

the island school

# Navigator

a triannual publication Fall 2005 vol. 28, issue 3

## Island School's Partnership with the Community

### What's Ahead?

End Trimester 1	Nov. 18
Thanksgiving Break	Nov. 21 - 25
Staff Development Day	Nov. 21
Teacher Workdays	Nov. 22-23
Begin Trimester 2	Nov. 28
Student/Parent/Teacher Conferences	Dec. 8 & 9
Middle School Play "Help" by David G. Grote With performances by the Middle School ukulele band & chorus	Dec. 9 & 10
Winter Break	Dec. 19 - Jan. 2
2nd Annual Alumni Reception	Dec. 27th 6:30 - 10:30

- Our Commitment to Community Service
- Shearwater Project in Lawai Kai
- Our Campus: a showcase for native plants
- Annual Giving: help us meet the challenge
- Alumni Reception: Dec. 27th

# Young Conservationists

Students in Lynda Liesse's and Nathaniel Evslin's 3rd and 4th grade classes are developing a personal connection with our environment through their shearwater project. Initiated last year by Hawaiian Studies teacher, Sabra Kauka, these students have taken several trips to Lawai Kai on the island's south shore, and have "adopted" shearwater chicks that nest along the cliffs. With the help of UH-doctoral candidate, Aaron Hebshi, these children are on their way to becoming lifelong conservationists.



Riley Dabin weighs his shearwater chick

"When children actually go out into the field and meet endangered animals, protecting wildlife becomes more than just talk," explains Ms. Liesse, who takes her students on many field trips throughout the year. "Parents come up to me after these trips

and tell me that their child has taken them out to the nesting sites to show them their chicks, and point out all the things they have discovered. To me, that is evidence that values are being shaped and learning is really taking place."

This was the second year for the 4th grade students and they mentored this year's 3rd graders. With guidance from Aaron Hebshi, the young scientists captured "their" shearwater chicks, bagged and weighed them and measured their wingspans. The data was recorded and analyzed. "When the chicks gain weight and grow, this is evidence that the colony is thriving,"

explained Aaron. Evidence of destruction by predators such as fire ants, dogs, cats, and people is also checked.

When I picked up my bird, it tried to bite me," said 3rd grader Hilo Chock. "It felt very soft and fluffy."

A grant from the National Science Foundation led to the creation of the GK-12 program at the University of Hawai'i, which funds Aaron's flights from Oahu to visit Island School. Island School's partnership with UH is an example of how establishing relationships with the greater community can impact our students directly. Grants from this program funded Aaron's project as well as those of other doctoral students in previous years.

In the Hawaiian tradition, students, teachers and parent chaperones gathered together with Kumu Kauka to ask permission to trespass on the habitat. Then they carefully watched their steps to be sure they didn't walk on top of a nest. "If someone accidentally collapsed the entrance to a nest, they learned to rebuild it," explained Mrs. Liesse. This didn't happen often, fortunately, and no birds were lost as a result of this project.

Keeping organized and accurate records was another lesson for these students. There were times when data collected by a group varied dramatically from one student to another. According to Ms. Liesse, when the students got back to class, they discussed their findings with Aaron and



figured out whose data was correct. "Sometimes they got one bird mixed up with another," Ms. Liesse said, "and they'd have to go back and carefully check their notes."

Last year, Aaron took students to study the colony at Ninini Point near the lighthouse. After visiting these nests once a week for several months, they were told this year's hatchlings had all died. "It's difficult to tell what exactly happened to the chicks," said Aaron, "It may have been the result of dogs or cats, but my best guess is that some kind of animal preyed upon them." Ms. Liesse's and Mr. Evslin's classes hope to design signs to post in shearwater nesting areas to remind visitors to keep their dogs leashed. "On other islands, entire colonies have been wiped out due to mongoose

predation," Aaron said. Kaua'i's birds are fortunate not to have to worry about these animals.

*"I liked measuring their wings," recalls third grader, Whitney Summerhays. "It was fun to see how much they grew in just three weeks."*

Mr. Evslin's and

Ms. Liesse's students completed their shearwater study this year with a camp-out at school. At sunset, they visited their birds once more to see them at feeding time. This is when the parent birds return with tasty morsels that are regurgitated directly into the chicks' mouths. Sometime in November, the birds come of age and take to the skies, leaving behind the proverbial empty nests.

