

Fwd: Letter from the Head of School 3_31_19

1 message

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March 31, 2019

Dear Parents,

The Presiding Bishop Curry Visits 'Iolani

We were honored to welcome The Most Rev. Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, and The Right Rev. Robert Fitzpatrick, Bishop of Hawai'i, to campus on Monday.



Bishop Curry is known as the "royal wedding bishop" because of his homily delivered at the wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle last May. While with us they were able to talk story all across the school. Here is the write-up of their visit to our campus on Monday, taken from The Episcopal Diocese of Hawai'i: "On Monday, March 25, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry spent his last day in Hawai'i touring 'Iolani School where he spoke at K-6 Chapel, visited the Archives, attended a Religion class and watched the Kane Hula halau practice. He was presented with a special bowl made from the monkeypod trees that had been planted for the first 1955 General Convention of the Episcopal Church."





The bowl was crafted here on campus by Ryan Roberts and finished by Taylor Wong. Many thanks to Georgina Tom, in Archives, for putting together the exhibit about the monkeypod trees and their connection to the Episcopal Church's Convention held here at St. Alban's Chapel in 1955.

2019 State Chess Champions

Saturday, our 'Iolani Chess Team competed in the state tournament at Washington Middle School. The 'Iolani Raiders put forth their best chess of the year amassing 16.5 points to win the team division over the second place Homeschool Hawaii team who scored 13.5. Third place honors went to Mililani High School.





The top three individual places went to Chris Tanaka '20 (1st), Patrick Perry '20 (2nd) and Bill Hoang '21 (3rd). Chris earns the right to represent the state of Hawaii at the U.S. Open this summer. Ben Kim (grade 6) participated in the Middle School division at the tournament and was the overall individual winner. Congratulations to our two individual winners and our high school team for a fantastic tournament.

Katelyn Shu '23 captured the State Spelling Bee!

Her winning word was "imperious," and according to faculty member Russ Motter, the State Bee pronouncer, "It was a very talented field and she won a very competitive Bee."



Now, she is making plans to attend the National Bee in May. The preliminary round will be on May 27, and if she advances through the week, the finals will be on May 30. Congratulations Katelyn on this wonderful accomplishment and best of luck in May!

'Iolani Orchestra at the 2019 International String Gala Series



Following our performance at the 2017 Midwest Clinic in Chicago, 'Iolani Orchestra 5 was invited to be the guest artists for the 2019 International String Gala Series in Canada. This invitation is a great honor which reflects on the hard work and commitment, the technical and musical excellence of Orchestra 5 and the excellence of the entire Iolani orchestra program.

While in Canada, students were able to experience snow in the Rocky Mountains (snowshoeing, hiking, and lots of snowballs) and hiking in the Badlands near Calgary (dinosaurs, geology).

Lake Louise:



Snowshoeing at the Continental Divide:



In Banff (cultural center and ski mecca), with Hogwarts in the background:



First performance, Knox United Church. It was a privilege to collaborate with dancers from the 'Iolani hula halau, and a joy to introduce the artistry of hula to our audiences.



Dinosaurs and hiking in the Badlands:



Final performance, at the Bella Auditorium, Calgary. The concerts in Canada demonstrated not only the competence of the members of Orchestra 5, but their determination, persistence, maturity and character. Our audience there was amazed by the professionalism of our performance level, fascinated by the hula, and were deeply moved by the artistic expressiveness of our interpretations. Many groups can play the notes, but few play the music. [Here is a link to one of the hulas.](#) The standing ovation after our final selection and the personal comments from the many audience members who crowded the stage at the end showed that we had accomplished our goal: musical performance that communicates the beauty, the intensity, the emotional connections, the verve and excitement of each piece, from our hearts to the hearts of every person in the audience.

Spring Break in France

Sixteen students studying French spent their spring vacation attending intensive language and culture classes at the world-famous [CAVILAM Alliance Française School](#) in Vichy, France. They stayed with host families with whom they enjoyed breakfast and dinner in true French style. They culminated their stay in France with three nights in Paris with a tour of the city and the Château de Versailles.



