

Fwd: Letter from the Head of School 3_18_18

1 message

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Dear Parents,

Please enjoy the break!

March 14 National School Walkout

On Wednesday, March 14, students and faculty were invited to join the [National School Walkout](#) by leaving their classrooms at 10 AM to join their fellow students, school administration, chaplains and teachers in the central courtyard. Led by Upper School students, a 17 -minute ceremony honored the 17 students and teachers who died at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. Many students and faculty attended to stand in solidarity with their peers across the nation who are speaking out, to engage in peaceful assembly, and to advocate for legislation that makes our schools and communities safer.





The memorial displays remained through lunch and students had the opportunity to draw their visions for peace on the surrounding sidewalks. In the week leading up to the walkout, all high school students were required to attend a class meeting during homeroom to educate them on all sides of the national discussion, allowing them to make an informed decision about whether or not they chose to participate in the Walkout.

Math Team keeps rolling

Led by perfect scorers Jason Cho '18, Haeri Kim '20, Norton Kishi '18 and Roy Song '19, the varsity team amassed 278 points to win meet 6 held at Iolani this past Saturday. Punahou, Kamehameha, McKinley and Roosevelt rounded out the top 5 with 222, 203, 175 and 141 points, respectively. Our other team members were Seobeon Chang '20, Chenyi Hu '19, Brandon Lai '20, Misato Nasu '19, Ian Oga '18 and Joshua Park '21.



The team of Tyson DeCastro '20, Darren Do '21 (perfect score), Jeein Hong '21 and Ashley Kim '20 scored 103 points to win the JV division. Kamehameha, McKinley and Punahou rounded out the top 4 with 97, 84 and 76 points, respectively. Also participating were Kunwoo Kim '21, Ariel Ma '21 and Jake Song '21. Thank you to coaches Michael Park, David Masunaga, Lance Takeuchi, Kathy Nirei, Alan Yeh and Ryan Sasaki. The last meet of the year will be held on April 21 at Farrington.

Economics Chair Thomas Cheong

This year's Economics Chair was Thomas Cheong, Principal Financial Group's North Asia President. Principal Financial Group has over \$660 billion in assets under management with offices in 19 countries. At Principal, he leads the development of retail pension and asset management businesses in China and Hong Kong and manages key partnerships in the region. Based on his experience in the region, he gave a lecture in AP Economics classes where he talked about the context behind the US-China trade relationship and discussed the root causes of the US trade imbalance.





Students joined Mr. Cheong for dinner where he expanded on his presentations and also answered student questions about college and career opportunities. Mr. Cheong gave an evening presentation in Seto Hall on the topic of whether a trade war with China is in the national interest of the US, discussing differing perspectives of China, the history behind Chinese responses to the West, and a possible way forward in the US-China relationship.

Scholastic Arts Awards

Thirty-five 'Iolani School students -- from grades 7 - 12 -- have artwork on display at the 55th Annual Hawai'i Regional Scholastic Art Awards Exhibition at the [Hawai'i State Art Museum](#) (HiSAM) through Friday, April 13.

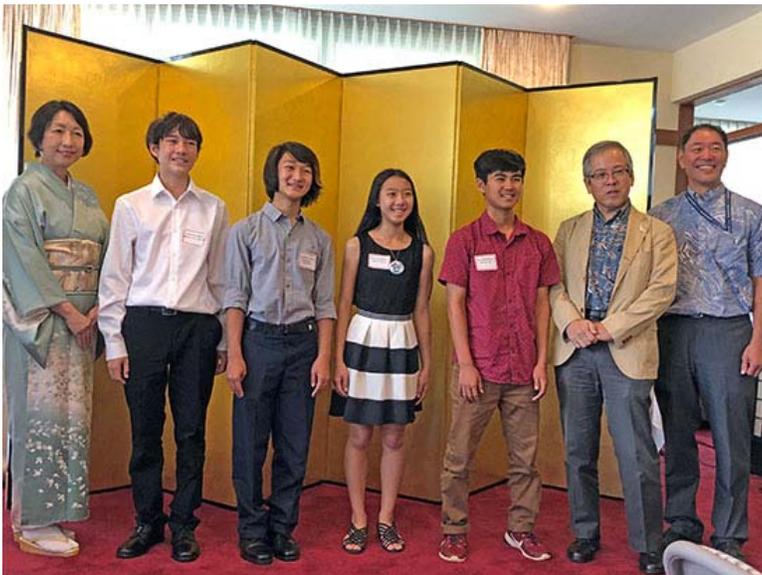




Each work, which was judged along with thousands of statewide entries, was recognized at the 2018 Scholastic Art Awards ceremony on Saturday, March 17. National award consideration, the next phase of the competition, takes place in New York City. 'Iolani students received Gold Key and Silver Key awards in all visual art disciplines: Drawing, Painting, Photography, Design 3-D, Ceramics and Mixed Media. Please view the slideshow of the artwork below.

