

# Ka Lau

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## Students Take Ownership

Over the last several weeks, five enterprising LCPCS sophomores put together an informal survey of their secondary classmates to gauge the level of enthusiasm for their on-line curriculum, GradPoint, in comparison with traditional or project-based teaching methods. In a letter to the Leadership Team and to the Governing Board, the students, while recognizing the value of GradPoint, wished to point out that an exclusively on-line curriculum is neither in keeping with the school's stated mission, nor a popular option for many students.



L to R: Sophomores Trixie Hilario, Destiny Nobriga, Gabrielle Glascock and Gabriel Navalta. Not pictured: Royce Baun

According to LCPCS Director Mike Okoye, "The students approached us about this, and we encouraged them to conduct the survey and put together a proposal/presentation for the Board. I initially believed I needed to work with them to polish their submission, but I wound up very impressed with what I read. I consider this a big step for our kids, and I'm very proud of them for articulating their feelings in such a thoughtful way."

Mr. Okoye and Leadership Team member Liana Honda pointed out that due to the combination of GradPoint, the new disciplinary policy, and the SEL curriculum, behavioral referrals have dropped substantially, the honor roll numbers have increased (they doubled in the second quarter), and "the atmosphere on campus is much more conducive to learning." However, they essentially agree with the students.

"To get to the heart of the matter, there is ample evidence that GradPoint has been effective this year, but it is not a long-term solution by itself. Paki's, and now the Leadership Team's, plan has always been to use GradPoint as the sole curriculum for this year only," said Mr. Okoye. "In fact," he continued, "the team has already laid out expectations for our teachers next year which include a drastic reduction in the use of GradPoint. The goal is to find the right balance between providing the students an exciting learning experience while meeting the various needs of our population."

Isn't it nice to know that the students and the leadership team are on the same page (so to speak...!)?

## Seasiders Assist with Hilo Mural

Next time you drive alongside the back of HPM, you won't miss an enormous mural facing the Edith Kanakaole Stadium. At the end of March, LCPCS sixth-graders and a couple of students from other grades helped out with this very special, and very large, project. O'ahu muralist Estria Mayashiro, and founder of the Mele Murals community art movement, welcomed assistance from the Laupāhoehoe students and also those of UHH's Hawaiian Studies Program. LCPCS is even recognized in the signage! Tenth-grader Shyla Nobriga's thoughts on the mural's meaning were quoted in the *Hawaii Tribune Herald*. There's a link to the article on the school website, [www.lcpcs.org](http://www.lcpcs.org).



The completed mural last week.

Jeneshia Nacnac (9th grade) and Shyla Nobriga (10th grade) working on the Mele Mural.



## Calendar

- Tuesday, April 26, 2016, 5:30 pm – Governing Board Meeting
- Friday, April 29 – pre-k to Spencer Beach Park
- Wednesday, May 4 – May Day, gym

## Hui Makua Focuses on Secondary School

On April 13, secondary families and assorted school staff met at a Hui Makua to focus on our middle and high schools, discussing future direction, and the role that parents might play. Organizer and teacher Kaulana Smith shared some of her experiences with the successful parent group at a Kaua'i charter school where she used to teach. Those present discussed the role of a parent group, ways to involve greater numbers of parents, school traditions and school spirit, and decided to pursue holding a before-school celebration, next July, of our fifth year as a charter school. The next Hui Makua for secondary parents (and any others who wish to participate) will be held on May 25, from 5:00 to 6:00 pm, in the LCPCS teaching kitchen.

## Heads Up! School Renovation Scheduled to begin May 27

A large school renovation project will begin the day after school closes this spring. In order to allow workers the access they need, teachers from pre-K to 12th grade will have to pack and move the contents of their rooms to summer-time storage. Parents and others may be asked to help with this gigantic task. If can, can. The teachers would most certainly appreciate it!

## Seasider Spotlight



*Terilyn Equihua-Sanchez (above) and Malia Philips (right)*



This week's spotlight focuses on the many dedicated and energetic volunteers who have put aside one afternoon a week to lead an enrichment class. Just look at this impressive list! (And envision your own name on the list next year!!) Mahalo to these folks for going the extra mile.

Katraessa Adamson (community) – hip hop • Lorraine Almeida-Leha (teacher) – mindful play • Alize Asato (student) – hula • Jenny Bach (staff) – gardening and drama • Drusi Callen (staff) – Imagine Learning Program • Stephanie Dawson (community) – culinary • Terilyn Equihua-Sanchez (parent) – volleyball, cooking • Jonathan Kane (staff) – flag football • Jessica Kaneakua (staff) – games, basketball clinic • CC Kent (community) – Lego Club and computer skills • Mike Leitch (community) – disc golf • Jesse Navalta (staff) – flag football, ensemble (music) • Erica Pacheco (parent) – T-ball • Malia Philips (community) – jewelry making • Jennifer Prince and Rachel Bell (staff) – soccer • Polet Rincon and Mela Mather (staff) – Art Attack! field games • Mellisa Schaud (parent) – pool games at personal pool • Kurtis Sherer (teacher) – weight training • Kaulana Smith (teacher) – Interact Club • Naomi Smith (teacher) – gardening • Candice Tan (community) – computer skills • Jo Wilkins (parent) – baseball, coach pitch