# Community Service

## *a bridge to adulthood*

Community Service is an important part of Island School's culture. Studies show community service offers an opportunity for adolescents to form an identity with links to becoming a mature, socialized adult.

Historically, as people reached their teen years they jumped from childhood to adulthood. As soon as a person was capable of contributing to the household income, he or she was put to work. Picking up odd jobs or adding to the farm labor made the teenager both useful and essential to the family's well-being. Although strong, healthy, and capable, today's teens often lack a venue to put their usefulness to work. Not often are there fields for them to harvest, gardens to dig, piles of manure to haul, or loads of junk to sell. In fact, according to Hawai'i's Child Labor Law, teens under the age of 18 must have a work permit before they are legally allowed to hold a job!

Today's teens, especially in the Western world, are protected from hazardous working conditions and excessive work hours. National studies have concluded, "The main goal of childhood and adolescence is to develop the intellectual, physical, and emotional skills to function well in adulthood. Work that is safe, meaningful, and rewarding will contribute to this goal and have a positive impact that lasts well beyond the high school years." (David Wegman, National Research Council,

1998). Community service provides a suitable venue for teens to exercise these skills.

To graduate from Island School, high school students must complete the community service requirement. Each year, from grade 9 to 12, twenty hours of service must be given. This

may be satisfied in a variety of ways but must be done outside of school hours. Many students help on campus setting up for events, painting, landscaping, cleaning, and organizing. Off campus, relationships with

several Kaua'i non-profit organizations have been established over the years. For example, the Kaua'i Foodbank invites our students to serve meals at holiday times. Volunteering for the National Tropical Botanical Garden, Wilcox Hospital, Nana's House, Friends of Lydgate Park, Mokihana Club, and Rotary Club are other examples.

Community Service doesn't begin in high school. "Whenever we visit a park



or the beach, we teach the children to leave the area cleaner than when we arrived," says first grade teacher Cristy Peeren. Last year, children collected clothing and household items to send to the victims of the Indonesian tsunami (see photo above).

Island School's birthday at the end of January is a time when we celebrate our beginnings and students give a ho'okupu (gift) to the community. Students in all grade levels plan and carry out community service projects, ranging from painting restroom walls to cleaning the beach at Maha'ulepu.

The eleven statements that comprise our Expected School-wide Learning Results (ESLRs) provide direction for the school. ESLR #7 states "Understand and accept responsibilities as citizens in a global society ..." This clearly sets a standard for our students. Teaching students the value of giving back to society is a cornerstone of an Island School education. As our students begin to understand how much they have to offer their

community, they become prepared to live productive, fulfilling lives as confident, responsible life-long learners and contributing members of society.

**"I know that in some small way I'm helping out. Whether it's with people less fortunate than me, or with the environment, or here at Island School, community service**

**Paige Blagg, '06**

**rocks!"**

**"It's valuable because it allows you to branch out and experience different areas of interest that you wouldn't have noticed otherwise."**

**Jennifer Ray, '04**



# Alumni CENTERFOLD

## SEND US NEWS FOR THE WINTER ISSUE

What are your I.S. classmates up to?

**2005 - Aria Castillo** has been chosen as the design editor for the *Los Angeles Loyolan*, Loyola Marymount University's newspaper! **Kasey Alcott** was all set to begin her freshman year at Loyola University in New Orleans. Thankfully, she evacuated to a nearby relative's house before Katrina hit, but then had to return home. She has enrolled at Kaua'i Community College where she is pursuing nursing as a career.

**2004 - Charles Chapin** is studying art design and media at Richmond College near London. He has met some Romanian students who are teaching him to speak their language and he plans on going home with them over Christmas vacation. **Bjorn Talvi** is attending classes at KCC and working at Gaylord's Luau part time.

**2003 - Andy Head** has decided to join the Peace Corps when he graduates from University of Redlands in 2007. In preparation, he's heading up a couple of community service organizations on campus. Majoring in environmental science, Andy is part of a team that's doing a water conservation project in San Bernardino County, learning how to replace introduced plants with native species. Leave it to Andy to make a fashion statement: "I joined ballet with a couple friends for fun this semester. I look a little funny hopping around in bike shorts and I don't know about the spandex shirt, but two of the



Justin Guerber, '01, "moonlighted" as a dancer on the Claremont College Ballroom Dance Team, while studying computer science. He graduated in June and is working for an accounting firm in Santa Monica, CA.



