

Fwd: Letter from the Head of School 2_11_18 Pt 1

1 message

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February 11, 2018

Dear Parents,

Friday Founder's Day Chapel

This past Friday, the entire school gathered in the Lower Gym for our annual Founders' Day Chapel. Distinguished guests included members of Father Stone's family, former Stone Scholars, Bishop Fitzpatrick, and members of the Royal Societies.

Our time together opened with these words: *"This morning we take time together to give thanks to God and our founders for this school. We break open the story of our history, and of the many people who have shaped this institution to be what it is today. We ask God to bless us as we offer ho'okupu to our King and Queen, and as we seek on a daily basis to embody in our studies, our words and our deeds the values they have imparted to us."*

Joined by the Royal Societies and Bishop Fitzpatrick, members of the 'Iolani 'ohana, representing administration, faculty and staff, Upper School, and Lower School, offered ho'okupu on behalf of our school community.



Hālau 'Iolani offered hula, and our reading from 1 Corinthians 13 was offered in both Hawaiian, by Hemakanamakamaeonālani Nihipali '20, and English, by Ava Andaya '24.





Together, we all welcomed the family of the Rev. Albert H. Stone, heralded former Head of School and author of our Alma Mater. During his tenure, Father Stone hired Father Bray, and the two of them together began our athletics program. The Stone Scholars program was named and established in his honor, and countless students have been given the gift of an 'Iolani education. Started in 1965 by Headmaster McLean, the Stone Scholarship supports the full four-year 'Iolani experience for up to 24 incoming freshmen who demonstrate strong academic promise, well-roundedness, and strength of character.

Here is an excerpt from the head of school's introduction of Donald Stone:

"This is our third Founders' Day. We are still at the beginning of instilling this as a tradition at our school. I imagine for quite a few of you, this chapel remains a new idea with a "what's this all about?" question with regard to Founders' Day Chapel. For the foreseeable future, therefore, on this day I will make it a point to answer the question of "why?" we've started this tradition of Founders Day.

There are a few important facts about 'Iolani that we should all know. We were founded by the Hawaiian Royal family. In 1862, opening in 1863, by King Kamehameha IV and his wife Queen Emma. They did this after returning from a trip to England where they went to follow up on promises made by the explorer George Vancouver. What was promised to them was medicine, religion and education. This vision has grown into is Queens Hospital, The Episcopal Church in Hawaii and a girls and boys school – the St. Andrews Schools and 'Iolani. We have a founding that we must honor.

And, we also have a strong and unique school culture. When I say culture, I specifically mean the values that are shared, expressed and reinforced within our community. Our school culture has values that compel us to express of gratitude for the opportunities we are given -- this is part of One Team. You, the 'Iolani student body achieve great things at this school and our school culture has us do this with humility. And, what I mean by humility is that we are always aware of the fact that others helped create our achievement and we are thankful for this in all that we do.

We remember, therefore, how King Kamehameha IV and Queen Emma, though the highest ranking chiefs in the land, went door to door to raise money for the institutions they wished to create to help their community. And, we remember Father Bray who reminded students that there is no star on a team. The running back who does really well, only does so because of all other players who helped create the situation for the running back to succeed. We are grateful for countless people of the past and present who have created the opportunities of today's 'Iolani School. This is our school culture,

ʻIolani culture -- it is part of One Team

Today, we are honoring the Reverend Albert Stone or Father Stone. Father Stone wrote our Alma Mater. He is credited with starting the path of our school as a College Preparatory School. He hired Father Bray and together they created an Athletics program at ʻIolani. Father Stone's reach is long in terms of the ʻIolani we know today and today is the day on which we all formally express our gratitude for his contribution to our school and our lives. "

Father Stone's grandson, Donald Stone, spoke to us of his grandfather's life, and of his discovery of his grandfather's deep love and respect for ʻIolani. Given that Father Stone was born in Denton, Texas, Donald Stone made us all honorary Texans by having us greet him by saying, "Aloha, All Y'all!!" We were blessed by his sharing of story, and the Stone family presence with us.



We concluded our Chapel with prayer and a blessing from Bishop Fitzpatrick, and then, as One Team, with the poetry of Father Stone lifted in song:

We will stand strong and with proud hearts salute thee;

Love stands supreme, our faith shall not move.

[Here is a video of the chapel ceremony.](#)

After the assembly, a select group of hula students visited Mauna ʻAla, the Royal Mausoleum, and The Queen's Medical Center for additional ceremonies honoring our Ali'i.



End part 1 -- this week there was so much going on that it is a 2-part story

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