

**Fwd: Letter from the Head of School 12\_23\_18**

1 message

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December 23, 2018

Dear Parents,

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!****Boys `Iolani Classic**

There are a lot of great stories from the past two weeks and rarely do I lead with sports, however, this year's Boys `Iolani Classic was something special. Three of the teams are ranked nationally in the top 10, we had pro basketball royalty in the house with Scotty Pippen and Kenyon Martin watching their boys play and we saw the #1 ranked team in the nation suffer their first defeat. The tournament, which is ranked among the most prestigious high school tournaments in the nation, lived up to its reputation. I want to thank our athletics department, and alumni and parent volunteers for making the boys and girls tournaments so special.

As a bit of historical context, the 'Iolani Prep Basketball Classic boys tournament was founded by the late Glenn Young 35 years ago and yearly features some of the best high school teams in the country and internationally. The MVP list for the tournament includes many NBA players including Kevin Durant. Saturday night there were two games with championship possibilities – an unusual circumstance. This was due to the fact that the two undefeated teams, Sierra Canyon and La Lumiere could not play head-to-head because of a California State high school sports condition that prohibits state teams from playing independent teams. La Lumiere is an independent. By night's end, the La Lumiere Lakers from Indiana, earned The Classic's championship.



The Lakers came into the tournament ranked at No. 5 by USA Today and defeated No. 1 Montverde Academy from Florida (the defending national and 'Iolani Classic champions) in the semifinals on Friday. A day later, they beat Oak Ridge, another team from Florida, in a game that was broadcast live via [Twitter](#). The 16-team tourney also featured No. 6 Sierra Canyon from California and three other top-notch mainland teams.

Our Raiders opened the tournament on Tuesday with a 63-42 victory over Farrington. In the quarterfinals on Thursday, our boys ran up against top-ranked Montverde and played hard in a 94-33 defeat, which featured an amazing first few minutes for those of us cheering them on in the Lower Gym. Here's a [link to a Star-Bulletin article](#) about that game.





Our boys also played admirably versus West Linn from Oregon and Pleasant Grove from Utah. Senior guard Noah Bumanglag '19 earned a spot on the prestigious All-Tournament Team.





After playing in a tournament in Long Beach, California, our Raiders will open their ILH season on Saturday, Jan. 5, vs. Maryknoll in the Lower Gym at 5:30 pm.

#### Girls 'Iolani Classic

The 'Iolani Prep Basketball Classic girls tournament concluded on Saturday night with Pinewood School from Los Altos, Calif., beating Incarnate Word Academy from St. Louis, Mo., 63-49, with a stunning barrage of three-pointers.





Our Raiders finished fourth in the eight-team tourney, falling to Clovis West High School from Fresno, Calif., 61-48. After beating Kaiser, 66-40, in the first round, 'Iolani lost to Pinewood, 79-55.

#### Christmas Chapel 2018



This past Thursday, the entire school gathered in the Lower Gym for the last chapel of the year. In the spirit of the holidays, Family Promise was invited to receive our Christmas Offering. Family Promise is part of a national organization that relies on the support of faith communities to help working poor families with young children transition to permanent housing and sustainable independence. Since 2016, St. Alban's Chapel and 'Iolani students, clubs and families have been providing meals for the families as well as hosting activities and games for the children. A Christmas pageant was put on by the Lower School Students:

1st grade Mary and Joseph (Avery Hostalley '30, Rylen Isobe '30)



2nd grade Angels (Kaylie Lum '29, Tallis Rivera '29, Abby Kuioka '29, Zac Clark '29) and soloists (Emma Miyamoto '29, Micah Flores '29, Elina Egesdal '29)



3rd grade Shepherds (Taylor Key '28, Ren Yamamoto '28, Alexander Hudson '28, Jackson Shu '28)



4th grade Attendants and Pages for the Wise Ones (Rand Gushiken '27, Finley Fujikake '27, Tyren Akiyama '27, Madison Young '27, Kela Briones '27, Emi Kawatachi '27). 3 Wise Ones from our faculty and staff (Lurline Mau, Faye Korenaga and Sue Lee)



5th and 6th grades Narrators (Brooke Nakama '25, Ryker Yamamoto '26, Emi Okimoto '25, Shannon Kanemaru '26, Milton Holt '25, Ali Yee '25, Kerys Palmer '26, WanHao Sun '25, Lexie Kutaka '25) and we had Hula from throughout the school.