**Dana (Mackey) Temme**, '89, and her family are building their home on Kaua'i. She's teaching at King Kaumuali'i Elementary. Pictured are her husband Kim, and two daughters who attend Island School, Lola and Alex.

cutest girls in the class already asked me out, so I must be doing something right." **Maya Magennis** wrote from Florence, Italy, where she is spending the semester abroad. She lives in an apartment that's a ten minute walk from the Duomo – with 12 other girls! She's enjoying her classes and has already discovered one of Firenze's top attractions: Vivoli's gelato!

**2002 - Bianca Simonetti** is a senior at University of Southern California. She shares a two-storey house with seven other girls from her water polo team. She plans on moving to a "beachy community" when she graduates this spring.

**2000 - Sarah Medeiros** has been attending Portland State University as a communications major. She's moving into a new job as advertising assistant at a local radio station.

**1999 - Brody Bergholz** moved to Lake Tahoe in 1995. After graduating from high school, he moved to Santa Cruz, California, where he runs the production team at a recording studio called Indigital Studios ([www.indigitalstudio.co](http://www.indigitalstudio.co)). **Brandon Mock** attended Kapiolani Community College and is currently working for a contractor on Oahu. He recently

passed the first test on the way to becoming a firefighter, and plans to volunteer part time for Habitat for Humanity.

**1992 - Ashley (Siebring) Jones** attended the University of Hawai'i, Manoa, Southern Oregon University, and McCrory University in Sydney, Australia. She returned home, studied massage therapy, and married Phil Jones. Together they run Pure Kaua'i, a business that provides custom-made, healthy vacation packages that include yoga, hiking, surfing, and a host of outdoor activities, plus healthy food, tailor made for the customer's well-being. She is the mother of 4 yr. old Kalina.

**1984 - Megan Loomis Powers** graduated from University of California, Santa Cruz, with a BS in molecular biology. She moved back to Maui and worked as a biologist for a short time before marrying and having two children. In 1998, she started a company, Aloha Medicinals, Inc. They grow medicinal mushrooms for the health supplement industry and have a line of health supplements used primarily for immune system health. You can see their products on the web at [alohamedicinals.com](http://alohamedicinals.com). The company expanded in 2002 into a production facility in Santa Cruz, California. Presently they have 4 owners and 18 investors.



These bright faces were in Island School's 7th & 8th grade class of 1983-84. From l-r: Dana Mackey, Jay Hiramoto, Shoshanna Stepak, Malia Powers, Alicia Kawaihalau, Aaron Hermeling, Aaron Wentworth, Sarah Rudinoff, Francine Davis, Tiffany Malley, Julia Tangelder, Tanya Taylor. Also in this class, but not pictured were: Michelle Hood, David Marshall, Stephanie Marshall, and Chelsea Shaw.

## Alumni Reception

**December 27**  
**Island School**  
**6:30 - 10:30 p.m.**

Planning on being on island for the holidays? We hope to see you at this year's Alumni Reception.

**Heavy Pupu**  
**Dancing ... and Reminiscing**

**Phone your Island School classmates and meet them at Island School for a great evening.**

RSVP: [peggy@ischool.org](mailto:peggy@ischool.org) or 808.246.0233 ex. 262

## island school Factoids

### Things worth remembering ...

The original name given to Island School by its founders in 1976 was Na Pua O Kaua'i School. Inspired by their own, young children, na pua, or the blossoms, symbolized the unfolding of these young lives into adulthood. When the bigger vision for the school was examined, this name was felt to better describe an elementary or primary school. After much discussion and by the time the school opened its doors in 1977, the name had become Island School.

Island School's first reunion was held in June of 1991, on the eve of the school's move to its new campus in Puhi. Everyone who had a connection with the school – students, faculty, administrators, parents, board members – were invited to gather for the last time at the old Kealia campus where a final Aloha Circle was held. Students carved their names into a small concrete stepping stone as a memento of the event. Unfortunately, the cement was too hard and the writing was illegible. Great idea ...

