
Fwd: Letter from the Head of School 5_5_19

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Sun, May 5, 2019 at 8:59 PM

May 5, 2019

Dear Parents,

May Day: E Lei Nō Au I Ko Aloha

Leading up to May day the Upper School lunch activities included lei making and haupia giveaway. On Wednesday, the entire school gathered in the Lower gym to celebrate May Day. This year's theme: "E Lei Nō Au I Ko Aloha" meaning "I wear your love as a wreath."







The ceremony was opened with the Hawaiian Language students singing 'Ano 'Ai followed by the May Day court procession. Our Kāne danced hula kahiko to “Ke Aloha I Ka Pu'uwai” and “Kāka'ikahi Ka Manu 'Ō'ō” and our wahine performed hula 'auana to “Kāne'ohe” and “Lei Pakalana.” The chorus sang “Aia Ke Kanaka” and our faculty and staff danced to “Lei Pua Melia.”

The court danced to “Ali'i 'Iolani” and the Queen danced to “Ka Loke,” both sung live by the Mākaha Sons of Ni'ihau. Congratulations to our 2019 May Day Court:

Moloka'i: Maya Buchanan '23 and Jadon Arakaki '21

Lāna'i: Olivia Kim '25 and Bryson Leong '25

O'ahu: Shelby Tadaki '19 and Frankie Felix '19

Kaho'olawe: Mariko Jurcsak '19 and Josh Fournier '20

Kaua'i: Olivia Fasi '20 and Raiden Yamasaki '20

Maui: Kapili Lopes '19 and Noah Bumanglag '19

Ni'ihau: Māhie Albinio '21 and Micah Camat '20

Hawai'i: Charla Dolor '19 and Riley Visaya '20

King Rayden Kaneshiro '19 and Queen Hi'ilei Amundson '19

If you missed Wednesday's stunning performance, you can watch it here: [May Day Video](#)

Softball State Champions!

Congratulations to the varsity softball team, which scored 50 runs in four tournament games this week to win the HHSAA State Championship! In Saturday night's title game, our Raiders beat Leilehua, last year's state champion, 17-2, exploding for nine runs in the 4th inning. Seventeen runs in a championship final and 50 runs in a tournament are new state records.





Aleia Agbayani '19 was selected as the Most Outstanding Player. Kai Barrett '19, Kalena Markham '19, Allie Capello '22 and Ailana Agbayani '22 also were named to the All-Tournament Team. This is the third state title for our school in softball and first since 2000. Mahalo to all the players and coaches, led by first-year head coach Benny Agbayani, for a fun and entertaining season!

Congratulations to the Judo team and State Champion Kari Tanji '19

Congratulations to Kari Tanji '19, who won the HHSAA Girls Judo State Championship at 115 pounds on Saturday at the Stan Sheriff Center.



Our boys team finished 7th and our girls were 8th. [Link to full results.](#)

Boys Volleyball State Runner-ups

Our ILH champion boys varsity volleyball team had a strong HHSAA State Tournament, but came up short in the championship final, losing to Punahou, 25-16, 26-24, 25-19, 25-22, which has now won eight HHSAA titles in a row.





Kupono Browne '20, Shane Harimoto '19 and Jarin Simon '19 were selected to the All-Tournament Team. Mahalo to all the players and coaches for a memorable season!

Track & Field HHSAA State Meet

Over this past Friday and Saturday, our boys and girls track & field teams competed in the HHSAA State Championship held at War Memorial Stadium on Maui. For the boys, Tyler Udarbe '19 placed 3rd in the 100 meter high hurdles and 7th in the 300 meter hurdles with times of 15.24 s and 42.13 s. Joshua Lerner '21 ran a 9:16.57 s take 4th in the 3000 meter run.







On the girls side, Taryn Yogi '19 cleared 10'-3" to tie for 5th in pole vault, Taylor Venenciano '19 marked 16'-7.25" in long jump to take 7th, Kahiau Among '20 took 4th in the 300 hurdles with a time of 48.17 s, Aya Margraf '20 ran a 10:43.47 to take 6th in the 3000 meter run, and our very young 4x100 meter relay team - comprised of two freshman and two sophomores (Ali Yoshida '21, Kyra Tanabe '21, Courtney Okumura '22, Kylie Calabrese-Kenny '22) placed 6th with a time of 51.67 s. Congratulations to all of our athletes and farewell to our seniors!

