



AKA`ULA SCHOOL STUDENT NEWSLETTER

September 22, 2016

September 28 – Celebrating Botswana’s 50th year of independence

September 29 – Board meeting

October 1 – USA Swimming Meet at Cooke Memorial Pool

October 5 – Puko`o Beach Day

October 7 – Last day of 1st quarter

October 8 – SAM-C/Saturday Market

October 22 – Ku Ka Lau Lama Fundraiser

October 24 – First day of second quarter

October 29 – Lacy Veach Day/Golf Tournament

Aka`ula School – Home of the Voyagers!

Island News

Tagging Shearwaters

By Kamaehu Ward, 7th grade



photo courtesy of Wailana Moses

Helping animals alongside scientists and Nature Conservancy staff is a great way to spend a night. It started late in the afternoon when my mom and I drove to the Nature Conservancy office to prepare to go to Mo’omomi and tag shearwaters. When we finally got to Mo’omomi we split into groups. Each group had a grabber, a tracker, and a bander. I was a grabber, the person who grabs the birds. The first bird I grabbed was in a burrow, and as I was taking it out, it bit me and kept ripping and twisting the skin on my arm. After getting bit by the first bird, I started to get a better feel of how to grab the birds. Shearwaters are black with a little white streak down the middle of their back. When most of the birds were tagged, we called it a night. Our group alone tagged around thirty birds, which I consider great. When we got back to the cars, everyone took a rest and enjoyed the beautiful night sky. I had a great time tagging birds and helping this endangered species.

Mo’omomi

By Laila Juario, 7th Grade

I love Mo’omomi Beach! The ocean glows with beautiful colors I have never seen. The road there is as bumpy as it looks. It was damaged with deep holes. The beach was covered in too much junk and garbage; however, I could smell the native plants in the cooling air. The sea cliffs have been at Mo’omomi for over a million years! The shearwater birds that live there are gorgeous and interesting. They dig tunnels that can be twelve to fifteen feet deep. They lay eggs and raise their young in the tunnels. Care must be taken not to accidentally stomp on their nests. I think Mo’omomi is the best and most gorgeous place on Molokai. Mo’omomi is the greatest!



photos courtesy of Wailana Moses



Puppy By Paije Pawn, Grade 7

The most adorable puppy ever just arrived at our house. The puppy barks too much while I try to rest. It's really irritating, but the puppy is so cute. She plays rough and chews on my fingers with her sharp teeth. She stays in the house, and sometimes she hides under the bed. Every time I look for her she doesn't come out, but as soon as I open her canned food she comes running and barking. When I put her outside she grabs our slippers and makes teeth marks on them, and when I go outside she scratches my arms and legs to tell me she wants to go back inside. Don't be fooled by her cuteness. She is a big troublemaker, but I still love her. I hope she lives a long, healthy life.

Something About Lava By Alaijah Pastrana, 8th grade

Lava is one of the most fascinating substances in the world. Lava wasn't called lava until Vesuvius erupted in 1737. Lava is magma that has erupted through the planet's surface. Basaltic lava is associated with Hawaii the world over. Two types of lava, pahoehoe and a`a, can both come from the same eruption. A`a often advances erratically with occasional sudden surges making the surface rough and rubbly. Pahoehoe has a smooth ropy surface. Lava is so hot that plants close to a lava flow can vaporize or burn quickly. Lava is a wonder to see.

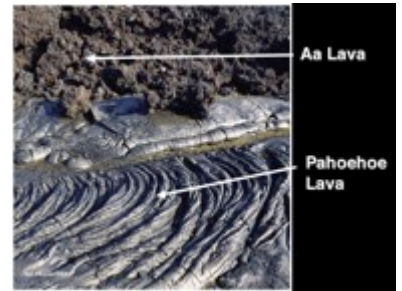
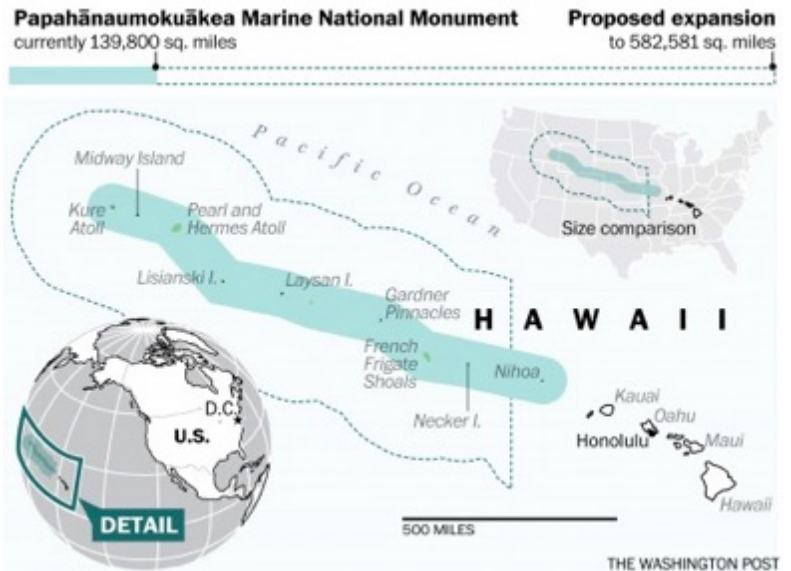


photo courtesy of bigislandlava.com

Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument By Kaleo Aiana, 8th grade

