

# Ka Lau

December 13, 2019

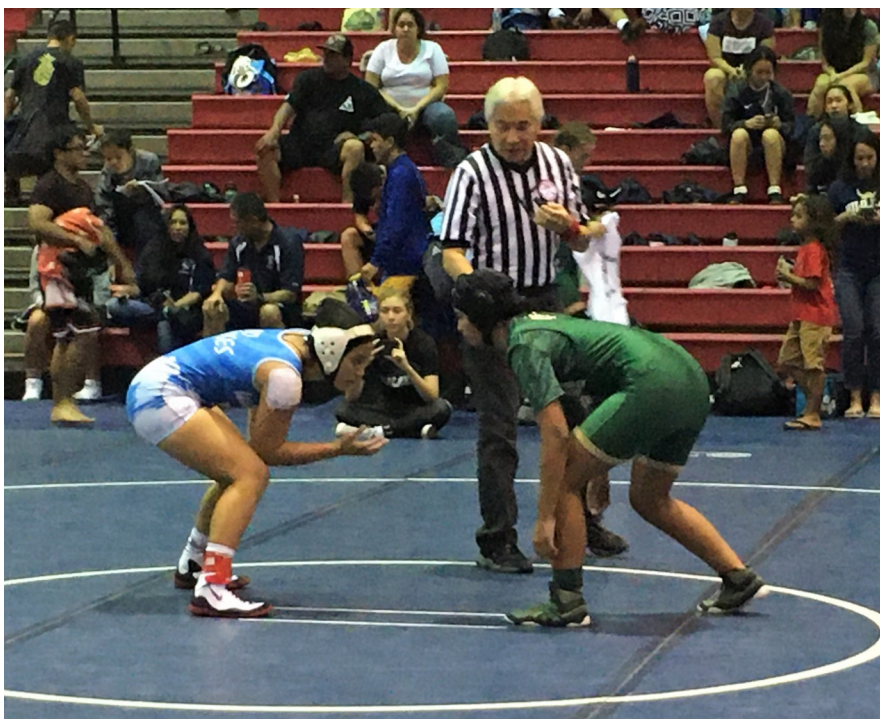
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## New Athletic Coordinator Focuses on Commitment, Life Lessons

LCPCS Athletic Coordinator Wally Wong is currently concentrating on building the student commitment necessary to maintain a vibrant sports program. Since arriving in August, he has worked with the students to get a feel for interest and dedication. Now he is bringing in a variety of coaches, including, so far, a strengthening and conditioning coach, a couple of wrestling coaches, a JV boys' basketball coach, and a paddling coach. After a hiccup which is leaving LCPCS out of Big Island Interscholastic Federation (BIIF) games this year, Mr. Wong is focusing on non-BIIF sports opportunities, or, in the case of wrestling, facilitating a partnership between LCPCS and Honoka'a.

So far, four or five kids are lined up for paddling, and, because it takes six to fill a boat, he's working them toward one-man (or woman) competition. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays the kids will focus on "land conditioning," and Tuesdays and Thursdays they'll head to Hilo Bay for training and possibly races promoted through the Hawai'i Island Paddlesports Association.



*Sophomore Jaselyn Mahoe-Subica (in green) wrestling last weekend in a BIIF tournament in Kea'au.*

The basketball players can still participate in pre- and post-season BIIF games, so Mr. Wong intends to fit them into those games as possible. He is also organizing a JV boys' B-ball tournament, to be held at LCPCS on December 20. As an entrance fee, teams are asked to bring one canned good per player for donation to the Hawai'i Island Foodbasket. All gate proceeds will also go to the Foodbasket.

Both girls and boys are wrestling, and so that they can participate in BIIF tournaments, they are wrestling in conjunction with Honoka'a. It's a little confusing, but Mr. Wong's got it all figured out!

Plus, get this. Mr. Wong also oversees an *esports* team! Computer games are now a Hawai'i High School Athletic Association-sponsored sport. LCPCS has a full team of five, with three alternates, ready to test their wits against other Hawai'i teams on the battlefields of *League of Legends*.

And furthermore, Mr. Wong is bringing in a series of speakers (or athletes) for the benefit of the entire school population. In September, a member of the Taylor Hooton Foundation spoke to students about the dangers of performance enhancing drugs, and in October the UH Hilo Vulcans men's basketball team did a clinic open to all kids, eight to seventeen, living between Pa'auilo and Honomū.

"The main thing I'm trying to do is have our coaches help to build a sense of honor, respect and teamwork that will help the kids in athletics and the classroom, and kind of guide their lives," said Mr. Wong recently. He's looking to build commitment, not just to the teams, but to the school and community as well.

## Coming Up

December 17, 9:00 am in the LCPCS gym: **Elementary Dance Performance.**

The end-product of a 10-week dance program offered to LCPCS elementary students by Prince Dance Institute of Waimea, by virtue of a grant obtained from the Hawai'i State Foundation on Culture and the Arts by 2nd-grade teacher Savin Knoblauch. Community members invited.

December 18 – 20: **Schoolwide Makahiki games.** Students will compete in the hukipapa, hukihuki, 'ulu maika, kōnane, kukini (50 yards for pre-K to 5; 100 yards for grades 6-12), pōhaku ho'oikaika and others. On the 20th, 'ike Hawai'i and Hawaiian psychology students will share some oli and hula with their classmates. Each class will present biodegradable lei and food to the 'āina and kai in gratitude for the gifts of the earth. **Students will be released at 12:30 on Friday.**

December 20, 2:30, LCPCS Gymnasium: **JV Boys' Basketball Tournament.** Admission will be one canned good or \$4 for adults, and \$1 for students.



*Second-graders practice for their December 17 performance.*

## Director's Corner

Happy Holidays LCPCS Community!

As many of you know, and the rest will learn in this newsletter, Wally Wong has already made a huge impact on our campus as Athletic Coordinator. Considering the challenges that athletics have faced in recent years, we are thrilled to have Wally walk through our door. He, in combination with our new Physical Education teacher, Dharma Shay, have made such a difference for us. One of the areas that I have been most impressed with Wally has been his gift for working with the community to find coaches and donations.

On the subject of donations, we are very excited to be near the release of our updated website. With it will hopefully come better campus communication, more up-to-date and reliable calendars, and an even more streamlined method of fundraising. Our new website comes on the heels of the release of our new fundraising app, *Myschoolwallet*. If you haven't downloaded it yet, please do so on either the [AppStore](#) or [PlayStore](#). It will make it so much easier to make donations or campus purchases right from your phone. Many of you have already made generous donations. Thank you for your continued support of LCPCS. Go Seasideers!

## Seasider Spotlight

Sixth grade teacher Autumn Encinas-Domingcil grew up in California's Central Valley, and came to Hawai'i to attend UH-Hilo and play on its softball team. A lover of outdoor sports, she surfs, swims, paddles and camps. Ms. Encinas-Domingcil comes from a large family (five sisters and four brothers), and says she values family relationships above all. Her welcoming classroom also reflects her love of Hawaiian culture, which she says is part of what drew her to LCPCS after four years of teaching in Kea'au. Welcome, Ms. Encinas-Domingcil!



*Autumn Encinas-Domingcil descending a cliff recently. (?!)*