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**Fwd: Letter from the Head of School 12\_10\_18**

1 message

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**Timothy Cottrell** <tcottrell@iolani.org>  
Bcc: facstaffk-12@iolani.org

Mon, Dec 10, 2018 at 7:21 AM

December 10, 2018

Dear Parents,

**Grandparents' Sugar Plum Tea**

We welcomed our grandparents to visit with their grandchildren and enjoy sugar plum tea. Although I didn't share this story during my welcome, I am reminded of my first year at Iolani and how I learned the loving term for grandparents. That first year, we had been visited by Archbishop Desmond Tutu. It was quite an impactful event and during football season, I noticed that our quarterback, Reese Foy '14, had TUTU written on the back of his cleats. Of course, I thought that he was referring to the Archbishop and when I asked him about it, he looked at me with a forgiving smile and said, "it is for my grandmother." It is a blessing to be a grandparent and to bestow and receive the love with your grandchildren. Here are some photos from the event:





### **FTC Robotics State Championships**

It may have been cold and rainy Saturday morning but that didn't stop 34 robotics teams from Oahu, Maui and Kauai from arriving very early at Maryknoll School for the FTC Robotics State Championship!

The morning was busy with all four of our teams competing for two open slots into the semifinals! They did a fabulous job with some teams only losing one out of their five matches but it would be down to the number of points scored that would adjust the rankings and put us right outside. In addition to competing on the field, each team was also challenged with a live interview as they showcased their robot and engineering skills.



Team 15076 received a very special award, the distinguished Rockwell Collins Innovate Award. The Rockwell Collins Innovate Award celebrates a Team that thinks outside the box, and has the ingenuity and inventiveness to make their designs come to life. This judged award is given to the Team that has the most innovative and creative Robot design solution to any specific components in the FIRST Tech Challenge game.



A big Mahalo to all of the volunteers, student mentors and parents for making this season so successful and fun!

## Spelling Bee

On Wednesday, thirty-six students from grades five through eight tackled words like "fiddle-faddle," "garbanzo," and "Xanadu" at our school level Spelling Bee. Among the tougher words were "chilblains," "wastrels," "treacle," and "phalanx."

By Round 5, only eight spellers remained. Special recognition goes to 6th grader, Eli Morita, for being the last Lower Schooler standing, making it all the way to Round 9! By Round 11, we were down to three girls for two spots in the Honolulu District bee. Last year's champion, 8th grader Katelyn Shu, was joined by fellow 8th grader, Allison Eto, and 7th grader, Noelani Hiltner. We had to shift from the regular study list to a secret, "none-of-the-students-have-seen" list, and the words actually got a bit easier for a while. The three girls made their way through, "mango," "sapsucker," and "hogshead" in Round 11. Finally, in Round 19, Allison correctly spelled "locale," but Noelani missed "volition" and Katelyn was stumped by "demonstrable." That left Allison to spell one more Championship Word to win. "Cohesive, C-O-H-E-S-I-V-E, cohesive," and with that we had our champion.





Because we are allowed only two spots in the district bee, the other two girls had a spell-off for the Runner-Up position. After "judicial" and "wallaby," Noelani correctly spelled "tournament," however, our returning champ could not get over the hill with "hillock." All three girls, and all of the other spellers, deserve our praise and congratulations for their part in making our school bee a success!

Allison and Noelani will now represent 'Iolani in the:  
Honolulu District Spelling Bee  
Saturday, January 26, 2019  
8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
Stevenson Middle School

#### **Concert Bands - Winter Concert: In the Spirit of the Season**

The concert bands gave their opening concert of the year for a packed lower gym on Sunday. Leading off the concert was the Lower School band, in their first performance ever. Even though these students only started a few months ago, they were able to offer several tunes from their method book, and were even able to play their first full band piece which required the various instruments to split off from each other to play different harmonies and rhythms.



The Beginning Band, along with second-year players from Lower School and from 7th grade performed next. They offered a variety of music, including the holiday tunes "Toyland," and "Skater's Waltz." A memorable moment worth mentioning took place in their playful third piece, "Tyrannosaurus Rocks," in which Drew Tamasaka '24 simulated the roar of a T-rex by replacing his tuba mouthpiece with a saxophone mouthpiece to simulate a dinosaur roar—a *tyrannosophone*!



The Intermediate band, featuring students of roughly 3 years of experience, delivered a solid performance, offering several pieces: *Honor and Pride*, *Astro Overture*, *Avenger*, and a Christmas movie medley with selections from *The Nightmare Before Christmas*, *Home Alone* and *The Polar Express*.



The Concert Band, made up of students with roughly 4 years of experience or more, closed the first portion of the concert. Soloists from their program included Michelle Shuai '19 (flute), Caitlyn Kadooka ('20), Hana Yoshizawa '21 (bassoon), Remy Ohara '21 (trumpet), and Chris Kashimoto '22 (off-stage trumpet) who did a great job filling in last minute for another student who was missing due to illness.



As a nod to all the construction on campus (the K-1 classrooms, residence hall, the new chiller near the tennis courts) Concert Band offered its closing number, *Carol of the Boomwhackers*. Mr. Dayao called on faculty volunteers from the audience to come up and help out (but were not told how they'd be put to use). Dr. Borick, Dr. Milikan, Mr. Peña, Mr. Andrews, Chaplain Patton-Graham, Mr. Bowman, and Mr. Robinson (whose son Bud '20 is in the percussion section) courageously volunteered, and were handed hard hats and asked to take a seat in front of the band. With 8 seats to fill, and the remaining faculty in the audience doing their best to pretend to be invisible, Mr. Dayao pulled his 95 year old grandmother in attendance to fill the last spot. Concert band members Remy Ohara '21, Himari Fujimoto '19, Caitlyn Kadooka '20, and Jeein Hong '21 took their turns with our faculty volunteers,

as seen [here](#): with the most memorable moment occurring a few minutes in, with a mischievous gag by Matthew Sohn '19.