# A Growing Appreciation

a story of what can be accomplished with dedication and community support

When Island School moved its campus to Puhi, its new buildings were surrounded by barren and wind-swept dirt, with no shade to be found. Today, as you walk around, the original ten acres are lush with native koa, naio, naupaka, loulou palms, ulu, and noni trees. All of these are native Hawaiian and Polynesian-introduced plants, the outcome envisioned over fifteen years ago.

Choosing a native landscape theme was deliberate. "We wanted our grounds to be a teaching tool as well as practical and picturesque," says Joan Shaw, who manages the project. "Island School is one of the few schools in the state that offers an entirely native landscape." Classes in Hawaiian Studies, art, and science are held in this outdoor classroom, using its richness as a resource. Middle School students give botanical tours using a guidebook produced by the class.

Our grounds make an important contribution to the learning environment at Island School. Students develop a sense of stewardship for their beautiful surroundings. Over the years, students and their families have planted new trees and shrubs, weeded, and picked up litter. "I think the greatest strength is ownership," says Joan. "We could have just prepared a generic landscape and walked around and not noticed it. When you plant it with your own hands and water it, you take much more of an interest in it."

Tens of thousands of dollars in support of this project have been given to the school through the Kaulunani Urban Forestry Project. These grants are unique in that they are matching grants, requiring donations of money, materials or labor in order to qualify for them. This is where the community stepped up to the plate. Kaua'i Nursery and Landscaping and the National Tropical



*This rendition of the native kou was drawn by Island School exchange student, Reiko Matsumura in Penny Nichols' art class.*

Botanical Gardens came through with donations of start-up plants and valuable professional expertise. Our parents, students and friends put in hours of volunteer labor; this is how our 'ohana develops a feeling of ownership. The result is a living laboratory for evolutionary studies and plant conservation ... and shade! Island School's campus is a showcase for all to enjoy and take pride in.

## Na Pua

### Annual Giving 2005-2006

Children are like blossoms, unfolding with each year as they grow into adulthood. Na Pua, the theme for this year's Annual Giving campaign, signifies how we see the minds and bodies of our students become enriched by their experience at Island School. Our Annual Giving campaign also blossoms as more and more of our 'ohana participate.

Highlighting this year's campaign is a grant from the Will J. Reid Foundation – the Challenge Grant. This grant for \$10,000 will match dollar for dollar up to \$200, any donations to Annual Giving made by new donors. This challenge is an excellent opportunity to put Island School's Annual Giving Campaign on your regular support list.

Why give to the Annual Giving Campaign? Tuition supports an average of 80% of the school's annual

operating costs. This means that the remaining 20% must be raised by other means, or tuition will have to be raised. Island School is determined to keep tuition costs as low as possible while continuing to provide the highest quality of education. In order to do this, we humbly ask our 'ohana to give generously to Annual Giving. Your contribution can be earmarked especially for our tuition assistance program or for general operating costs. Either way, you're making a difference.

In these times of hardship throughout our fragile world, I remember how fortunate we are to live on this beautiful island, surrounded by such wonderful people. Island School is a gift to us all. We hope you can share your good fortune in the form of a donation, of any size, to our Annual Giving Campaign.





# Making Kaua'i a better place

by Robert Springer, Head of School

In large measure the greatness of an institution lies in its service to others. It needs to do well by its primary audience, the students and families of Island School. In addition, however, it has an obligation to the larger community, to contribute to the quality of life of the inhabitants of this island. We at Island School accept this responsibility.

Our facility is a great resource for the island. Many organizations hold activities on our campus, from the Garden Island Arts Council to the Boys' Varsity Soccer Team of Kaua'i High. During the summer, Island School becomes the home for the Kaua'i Academy of Creative Arts. The Boy Scouts have camped on our fields, and the Kaua'i Interscholastic Federation has held cross-country meets here.

In addition, students are involved in community service. They clean beaches and scour harbors. They paint warning messages on drains, map trails at Koke'e, and have been assisting with a study of shearwater birds. They participated in the

construction of the bridge at Lydgate Park and have visited with the elderly at Puako. They gathered supplies and sent boxes of these to inhabitants of Sri Lanka after the tsunami. They are collecting money for residents of New Orleans and Florida and other disaster areas; disaster relief assistance, they call it.

