
Fwd: Letter from the Head of School 8_26_18

1 message

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Dear Parents,

Welcome Back! Also, based on my experience it is officially easier to predict snow days than hurricane days. God bless our island home and the natural protections that surround it.

We Choose to go to the Moon Mural

The 'Iolani Hackers were busy designing, fabricating, and painting away this summer. Inspired by the John F. Kennedy quotation "We choose to go to the Moon in this decade and do the other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard; because that goal will serve to organize and measure the best of our energies and skills, because that challenge is one that we are willing to accept, one we are unwilling to postpone, and one we intend to win."





The new mural spans three floors of the Sullivan Center's stairwells.



The mural was designed by Naia Lum '20, and the creation process used laser cutters to fabricate standoffs, the water-jet to machine aluminum letters, and a series of projectors to transfer the graphics to the walls.





In character with the quote, visitors to the Sullivan Center will need to walk up all three flights and take the hard way up to fully appreciate the mural. Our Hackers hope the mural inspires creativity and the spirit of challenging ourselves.

Welcome Boarding Students



Our first group of boarding students since 1959 arrived on Sunday, August 12 for the 2018-19 school year. The students are coming to 'Iolani from the neighboring islands of Maui and Kauai, the mainland US (American Samoa, Arizona, California, and Washington), and internationally from China, Japan, Singapore, South Korea, Turkey, and Vietnam. Students and their families were welcomed to campus by ResLife staff, Administration, Board Members, and donors in an on-campus picnic.





The students participated in orientation for residential life as well as orientation with our new day students. Welcome to our new boarding students!

Senior Bench Rush

The senior class of 2019 took part in the tradition of senior bench rush this past Monday. Eager to claim their tables where they will create many memories this year and set the example for our underclassmen, the class was greeted by Mr. Erik Yamamoto as Interim Dean of Students, and Chaplain Heather Patton-Graham led the class in prayer for an amazing year.





Convocation

From the head of school:

“Good Morning students, the administration, faculty and staff offer our warmest aloha as we welcome you to this school year. Thank you, Shane, Ross and Matt for the introduction, we know that the three of you and the class of 2019 will lead us with energy, enthusiasm and purpose.

We have a historic year ahead. Years from now, we can all say that we were at `Iolani when the school brought back its boarding program. In addition to the class of 2024 moving from the Lower School to the Upper School, this morning we welcome 165 students new to `Iolani, 33 of whom hail from, Korea, Japan, China, Vietnam,

Singapore, Turkey, American Samoa, neighbor islands and the mainland and who will live on our campus.

ʻIolani was a boarding school for the first century of its history with our most famous alumnus, Sun Yat Sen, attended as a boarding student. When I am asked the question, why is the school doing this? I answer that it is our goal to provide a more globally connected experience to all ʻIolani students. An experience that opens new ways of seeing the world and also the opportunity for new friendships that span it. The students who join us from around the world will add to the already remarkable cultural diversity in our daily lives. They will bring unique perspectives and life experiences that could only have been obtained by growing up within the culture of their home.

By sharing this with us, we will all gain in our ability to understand, appreciate and navigate within different cultures and truly grow, as global citizens. It will also help in many ways to make our world smaller. Most of you probably know this, that our home is the furthest civilized place from any other civilized place on planet Earth. For us, the rest of the world is physically far away and at this time when our world is becoming ever more connected, in almost every sense smaller, we need opportunities to experience the world as accessible. We need to see no limits to where we can go, learn, succeed and connect and much of this perspective can be achieved through friendships.

At ʻIolani, this goes all the way back to the time of Sun Yat Sen, more than 130 years ago. Throughout his decades of struggle to end dynastic rule in China, he continually came back to Hawaii to meet with his friends and to receive support and most of these friends, who helped him change the course of history were his classmates from ʻIolani School. Reinstating the boarding program will create opportunities for friendships that span the globe and as we say when we sing our alma mater, at ʻIolani, friendships weave their mystic strands forever.

Now, in addition to these ways in which our community will benefit by welcoming students from around the world, it is important to recognize and celebrate what our school gives in return to each and every student.

We are one of the top college prep schools in the world and truly a place of exceptional opportunities. Be it in academics, the arts, athletics, projects, clubs... to be a student at ʻIolani is to have the opportunity to sample many experiences and find, as you grow into a young adult, areas of genuine interest.

Our greatest gift, however, to all of you, is the experience of living and growing up in the culture of ʻIolani School. It is at this place that we all celebrate hard work and learn what it takes to strive for excellence. We often achieve it, and even when we don't the experience of reaching for it instills us with fortitude, resiliency and the understanding that bringing our best effort is how to approach the opportunities and challenges of our lives. And it is our way to achieve what we do with humility. I've often shared that one of the main characteristics companies like Google look for in new employees is humility. They want the best and the brightest who elevate and support their teammates, who can give their best and are always committed to helping others do the same.

This, is ʻIolani, this the heart of our One Team spirit. We achieve together and the experience of doing so, each and every day, from little tasks to big ones, instills in us a deep commitment to care about and support the people in our lives. This is what One Team is all about and if you get this spirit into your heart, it will serve you as a strength throughout your life. Once again, let's commit ourselves to living by these values and to helping students new to this community, grow to embrace them wholeheartedly. Thank you and let's have a great year, 'Iolani nō ka 'oi!"

This year's proconsuls, Shane Severino '19, Ross Lu '19, and Matt Sohn '19 introduced their theme for the year, Transcendence!



This year's fair chairs also introduce the theme of the 2019 Fair – Barnyard Bash! Here is a link to [aHee Haw rerun when you are ready to get into a fair mood](#)



Ann Kang Invitational Volleyball Tournament

Congratulations to the back-to-back champions of the Ann Kang Invitational Volleyball Tournament! 'Iolani beat Mira Costa (Manhattan Beach, Calif.) in the semifinals and Buchanan (Clovis, Calif.) in the title match to finish off a 9-0 run through the 16-team, three-day tourney.





Father Bray Memorial Football Classic

'Iolani hosted Waipahu on Saturday, August 11, honoring the legacy of Fr. Bray and the "One Team" ethos he infused into our school's culture. The Raiders defeated Waipahu 55-14.





All the best in health and happiness,
Tim

Note: To address is: justin@trueREhawaii.com

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