Faculty / Student ensemble ([I Pray on Christmas](#) by Harry Connick Jr. with Manny Dayao, arrangement). Vocals (Megan Ellis, Kori Briones, Kings Kalohealani, Manny Dayao with LS voices as back-up singers). The Band (Jake Tsuchiyama '19, ukulele, Elvis Imamura '22, guitar, Steve Borick, guitar and bass, Riccardo Tran '19, cajón and Manny Dayao, piano)





### Christmas Concert & Luncheon

As the holiday season approaches, our tradition is to invite back retired faculty and staff to join us for a Winter concert performed by our very own Orchestra and Chorus. 32 faculty and staff joined us for the concert and enjoyed a luncheon in the Sullivan Center.





Faculty and staff were also invited to visit with their former colleagues and to wish them a happy holiday season.

**Christmas week in Upper School**



The Spirit Big Committee planned a week of Christmas activities to get the student body in a festive mood. On Tuesday, the class officers from each grade competed in Christmas relay races. Grade 12 won and the entire Senior Class will receive a surprise treat sometime in the early new year!







On Wednesday morning, the prefects and Mr. Park serenaded students with Christmas carols. Spirit Big members handed out chocolate chip cookies and milk. We ended the week with a visit from Santa on his "sleigh" as he delivered candy around campus.

### Stage Band Winter Concert

The three stage bands and jazz combo presented their winter concert at the Hawaii Convention Center Lili'u Theater on Sunday, December 9. The music ranged from classic and contemporary jazz pieces to familiar holiday favorites. Band members also had an opportunity to display their improvisation skills when soloing.





Stage Band 3 performed several special selections, including a rendition of Chuck Mangione's 'Feels So Good', 'One Day I'll Fly Away' featuring Annie Henize on vocals, and a premiere of an original work by prolific composer Mark Taylor.

### Orchestra Concert

166 young musicians in grades 4 to 10 dazzled the audience with music by Bach, Vivaldi, Mozart, Beethoven, Tchaikovsky and Dvorak. We also shared the spirit of the season with holiday favorites including *'Twas the Night before Christmas* featuring guest narrator, new 'Iolani faculty member Jeff Andrews and faculty cameo, Mr. Chucky Nakoia. The 'Iolani Orchestras presented a beautiful gift of music in Seto Hall.

### Beginning violins first concert



### Beginning Cellists and Bassists first concert ever!



### Bass Fun!



Intermediate Orchestra



Advanced Orchestra and Orchestra 1, Twas the Night Before Christmas with 'Iolani Teachers Mr. Jeff Andrews and Mr. Chucky Nakoa.



Intermediate, Advanced and Orchestra 1 fun with Mr. Peña!



Orchestra 2 shines!



Bravo Symphonic Orchestra 3 (featuring the top woodwind, brass and percussion from Intermediate Band)!

### Home for the Huladays

When we had our first Home for the Huladays event four short years ago, we felt, collectively, that we'd stumbled upon something really special. If you've not had the opportunity to attend, we present an hour of hula, outside, under the stars, right in the center of our campus. It's quickly become one of my favorite evenings of the year because I believe it encapsulates all that I love most about the holidays: family, music and a lot of heart.

After a GORGEOUS day of winter weather today, we had a surprise 45-minute rain shower in the half hour prior to the start of tonight's Huladays which made the performance space slippery and ultimately unsafe for our student performers. In a true show of One Team effort, we quickly mobilized and moved to Seto Hall where our halau presented a true gift of hula. We strive, in the performing arts to prepare students to be flexible and ready to adapt-our students rose to and surpassed all expectations. They were magnificent.







I am so full of gratitude to all involved in tonight's show; mahalo to our students for their resiliency and talent. Mahalo to Lehua and Ku for cool heads and tremendous leadership. Thank you to Dane, Kings and Reid from A.V. for making the last-minute switcheroo into Seto and for making us sound so good. Thank you to Cathy Chong for getting the word out about the change and to John Tamanaha for taking photos. Mahalo to Ricky, Plant and Security for working with us to ensure the show would go on. And mahalo to our families for being there to enthusiastically support our students. Finally, mahalo to our Tennis and Softball teams and the junior class for providing Ono food options.

#### **Lower School Contemporary Jazz Guest Artist Series**

Lower School Contemporary Jazz students were treated to a series of invigorating master dance classes during recent weeks. Fifth and sixth grade dancers joyfully participated in an energizing jazz funk workout by Lyndsey Arakawa. Arakawa is an instructor, choreographer, and assistant director with Dance Junction Hawaii in addition to her full-time job as a sixth-grade Language Arts teacher at 'Iolani. Her dynamic choreography inspired students to work toward excellence by developing a sophisticated style and practicing all-out movement.

