

# HAKIPU`U ACADEMY

## Kāne`ohe, Hawai`i

\*\*\*\*\*

Micah K. Hirokawa M.Ed.  
Po`o Kula, Head of School  
(808) 235-9155  
mhirokawa@hakupuu.org

December 12, 2019

Mele Kalikimaka,

### Dates and times to remember:

- Next Wednesday, the 18th, **Regular Dismissal at 2:45 p.m.** - All school offsite learning day (Lo`i and Teambuilding Activities on campus) Healthy snack donations welcomed for this day. Please call the office for more information.
- Next Thursday, the 19th, **Early Dismissal at 1:15 p.m.** - Awards Assembly 9 - 10:30 a.m. followed by campus clean up for the remainder of the day.
- Next Friday, the 20th, LAST DAY OF SCHOOL, **Half Day, Dismissal at 11:30 a.m.** - 9 a.m. Christmas Caroling at Aloha Care Home.

### Bullying and Cellphones

When I was in the 7th grade a girl by the name of Nicole gave me a note folded into a heart that had a tab that said, "pull here." In this note, she told me that she wanted to be my girlfriend and if I agreed, to check the box that said, "yes." I then gave the note to her best friend who passed it along. From that point on we held hands in the stairwell and everyone knew we were going steady. The hardest part about having a relationship in the 80's was that both Nicole and I had to coordinate our schedules so that each of us was home at the same time to visit on the phone. To make things worse, living in such a large family you never knew who was listening on the other line.

Today our students don't have that problem... they have cellphones! These cellphones keep our children safe, they are little computers, that can connect the world in an instance. However, despite the many wonderful things that cellphones provide they can also be very dangerous. The ability to record, take things out of context or even show location to dangerous eyes -- putting both identity and privacy in jeopardy. Cellphones can be used as a tool and at the same time a weapon.

My number one goal and mission at our school is to end all bullying at all costs. I have grown to love and appreciate each and every child at our school. However, it is important that there is a no-tolerance stance against treating others unkindly. This standard will be held not only to students, but to parents, faculty, and staff. We as an administration are committed to following policy and procedures and to do what is right for each student. We acknowledge that there will be students who are not the best fit for our community and hope that we can do all we can to help them change their actions -- within the purview of the law.

Recently we have had multiple cases of improper use of cellphones. Today, these devices can cost up to \$500 or more. In this, we are not able to take on the liability connected in collecting all the phones on a daily basis. We have now initiated a cellphone ban. Students at no time are allowed to have their phones out in view from 7:45 a.m. - 2:45 p.m. (Wednesday 1:15 p.m.). If a student needs to make a call or if a message needs to be referred to a student please use the office at (808) 235-9155. If a faculty or staff sees a student phone in use or not in use, it WILL be confiscated. We ask that only an adult affiliated with this student retrieve their phone. Each confiscation will result in a phone call home from the office.

We ask that if a student falls victim to bullying that they reach out to either a teacher or an administrator. If they are fearful of retaliation, we ask that they tell a parent. Then, as the parent please report this to the school by way of an email. The more we put light on this problem, the closer we'll move towards a solution. There is too much hate in this world. We must take a stand in the name of kindness. We must Kapu Aloha.

Please take the time to enjoy your family this season and into the new year. Look for moments to turn off the screens in our lives. Be deliberate in finding time to have long, in-depth conversations with your children -- make sure to ask questions, be slow to speak, and quick to listen. Find times that are inconvenient to you and make the sacrifice to play with your child even if they are 17 years old and have forgotten what play is. Give your family the opportunity to serve others during this time of year.

Na'u me ka ha'aha'a,



Micah K. Hirokawa M.Ed.  
Po'o Kula, Head of School

---

HAKIPU'U ACADEMY - HLC PCS  
45-720 Kea'ahala Road  
Kāne'ohe, Hawaii 96744