



## AKA'ULA SCHOOL STUDENT NEWSLETTER

**December 9, 2016**

December 10 – SAM-C Saturday/Second Saturday Market/STEM fundraiser/MIL swim meet

December 14 – Christmas at Kualapuu

December 16 – last day of the quarter, gingerbread house contest!

December 16-18 – State short course swimming championships on Oahu

January 9 – School resumes

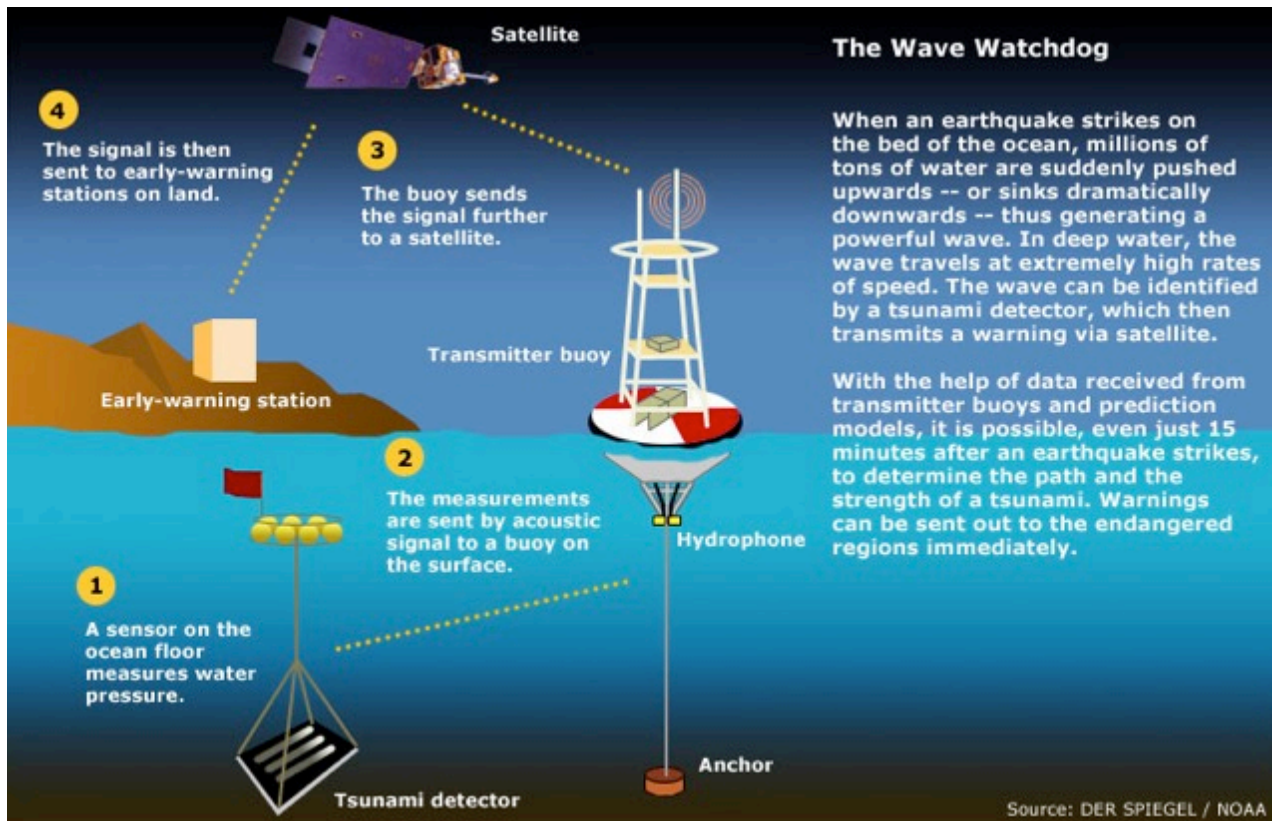
## Aka'ula School – Home of the Voyagers!

### Island News

#### The Difference Between Warning and Watch

By Mika'ele Naeole, Grade 6

This morning at school there was a massive wave of excitement and fear. Everyone was talking about going home early because of the earthquake in the Solomon Islands that resulted in Hawaii being under a tsunami warning. The teachers announced if it turned into a warning the tsunami wouldn't arrive until 3:00PM. At about 6:37AM the watch was cancelled, and we all calmed down. There is a difference between a watch and a warning. A watch is when NOAA and the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center monitors the buoys to see if a wave was generated. The warning is when a wave has been detected.



### Molokai Drug Problem

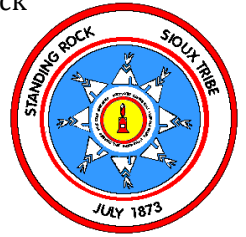
By Kekumu Helm, sophomore



Molokai has a serious drug problem and it's destroying many families. According to experts, the most common drug that's used on Molokai is methamphetamine. This pilau drug is making our community unsafe and is giving Molokai a bad reputation. When a user is under the influence of meth, he or she is not in the right state of mind and his or her actions are unpredictable. Because we are a small community, everyone is affected in economic and safety ways. I think that we need more awareness about this problem in order to find a solution. Instead of protesting issues like GMOs, we should worry about more important matters such as the meth use on our island. That is the real issue that we're dealing with. There is a major drug problem on Molokai, and it's ruining our island.