Papahānaumokuākea is an example of what can be accomplished when we work to sustain our world for the next generation. Located northwest of Kauai, it covers 139,797 square miles (362,075 square kilometers) of the Pacific Ocean. President Obama just recently expanded the existing monument. The expanded boundaries make this monument the biggest protected area on the planet. The Papahānaumokuākea is globally recognized for its biological and cultural significance. Papahānaumokuākea is home to millions of native Hawaiian species. The preserve serves as a nursery for much of the northern Pacific Ocean. President Obama is helping ensure marine habitats will be here for generations to come by establishing this extraordinary monument. I support and appreciate everything he has done for our nation.



Cave of Doom By Kamaka Adams, 8th grade

I jump at the rustling sound. I'm not alone. The corners hide the shadows that follow my every movement. The hole in the side of the cave let's the monsters hide and watch me. The piles of clothes and blankets that have been stolen from other villages are my only comfort. The cold wind stings my throat and keeps me from sleep. I am most glad that the sun has come up. I open my eyes. I am no longer in a cave, but in my bedroom.

Puppy Love

By Mamo Kapuni, 6th grade

I adopted my very first dog on September 22, 2012. I begged my mom to let me have a puppy, and my mom gave in. My Uncle Kumu's dog had given birth to seven adorable puppies. The mother was a hound, and the father was a Rhodesian ridgeback. Mele was the smallest out of all of the puppies, but my mom didn't even notice that I had picked the runt of the litter. Even though she was the smallest, I felt that she had the most courage. She had white paws and a broad black body. I spent 15 minutes making sure, but from the moment I first saw Mele, I knew that she was the perfect puppy. I plopped down on the grass to see if any of the puppies had a connection with me. All six of them came except the one I wanted, the runt. That told me that she was shy and timid. I scooted closer to the doghouse where she was laying. She seemed to have no interest in me at all.

I knew that she was the puppy that would love me and change me, and I just had to have her. Finally, I scooped Mele up with my hand and showed her to my mom. It was love at first sight, and we were destined to be friends. To this day I have Mele. She follows me wherever I go, and I love her to death! Mele has changed my life and helped me become a more responsible person.



My Dream Job

Li'ula Busby, 5th grade

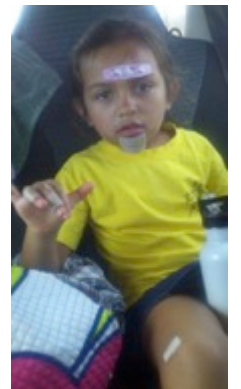


People always used to ask me what I want to be when I grow up. I thought that was a really good question because I didn't know the answer myself. There are so many amazing choices. After much thought I found the perfect job for me. I want to be a chef. The first reason I want to be a chef is because I love cooking. I love the smells and the feeling of food. It would be awesome to make people happy with my food. I would also love to be a chef because I would get to taste test lots of food, and I love food a lot. Food could be my favorite thing in the world. My favorite kind of food is Mexican because it has lots of flavor. I could have tacos for breakfast, enchiladas for lunch, and tostadas for dinner. Being a chef would be the perfect job for me.

Worst Bike Accident Ever

Li'ula Busby, 5th grade

I had an accident on my bike, and it was the worst bike accident ever. My dad, my sister and I were biking, and we were having lots of fun until I started zooming downwards. "Swushhh," I passed my dad and sister. I did not know what to do. Dad yelled, "Stop!" I got nervous, and "screech", I jammed the brakes and went flying. Thump! I crashed to the ground. Dad and my sister pulled up, and I glanced at them with a shocked look on my face. I had injuries on my knees, under my chin, on the side of my left arm and inside my lip. I rode home with Dad on his bike. We picked up my bike the next morning. My sister helped out a lot and was really nice to me. I had to eat small bites of food and chew with my mouth closed so I would not hurt my chin and lip. Now I do not go too fast on my bike, so in a way that bike accident helped me to be a better biker. Sometimes, if something bad happens, it can help out in the future.



What Can I Create?