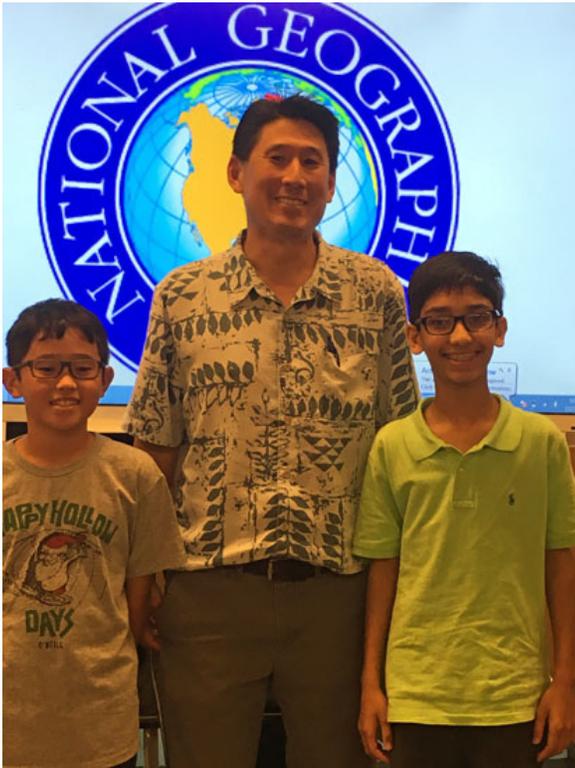


Dancers furthered their training with lively Broadway Jazz lessons by Andrew Sakaguchi, an accomplished instructor and performer with experience in Hawaii and New York. Sakaguchi encouraged students to dance, sing, and act in order to develop versatility for Broadway pursuits. He also spoke about the value of perseverance in facing challenges for a professional dance career.

The guest artist series concluded with the unique experience of studying composition with local dancer, choreographer, and founder of Body Portal Theatre, SheenRu Yong. Yong cleverly guided students to design movement spontaneously and expanded learning in nearby outdoor spaces for understanding of how movement transforms in space. The group was intrigued to hear her encouragement to avoid defining things in life, but to rather remain open and curious in order to channel inspiration. The Contemporary Jazz class extends a warm mahalo to our visiting guest artists for their generous support in creating meaningful dance experiences!

#### **'Iolani National Geographic Bee**

Nearly 30 students from 6th-8th grade competed in 'Iolani's annual National Geographic Bee on Wednesday December 12 in the Sullivan Center for Innovation and Leadership. Sixth grader Logan Lee came in second and 7th grader Devin Panalal became our school champion. Devin will go on to represent our school at the state bee in at the Neal Blaisdell Exhibition Hall on March 29, 2019. The state champion will go to compete in Washington D.C. at the end of May 2019. National winners receive college scholarships from \$25-75,000.



Questions in our school bee ranged from the familiar-- "Kawaikini is the highest peak on the island of Kauai in which state: Ohio or Hawaii?" to the challenging--- "What country, west of the Gulf of Bothnia, has large deposits of iron ore near the city of Kiruna?" (Sweden!). The contest ended in an exciting championship round that continued through almost a dozen questions! Devin answered the final question "What city in Iceland, located on the Faxaflói Bay is heated by hot springs?" with the correct answer: "Reykjavik."

#### **Class of 2029 Cookie Decorating**

On Tuesday, Mrs. Cottrell and I gathered in the Lower School Art Space with the second graders for their annual Christmas Cookie decorating event.







We shared our home-baked cookies with all of the second graders, and they added frosting and toppings to their delight. After enjoying delicious cookies, Mrs. Cottrell read them a Christmas story.

#### **Robotics Ignite Boys and Girls Club Outreach**

It has been a joyful start to our holiday season, and there is more goodwill and cheer to report from the 'l Robotics Ignite outreach program. This past Wednesday, keiki from the Boys & Girls Club of Honolulu completed work on their sumobots and participated in a celebratory tournament. These students have been working on their bots twice a month since mid-fall under the guidance and tutelage of students from our 'l Robotics FRC team.





All of their hard work and dedication culminated in friendly competition where students could show off their fancy moves and utilize 3D-printed weapons of their own design. A plentiful pizza party and green grinchy cupcakes topped off the afternoon! It was a fitting way to celebrate what the students accomplished together, as they collaborated to elevate the lāhui.

