, along with LCPCS secondary teacher Todd Otake, flew to Okinawa, Japan on November 4. The summit, sponsored by the United Nations Office of Disaster Risk Reduction and several Japanese governmental agencies, was intended to help students become leaders in the field of disaster risk reduction. Some 250 students from 25 countries attended the summit, according to the summit webpage. The attendees shared information about the

effect of tsunamis on their own communities. Many were from island nations that are, like Hawai'i, particularly vulnerable to earthquakes and tsunamis.

For their presentation, the six LCPCS students discussed the 1946 and 1960 tsunamis that resulted in a terrible loss of life here on Hawai'i Island, and summarized an action plan incorporating what they've learned from these disasters and how to best inform future generations. They also shared what it's been like to grow up in Hawai'i, and played ukulele for the other conference attendees. "During the Summit I learned more about natural disasters, how to prepare for them, and how to take action in them through the presentations from other students," writes LCPCS junior Ariana Jabilona. "I'm thankful that this program was created to educate students about tsunamis and make them leaders to educate their own communities on what they learned. Japan was really beautiful and the people there were so kind. I enjoyed trying new foods and I had a really good time getting to meet and make friends with students from all over the world."



Philip Navalta, Todd Otake and Gabriel Navalta with Yaeyama High School students in Okinawa

Mr. Otake felt that the experience increased the students' self confidence. "Being at a conference with over 200 students from 26 different countries could be very intimidating. Each school sent their best students, and our students found that they were no different from them. Their presentation was great, and they showed they could compete globally," wrote Mr. Otake when asked about the experience.

Middle-school Science Team Wins National Award



Our Erosion Project (Group Eleven)

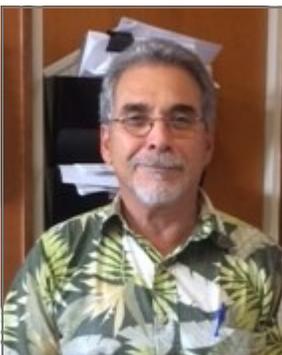
LCPCS is very proud to announce that a team of middle school science students won a national engineering contest! Teams were asked to design and test a model that reduced local topsoil erosion as part of a Project Based Learning curriculum. Students studied how Hāmākua soil is formed and ultimately lost as a result of the sugarcane and eucalyptus monocultures; learned how different native species are affected by various land management practices; researched various geoen지니어ing methods to reduce erosion; calculated budget proposals; and then built a functioning model of their design from actual Hāmākua honua and recycled materials.

Congratulations to eighth-graders Rowan Chhay, Ela Kowardy, Audrey Mills and Gerlyn Torres, who competed against teams from around the country, and won a 3D printer and Visa Gift Certificate for the school, as well as recognition in the American Farm Bureau Foundation's quarterly press release next

month. "All 15 of the teams from our school put a lot of hard work, creativity, and ingenuity into their projects, and showed just how gifted our Seasideers truly are!" said middle school science teacher Aaron Mickelson, who submitted the middle school projects to the national contest.

"Out of the night that covers me, black as the pit from pole to pole, I thank whatever gods may be for my unconquerable soul....It matters not how strait the gate, how charged with punishments the scroll, I am the master of my fate: I am the captain of my soul." Invictus by William Ernest Henley, 1875

Seasider Spotlight



Del De Los Santos

School business managers tend to keep a low profile, but the importance of the position can hardly be overstated. LCPCS was sorry to lose Gerry DelGado to Parker School in September, but welcomes Refugio De Los Santos to the position. Mr. De Los Santos, who goes by Del, grew up in Texas, and joined the marines at 18. He was stationed at Kāneʻohe Bay, and has lived in Hawaiʻi ever since.

Mr. De Los Santos has worked for 26 years in a variety of East Hawaiʻi non-profit organizations, LCPCS being the seventh. He has been married for 42 years, and has two sons and three grandchildren. He says he goes fishing a lot, not because he likes it particularly, but because his wife loves it. Key to such a successful marriage, perhaps!