The [Scholastic Art and Writing Awards](#) program is the longest-running and most prestigious student arts recognition program in the United States. It was established in 1923 by M.R. Robinson to encourage, foster, and reward student creativity across the country. Please go see the beautiful art created by 'Iolani students and others from across the state at this wonderful free exhibit at the Hawai'i State Art Museum. Congratulations to our students and our arts teachers.

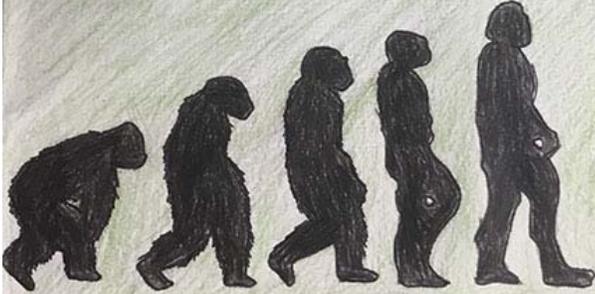
2018 JAL Haiku Art Contest



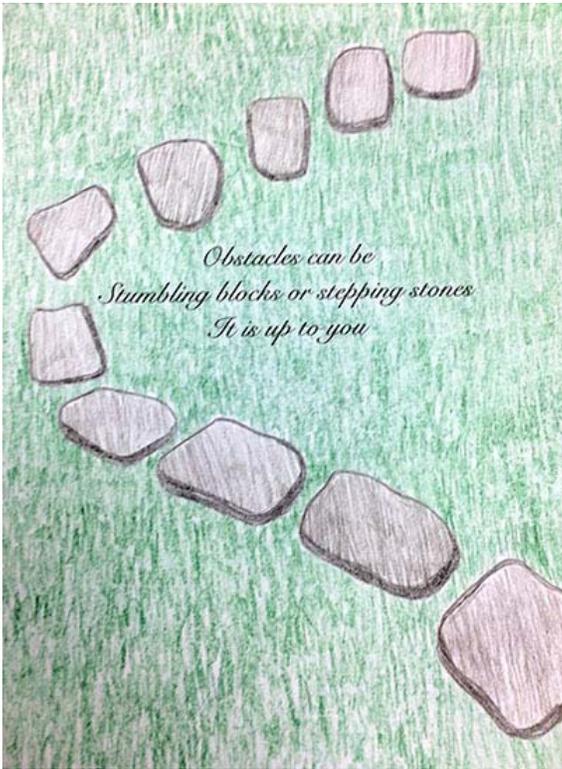
Congratulations to the following four eighth graders who were named JAL Grand Prize Winners in the recent biennial State Haiku Art contest. This year's theme was "Living Things" and students under age 15 were allowed to enter.