By Li'ula Busby, 5th grade



Anyone can make a big difference in the world. I'm going to create the most awesome invention ever. I believe it will change the world. I will call my invention the "Turwing Bag". You must be thinking, "What is a turwing bag, and how does it work?" Turwing is a combination of turbo and wing. My invention is a backpack with pull out metal wings. Press a green button to go and the red to land. I imagine how fun it will be to fly every day. We could go anywhere. It would also help us move faster without polluting the air. Testing it will be very difficult. I do not want anyone to get hurt from using my invention. First, I have to see how much weight it can hold and develop the charging system. My invention would be super-awesome because I have a very heavy backpack and a backpack with wings would carry both me and my backpack. I will make this invention happen because I know it will change the world.

Laika

By Isla James, Freshman

I wasn't looking for a third dog, but I certainly couldn't leave Laika in the condition she was in. The first time I saw her was during the last week of school. She was wandering aimlessly, probably looking for something to chew on. She was mangy with sunburn, had no hair and was just plain dirty. Being myself, I spent time after school petting her when I could. At first I thought she was an old, withered dog, but her personality said otherwise. It was the last day of school and I decided it would be the best time to take her home. That day I had paddling, and she patiently waited on the shore even though I had to tie her to a tree. My mom didn't know about Laika, but I knew how she would react when she found out. As we walked to the car I could see the anger on my mom's face. I was leaving for Africa in two days, so I had just left a huge responsibility with her. Luckily, while I was gone my mom warmed up to Laika, who healed significantly. Now she has white fur from her fat nose to her curly tail and black dots covering her belly. She has become best friends with her fellow dogs and, surprisingly, with most of the cats. After a few months of getting used to the new dog I think we can all agree she is a great addition to the family.



Motivational Brother

By Laiku Dowling, Freshman

My older brother, Kaiea, plays football for the Kahuku Red Raiders. They are facing the number one team, Bishop Gorman. My brother started off playing for Molokai High School football team, where he was the MVP, but my brother's dream was to play on Kahuku's football team where he would have a better chance to go to his dream school and play for the Oregon Ducks. He wants to go on to the pros from there. My older brother tells me to always work hard and play hard. He's 100% committed to his future and now he's facing the number #1 team in the nation. The game will be televised live from Nevada on Saturday, September 17. My grandma and I will be watching and cheering for the Red Raiders.



Coqui Frog

By Gemini Carman, Senior

In the Hawaiian animal community an invasive, noisy Coqui frog destroys the silence of the night. Around 1988 an unexpected amphibian made its way to the islands of Hawaii. Mostly occupying Maui and Hawaii Island, the Coqui frog disrupts the silence of the night. The scientific name for this frog is *Eleutherodactylus*, which is Greek for "free toes". This is because there is no webbing between the frog's toes. Native to Puerto Rico, the Coqui frog threatens Hawaii's ecosystem because it has no predators here. Its eggs are laid in trees, and it doesn't have a tadpole stage. Hopefully, one day the Coqui frog can be eradicated so Hawaii's ecosystem can thrive.



Campus News

Batman

By Hina Chow, 8th grade

Standing in the school doorway is Batman, holding a bat detector. On Friday, the third of September, Paul Hosten came to Aka'ula and talked to students about bats. An interesting fact that I learned was that a Hawaiian bat's wingspan is about twelve inches long, and yet the bat weighs less than one ounce. As for the bat detector, it's now tied to a tree at Aka'ula School. The bat detector will pick up bat sounds that humans can't hear. Why might we want to find bats? We would like to find bats because they can help reduce mosquitoes, and they are native to Hawaii. I look forward to finding bats around the island of Molokai.



Swim Meet

By Peyton Gillespie, 8th Grade

My heart pounded in my chest as my hands sliced through the water and my legs kept the beat like drums playing furiously at a concert. Then the crowd went wild. Aka'ula has just completed the first swim meet of the year. This was the first time I didn't feel nervous or pressured before, during or after a race. I signed up for 100 freestyle, 100 backstroke and 200 IM, but ended up swimming 100 freestyle, 100 backstroke, 50 butterfly and 100 IM. I had LOADS of fun, maybe a little too much, because I started screaming so loud for my friends to "Go, go, GO!" that I got a hoarse throat. Thank goodness Miss Lukonen stopped me or I wouldn't be able to talk! In one of my races, my time dropped, but in the others, my times were a little slower than last year. This is to be expected in the first races of the year. Anyhow, I had the most fun I've ever had at a swim meet and am glad my friends were there to share that feeling with me.



