

the island school

Navigator

a tri-annual publication
Summer, 2009

Ho‘omaika‘i Na Mea Hawai‘i

Appreciating All Things Hawaiian

What's Ahead?

Faculty Returns to Campus	Monday, August 10
HS Registration 8:30- noon	Wednesday, August 12
Circle of Friends 5:30 p.m.	August 13
2009-2010 School Year Begins K-5 Assessment Begins	Monday Aug. 17
First Full Day for K-5	Wednesday, Aug. 19
Admissions Day School Holiday	Friday, August 21
High School Retreat	August 25 & 26
Parent Orientation Grades 1-5	Tuesday, Sept. 1
Labor Day School Holiday	Monday, Sept. 7
Middle School Retreat	Friday Sept. 4

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The Big Island Trip: A 5th Grade Tradition

Thanks for the memories ...
a glimpse at past Big Island trips



*The Class
of 2014 in
2009*



*The Class
of 2004 in
1997*



*The Class
of 1995 in
1987*



*The Class
of 2001 in
1994*

Does anyone remember Island School's first 5th grade Big Island Trip? Adrya Siebring gets credit for making it an Island School tradition, and it has become one of the most anticipated and memorable events in the life of an Island School student.

"The trip was magical," remembers Elizabeth Rudinoff, '00. "One night Adie and some of the parents came by our cabins around midnight and took us outside to look at a lunar eclipse that had coincidentally occurred on our trip. It was the only one I've ever seen and made the trip even more special."

For nearly 25 years, part of the fifth grade teacher's job has been to take students to Hawai'i Island to learn more about the volcanos, Hawaiian

artifacts, and culture. Typically, there are almost as many parents on the trip as students! And for the past several years, Kumu Kauka has joined the group, adding immeasurable quality to the experience.

Last May's trip included sites most of the students had never seen. Kumu Kauka describes one of their highlights: "After sunset, we drove in as far as we could to the Kalapana side of the lava flow. Then, with our flashlights, we walked out to a vantage point where we could see the lava flowing into the ocean. The students offered their ho'okupu, their gift of voice, the chant they learned for May Day. As they chanted, the cloud of steam rising from the sea grew brighter and more red. It was a special moment."

Having Familiarity with a Second Language and Culture as stated in our *Expected Schoolwide Learning Results (ESLRs)* can be achieved in many ways at Island School: through the study of Spanish, Chinese, and Hawaiian Studies.



Dr. Barale's Chinese students toured Hong Kong and Mainland China this summer.



An interview with hula dancer

Jessica Duarte, '09



Jessica has danced hula since she was four years old and sees herself dancing through

college at Hawai'i Pacific University, and beyond. Her talents in both hula and Tahitian have graced the stage for all four of her Island School high school years, this year as a teacher's aide and choreographer. Below are her thoughts looking back:

Q: What makes Island School's halau different from what you've experienced in the past?

Jess: At Island School, you have kids who don't normally dance, therefore, they need to work extra hard at it. Also, you see a very diverse group; we've had students from Spain and

Italy, and for them to surround themselves in a completely different culture is very cool.

Q: What is one of your favorite memories as an Island School dancer?

Jess: My senior year's May Day program. Because I am leaving this year, they [the halau] recognized me as a dancer, and also because I choreographed one of the songs the halau danced that day.

Q: How has your experience at Island School helped you for your future?

Jess: It has helped me learn from others to know that there is so much more out there. Also, it has made me realize how very lucky I am to go to Island School and to live in paradise.

Jessica received the Founders' Spirit Award at graduation. She plans to major in marine biology, hoping to work in the field of marine conservation as an animal trainer and performer at Sea Life Park on O'ahu.



The Island School Graduating Class of 2009

This happy group received 89 letters of acceptance from 69 colleges and universities!



May Day is Lei Day

A day of song, dance, and story



Informative, entertaining, all-inclusive; May Day at Island School has definitely come of age.

In 1988, Auntie Mary Alfiler and Norma Jean Trask used Larry Rivera's song, *Hawai'i Belongs To Everyone* to inspire our first May Day celebration. The "Main Room" was fully decorated with flowers and foliage. An all-star line-up provided songs and entertainment: Buffy St. Marie, Taj Mahal, Carlos Andrade and Pat Cockett.

Things began to take a more traditional format in 1989. Students represented the five main Hawaiian islands, wearing costumes provided by Blossom Cockett which, by the way,

we used for twelve years! We began to use the Kamehameha Schools May Day handbook, which listed the colors, flowers, songs and stories for each island. Each year more parents and friends joined in to provide music, including Char Dyer, Liko Martin, and Koko Kaneali'i.

"Each May Day is a reflection of a time in the history of Island School," remembers Auntie Mary Alfiler. As the school matured, so did the substance of our May Day celebrations. Always influenced by culture, geography, history, and current events, each program tells a unique story. After Hurricane Iniki, the theme *Rebirth* was selected, followed by *You Come My House*,

after the campus was rebuilt.

The past four years have focused on geographical areas of Kaua'i: Wailua, Lihu'e, Koloa, and this year, the West-side. Every year, new appreciations for and understandings of Hawaiian culture are cultivated.



Na Pua o Kamaile - Island School's dancers

It began in 2003 as more of a Hawaiian Club, led by former Island School teacher, Shelby Dabin. As its popularity grew, Shelby organized the members into our first hula halau, *E Kupa'a Kakou Na 'Olapa O Ke Kai*, which means, "Stand Firm, Dancers of the Sea." Kumu Kauka named our current halau, *Na Pua o Kamaile*, a name which poetically refers to the fragrant maile of Kaua'i. They dance at Island School events and throughout the Kaua'i community. This year alone, *Na Pua o Kamaile* performed at *Eo E Emalani* hula

festival in Koke'e, at the National Tropical Botanical Garden for their annual meeting and also for the meeting of their national directors, and for the KCC Hawaiian Studies Ho'ike.

