



August 2018 | Vol. XXV, No. 1

School 'ohana welcomed back to school!



With summer quickly receding in the "rear-view mirror" and after a week dedicated to fine-tuning curriculum, stocking supplies and prepping activity plans, over 100 faculty and staff members welcomed almost 800 students back-to-school on August 6.

The 2018 to 2018 school year marks the Academy's 109th year of providing a quality, Catholic and spiritual-rooted educational experience for Hawai'i's girls.

Again this year, the school boasts a veritable kaleidoscope of students in grades Pre-School to 12, with the population traveling from varied areas throughout the Islands. Each brings with them a unique personality and diverse set of talents to add and contribute to the rich school community.

The students are guided by a cadre of well-trained teachers who, on a daily basis, carry on the school's mission and legacy – established over 100 years ago by the Sisters of the Sacred Hearts. The faculty and staff are committed to helping students "find their voice," develop a complex code of compassion and explore and exploit their talents to become confident individuals, critical-thinkers, creative beings and competent contributors to the world community!



From the Head of School

LOOKING TOWARDS THE FUTURE

After 20 years of teaching, I accepted the Sisters' call to go into administration. In the past two decades, there have been several new buildings and multiple new programs, but I believe – throughout it



all – the heart of the school has remained much the same. We have worked hard to lean forward into the years in which our girls will become adults. We are always educating the next generation, and our challenge is to understand what their lives will demand of them in the future.

As I reflect on retiring from Sacred Hearts in about a year, I am filled with gratitude for the opportunity my family and I were given and for the Sisters, Board members, teachers, alumnae, students and parents who have walked with us on this incredible journey and have helped the Academy flourish.

It was a joy welcoming our students and parents back-to-school during the past two weeks at orientation meetings and at our annual "Meet the Teachers" function. I often tell parents that the Academy today is not what it was 30 years ago! It has continued to evolve in a special way under the broadcloth of the basic tenets which molded it.

During this school year, our Board of Directors is working to provide a smooth and effective transition that will move this very special school into the next 50 years. In the meantime, there is much joyous work to do and complete before June 2019! The staff joins me in our commitment to have one of the most exciting and growth filled year ever.

Betty White

SPOTLIGHT

ON  **MELINDA rocha**
DIRECTOR OF STUDENT ACTIVITIES

COMPLETING DAILY DUTIES

Armed with a Master's Degree in School Counseling, provides support needed by students in grades seven to 12. In addition, assists teachers in conducting the revised "Advisory Program."

CULTIVATING LEADERSHIP

Also, supports and guides student leaders in grades seven to 12 and is the advisor for the *Student Council* on these levels.

FOCUSING ON 'OHANA

Is working to help the Student Council implement new activities to promote "sisterhood," togetherness and the bonds of "Family," its theme this year.

ENJOYING REWARDS OF EFFORTS

Finds success in the results of helping the Student Council members plan new, innovative events – along the way, fostering their creativity and encouraging and developing their individual leadership styles.

REJOINING THE FAMILY

Previously, taught Mathematics to the Academy's *Junior High* and *High School* students from 2014 to 2016; because of her husband's job with the United States Navy, relocated to Groton, Connecticut for about two years.

ACCUMULATING TRAVEL MILES

Was raised in Corpus Christi in Texas, and in addition to Groton, has traveled to 12 other countries.

FOSTERING FAMILY

Along with husband, Sean Rocha, is "raising" Raider Rocha, an eight-year-old German Shepherd.



SPOTLIGHT **ON** ▶ *NEW faculty and staff*

▶ *KAORU asato*

COMPLETING DUTIES

Teaching *Japanese Language I* and *II* and *English As a Second Language (ESL)*.



COMPLETING EDUCATION

Holds a Master's Degree in International Communication from Aoyama University in Tokyo and a certification in Second Language Teaching Method from Dartmouth University.

LOGGING WORK EXPERIENCE

Previously taught Japanese Language to a variety of age groups and has provided language translation and tutoring services.

FOCUSING ON RESULTS

Aims to help students "feel the language" and be able to "use it naturally" by regular practice; believes higher proficiency is achieved the more language is used.

ACCUMULATING TRAVEL MILES

Was born in Guam and raised in Japan and Hawai'i, spending her Junior High years in the Islands.

FOSTERING FAMILY

Husband Mark Asato is a graduate of Saint Louis School, and the couple has two children.