### **Bags of Aloha**

One of the great things about 'Iolani is seeing the alumni when they return to campus to visit their former teachers. One amazing alumni in particular, Cassie Ho '16, co-founded a non profit named Bags of Aloha which creates "bags of aloha" for homeless people.



On Monday afternoon, she and fellow classmates from the Class of 2016 (and 1 from 2017 and 1 from 2015) got together to put together 300 bags of

aloha which will be donated to the Next Step Shelter in Kaka'ako. This is a great representation of what 'Iolani is all about and what the Christmas season is all about! GO RAIDERS! :) For more information on Bags of Aloha visit: <https://bags-of-aloha5.webnode.com/>

### Col. Ann Wright Visits 'Iolani

On December 12, retired U.S. Army colonel and retired U.S. State Department official Ann Wright visited 'Iolani School to speak to the Students Peace Institute and the Model UN organization at 3F Sullivan Center. She talked about her experience in various countries, mostly regions where ongoing armed conflicts occur, such as Afghanistan, Pakistan, and the Israel-Palestine border. She has also recently spent her time in Istanbul, Islamabad, Madrid, Berlin, and Bangkok.



She is well-known for her opposition to the Iraq War when the Bush administration planned to strike Iraq. She resigned her position to protest the war after nobly serving under eight presidential administrations as an army officer and a diplomat.

### Famous Olympians Visit 'Iolani

Olympic marathon legends Frank Shorter and Kenny Moore met with seniors in two classes of the English elective Literature of Sport. Both ran in two different Olympics, Shorter becoming famous for his gold medal in the marathon in the 1972 Olympics in Munich, Germany. Moore, who finished fourth in that race, went on to become the most acclaimed track and field writer in American history. Mr. Moore appeared in person in the classroom while Mr. Shorter appeared at the same time via Skype from Boulder, Colorado. Students were able to ask both men questions about writing, running, the Munich massacre, their close friend the late Steve Prefontaine, and other topics.



The guests are shown in this photo with Mr. Peter Greenhill, the teacher of the course, and none of them realized until afterward that the photo included Prefontaine in the form of two posters on the bulletin board above and behind Mr. Moore and Mr. Greenhill. Mr. Shorter has visited the course eight times over the years, six in person and two via Skype. This was Mr. Moore's fifth visit, all in person

### Cakes for Good Causes

In October, Sabrina Toh '21 created two cakes for an auction at the Chocolate Extravaganza at Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Kailua. Her masterpieces were a huge hit, and so just after Thanksgiving break, Sabrina inquired about other organizations that the Key Club serves because she wanted to donate a cake for a holiday function that helped children. Several agencies responded after seeing the exquisite cakes on her [website](#) and the Ronald McDonald House was the lucky recipient! Sabrina met President Jerri Chong (pictured) and the house staff, all of whom were in awe of Sabrina's selflessness and cake artistry.

### College Fair

On Wednesday, our young alumni returned to campus to share their insight and college experiences with juniors and seniors at the college fair in Seto Hall.





### Girls Intermediate Tennis

Through One Team effort the Girls Intermediate Tennis Team was able to finish the regular season undefeated at 8-0 giving them the top seed leading into the ILH post season tennis playoffs.



In the semifinal playoffs this past Thursday the girls faced off against an experienced Mid Pacific and played them close. Although the team lost 2-3, they displayed strong work ethic, integrity, and true spirit of One Team. 'Iolani girls tennis is alive and well and the future looks very promising.

### Boys Intermediate Tennis



The 2018 Intermediate Tennis Season presented tough opponents & challenges for the Boys. The Raider Boys played 1 round of matches against 8 ILH school teams resulting in a 6-2 win loss record. The follow-on Div I & II Single elimination playoff tournament was last held last week. Our semifinal match was on Thursday against Punahou Gold at the Keehi Lagoon Cts. The Raiders played consistent Singles & aggressive Doubles but could not carve a win against the tough Buffanblu team, ending the 2018 Raider season with an overall record of 6-3.

**Boys soccer**

Our boys varsity soccer team opened its ILH season last week with a 1-0 loss to Punahou, but the Raiders bounced back with an impressive 3-0 victory at Mid-Pacific on Saturday.



They'll return to action on Tuesday vs. Pac-Five at Kapiolani Park.

All the best in health, happiness and a joyous 2019,  
Tim

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