Along with eating good French food and lots of macarons, the students enjoyed their home stays and “becoming more comfortable with speaking everyday French.” Vive le français!



Enjoying speaking in class: Alex Hankins '20, Kristen Drown '20, Tai Fautanu '20, Andy Nakamura '20



Visiting the Chateau de Versailles!

Pacific Asian Affairs Council

Thirty-five students participated in the Pacific Asian Affairs Council Global Vision Summit at Hawaii Pacific University on Saturday.



Students negotiated and debated resolutions regarding nuclear disarmament. They joined about 150 other students from 28 other schools.

Tam Young Artist Laurel Haines

Playwright Laurel Haines, visited theatre classes as a Tam Young artist in residence. Laurel was commissioned to write a new work for our Advanced Theatre class and has been engaged in this project for nearly a year now.



She worked with theatre teacher Rob Duval and theater students this past week to fine-tune the piece for its world-premiere at Manoa Valley Theatre.

Lunch with a Friend

On a beautiful sunny day, Lower school students and faculty enjoyed the last Lunch with a Friend for the year. The entire Lower school gather together to enjoy lunch with their buddies.



The sidewalk chalk activity allowed creativity to flow with positive messages and designs. Everyone pitched in to make the event fun!

Close Up - Washington DC

Over the Spring Break eleven 'olani students participated in a nationally-recognized educational program, *Close Up, Washington DC*, in our nation's capital. Close Up's High School Programs are designed to give students an inside look at their democracy in action. Using the nation's capital as a living classroom, students participated in seminars, debates, and simulations, they attended meetings with policymakers on the Hill, and they engaged daily in learning activities.



Activities on the trip included tours of District college campuses, a Capitol Hill tour, a visit to the offices of Senator Brian Schatz, and visits to, among others, the Holocaust Museum, National Museum of African-American History and Culture, the Library of Congress, the United States Supreme Court, and the National Portrait Gallery. One particular highlight was a nighttime walk along the National Mall, with gorgeous, near tourist-free views of the Washington Monument, World War II Memorial, Vietnam War Memorial, and the Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials.



A student remarked, "Close Up was a really spectacular experience; I not only learned about politics in a very enjoyable and rewarding way, I was able to grow friendships with my classmates and (with) students around the nation. Another added, "Close Up was totally fun, and we learned a lot, but the best part for me was the hockey game (the group attended a 5-4 overtime NHL game at the Capital One Center). I'd never been to one before."

Congressional Debate

Matthew Sohn '19, Maria Stevenson '19, and Sam Rivers '19 competed in the Congressional Debate National Qualifying Tournament at Kamehameha Schools Saturday.



They wrote and debated a variety of bills. All broke into finals. Winning 3rd place was Matthew Sohn '19. Maria Stevenson '19, and Sam Rivers '19 took 7th and 8th place respectively.

Spring College Tours

Over spring break, the College Counseling team led two college tours, with 49 students visiting colleges in California and 38 students visiting colleges in New England. The junior and sophomore students had the opportunity to tour campuses, meet with college admissions officers, and meet with 'Iolani alumni currently enrolled at the schools. In between campus visits, the college counselors clarified points made in the presentations and provided additional information on the college selection and application process. Colleges were chosen to showcase a breadth of programs, sizes, locations, and levels of selectivity.

The New England trip, led by Ms. Shlachter and Mrs. Arita-Takayama, visited Boston College, Boston U, Brown, Emerson, Harvard, MIT, Northeastern, Providence, Tufts, Wesleyan, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, and Yale.





The California trip, led by Mr. Fleming and Ms. Cachero, visited California Lutheran, the Claremont Colleges, Chapman, LMU, Occidental, Pepperdine, Santa Clara, Stanford, UC Berkeley, UC San Diego, U of San Diego, U of San Francisco, and the U of Southern California.