BRANCHING OUT

Has studied and achieved status as a "Master" Japanese calligraphy teacher; loves cooking and has taught lessons in Japanese, Chinese and French cuisine.

▶ *NATALIE cruz*

COMPLETING DUTIES

Teaching upper-level *Spanish*, including the *Advanced Placement* course.



COMPLETING EDUCATION

Holds a Master's Degree in Spanish from the University of Hawai'i at Manoa (UHM).

LOGGING WORK EXPERIENCE

Taught and developed Spanish curriculum on various grade levels, including the beginning collegiate courses at UHM.

FINDING LIFE'S CALLING

Found passion for Spanish language while studying abroad in Argentina while in High School – she was immersed into the language and new culture and felt like she was "dropped into an amazing novel."

FOCUSING ON RESULTS

Aims to help students understand another culture and language to impact the development of their career and personal skills.

FOSTERING FAMILY

Celebrated 10 years of marriage to husband, Jose Cruz, in June. Toddler daughter, Alaia, and two dogs round out family.

ACCOMPLISHING MEMORABLE FEATS

While growing up in the Chicago-Michigan area, was a member of the Water Ski Show Team, performed a number of high pyramids and even competed for a National Championship!

▶ *CHRISTINE weaver*

COMPLETING DUTIES

Guiding the *fifth graders* in Science and Mathematics.



COMPLETING EDUCATION

Earned Master's Degree in Elementary Education from Drexel University.

LOGGING WORK EXPERIENCE

Held various Elementary-level teaching jobs in Virginia and Missouri; Hawai'i experience includes teaching sixth grade at Maryknoll School.

ACCUMULATING TRAVEL MILES

Was born and raised in New Jersey and has relocated several times, including twice to Hawai'i because of husband's deployment with the United States Air Force.

CULTIVATING LEADERSHIP

Understands her students are the future leaders and is focusing on helping them develop critical-thinking and problem-solving skills.

LOOKING AHEAD

Enjoys her class' morning meeting, her favorite part of the school day, when she and her students greet, share and do an activity to build community.

FOSTERING FAMILY

With husband, Col. James Weaver, has a college-bound daughter, a teenage son and two labs, one yellow and one chocolate.

BRANCHING OUT

Worked as an air traffic controller before becoming an educator.

Senior steals spotlight en route to winning local award



Recent patrons of *Diamond Head Theatre* were treated to a stunning show when senior *Kira Stone* and the cast of *Disney's "Newsies"* took the stage.

Stone, a rising performing artist in the local scene, played one of the starring roles, "*Katherine Palmer*," during the show's run from July 13 to August 12.

For her efforts in this role, Stone won the top honor for "*Leading Female in a Musical*" at the *Po'okela Awards* on August 6.

The *Po'okela Awards*, bestowed by the *Hawai'i State Theatre Council*, are the local equivalent of the *Tony Awards* for stage shows.

RIGHT: Senior Kira Stone and Nick Amador, her co-star, display their Po'okela Awards for lead in a musical in the Diamond Head Theatre production of "Newsies."



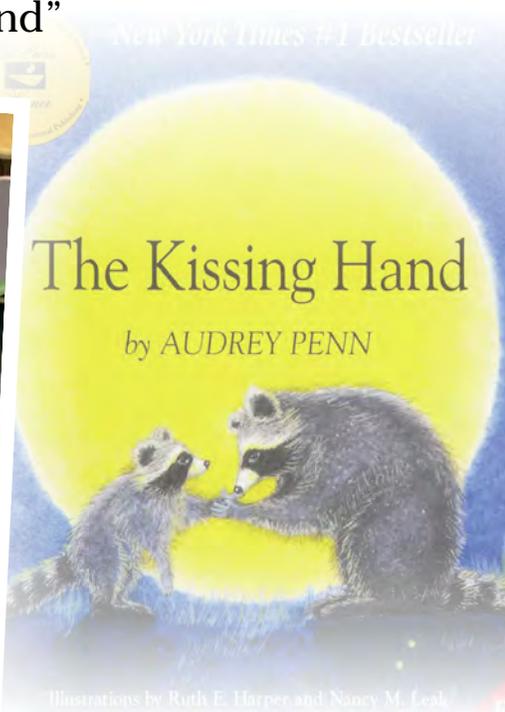
Senior kindergartners find comfort in "Kissing Hand"

On August 6, *Senior Kindergarten (SK)* teacher *Renaye Oyer* focused on combating the "first day of school jitters" of her students. To make the kindergartners more comfortable in their new setting filled with new faces, Oyer shared the story "*The Kissing Hand*" by *Audrey Penn*.

