Aloha mai kākou e nā `ohana!

Welcome to the 2013-2014 school year! Blessed sums up the first day of school. As we all welcomed the new school year with oli, pule and mele, I was reminded of the blessings the new school year brings. These are blessings of new beginnings, new friendships, new adventures and new opportunities. The bright smiles and eyes filled with joy remind all of us of the wonder and hope each student brings to school daily.

I encourage each and every one of you to be a part of this exciting journey with your keiki. Spend time daily reflecting on the school day with your keiki. Get involved; there will be many opportunities along the way, please join us. Most importantly, love on your keiki daily. Build them up with words of encouragement and praise. Everyday is an opportunity for them to demonstrate how they mālama their classmates and `ohana, make pono choices and fulfill their kuleana.

Best wishes for a year where our haumana continue to thrive.

Me ke aloha pumehana,

Esther Kanehailua

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QR Codes in the Classroom

QR stands for “quick response”. QR codes are used to access anything web-based. You may have seen or used QR codes for products or advertisements (such as Jamba Juice). Did you know that you can use QR codes in the classroom as well? Our kumu are integrating QR codes in their curriculum.

To scan a QR code, you need a QR reader app. The free app that we are using in school is called I-NIGMA and is available for iOS and Android devices.

Download the I-NIGMA app and scan the QR code below which will take you directly to our blogsite. You will have other opportunities to use your QR reader in this issue of Nā Pōkiʻiʻi.
**Absences, Leaves & Tardiness**

Last year, Dr. Stender, our po’o kula (headmaster), convened an attendance task force to create a K-12 attendance policy. As a result, a new attendance policy has been implemented for this 2013-14 school year. Highlights include:

- A new attendance philosophy
- Guidelines for absences due to illness or injury
- Absences due to medical appointments
- Absences eligible to be excused for non-school related activities
  - Up to 3 days per year (specific guidelines outlined in policy)
  - Approval via a School Leave Eligibility Form (on our blog site)
- Excessive absence or tardiness
- Attendance probation for absences of 7+ in trimester or 12+ in a year
- Attendance probation for 10+ tardies in a trimester (12+ per year)

Access the handbook by scanning the QR code.

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**Dress Code**

As always, we value the tradition of our kula by expecting students to meet the dress and appearance standards that are outlined in our handbook. Please use your mobile device QR code reader to access a video outlining our guidelines.

Important tips to remember:

- Shoe, socks and outerwear colors – **white, black, navy blue, gray or royal blue** (same shade as royal blue polo shirts)
- Socks must be visible
- Belts for grades 1-5, must be navy blue or black (no grommets or studs).
- Outerwear must be plain or with approved Kamehameha logo (found in the school store).
- Aloha attire should be island themed aloha wear. Jeans may be worn with aloha shirt.
- Hair is neatly groomed. No unconventional haircuts or coloring.
- Special events attire include white polo shirt, uniform skirt for girls, uniform pants for boys.

Guidelines for the dress code can be found in the parent student handbook (on our blog).

If, at any time, you have questions, please email our vice principal at lihonda@ksbe.edu.

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**Yearbook Picture Taking Day - Thursday, August 15th**

On Thursday, August 15th, we will be holding our yearbook picture taking day. These individual photos of our students will be used in our yearbook which is published and distributed at the end of the school year.

Parents will receive an envelope from Life Touch. You are not required to purchase photos. Please complete the form and make sure to send it back to school with your child by August 15th.

Third grade PTO parent representative, Charmie Bence, will be on hand all day as a volunteer help get the keiki ready to take their pictures.

Girls - Make sure hair is brushed and neat. Uniform shirt, shorts, socks and shoes as required.

Boys - Make sure hair is combed and neat. Uniform shirt, shorts, socks and shoes as required.

All - bring your best smile that day and always!
August Testing

Each August, students in grades 1-5 take the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) or Measures of Academic Progress – Primary (MAP-Primary) assessment. This test is designed to inform teachers about the current math and/or reading skills of their students so that they can purposefully plan and instruct. The testing window is from August 12-22. A letter will be sent home to parents with your child’s testing date.

Results of the tests will be shared with parents during the student led conferences in November. As always, we view this test as just one of many indicators of ability.

In order to prepare your child for testing, please be certain that he or she has the opportunity to have a full night’s sleep and a healthy breakfast in the morning. Remember that breakfast is served daily in Hā‘eamahi Dining Hall. Thank you for supporting your child in bringing his or her best thinking on the test days!

Bus Evacuation Drill - Tuesday, August 27, 2013

Safety of your child is our primary concern here at kula ha‘aha’a. We will be having our Bus Evacuation Drill for all students and staff on Tuesday, August 27th. All of our students ride the bus at some point in time either to and from school or on field trips.

As students and staff will be exiting an actual bus as part of the drill, we have decided to make it a JEANS DAY!

- Students may wear LONG jeans with uniform shirts/shoes on that day.
- No torn, ragged or jeans with holes allowed. No capris or cargo pants.
- OK to wear uniform shirt untucked/belt not required.

Should you have any questions or concerns, contact Kumu Marcie at 982-0268 or email her at masauquin@ksbe.edu.

Birthday Book Program

The Charles Reed Bishop Learning Center is offering you a special opportunity to celebrate your child’s birthday. This program allows you to celebrate your child’s birthday in a special way while helping our library collection grow. Participation in this program is voluntary and it involves a $10.00 gift donation per book (one book per child).

The birthday book program participation has doubled since its inception in 2008. Our families see and embrace the value of reading, celebration and kahiau!

Visit Kumu Kanani DeSa’s blogsite at http://blogs.ksbe.edu/shdesa to find out more about our Birthday Book Program.
First Day of School

I maikaʻi ke kalo i ka ʻohā

“The taro is fine because of its keiki”