The students also enjoyed sightseeing opportunities like a Boston Ghosts and Graveyards Tour, semi-pro hockey game, and a trip to Disneyland. One student reflected: "I loved the college tour because I learned a lot about what I personally want in a college, and what I should be doing NOW to prepare for college. Visiting schools made me realize that location and safety matter a lot to me— and the sense of community. I also learned how the difference between small and large student populations can have a huge impact on the college experience."

Vote for a Norwegian Cruise line top teacher

Norwegian Cruise line is sponsoring a contest to select special teachers to go on a cruise. Two 'Iolani students, wrote a short essay on why they think their teacher Ms. Lisa-Anne Tsuruda should be one of the teachers selected. The top 30 teachers with the most online votes will then be judged by a panel to determine who will win. [Vote here for Ms. Tsuruda.](#)

New E-Sports Team

We are excited to announce the Hawaii High School Athletic Association (HHSAA) has partnered with PlayVS to kick off the pilot season of eSports with 24 public and private member schools statewide. As a leader in STEM education, it is only natural for 'Iolani School to be a participating member of this inaugural HHSAA eSports season.



In preparation for the pilot season, we have moved expeditiously to name coaches, build three teams that will compete in League of Legends, allocate facilities, and procure the necessary equipment needed for the school to be competitive.

The 'Iolani eSports program will be about promoting teamwork, communication, strategic thinking, leadership, character development, and perpetuating the One Team spirit - in all the same ways as our traditional sports. Please join us in supporting the new eSports program at 'Iolani as they team prepares for their first competition next week. If you have questions please contact esports@iolani.org.

Intermediate Golf

Congratulations to the Iolani Boy's and Girl's Intermediate Golf Teams. Both teams made great progress this year and came out strong today for the last team event of the season at Bay View Golf Course. The Girl's team played steady throughout the season and held on to 2nd place. The Boy's ended the season with three 1st place finishes in a row to tie for 1st with Mid Pacific Institute and force a sudden death playoff. Both schools selected 2 players to battle it out in the playoff. We are so proud of our representatives Dane Watanabe '23 and Reece Shiraishi '23.



They fought their hearts out for 'Iolani for 5 holes, but fell just short of the victory. It was a great finish to an already fun team season. We look forward to next Saturday's individual championships at Hawaii Kai Golf Course.

Varsity Tennis

'Iolani Varsity tennis has been in full swing since the last week in February. Both boys and girls teams have been playing well with the boys at a perfect 8-0 record and the girls with a 8-1 record. Next week will mark the second week of the second round of matches vs. ILH schools. The schedules are as follows.

Boys



Monday vs Mid Pac @ Mid Pac 4:15pm

Tuesday vs. LJA @ IOL 4:30pm

Wed vs Punahou @ Punahou 4:30pm

Girls





Monday vs. Mid Pac @ IOL 4:30pm
Tuesday vs. Maryknoll @ IOL 4:00pm
Thurs vs Maryknoll @ IOL 4:30pm
Come out to cheer on our teams. Go Raiders!

Baseball

Our baseball team is in the thick of the ILH race and will play its last regular-season home game on Tuesday at 3:30 pm.



It's a crucial "Senior Night" matchup versus Saint Louis. If you can't make it to campus for that ballgame, you can watch it via [Facebook Live on the official](#)

[@iolaniraider account](#). Go Raiders!

Boys Volleyball

The boys volleyball team is also nearing the end of ILH regular-season play and fighting hard to earn a State Tournament berth. They have a big match in the Lower Gym vs. Maryknoll on Thursday at 5 pm.



That match will be featured on an 'IOLANI LIVE webcast, which will start at 4:55 pm. [Here's a direct link to that webcast on YouTube.](#)

Softball

Our softball team posted an impressive 8-3 victory over Mid-Pacific last night in a game that was televised live on Spectrum OC16. The win set up a big game tomorrow at Punahou at 4 pm.



Both teams are 9-2 and sitting atop the ILH standings. [Here's a link to a Star-Advertiser article on last night's game.](#)

All the best in health and happiness,
Tim

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