Many of our faculty and staff spend their personal time giving to the community. Some serve on boards for community organizations, including the Kaua'i Society of Artists and the Kaua'i Concert Association. Others volunteer in after-school sports programs and social service organizations. We are truly a team of community-minded individuals.

Education is our business, and our primary responsibility is to prepare our students to live productive, fulfilling lives as contributing members of society. Community support is two-way. For Island School to receive the support of individuals and organizations, it must be seen as a contributor as well. Fund raising is essential to the financial health of Island School. In large measure it reflects the value others see in our service to the larger community.

## Development Update

### Annual Giving

When: begins October 2005  
Category: operations 2005-'06  
Goal: \$66,000  
Amount raised last year: \$63,832  
New: matching grant for gifts up to \$200 given by new donors

### Tuition Aid

(Over 35% of students receive Tuition Assistance.)  
When: year round  
Goal: \$130,000  
Amount Raised Last Year: \$122,221

### Annual Auction

When: March 11, 2006 at the Kaua'i Marriott Resort & Beach Club  
Category: operations, tuition aid  
Goal: \$200,000  
Amount raised last year: \$161,000

### Capital Campaign

Goal: \$4 million by March, '06  
Category: campus expansion, Phase I – gymnasium, locker rooms. Hawaiian Cultural Center, and new access road  
Amount Raised to Date: \$3.4 million

## Community Support an Island School tradition

Island School's earliest funding came from rummage sales, movie showings and dances. When we opened our doors in January, 1977, our bank account showed little more than \$1000. Raising funds was a priority. The concept of an annual auction was the brainchild of Lindsay Kamm, school founder and then Principal. Our first auction was held in 1980 at the Coco Palms Hotel. An impressive \$5,000 was raised. We had hit the big time.

McInerney Foundation, G.N. Wilcox, S.W. Wilcox, and Frear Eleemosynary Trust were some of our first supporters. Their

belief in our mission made it possible for Island School to survive. "I remember purchasing a used IBM Selectric typewriter for the office, using funds from one of our first donations. What a luxury!" recalls Kamm.

For some, supporting Island School is a difficult habit to break. Our board president, David Pratt, came on board in 1987. Charlie King became a board member way back in 1981. Kathy Richardson and her dad, Hobey Goodale have, cumulatively, given 33 years of service to the Island School Board of Directors!

# Up Close with

## Lynda Liesse 3rd Grade Teacher



“My passion has always been the arts and I like the way Island School makes them an important part of the

curriculum,” says Lynda Liesse, who is into her fifth year at Island School. “I also like the small school environment and the focus on students and skilled teaching.”

When Lynda and her husband moved here from Washington State, she had already been teaching for 11 years. Add to that, 8 years at Kapa’a Elementary, 5 years here, and you have one experienced teacher! And it shows! A fellow teacher wrote of Ms. Liesse, “To me she is much more than a colleague. She is a mentor, a role model, and a friend. Ms. Liesse inspires me every day not only to become a better teacher, but to also become a better person.”

The theme in Lynda’s class, refined over the years, is “community.” A sense of community is built into the daily classroom routine. “Communities are the focus of the 3rd grade social studies curriculum – not just here but nationally,” she says. “Putting the curriculum into practice both in the

classroom and in the community makes the learning for my students useful and powerful.” Students write their own Code of Conduct, which sets the rules of their classroom community. Projects such as the shearwater study take students outside the classroom into the greater community.

“At Island School I feel good at the end of every day. My creativity is honored here and I have supportive, intelligent people to collaborate with,” says Lynda. In addition to being creative in the classroom, Lynda plays piano and accompanies the children at Morning Circle. “I have enjoyed my years of teaching at Island School more than any other place I have taught,” she adds. Lynda also enjoys having her granddaughter here in our Pre-kindergarten. “My grandchildren are my treasures,” she admits.

As the recipient of the 2005 McCloskey Excellence in Teaching award, Ms. Liesse was described by Bob Springer, as “a consummate teacher, always working to make a good school even better.”



**Island School**  
**3-1875 Kaunuali`i Hwy**  
**Lihu’e, HI 96766**

 **Mark your calendar**

**Alumni Reception** ★★★★★

**Tuesday, December 27** 