## A Great Success By Nathalie Hosten, Grade 7

A few weeks ago Li'ulā Busby and I went to a rally protesting against the Standing Rock pipeline. Our sign said, "Molokai Stands with Standing Rock." I'm very proud of the slogan I came up with. We helped contribute to keeping our environment healthy and thriving. I got the news on Sunday that the drilling permit needed to build the pipeline was rejected. Now they are unable to drill beneath the Missouri River, and North Dakota's water supply is safe for now. We need to protect the environment and keep it clean. Join me and many others in working to preserve the environment and making sure that many more generations can enjoy nature and clean water.



## Stories By Hina Chow, 8th Grade



Everyone has embarrassing moments and for some reason there is always someone who remembers. Whenever my family of nine gets together, some of the oddest stories are told. On some occasions a funny picture is also pulled out or a picture might lead to a funny story. I never know when these stories will come up. They are told everywhere: at the dinner table, in the car, with a friend, and in public. What's worse is having only one person remembering because then the story is told in detail. I used to cry when people laughed at me, but now I laugh along.

## Lost Drone By Kamaehu Ward, 7th Grade

I never like to lose something, especially if it is brand new. When I was on Maui for a swim meet my grandma bought me a mini drone. She got it for me as an early birthday present. After we got to the hotel, Maui and I were flying our mini drones, but then mine started going higher and then the wind picked it up. The wind took it over the building and I cut the power off at the controller. We tried to look for it, but we couldn't find it. We thought it must be on the building or behind where I was not allowed to go. The next day the hotel service tried to look for it and they couldn't find it either. I went to look for it with them, and we still didn't find it. The hotel service went up on the roof again and told me to wait. My grandma was looking for me, but she couldn't find me. What she did find was the drone stuck in a branch in some bushes by the beach. After all, I am so happy that my grandma found my mini drone.



## Campus News 100 Free

### By Peyton Gillespie, 8th Grade

All I heard was the rapid beating of my heart. "It's time to make that 'A' time," I thought. Then the buzzer sounded and we dove into the frigid water. I flew to Kihei, Maui with Ms. Newberry to attend a USA Swim Meet. My entry time in the 100 free was a 1:11.0 and to get an 'A' time, I needed to swim faster than a 1:07.0. There was a 'AA' swimmer in the lane next to me. "Keep up with him," said Ms. Newberry, "he'll get you that 'A' time. Show him something." I kept up with him until the last 25 when I lost him. As I touched the wall, I was sure I had failed. Then I looked at the scoreboard. I couldn't believe my eyes, a 1:06.0. I turned to see Ms. Newberry giving me a thumbs-up and a big smile.



## Math Li'ula Busby, 5th Grade

I love math. It is relaxing to me. I always get so excited when it is math time. I know those seem like opposing emotions, but I get excited when I do math and at the same time I get relaxed when I am doing math. Math is my favorite subject in school. I have loved it since kindergarten. Math has always come easy to me. When I was little and I had to add big numbers, I found a way to break them up into smaller numbers, so I could understand better. I love fractions. That is my favorite part of math. Right now I am in the TAI book number eight in math class, which is intermediate fractions. I am going through it quickly. My last book was advanced division and that took me a long time to finish. There is always a right or wrong answer in math and that is what I like about it. I think math is fun. I cannot wait to go back to school and learn more about math.



## It's A Fascinating World

### The Thorny Devil

By Mamo Kapuni, 6th grade



This thorny beast may seem alarming, but there is no need to worry. It's simply harmless. Many world cultures have mistaken this animal to be quite evil hence the term "thorny devil," which has resulted in the unnecessary killing of this creature. The average thorny devil is about eight inches long, yet weighs as little as a mouse. One way to distinguish a female thorny devil is it has a lighter pigment or is slightly bigger than the average male thorny devil. This type of reptile is commonly found in Australia's desert shrubs and under hot rocks. Its habitat mainly consists of sand, rocks, and dried grass. Though this lizard is fairly small, it lives between twelve and twenty years. Like chameleons, thorny devils are sluggish to the max, which probably explains its lifespan. The thorny devil feeds on ants, termites and occasionally small bird eggs. This animal takes weeks to digest food and only eats every month or so. In fact the main predators

to thorny devils are birds, snakes and humans. The thorny devil has a false head that rests on it's back. If a predator comes too close the thorny devil's real head can snap back onto the hunter. What fascinates me about the thorny devil is that it can drink water from grooved veins that run through its spiky back. As the thorny devil works its jaw, it rolls the grooves on its backside moving the water through its body. This reptile hatches six to seven eggs a year. The thorny devil is the coolest lizard in the world.

