
Fwd: Letter from the Head of School 8_20_17

1 message

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August 20, 2017

Dear Parents,

Here we go! It has been a busy summer with many programs, events and projects. Here are a few stories to help get things rolling.

Congratulations Girls Varsity Volleyball

For the first time in the history of the school, our girls varsity volleyball team has won both the Ann Kang Volleyball Invitational and the Hawaii Volleyball Invitational. I don't have a lot of details about the Hawaii Invitational other than what I've seen on Facebook and Instagram. Yesterday, the girls defeated Kamehameha 27-25 and 25-17 for the championship.

Regarding the Ann Kang Volleyball Invitational, this was the first time Iolani was champion in the tournament's history.

Coach Kainoa Obrey summarized the team's performance: "We definitely grew as a team throughout the tournament. We took a BIG step towards becoming One Team. Our overall engagement level increased as we played each match. We have a few girls playing in new and/or expanded roles this season. We are learning to play with each other, so we were fortunate to play many high level teams throughout the Ann Kang Invitational so we can work to discover this team's identity. The team is extremely happy and proud of what they accomplished together. Leaders emerged and collectively we are moving in a positive direction. We continue to be driven to be the best team we can be. Winning the Ann Kang Invitational is a great Preseason Tournament win.







On a side note - the team is currently ranked #3 in the nation according to Prepvolleyball.com, which says a lot about how the Ann Kang Invitational is recognized nationally. We are grateful for the recognition."

ʻIolani went 7-0 in Pool Play, 9-0 Overall
Semifinal v Long Beach Poly (W, 23-25, 25-15, 15-11)
Final v Oak Ridge (W, 25-18, 21-25, 15-9)
MOP/All Tournament Team - Saige Kaahaaina-Torres '18
All-Tournament team - Elena Oglivie '20

Our girls open ILH play on Thursday, Aug. 31, in the Lower Gym vs. Maryknoll at 6 p.m. Go Raiders!

Congratulations to our Global Natural History Day Teams

Two teams from ʻIolani Lower School competed in the GNHD Global Finals on July 22, 2017 in Chongqing, China. The students were invited to compete against 106 teams representing 11 countries spanning across Southeast Asia including Thailand, Myanmar and Cambodia.

Winning a gold medal, Chase Graham '24 and Ellis Honma '24 researched and presented their project on the effects of Mercury and Selenium on the environment, humans and the economy. Silver medalists Bethany Burke '23 and Baylee Goeas-Galadeira '23 shared their research about the importance of Kalo in Hawaiian culture, how the nutrients in soil affect Kalo, which in turn impact the health of humans.

Participating in the GNHD Global Finals not only piqued students' curiosity of science, but also broadened their view of pressing environmental issues. Students came away with a renewed commitment to research, learn from others, and take action to tackle the problems of the world.

Meeting and interacting with students from all over Southeast Asia was a highlight of the trip! Students, parents, and teacher mentors exclaimed that making friends from Cambodia and Macau enlivened every bus ride and lunch gathering. Seeing students from 11 countries singing and dancing together on stage during the evening of cultural sharing was unforgettable!

GNHD would not be possible without the dedicated support of the students' parents, Lower School science teachers Kathe Warner and Jami Muranaka, and Robin Dyrenborg and Robin Hiraki who mentored a total of nine Lower School teams that competed in the statewide competition before qualifying for the Global Finals.



'Iolani School One Team delegation



Evening of Cultural Sharing – Chongqing, China



2017 GNHD International Participants



'Iolani Dramatic Players attend the Fringe Festival

In August, 40 'Iolani students (grades 8 - 12) traveled to New York City and onto Edinburgh, Scotland to perform at the largest arts festival in the world. In New York, students enjoyed two Broadway productions, a workshop with a Broadway performer, dinner with five cast members from Broadway's Miss Saigon, as well as Central Park, the Museum of Natural History, a tour of NBC Studios, and the 911 Memorial and Museum.





In Edinburgh, students in the musical revue *We All Have Songs* received 3 and 4 star reviews from professional critics. Students who performed in *1000 Cranes* played to sold out audiences and are being considered for the Peace and Freedom Award from Amnesty International.







Students were accompanied by numerous parents as well as Mr. Pease, Ms. Christine Yasunaga, and Mr. and Mrs. Duval, who served as chaperones.

Marching Band in full gear

As soon as school was out this summer, the band started its work, preparing for its fall season. Our process began with student leaders attending an all-day retreat aimed at strengthening relationships and building trust.



Members of the band also attended regular conditioning sessions throughout the summer in order to prepare for the physical demands of hustling around a football field while maintaining proper breath support in order to play their instruments. The students quickly dubbed these workout sessions "Body by Dayao," and included cardio, core, and strength training.



The student leaders also received an introduction to ballet positions and basic techniques in order to be able to teach them to the rest of the band members. The goal is to start incorporating more movement and choreography into performances. Our guest instructor was Molly Hardin, who flew in from the Big Island. Molly is a veteran of the professional circuit who recently relocated to Hawaii with her husband, who is also active in the professional circuit and does freelance drill design for our marching band.



Toward the end of the summer, things kicked into high gear, as the band held its band camp at Hawaii Preparatory Academy on the Big Island, getting to work memorizing music and learning field positions and choreography.



Also hard at work were 'Iolani teachers Ms. Erin Nagoshi (math department) and Ms. Jessi Saylor (science) '06, who shared their marching band expertise with the students. Also staffing were alums Rachel Kasashima '15, Sydnee Halcro '14, Nick Nagata '14, and Sean Mitchell '12.



Then in the second to last week before school resumed, the band began construction on its sets and props with the help of Mr. Loren Johnson (father of drum major Kathryn Johnson '18), and Mr. Cyrus Won '70.



Father Bray Classic

The varsity football season began on Aug. 12 with a non-league game against Hilo at Eddie Hamada Field. Our Raiders lost to the defending Division I Big Island champions, 62-35, but played with heart and One Team spirit.



They'll be back in action on Saturday in the 54th Annual Father Bray Memorial Football Classic against Kaimuki. Kickoff at Eddie Hamada Field is set for 3 p.m. The afternoon will also feature a halftime performance by the 'Iolani Marching Band and Dance Team. Proceeds from ticket sales benefit the Father Bray Scholarship Fund. See you there! Go Raiders!

All the best in health and happiness,
Tim

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