This story focuses on *Chester the raccoon* who is unsure about going to school and leaving his mother. To allay his worries, *Chester's mom* teaches him about "The Kissing Hand."

After hearing the story, the students made their own "kissing hand" using their handprint and also recited a poem to help remind them of the story.

In addition to this activity, each student is eager to have the opportunity to take "care" of *Chester* during an upcoming class homestay activity.



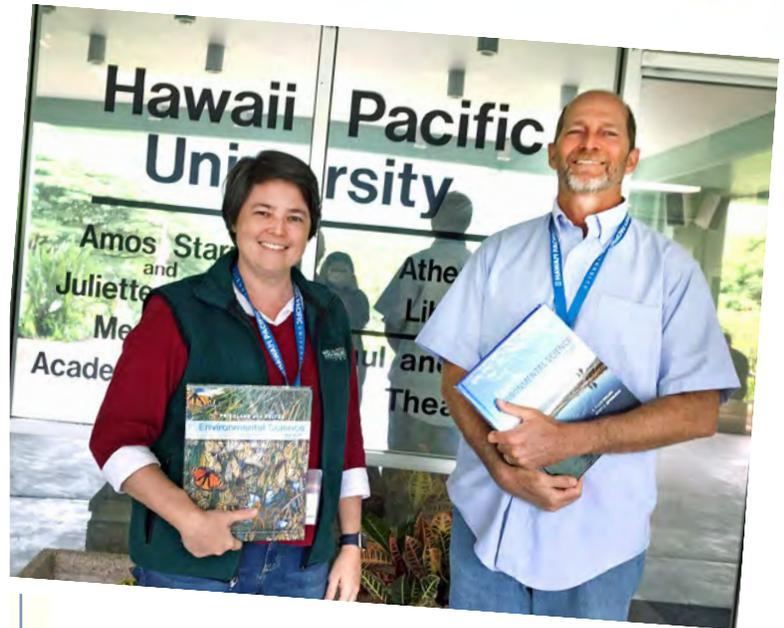
Robotics geeks out at meet

On July 2, members of the *Lancer Robotics* team conducted an outreach at what is dubbed “the most social group of geeks,” the annual *Hawai'i Geek Meet* at Ala Moana Beach Park's Magic Island.

The Lancers joined gadget-lovers, coders, designers, artists and others from the creative and technical realms for a day of insight sharing, community building, creativity spurring and “how-to” tips.

Specifically, the Academy students operated a booth to demonstrate and discuss the dynamics of their *VEX* robot, including helping (above) *Doug Chin*, the Lt. governor and former State Federal prosecutor, “try his hand” at operating the robot.

Some of the other community groups, companies and organizations participating in this grassroots event included *Hawaiian Electric Company*, *Bytemarks*, *Comicon Honolulu*, the *Hawai'i Association of Broadcasters* and *Hawai'i Geohana*.



Getting advanced guidance in Science

Many members of the Academy's faculty devoted part of this past summer to furthering their own education and developing their skills in the classroom – including (above) *Science Chair Erin Flynn* and teacher *James Bell*.

At the *Advanced Placement (AP) Summer Institute* on the Hawai'i Loa Campus, the duo were thrilled to explore the intricacies of the *AP Environmental Science* course under the guidance of “master teacher” *David Hong* from the Walnut Valley Unified School District in California.

He also had the teachers “run through” many of the labs and activities associated with teaching the class so the educators could garner experience with the subject matter.

Flynn and Bell got “hands-on” experience during an examination of soil salinization and how irrigation can affect crop production, habitat loss and species diversity based on this loss. They also did an engaging tagging activity to explore how animal tagging can predict population size and variations in population size over time.

Environmental Sciences is an area of increasing interest in recent years. It incorporates and applies many of the concepts learned in basic *Physics*, *Chemistry* and *Biology* classes, so it is a complex area to study and builds on many basic science concepts.

Flynn and Bell attended the Institute to prepare for possibly offering it in the Academy's curriculum on-campus in the future.