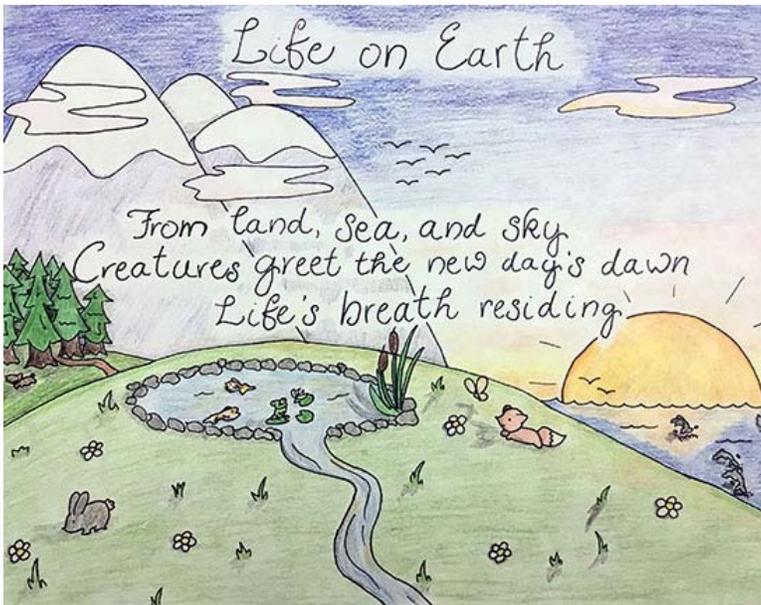
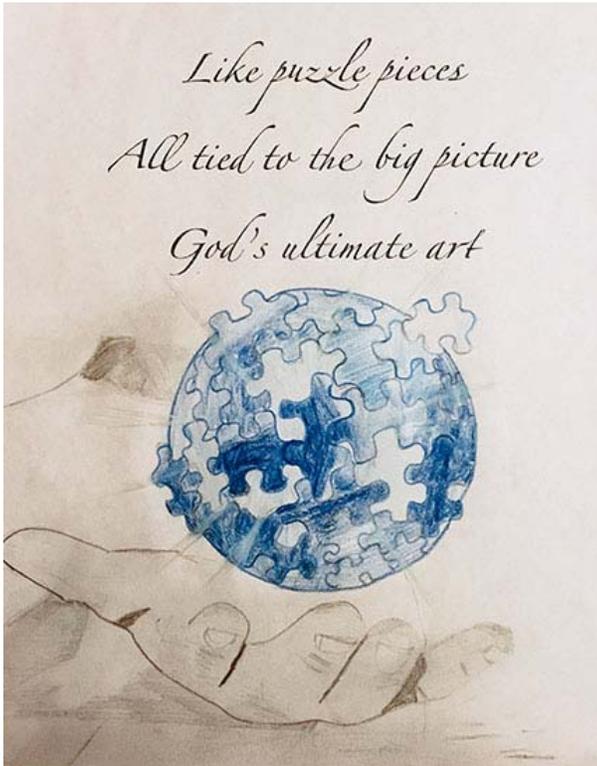
Life

Life constantly grows
Life will never stop learning
Life will find a way



*Obstacles can be
Stumbling blocks or stepping stones
It is up to you*





The students received their awards at the Japanese Consulate and were personally congratulated by Consul General Koichi Ito on Thursday, March 1st.

Other prize winners were:

Third grade: Stone Ah Quin, Sarah Asato, Kala'i Gerell, Rand Gushiken, Skye Miller, and Alexi Takazawa

Fourth grade: Maile Arita, Koen Nako, Jacob Osada, and Tanner Young

Fifth grade: Remy Ah Quin, Tria Boland, Mari Cheng, Mayasol Camp, and Sophia Owen

Eighth grade: Mako Goo, Jake Hanashiro, Chloe Jeremiah-Kwan, Erica Matsui, and Kieran Monahan

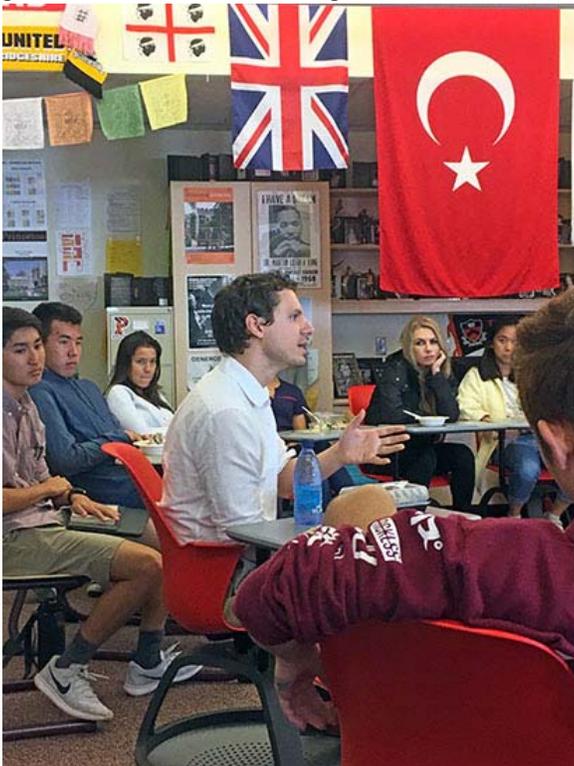
Congressional Debate Team



This weekend, 'Iolani's Congressional Debate Team competed in the NSDA Congressional Debate National Qualifying Tournament. Matthew Sohn placed second in the Senate and qualified for the national tournament. In the House, Cady Abe placed fourth, Lydia Jun placed fifth and Donald Edgerton placed sixth. Congratulations to all of our competitors!