### Marching Band and Dance Team at the Winter Concert - Seniors Ground Their Shakos

The band and dance team lay their field show to rest with one final indoor performance in the Lower Gym to close the Concert Bands' Winter Concert. Following the performance, members of the senior class were called one by one by Mr. Dayao and Mrs. Okimura to take their place in the center of the court. The ceremonial "Grounding of the Shakos" is a symbolic gesture—the last time the seniors will remove their marching headgear from their heads, to be placed on the ground with respect. After years in the band and on the dance team, saying goodbye to being in field show is bittersweet. (Concert band seniors will be honored when their season wraps up in May.)





The marching band would especially like to thank their parent volunteers for all their help this season: from prop construction, to transporting equipment, and taking care of uniforms, and late night pickups, our parent volunteers did it all! They even treated the band seniors to a brunch. It was no small task getting those uniforms fitted for each band member with only 72 hours between receipt and the Mililani competition. Parents came at night and took off from work to make sure our kids could shine. A heartfelt mahalo! Here they were, hard at work, so their kids could go to class:



**Marching Band and Dance Team Finish Their Season**

On Nov. 17, the Marching Band and Dance Team took their Michael Jackson themed field show to the Trojan Bandfest hosted by Mililani High School. Not only did the group debut brand new uniforms at this tournament, but group earned 'Excellent' ratings in the categories of Visual Ensemble, Percussion, and General Effect (but did not place for any awards).





Tiana Conching '19 (drum major) and Justin Uyeno '19 (trombone section leader) were interviewed on camera for the live television broadcast on Spectrum 16. The interviewer, Mililani HS principal Fred Murphy, also happens to be a former trombone player and band director himself, and had high praise for the group's stage presence and energy.

#### **Peace Visitors from Australia**

On Dec. 4th, the 'Iolani Peace Institute hosted three students and two adults from the Peace in the Pacific study tour program of the Northern Territory of Australia. They presented the results of their studies relating the WWII bombing of Darwin, Australia and the bombing of Pearl Harbor. The students—Shawn Brett, Ianna Lalim, and Grace Modah—were from three different towns in the Northern Territory. They were accompanied by two adult members of the program, Mr. Steve Temby and Ms. Yashodara McCormack.

Few Americans, and even few Australians, know that Darwin was the target of a major attack (several times, in fact) just as Pearl Harbor was. One effect of the raid on Darwin was to cement a close relationship between Australia and the USA that continues to this day. Besides doing the presentation in the Sullivan Center, the Australian visitors also enjoyed lunch with the officers of 'Iolani's Students Peace Institute club and took a tour of the campus.

#### **Dr. Gloria Katz**

On Tuesday, Dec. 4, the cast of 'Iolani's spring musical, *Fiddler on the Roof*, was treated to a discussion with Dr. Gloria Katz. Dr. Katz educated students about Jewish culture and traditions, and recalled stories about her grandparents coming to America in the early 20th century. Her talk helped students understand some of the customs, relationships, and language used in *Fiddler on the Roof* (playing March 7, 8, and 9, at Hawaii Theatre).

#### **Duke Aiona**

Former Lt. Governor Duke Aiona spoke to a gathering of students in St. Alban's Chapel on Friday during lunchtime. He was invited to campus by the 'Io Conservatives Club.





Mr. Aiona began by explaining his background as a lawyer and judge, and entry into politics. He closed with a thoughtful Q&A session with students.

#### **Honolulu City Lights Parade**

The cheerleaders joined the band in downtown Honolulu for the Honolulu City Lights Parade on Dec. 1. The band performed a medley of songs called *Santa's Parade*, which included "Joy to the World," "Jingle Bells," and "Deck the Halls," and along with yet another arrangement of "Jingle Bells."



Cheerleaders were the perfect ambassadors to the public, waving, smiling, doing routines, and passing out holiday treats to the little ones in the crowd. They also carried the school banner, which was printed on vinyl in our very own Sullivan Center.

**'Iolani School Surf Team/Residential Program beginner lesson**

On Saturday, the 'Iolani surf team provided lessons for Reslife students at Waikiki Beach. Almost every student was able to stand up and catch a wave on their first day of surfing. Some caught multiple waves. One student even paddled into a wave and rode it to shore on her own. The students were having so much fun, they didn't want to leave the beach.





Thanks to everyone for helping to make this possible and for sharing the stoke of surfing with our boarding students. Special thanks to Coach Debbie and Uncle Dave!

#### **Girls Soccer**

Our two-time defending state champion girls varsity soccer team opened its ILH season last week with a pair of home games at Eddie Hamada Field.



After a tough 1-0 loss to Kamehameha on Wednesday, our Raiders bounced back strong with a 4-0 victory over Mid-Pacific on Saturday afternoon.

#### **Honolulu Marathon**

The 'Iolani Key Club arrived at the Waikiki water station at 3:30 AM. They set up the Gatorade station and served Gatorade to the runners at the Honolulu Marathon on Sunday morning with cheery faces and positive attitudes.



All the best in health and happiness,  
Tim

--  
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