Musical Theater I Performance of Mulan Jr

Students in Musical Theatre 1 (Periods 1 and 2) performed to packed houses this weekend at Mamiya Theatre, with their production of Mulan Jr. The show was directed by Mary Hicks, choreographed by Christine Yasunaga, and costumes coordinated by Kimmerie Jones. The students did a fantastic job!



Reviews from Faculty:

“Royal Pageantry, drama, singing, dancing and an engaging plot about overcoming prejudice, defying restrictive, cultural norms to do what is right, bringing honor to your family and nation, and even a love story... it had me cheering, laughing, and applauding as our talented students shared acting and singing abilities I wouldn’t normally see during class.” -- Mark Brasher



“It was such a treat to see our talented students shine on stage!!! Our performing arts faculty continue to be successful at helping our kids become confident, talented artists. They are growing stars!” -- Maka Jones



“our ‘Iolani kids are awesome.... I love seeing them in different settings.... playing sports, creating art, performing on stage....” -- Mary Chesnut Hicks

‘Iolani Orchestras

Six of our eight ‘Iolani orchestras performed a Spring Gift of Music in Seto Hall last Sunday, April 28 to a packed house. Over 160 musicians from our lower school beginning orchestra, Intermediate orchestra, and advanced orchestra, plus upper school orchestra 1, orchestra 2, and symphonic orchestra 3 (strings of orchestra 3 and members of intermediate band 2) dazzled the audience with all they have learned this year.



The officers from the Save the Music Tree Club, President Roel Ylarde '19 and Vice-President Nate Yonamine '20, reminded the audience of the Club's decade of community service; the club will donate money earned from past and present bake sales to the International Pernambuco Initiative to plant trees. The Grand Finale of the concert featured soloists from 4 -12 grade performing the Seitz Concerto in D major.



The soloists: Kimi Maeshiro '19, Taylor DeCastro '20, Nate Yonamine '20, Aria Minami '21, Brandon Haruki '22, Erica Kim '22, Jacob Matsuda '23, John Kimura '24, James Wu '24, Caroline Haruki '25, Skye Higashihara '24, Vance Maeshiro '25, Alila Nguyen '25 and Coco Kim '27. The directors are so proud of all the young musicians who performed in this annual event and are grateful for all the support from the Orchestra Ohana.

National High School Journalism Trip

Last week, students representing the future leadership of our *Ka Mo'olelo O 'Iolani* Yearbook and *Imua 'Iolani* Newspaper publications attended the National High School Journalism Convention in Anaheim to prepare for their roles as next year's editors and share their experience with other publication staffs. This is an exciting year for Yearbook as last year's book, *Ka Mo'olelo O 'Iolani Vol. 95, Tributaries*, was just selected as one of 29 books representing this year's best-of-the-best in yearbook design and coverage out of close to 3,000 nation-wide submissions.



Throughout the convention, students attended various sessions and had the opportunity to visit KDOC-TV Los Angeles and privately tour the Angels Stadium with their vice president of communications. The group ended their trip with a visit to The Getty.

CyberPatriot team

The CyberPatriot Team was recognized in the CyberPatriot XI Open High School Silver Division for attaining 2nd Place in the State of Hawaii. The recognition ceremony was held on April 27th at Sacred Hearts Academy. The 2018-2019 team consisted of Braden Lee '22 and Sean Safi '22.



This honor is achieved through 4 separate 6 hour competitions held during the school year. Each cyber defense competition has scored tasks that take teamwork to find, verify, and correct or eliminate. Some of these tasks are to secure and repair multiple live computer systems without damaging or disabling the system, decode files, and correct network issues. CyberPatriot is the Air Force Association's National Youth Cyber Defense Competition. More info about this competition can be viewed at uscyberpatriot.org.

2019 National Economics Challenge

After winning the state competition in April and competing in the national semifinals last week, both of our teams qualified for the national finals of the Economics Challenge competition in New York City. Tyson DeCastro '20, Jayson Guo '21, Jerry Liu '20, and Joshua Park '21 will be 'Iolani's team in the David Ricardo (non-AP) division while Emily Ching '19, Chenyi Hu '19, Dylan Huang '19, and Braxton Lee '19 will represent Iolani in the Adam Smith (AP) division. The competition is May 18 - 20.

Learning Across Borders

Last weekend, 6 Lower School students and 3 Upper school students competed in the Hawaii State Round of [Learners Across Borders \(LAB\)](#) at the Wo International Center at Punahou School. Students prepared posters documenting their research and then presented speeches to panels of judges under the theme -- Water: Source of Life.