Berit Mexia Chair for Peace and Social Justice

The visit of the Berit Mexia Chair for Peace and Social Justice has had an active and successful visit. British philosopher, writer, activist, filmmaker, and artist Raoul Martinez, visiting from London, has already met with spoken in chapel to 7th and 8th graders, met with all 7th graders in two advisory sessions, and conducted classes in AP Psychology, Marine Biology, War in the 20th Century, Painting/Drawing, Contemporary Issues, Critical Service Learning, and Philosophical Literature. In addition, in an event open to the entire Oahu community, his award-winning documentary *The Lottery of Birth* was shown to a packed house in the Sullivan Center Seminar Room, after which he answered audience questions for almost forty stimulating minutes. He also has done Lower School art classes and has conducted lunchtime discussions with Economics students, the Students Peace Institute, Model UN students, and the Lower School Peace and Justice Club. During the second week, he visited several more AP Psychology classes, spoke in chapel to grades 9 and 10, had a lunch meeting with students in the Global Issues Network, and visited an AP Art/Painting class.





Students have reacted with fascination to his deep and mind-opening ideas on a wide range of disciplines and issues. They have also been impressed with his soft-spoken, modest, and thoughtful approach to very complex and challenging topics. His ten-day visit was a huge success. Already teachers are asking if he'll come back, and many students have said he was amazing and inspiring.

Here is a collection of comments from members of the class of 2018:

"His level of thinking and reasoning is unmatched by anyone else that I have ever seen in person." "He has changed the way I look at life and I wish he were a teacher here." "His ability to formulate arguments that flowed logically despite no prior preparation absolutely floored me." "The fact that books had the power to fuel his brain so much was mind-blowing." "Overall, I thought that Raoul Martinez was the best speaker I have ever witnessed . . . [He] has led me to think of life in different ways for the better." "After hearing him speak, I can definitely say that he is the smartest person I have ever been in the presence of. I was also impressed that for a person with such an intellect, he was humble." "In class I was surprised at how open he was about receiving criticism, or hearing ideas that didn't align with his." "From the very beginning of the discussion, I could only think, 'Wow, this is a pretty high-level conversation' . . . The questions being asked were so insightful, and yet Raoul Martinez's responses were even more profound."

Annual Hawaii Key Club Convention

The annual Hawai'i Key Club Convention was held in Kahului, Maui last weekend, bringing together 300 of the over 1,600 Key Club students from across the state for team building, camaraderie, and service.





The 'Iolani contingent of six officers and three advisors enjoyed an extremely eventful weekend, attending workshops and competitions, as well as participating in a literacy fair at Queen Kaahumanu Mall.

Each of the officers who attended received individual recognition for exceptional hours of service. Statewide, a Key Club volunteer serves for approximately 20 hours a year, but Emma Chuck '18 was recognized on the Bronze level for over 50 hours of service, while Erica Cheung '18, Joycelyn Liu '12, Bethany Lum '18, Kyani Uchimura '19, and Sophia Yamamura '12 each earned Silver status for contributing over 100 hours of service. Additionally, Joycelyn won first place in the Oratory competition for the second consecutive year.

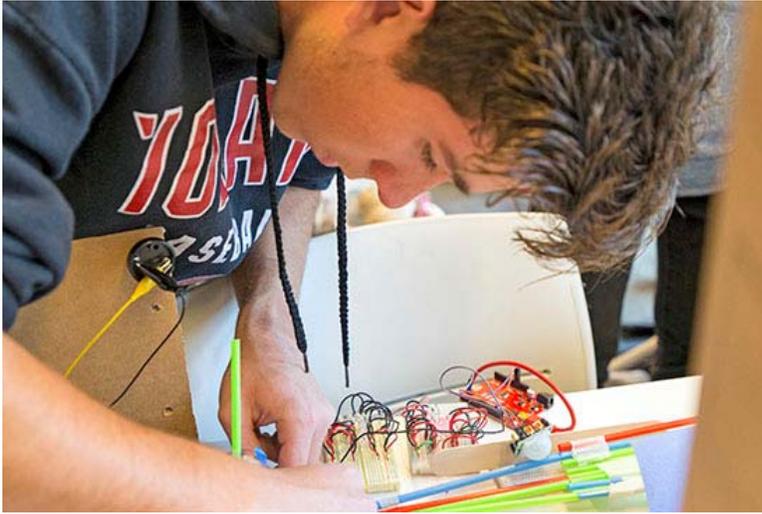
Our own Kiwanis advisor extraordinaire Ernette Au received a Distinguished Service award for her tireless commitment to the Key Club. Of the three honorees statewide, two have 'Iolani ties; the Castle HS advisor graduated from 'Iolani in 1987 and served in the Key Club under longtime advisor Pam Fujinaka.