### One, Two, or Three?

By Ramie-Ann DeVera-Kuahuia, sophomore

*People see me and after a while  
minds rush,  
internally I think of what to say.  
My heart beats faster,  
many people see me as her,  
my mind just stops  
and thinks why didn't he survive?  
The twin who didn't make it,  
lives in my sister's body.*



I wrote this poem because most people think my sister looks like me. They usually think we are twins. Before I was born, my mother had two babies in her belly and one of them was me. The other was a boy who didn't survive. This makes me wonder. What if he were living? Would people think were twins or triplets?

### Sargasso Sea

By Dillon DeCoite, Junior



The Sargasso Sea is not like any other sea in the world. It is located in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean and is the only sea with no land boundary. Currents that surround it define the border. The Sargasso Sea is over one thousand miles wide and three thousand miles long. It occupies almost two-thirds of the Atlantic Ocean. The sea has vast amounts of floating seaweed called Sargassum. The seaweed provides food and is home to many varieties of marine animals: shrimp, crabs, baby sea turtles, endangered eels, and different types of fish. Whales and birds also migrate there to feed. There are issues with human trash and overfishing that affect the marine and seaweed populations. Countries are finding ways to protect the Sargasso Sea, but struggle because of its location. The Sargasso Sea is one of a kind.

## Altoids History

By Jalen Kalama, freshman

Altoids have long been an American favorite. They were not originally created to cure bad breath. They were designed to lessen stomachaches and intestinal discomfort. In 1781, Smith Kendon, founder of a London Company, came up with the lozenge recipe. Smith and Company was taken over by the company Callard and Bowser in the mid-1800s. Altoids did not become popular in America until 1918, over a century after their introduction in Europe. The lozenges were marketed as “curiously strong.” It was claimed they helped rid poisons in the stomach. A large amount of peppermint oil was included in the Altoids recipe. Shortly after, consumers began turning Altoids into breath mints rather than a stomach aide. Altoids were sold in metal tins starting in the 1920s. They were previously sold in cardboard boxes. Altoids changed ownership over the years, beginning with Callard and Bowser and ending with Wrigley. Altoids mints can now be found in various flavors. The first variety, wintergreen, was introduced in 1997. Sugar free varieties and “smalls” are also available. The chewing gum version of Altoids was introduced in 2003. Hard candies were introduced in 2002 and today include the flavors of sour apple, raspberry, mango, and passion fruit. Altoids are now the number one mint in America. Altoids manufacturing was moved from Wales to Chattanooga, Tennessee where it was more successful. Sales continue to grow for the “curiously strong” mints. I had a great time learning about the history of Altoids.



## Pistachios

By Sydni Pawn, Senior



Pistachios are one of the most commonly eaten nuts in the world. The pistachio is one of the oldest nuts and is native to Asia. The association between the pistachio and man dates back to 6,000 B.C. Pistachios belongs to the anacardaceae family from the genus: Pistacia. They take 10 to 12 years to produce the first crop. Pistachios help the heart, skin dryness, and the digestive system. They contain vitamin B-6, vitamin K, calcium, zinc, potassium, and vitamin E. The pistachio contains 160 calories per one ounce compared to other nuts such as, cashews, walnuts, almonds, and chestnuts, which contain more. Pistachios also decrease low-density lipoprotein (bad cholesterol) if eaten regularly. The pistachio is one of the healthiest nuts.

<https://www.organicfacts.net/health-benefits/seed-and-nut/health-benefits-of-pistachio.html>

## If Centipedes Could Fly

By Skylar Kuahuia, freshman

Picture a world with  
flying centipedes,  
People sleeping in  
fear under their  
sheets,  
Hearing a flutter of  
wings  
coming closer,  
Centipedes would live in  
colonies like bees,  
Swarming and swarming,  
Flying  
Centipedes



## Pizza

By Gracie DeVera-Kuahuia, Grade 8th

The aroma makes my mouth water. The bubbly cheese melts in my mouth. I keep crunching the crispy crust. Every bite I savor with closed eyes. I ask myself, “What makes this so spectacular?” My belly fills up with goodness. At some point I pause and look. Really! Only two pieces!

## **The Cave Bear** **By Nathan Leer, senior**

The cave bear is an extinct species of bear that lived 400,000 years ago in Europe. It is called cave bear because it only hibernated in caves unlike the brown bear, which also hibernates in shrubbery. The cave bear was eleven feet long and five feet tall, larger than most bears today. From what scientists have learned it seems the bear was mainly an herbivore that ate high quality plants. It became extinct 25,000 years ago. Scientists don't believe it was human hunters that led to the extinction because the human population was too small and there are signs that humans usually avoided the cave bears. The scientists believe it was the increasing human population and climate change that caused the extinction. Scientists are still studying this extinct bear and they hope to learn more.