"Our island economy is based largely on tourism," Kumu Kauka said. "Tourists want to see authentic hula and visit sacred sites. They have many choices of places to visit. What brings them to Kaua'i is its uniqueness. This is what I want my students to know, appreciate, and be able to share with others."





Our Rich Hawaiian Heritage

by **Robert Springer**
Head of School

Dedicated on May 29th, 2008,
the Mary D. and Walter F. Frear

Center for Hawaiian Culture and the Arts is a wonderful edifice. Located at the entrance to our campus, it signifies our commitment to learning about different cultures and especially our appreciation for the beauty and strength of things Hawaiian.

For some 1,500 years before the coming of the Europeans (they arrived in 1778), these islands were home to Hawaiians. They lived in splendid isolation, were self sufficient in their ways, and were part of a culture in which life flourished. According to accounts of the first Europeans to arrive, the Hawaiians were vigorous, athletic, and spiritual, sensitive to the mysteries of existence. Their religion spoke to mighty forces of nature and to the need for the people to be pono, i.e., righteous in their ways, with the different levels of their hierarchical society joined in reciprocal relationships. Their arts mixed with their religion, providing unique expressions of the human spirit.

We believe the ideas and art forms of Hawaiians are worthy of study and of replication through performance, thereby adding to the larger fabric of all peoples of the world. It is to such an end that the Frear Center is dedicated.

The Frears, after whom the Center is named, were active in Hawai'i the latter part of the 19th century through the first half of the 20th. Walter F. Frear was born in California; he came to Hawai'i at a young age, became fluent in the Hawaiian language and graduated from Yale University. Returning to the Islands, he was a lawyer and then Chief Justice of the Hawai'i Supreme Court. From 1907 to 1913, he served as the third governor of the territory. Mary D. Frear was an active community worker, serving as a regent of the University of Hawai'i for 23 years. In 1936 they established a trust from which the major portion of financing for the construction of the Frear Center came.

With the completion of the Frear Center, Island School students are being provided an even richer foundation in Hawaiian studies.



News from our Board of Directors

There has been some rearranging at the top of the Island School ladder. After 22 years of dedicated service, Hobey Goodale has resigned as board member, but will continue to serve as Director Emeritus (which means he'll remain involved, but less intensely). Filling his post as Chair of the Development Committee is David Pratt, who has served as President since 1997. Kathy Richardson, vice-president for the past two years, will take David's place as President. Kathy has served in various positions on our Board since 1989. After 28 years as Treasurer, Charlie King has swapped positions with Steve Hunt, with Steve taking the top job and Charlie moving to Assistant Treasurer.

And that's not all. Peter Robson, a board member since 2000, and Chair of Building and Grounds since 2003, has also resigned. Taking his chairmanship is Wade Lord, who has served on our board for three years. Also resigning this year are Mike Hough, who served for nine years, and Brad Snyder, who served for three. We are deeply grateful for their contributions to Island School.

Master Plan Update

Our Directors took a look at the school's Master Plan at their last meeting. In the long term, the expansion of the campus into the 8.4 acres donated by Steve Case will include a performing arts facility, library, new cafeteria, and classrooms. Walkways, roadways, and parking throughout campus are also planned.

Before fundraising for expansion can begin, the board is committed to repaying the \$300k loan from KIUC. "Before we spend any more money, we need to pay back our debt," said David Pratt. Good advice for all of us!



Up Close with Sabra Kauka



The Class of 2009 was still in pre-school when Sabra joined the Island School faculty. During these 13 years, she has turned a fledgling Hawaiian Studies program into one that boasts its own building and hula halau! Kumu Kauka's knowledge and expertise brings authenticity to the study of Hawaiian culture.

"It is important for our students to know about the place where we live and to understand the history and unique contributions of the host culture," she

said. Kumu Kauka accomplishes this in part by telling the stories of Hawai'i, then taking students to see the historic and cultural sites they've heard about. When her students board the Island School bus, they know they are setting out on an adventure – be it to the Hanapepe salt pans, the cliffs at Ninini Point to see Shearwater colonies, or the heiau at Wailua.

Sabra credits her expertise and understanding to growing up in a Hawaiian family. "My family always sang and prayed in Hawaiian, but most importantly we practiced the basic Hawaiian values of aloha and kokua," she said. Twelve years of studying hula, a degree in anthropology, and a life dedicated to expanding her knowledge, add up to an incredible teacher of Hawaiian culture.

In September, 2008, Sabra organized a trip for our senior class to Nu'alolo Kai on the Napali coast. After an early morning boat ride and an exciting swim into the beach, students saw first hand the

restoration work going on by members of the organization she leads, the NaPali Coast 'Ohana. Months later, at the end of the school year, Sabra asked one of the seniors about her future plans. Her reply: "Remember when we went to Nu'alolo Kai? I loved that trip so much it made me realize how much I love the ocean. I'm going to study Marine Science or Oceanography so I can come home and help take care of this place."

The student's response made a big impression on Kumu Kauka. "You never know if what you do as a teacher will have an impact on your students," she said. "The Hawaiian culture does not exist anywhere else. These students make up the next generation to take care of our island, the ocean that surrounds us, our earth, and each other."

It is this deeply felt kuleana, or responsibility, that drives Kumu Kauka and the program she has developed so carefully at Island School.



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