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Academy women excel and aspire to compute

The Aspirations in Computing (AiC) program, facilitated by the National Center for Women and Information Technology (NCWIT), focuses on engaging and encouraging computing-related interests and achievements in high school young women as well as college students, educators and community leaders.



This year, junior **Aiyana Arnobit** (above, fourth from left) was one of 350 students recognized with the NCWIT's **Award for AiC** and was named a **National Honorable Mention** recipient.

The 14 **State Local Affiliate AiC** winners included Arnobit and (above) **Ashley Marie Lardizabal, Shailyn Wilson, Christina Chen, Leona Domingo, Sydney Chock** and **Carlee Matsunaga**.

The awardees are chosen for their demonstrated interests and achievements in computing, proven leadership ability, academic per-

formance and plans for post-secondary education.

In addition to the awards bestowed on Academy students, **Mathematics Chair Deborah Kula** was named this year's **AiC Educator Award** winner from Hawai'i for her work to foster student interest in technology pursuits.

Kula's efforts in this regard go far beyond the classroom – she oversees the students' cybersecurity endeavors in the **Cyber-Patriot** competition, High School programmers in the **First Robotics**



Competition and spearheads the school's **"Girls Who Code"** efforts.

From the Head of School

WEEK ENDS WITH TRIPS AND BAGELS



"Bagels with the Bishop" was celebrated with the Academy's seniors today. Bishop Larry Silva, accompanied by Superintendent of Catholic Schools Michael Rockers, easily conversed with members of the Class of 2017 about their plans for college, encouraging them to stay connected to their families, classmates, school and the Church. The Bishop encouraged the students to pray the scriptures daily and to continuously nurture their relationship with Christ.

Campus was rather quiet near the end of this week.

The fourth, fifth and sixth-grade trips to Hawai'i Island, Camp Mokule'ia and Kauai ended on Friday with lots of students going home in a joyful spirit but a tired body.

The Lancer Band, with Director Keith Higaki, left this past Thursday for Japan, and the Lancer Robotics team leaves Monday for their first competition in San Francisco.

The junior class was also off-campus on Friday with buses leaving for Papahana Kuaola in Kaneohe for a day of service.

The school will be open as usual next week, even though the students are on Spring Break. Enjoy the time with family, and we will look forward to welcoming them back on March 20!

Betty White

Girls have special day on campus

On March 3, Academy students joined others around the world during the annual celebration of **Girls' Day, Hinamatsuri** or **Dolls' Day**.

Originating in Japan, this cultural tradition celebrates female children and includes prayers for their health and happiness.



On campus, several classes participated in special activities marking this event.

Lori Mishima-Young's kindergartners interacted with some of the school's **International Students** (above) and learned a traditional game played in Japan and the basics behind Girls' Day.

Sandy Arnobit's Junior Kindergarten (JK) class enjoyed lessons planned by the **Japanese II Honors class**. The kindergartners learned about the Day's traditions and how to write Girls' Day in Japanese characters, *Hiragana*, and (below) created a scroll with a cherry tree and flowers, representing spring.



Students inspired by local GIN efforts

Over 150 students in grades eight to 12, including a group from the Academy, joined the worldwide efforts of the **Global Issues Network (GIN)** during its inaugural



Hawai'i **Spring Conference** on February 24 and 25 at 'Iolani School.

Spearheaded locally by the **Hawai'i Association of Independent Schools (HAIS)**, GIN touts 80,000-plus student participants around the world and is focused on a developing a world where global citizenry is championed by today's youth. GIN empowers young people to collaborate locally, regionally and on a global-level to create project-based sustainable solutions for shared issues.

At the local Conference, which was student-organized and operated, each participating school's GIN Club focused on a chosen social, political or environmental issue about which members were passionate.

And, through a festival of student-produced films and presentations on their chosen topic, students shared information, research and proposed possible solutions while building a student network to impact change.

The Academy group's presenta-

tion (*above*) focused on one by-product of climate change especially relevant in the Islands – the effects of "Coral Reef Bleaching."

The other presentations ranged from domestic violence to food waste to the Syrian refugee crisis.

Academy **Advisor James Bell** and the GIN members were joined at the Conference by students belonging to the **Pacific Asian Affairs Council** and **Kinga Wojtas**, their advisor.

Hula perpetuated by masters and mentors

Twenty-six Academy Hula students and **Kumu Jordan Asing** joined over 500 others at the prestigious, annual **Lei O Lanikuhonua Hula Festival** on February 24.

Unlike competitions, this event is a celebration of Hawaiian culture and dance with participants benefiting from hula masters, who come together to share their knowledge with those in the next generation.



Prominent athlete shares wisdom during Black History Month

In honor of "**Black History Month**" in February, **Michael Bennett**, a professional football player with the Seattle Seahawks, visited with students in the first and fourth grades to honor, celebrate and share about the various experiences of black Americans in the country's history.

Bennett, who is the father of three Lower School students, shared a presentation about the lives of notable black Americans, including *Martin Luther King*, *Rosa Parks* and *Harriett Tubman*.

His wife, **Pele Bennett** (right with her husband), also participated, covering some of the outstanding inventions created by black Americans.

The Bennetts' sessions also included a portion about the history of black people in Hawai'i.



TEACHING teachers

A group of Academy educators joined colleagues from around the State at the **Ignite Innovation Conference** on February 18 at 'Iolani School.

This Conference focused on inspiring and equipping local educators with innovative tools, ideas and connections, such as implementing project-based learning and design-thinking in their curriculum, to create dynamic educational environments.

Of particular interest to the Academy participants were the sessions on "makerspaces," a growing trend in classrooms. Makerspaces provide hands-on, creative ways to encourage students to design, experiment, build and invent as they engage in **Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics (STEAM)** learning in an area incorporating aspects from all these areas.

The Academy Ignite participants include (below left) **Elizabeth Sutter, Joseph Lyons, Kelly Fase, Dawn Robertson** and **James Bell**; (below right) **Debbie Au, Jolene Yoshioka, Laurel Oshiro, Amanda Bobbitt** and **Debra Tottori**.