In recognition of her significant commitment to the Kiwanis Cal-Nev-Ha Foundation, Ms. Ernette Au was also honored membership in the William A. Dunlap Fellowship. William A. Dunlap award recipients are a distinguished group of individuals who support the Kiwanis Cal-Nev-Ha Foundation. New William A. Dunlap members receive a plaque, medallion, lapel pin and personalized banner patch. The medallion is worn at high-visibility Kiwanis functions. Division 22 Hikina and Region 18 Key Club is pleased to make a \$1,000 contribution in Ms. Au's honor and recognizes her dedicated service to Kiwanis, her community and the world.

Physics Class Rube Goldberg Machines







Earth Science 7

Seventh graders in Earth Science 7 studied the formation and qualities of soil this quarter. Students sprouted radish seedlings in the lab and studied the structure and function of the root system and leaves under the microscope. They also learned about the essential qualities of soil needed to grow our food. Seeds were planted in the Sullivan rooftop garden and students harvested their fully-grown radishes this week.





The students had a Garden Harvest party and enjoyed their delicious radishes!

National Park traveler, singer and speaker, Mikah Meyer

'Iolani Chapel hosted a very special guest speaker from March 6 through the 12th speaking at the 7-12 chapels: Mikah Meyer. Mikah is currently traveling to all 417 units of the National Park Service across the United States and its territories.



In 2005, days after his father's funeral, 19-year-old Mikah embarked on his first independent road trip. What was initially planned as a post-freshman year getaway quickly turned into a transformative experience that showed Mikah the healing power of road trips. Since then, he has taken one road trip a year to honor this experience, culminating in his 2011-2012 260-day, 16,400 mile "Dream Road Trip" around 46 North American states. In 2014, Mikah's article summarizing these trips had over 40,000 shares via the Huffington Post and was featured on RoadTrippers.com. It also inspired the title track for singer/songwriter Shelly Waters' album DRIVE. With April 29, 2016, marking the 11th anniversary of his father's passing from cancer, Mikah is honoring his dad's love of driving by making life out of death and launching his journey to experience all 400+ units of the U.S. National Park System. This double world record trip will not only make him the youngest person to experience every unit, but also the sole person to do so in a continuous journey. While in Hawaii, Mikah will visit each of the National Park service locations in the islands.

Mikah spoke at upper school chapels about his experience growing up in the Southern U.S. as the son of a well-known Lutheran pastor, as part of 'Iolani's celebration of "No Name-Calling Week," an event designed to educate students, faculty and staff about issues relating to bullying and discrimination of students who do not match the majority population in various ways. In addition to speaking at chapel, Mikah met with the student GSA club for a lunchtime Q&A and held an open lunch talk in the chapel for students wanting to ask him about any of his experiences.

He also sang at services at Calvary by The Sea Lutheran Church in Honolulu. Besides being a traveler & writer, Mikah is a professionally trained singer and sang at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. where he also worked in youth ministry. At 'Iolani, Mikah visited music theater and choir classes as well as Chaplain Simopolous' scripture class.

Varsity Boys Tennis



The Power of Four Seniors! The 2018 'Iolani Boys Tennis Varsity Team is blessed with four talented seniors: Jordan Azuma, Joey Hu, Phuc Huynh, & Sean Yamamoto. They have provided active leadership to their younger teammates & demonstrated their winning strategy with victories in singles & doubles match play. The team is currently in 1st place with 40 singles & doubles victories & no losses. Additionally, Jordan Azuma & Joey Hu won the 2017 State Tennis Doubles Championship last season & look forward to a repeat before graduating & heading to the US Air Force Academy & Pacific University Oregon, respectively. Phuc Huynh has won the 2016 State Tennis Singles Championship & placed third in 2017 and have plans to attend University of San Francisco after graduation. Sean Yamamoto has won 7 straight ILH matches in various singles & doubles position this season & will be attending Brown University after graduation. The seniors were instrumental in leading "Iolani School to the 2017 State Tennis Team Championship Title. Extraordinary Tennis by the Fabulous Four Seniors!

All the best in health and happiness,
Tim

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