Iolani students swept the Junior Division competition with Tamara Lum '25 taking first place, Mari Chun '25 and Logan Lee '25 taking second place, and Aki Ching '26 and Emma Chun '26 taking third place. Also participating in the Junior Division was Divya Upadhyaya '26. Alex Hankins '20 and Kyani Uchimura '19 took second and third place respectively in the Senior Division. Also participating in the Senior Division was Kyra Tan '19. All of these students were invited to the LAB Global Finals in Siem Reap, Cambodia to compete against teams from 11 other countries in Asia.

Congratulations to these young researchers and many thanks to their mentors, Dr. Yvonne Chan, Ms. Robin Dyrensborg, Mrs. Robin Hiraki, Mrs. Nan Ketpura-Ching, Mrs. Jami Muranaka, and Mrs. Katherine Warner.

National Shakespeare Competition Finalist

Senior Mariko Jurcsak was chosen as a Finalist in the National Shakespeare Competition in New York City. She was one of ten finalists, out of 54 total competitors from around the U.S. Although she didn't place in the top three, her performance in the finals was even more polished than in her preliminary round.



From Press Release: April 30, 2019 — New York City: April 29th may have been a normal Monday for most high school students, but for Mariko Jurcsak from Iolani School it will be a day to remember forever. Mariko, student of Robert Duval, placed as a finalist at the 36th Annual National Shakespeare Competition celebrating William Shakespeare's birthday while competing against 50 students from around the US on stage at the Mitzi E. Newhouse Theater at Lincoln Center Theater. The event is the culmination of a year-long competition hosted by the English-Speaking Union (ESU). To qualify for the National Shakespeare Competition semi-finals, Mariko won the regional ESU Hawaii Branch Shakespeare Competition earlier this year.

Photo: Mariko Jurcsak with Iolani teacher (and coach) Rob Duval, and finals judge Dakin Matthews (who has been performing professionally for 65 years, currently portraying the Judge in To Kill a Mockingbird, on Broadway).

Iolani History Bowl & Bee

'Iolani History Bowl and Bee team represented Hawaii well at the national tournament in D.C. 26-28. Matthew Sohn '19, William Heyler '19, Sage Kanemaru '20, Chris Tanaka '20, and Madeline Heyler '21 composed our team. After the first five rounds, 'Iolani was ranked at or near the top in the nation. Unfortunately in the next four rounds, we competed against last year's first and third teams in the nation. We were eliminated from competition. Overall we ranked the 33rd and the team event, the bowl. In the individual event, the bee, Matthew Sohn '19 advanced to quarter-finals where he was eliminated by taking fifth in the room of eight students—one place away from advancing to semi-finals. In addition to the competition, students got a tour of the Antietam Civil War battlefield and spent an afternoon at the African-American Museum. The highlight of the non-competition time was the tour of the Capitol by Rep. Case staffer and 'Iolani alumnus, Ben Chao '13. We got to go to parts of the Capitol the regular tours do not go. Nicole Lam '13 and Emily Natori '13 also came to talk to them about working on the Hill.

National Japanese Exam Results

The National Japanese Exam is an online, proficiency-oriented, standards-based and culture-related assessment tool for students who are studying Japanese as a second language. Results of the Spring 2019 exam have arrived and the following students received medal certificates in their respective levels.

Japanese 1B (all c/o 2023)

Gold: Mara Goldstein '23, Laura Huang '23, Kamryn Kondo '23, Kai Konishi '23, Amy Matsui '23, Bronson Morioka '23, Sydney Mijo '23, Kacey Sasaki '23, Katelyn Shu '23, Ava Watanabe '23
Silver: Skye Bulman '23, Evan Endo '23, Aeryn Hatico '23, Dashiell Honma '23, Becca Iha '23, Carly Izuo '23, Kara Kogasaka '23, Izec Lazor '23, Brock Makishima '23, Keao Miyahira '23, Ethan Nakamura '23, Luke Ravizza '23, Travis Ujimori '23, Emma Waters '23, Sean Weiss '23, Sean Wilbur '23, Danica Wong '23, Cole Young '23, Kacie Young '23, Tyler Young '23
Twenty eight bronze medalists

Japanese 2

Gold: Dylan Dinio '21, Rysen Hirata-Epstein '22, Chelsea Inagawa '22, Christian Kashiwabara '22, Alyssa Kimura '22, Erica Matsui '22
Perfect score gold medalist: Elvis Imamura '22
Silver: Noah Agena '22, Ally Ah Cook '22, Maya Jusuf '22, Jaron Kawamura '22, Lindsey Nihei '22, Lauren Okimoto '22, Riana Santos '21, Justin Sato '21, Kailee Tanaka '22
Twelve bronze medalists

