



Students participate in State Inauguration festivities

December 3 was a memorable day for the Academy's fifth graders who personally witnessed the **Inauguration of Gov. David Ige and Lt. Gov. Josh Green** during a special ceremony in the rotunda of the Hawai'i State Capitol.

The students, who were accompanied by teachers and administrators, were able to attend this year's Inauguration because of a special invitation extended by **Jodi Leong**, the governor's press secretary and mother of fifth grader **Caris Leong**.

The excited Academy group arrived early to enjoy the pre-Inauguration program that included fantastic entertainment, especially the

sections featuring the Kamehameha Schools Chorus and the practice session of the Waipahu High School Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps.

The messages of the governor and Lt. governor focused on goals for the coming year. These are very concrete ideas – but quite simply stated – the challenges of homelessness and immigration, housing and transportation. And, these very topics have been discussed in the Academy's fifth grade classes!

Perhaps, most important, this opportunity was a special learning experience for the students, who were amazed to witness democracy "in action" as they were surrounded by

lawmakers, including multiple legislators, Supreme Court justices and high-ranking military officers. The Civic Clubs were also a visible force.

And, of note, the students witnessed the inauguration of the governor, but also chatted with (*below*) **Mayor Kirk Caldwell**, whom they invited to join their formal picture. Oh, what a day!

Only eight governors have held office since Hawai'i became a State in 1959, including five previous leaders who participated in this year's Inauguration – Gov. George Ariyoshi, Gov. John Waihee, Gov. Ben Cayetano, Gov. Linda Lingle and Gov. Neil Abercrombie.



From the Head of School

SHARING SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

The stretch from Thanksgiving to Christmas in the life of the school is a short one, filled with many expectations, deadlines and responsibilities. It is, indeed, hectic, but also a glorious time!



Student performances are numerous at this time of year. Perhaps, we should more appropriately refer to them as "opportunities" for sharing the spirit of Christmas. As I recently watched the Nutcracker and enjoyed tremendously the Band Concert, I found myself thinking "How can the ones to follow be better than this one?" And, it always happens – the following ones are also terrific!

Also this week the Band students participated in the Kaimuki Christmas Parade, and the Choral Concert will take place tonight in the Academy's Chapel. The Hawaiian Language and Dance classes will stage their concert, to which everyone is invited, at Roosevelt High School on December 15.

And, of course nothing compares to experiencing the joys of the holiday as seen through the actions and voices of the Lower School students, whose programs are in the Academy Auditorium on December 14.

This is also the season many classes and divisions schedule service-learning projects for the holidays, ranging from organizing a party for the children of the school's adopted shelter to preparing greeting cards for our soldiers in Afghanistan to cleaning beaches.

Best wishes for the weekend, and look for the final e-Parentline for this year, which will be sent the week of December 18.

Betty White

Students "LEGO" STEM skills

The Academy was well represented at Blaisdell Exhibition Hall on December 1 at the **FIRST LEGO League (FLL) State Tournament**, for grades four to six, and the **FIRST LEGO League (FLL) Jr. Expo**, featuring first to third graders.

The **"Boredom Busters,"** comprised of five fourth to sixth graders and advised by teachers **Jennifer Arthur** and **Kana Takahashi**, tested their skills and training against 41 other teams while vying for the State crown.

This year, they went **"Into Orbit"** about physical and social problems of lengthy space exploration and scored extremely well in all four FLL categories – *Project, Robot Design, Robot Performance* and *Core Values* – to earn an award for **"Innovative Project Solution."**

On the same day, the Busters' younger FLL Jr. counterparts went on **"Mission Moon,"** with their project-end products displayed proudly at the Expo.

The Academy fielded seven FLL Jr. teams.

Members of these teams began the season by researching the Moon, problems of living there and possible solutions for one or more of these issues. With this knowledge, the students created a **"Moon Base"** and display showcasing their season-long work.

Mahalo to all the parent mentors who worked with the FLL Jr. teams throughout the season while on the "Mission."

INTO ORBIT



Mission MOON

Junior High students go on "Mission to Mars"

This fall, the seventh graders embarked on the first, in-depth project they tackled which encompassed the **Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)** fields. Under the guidance of their teacher, **Dawn Robertson**, they set out to answer "How can the first, thriving 'community shelter' be built which will help astronauts survive on Mars?"

Working in small groups, the students investigated the planet Mars and the requirements humans would need to live and survive there.

Then, they applied this knowledge to design a shelter with rooms dedicated to specific survival aspects, such as oxygen production, supply storage and more.

Each group's designated "architects" created scaled-model blueprints of their real-life shelter design, and the "structural engineers" determined the materials needed for the build.

Together, they collaborated to construct a model of their shelter.

The project concluded on "**Mars Shelter. Qualifying Day,**"



November 13, when students presented their shelter ideas for evaluation by **Tristan Bassingthwaite**, a crew member and architect on the **NASA HI-SEAS Mars Simulation IV Crew**, and **Craig Watase, Paul Watase** and **Max Lindsey** of **Mark Development, Inc.**

The true test came when the stu-

dents, including (above) **Kailey Evaimalo, Chloe Bessey** and **Aliana Le Lesch**, used a leaf blower to simulate a severe Mars dust storm to determine the "soundness" of their structure.

The final results were a success – all of the builds survived a mild storm and most survived a severe one!

Giving aids efforts to combat breast cancer



On December 3, members of the **High School Student Council** presented a check for \$1434 raised during the annual "**Costumes For a Cause**" school-wide effort to (left) **Amanda Stevens** of the **Susan G. Komen Foundation**.

During the annual fall campaign, students in grades Junior Kindergarten to 12 paid a small fee to dress in costume for Halloween.

Council members **Briann Silva, Chanah Tanioka, Logan Shiroma** and **Eden Arthur** were accompanied by **Advisor Mindy Rocha**, who assisted the in organizing the effort.

Lancers take aim at national Junior Olympics

Members of the Academy's **Varsity** and **Junior Varsity (JV) Air Riflery** teams took a shot at qualifying for the **National Junior Olympic Championships** at Saint Francis School on December 1.

Dahee Jung, a senior, finished first overall with a score of 580 and qualified for her second National Championship event, this year slated for April at the United States Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs.

Junior **Xun He** finished with a score of 572 and will likely receive a second "invite."

Also, senior **Clarissa DeSmet** took the top spot in the division for those age 18 and over, and junior **Morgan Harrison** was second



Lauren Matsukawa, Dahee Jung, Anna Sakai, Kendra Torii, Quinn Lum, Morgan Harrison, Elena Amado, Therese Marie Velez, Jennifer Luu and Journey-Mar Kaawa-Palakiko

among those 15 to 17-years-old.

During this Sectional, participants take only 60 shots standing in

their attempt to qualify for a prestigious national berth.

It is beginning to look a lot like Christmas!

Members of the Academy 'ohana are ringing in the **Christmas** season in a myriad of ways.

On November 24, (right) members of the Academy's **Daisy Troop #260** and **Brownie Troop #163** marched in the **Hawai'i Kai Christmas Parade**.

Across the Island, the Academy's group of **Leos** spread holiday cheer and participated in the annual **Liliha-Palama Christmas Parade** on November 23.

The Leos in grades seven to 12 arrived early and helped members of their "parent" club, the **Kamehameha Lions Club**, festively-decorate their trolley with Christmas lights and ornaments prior to the parade. Then, they climbed aboard and joined their mentors to share the season's spirit and pass out candy.

