

HAKIPU`U ACADEMY

Kāne`ohe, Hawai`i

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Aloha mai kākou,

Food Glorious Food!

This letter is all about FOOD! Charter School's are always fighting for funding. We are actively working to bring a lunch option to our school. However, with health codes, funding, and lunch management, it is extremely difficult to get this program off the ground. However, it is important that our students are fed. Having a full belly can benefit students in so many ways. By far, it is the greatest distraction for everyone, adults too. I know when I'm hungry, or as my wife likes to say, I have the "hangry's" -- I know how difficult it is to concentrate on an empty stomach. Can you relate?

Currently, we do not have a lunch program. Through generous donations from community, faculty, and staff we've been able to have on-site, some bread, peanut butter, and jelly. Please note, this is only for emergency situations when a student forgets their lunch. However, so many children are now coming to school without lunch. I do not think it is sustainable to be feeding our students with donation food and if abused the donations could go away.

Following Thanksgiving break, if a student is missing lunch we will continue to do our best to feed them. However, we will be calling parents to let them know that this service was used and if they can please remember to send them with a lunch in the future. This phone call is such a disservice to our office staff. Please help us by remembering to send your child with lunch, and if possible a light snack too.

If you are sending your child with money to buy lunch, please note that options to purchase lunch during the school day are not available unless specified by a special occasion. We've noticed that students save their money to purchase lunch after school. This is too long for them to eat between meals. Until a lunch program is developed, we require that parents send lunch with their children daily.

Drugs, Violence, and Gangs!

When I was in High School back in the late 80's and you had a problem with someone, you'd meet at Pali Lanes, a bowling alley where Genki Sushi is now located in Windward City Shopping Center. Sure, each kid would rough the other up until you were both too tired to lift your arms... then they'd say something like, "you okay?" and then hug it out. I don't bring this story up to condone fighting.

However, I wanted to illustrate that today, things may seem worse, and maybe they are, more so, we live in a very different time from our childhood.

Our children live in a society with instant communication, information, and access. Today, access to drugs, the variety of drugs, violence, virtual violence, anonymous violence, and the need to feel acceptance can come in many different forms. Last week our faculty and staff received training from Blueline Solutions Hawaii who did a presentation on Drugs/Vaping and Cyber Awareness. They were so knowledgeable and helped us to understand the world our students are living in. After hearing their presentations I realized that we shouldn't live in fear because we grew up differently. We also need to accept that our students are facing challenges that we've never experienced. We can never truly empathize with them. In this, we must continue to be patient, have them teach us about their world, and exhort humility to ask the questions without retaliation. In this, students will feel safe to open up and move the conversation to a place of safety and healing.

Although our world continues to change there is an anchor standard that will never change, LOVE! We must always strive to do things out of love. Love allows us to do the hard things. Love helps us to listen instead of speaking. Love helps us when we speak, to say what is needed to be heard. Love gives us the ability to forgive others and ourselves. Love heals. Above all, we are all capable of showing love to others -- especially our children.

Na'u me ka ha'aha'a,



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