Japanese 3

Gold: Maya Chang '21, Annie Heinze '20, Ariel Ma '21, Kenta Terasaki '22, Kacey Yamane '21
Perfect score gold medalist: Loui Ikei '21
Silver: Amy Hamada '21, Adrienne Kaneshiro '21, Justin Lee '21, Tierra Nakamura '21, Autumn Woolpert '21
Six bronze medalists

National Spanish Exam

Many of our students earned gold, silver, bronze and honorable mention medals on the National Spanish Examinations. The following students achieved top 3 in the state in their respective level/category:

Level 1: Classroom Experience: 1. Kaitlin Balog '24, 2. Anja Hostetler '24, 3. Chase Graham '24
Level 1: Classroom Experience: 1. Allison Eto '23, 2. Kaitlyn Chang '23, 3. Madeline Heyler '21
Level 1: Outside Experience: 1. Saya Feldman '23
Level 2: Classroom Experience: 1. Hana Yoshizawa '21, 2. Oliver Park '21, 3. Kirra Phillips '22
Level 2: Outside Experience: 1. Greta Jacobson '21
Level 3: Classroom Experience: 1. Joie Inouye '21, 2. Carlson Ogata '21, 3. Haeri Kim '20
Level 3: Bilingual: 1. Shina Penaranda '19
Level 4: Classroom Experience: 1. Shulin Liu '20, 2. Aubrey Danko '20, 3. Jinny Wang '19

Congratulations Bethany Burke



Bethany Burke '23 was awarded second place in the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese (AATSP) - Hawaii Chapter Poster contest.

9th Grade Dance

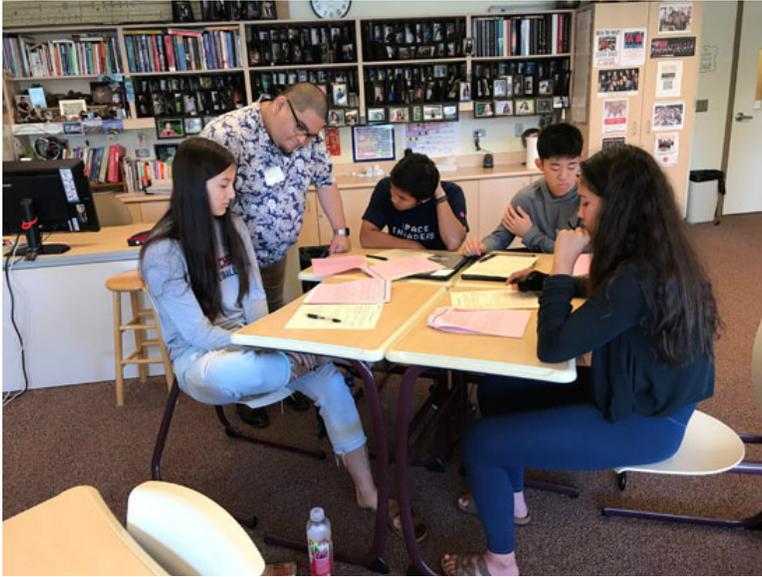
The Freshmen enjoyed their 9th Grade Dance "Fresh" on Friday, May 2nd. The students had a blast dancing, drinking boba teas, and taking pictures in a photo booth. There were snacks abound and door prizes. The best part was just seeing our students spending time, catching up, and strengthening their bonds.



Thank you to our amazing Dance Committee co-chaired by Marissa Kusumoto '22 and Kailee Tanaka '22 overseen by Class Vice President Ally Ah Cook. Mahalo as well to our dedicated chaperones. Next stop: 10th Grade!

Case Studies Update

On Sunday, April 28, members of the junior class and their parents participated in the annual 'Iolani Case Studies Program, designed to give them an insight into the college application process. Admissions officers from 23 colleges from around the country led small groups of parents and students through three mock admissions files, paying attention to transcript trends, essay themes, activities listings details, and letter of recommendation impressions. Each group then voted to accept one candidate, waitlist one, and deny one.



The College Counseling Office runs the program each spring, coinciding with the National College Fair. Parents and students in the class of 2021 will be

able to participate next April, date TBA.

Big Brother/ Big Sister

On Thursday and Friday, students in grades 7, 11, 8 and 12 met with their siblings for the last time. As a treat and farewell, the Big Brother/Big Sister Committee members organized a tasty Otter ice pop giveaway.





All the best in health and happiness,
Tim

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