Botswana Battle

By Jalen Kalama, Freshman

All of us were eating watermelon, and minding our own business when a battle slowly developed until we had a full on watermelon seed war. Some of us were seeing whose seeds would go the farthest. Eventually, we started spitting the seeds at each other, and chaos ensued. Almost everyone in the camp joined, and it became a seed frenzy. Nobody teamed up, and all of us were on our own. I ran around everyone and spit seeds at them as I scurried by. I had no specific target, and my only plan was to spit seeds at random people. Almost everyone got tired of the fight and stopped. Then it came down to Steve and me battling it out. He spat a seed right in my face, and I bit into the watermelon slice to reload. It was my time to shine and I spat one right back. He stopped fighting and I had the last laugh... well, sort of. With a sweet smile on her face, Isla said, "Hey, Jalen, try this watermelon." I went in for a bite, and she shoved the watermelon in my face. Everyone was laughing hysterically, while I was covered in watermelon juice. It turned out Isla had the last laugh. Everything simmered down, and before we knew it, "The Battle at Khubu Island" was over.



Farewell Jake

By Skylar Kuahuaia, freshman

Lustrous golden
coat,
Intelligent and sweet,
With curious eyes,
Lovable but silly,
Funny unbalanced
legs,
His puppy like
personality,
A golden retriever,
Old Jake



Beyond Our Shores

Wizard Falls Fish Hatchery By Madison Trenner, 8th grade



A ten-inch trout jumped out of the water and snatched a piece of fish food from my hand. My family and I had hiked along the cold, 50-degree, Metolius River in Oregon to get to the Wizard Falls Fish Hatchery. Built in 1947, five species are raised here, rainbow trout (most common in Oregon), brook trout, Kokanee salmon, Atlantic salmon, and Chinook salmon. When these fish mature some are transported to rivers, ponds, and lakes around Oregon. Five million salmon and trout have been hatched here. The Wizard Falls Fish Hatchery runs on funds and taxes from fishing and hunting equipment. Food dispensers allowed us to purchase food for the fish, but instead of buying the pellets I found some on the ground. The Wizard Falls Fish Hatchery's main mission is to preserve their natural resource, which is fish. We enjoyed our walk to the fish hatchery.

Saving Endangered Penguins of South Africa By Nathalie Hosten, Grade 7

Jackass penguins are the only species of penguin that breed in Africa. Jackass penguins got their name because they sound like donkeys. Unfortunately, there are only 45,000 of these birds left. An organization called SAMREC (South Africa Marine Rehabilitation and Education Center) is doing all they can for the endangered penguins in their area. My Uncle Luc, who volunteers at SAMREC, took me to a penguin release while I was in South Africa for the holidays. It was wonderful to watch the well-fed and healthy penguins happily swim over the horizon. Many Jackass penguins are starving because of sardine overfishing. My uncle frequently finds sick or injured birds on the beach by his house. Once, when my Dad and I went on a walk there, we found penguin bones. Scientists predict that Jackass penguins will be extinct in the wild by 2025. That's just nine years, people! We have to do something to help these penguins! Next time you eat sardines, think twice and remember the starving Jackass penguins of South Africa.



photos courtesy of Nathalie Hosten

ITT Tech Shuts All Campuses By Jaden Liu, Junior

It saddened me to hear that ITT Technical Institution permanently closed all campuses on September 6, 2016. ITT wasn't in compliance with the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools. The US Department of Education has a policy that prevents federally funded students from attending for-profit operations. ITT Tech had 130 campuses in 38 states, and closing the school resulted in the loss of 8,000 jobs. Students have two options, which are to have their loans forgiven and seek education elsewhere, or transfer their credits and keep the debt. ITT Technical Institution's decision to shut down disappointed me because I was looking at the school as one of my options after high school.



Sniper Kills ISIS Executioner **By David Onofrio, Junior**

A British sniper killed an ISIS executioner who was greatly feared throughout Syria. The executioner was getting ready to burn twelve prisoners suspected as spies against ISIS. The executioner had a flamethrower and on his back was the gas tank that the sniper shot from about 1,500 meters. When the bullet penetrated the tank, it exploded, engulfing the executioner and three other ISIS members in flames. The SAS sniper was using a Barrett .50 caliber sniper rifle. He shot the gas tank right after the executioner was finished making a speech in front of a camera other ISIS members were holding. This executioner was especially feared because he used a flamethrower to burn his victims alive. Shortly afterwards, British and U.S. Special Forces began rescue operations and saved all twelve of the prisoners in a small Syrian village.



Dolphin Language **By Laiku Dowling, Freshman**

A Russian biologist says there may be a newly discovered dolphin language that dolphins use to chat with each other. A Russian biologist studying two adult Black Sea bottlenose dolphins, named Yosha and Yana, recorded them “chatting”. The dolphins did not interrupt each other during their interaction, like too many human adults do! The biologist recorded their conversation and then tried to translate the sound into words and sentences. In the next century we might be talking to dolphins.