



Navigator

a tri-annual publication Winter 2007



Shaping Tomorrow's Leaders Today

What's Ahead?

Jogathon - K-5	February 16
Presidents' Day	February 19
Marine Expedition	February 21-23
Pinocchio 5th Grade Play	March 2 & 3 7 p.m.
Annual Gala Auction "Under the Sea" Kaua'i Marriott's Grand Ballroom	March 10
Begin Trimester 3	March 12
Student/Teacher/Parent Conferences	March 22 & 23
May Day	May 4

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Student Leadership

3 Levels of Student Government



High School Student Government models leadership for the entire student body. It is made up of officers and representatives, all of whom are elected by their constituents. Positions are held for one year; elections of officers takes place in the spring for the following year. In the fall, a student from each class is elected as a representative as well as one from each Hui. The President presides at meetings where a modification of Robert's Rules of Order is followed. The group meets every other day during last period. The President and

Vice President lead the general high school morning meetings. Topics addressed include schoolwide issues including dress code, discipline, senior privileges and academic concerns. Committees are formed to plan the prom, spirit week activities and lead community service projects. This year's high school Student Government is composed of 15 members. Faculty advisors expect these students to take charge of their responsibilities and to be a positive example to their peers.

Advisors: Shelby Dabin, Adie Siebring



Middle School student leaders are elected to Student Council, which like their high school counterpart, is composed of officers and representatives from each grade level and each Hui. Candidates run for office in the fall by making posters and giving speeches. They meet during lunch usually twice a week and address issues such as recess, student concerns and recycling.

They also form committees to organize social events, such as spirit weeks, dances and bowling nights. The President and Vice-President lead the general middle school morning meetings. Elected members serve for the entire year. Faculty advisors work closely with these student leaders, helping them to build skills and offering support.

Advisors: Eric Devlin, Jessica Sherburne

Elementary Student Council introduces students to the responsibilities of leadership. Officers and representatives from grades 2-5 are elected in lively campaigns, complete with posters and speeches. Bi-monthly meetings are held where members are called upon by the President to speak. Council members address student concerns, plan spirit weeks, and lead their peers in community service projects.

Advisor: Cindy Wortmann



Aboard the floating classroom: Marine Expedition '07

In 2003, Island School's Middle School students embarked on a three-day adventure on board the Rapture, a research vessel turned floating classroom. The experience was rapturous, to say the least, and Michelle McGregor was so impressed she pledged to make this a middle school tradition. Hence, Marine Expedition '07. Every three years, students in grades 6-8 will study the ocean and its creatures under the guidance of professional scientists while living onboard this 145 foot vessel.



identity within their peer group as they experience new and sometimes challenging adventures.

An endeavor such as this requires lots of planning and, of course, money. Grants from individuals and foundations help underwrite this trip so each family only pays a nominal amount. "We want everyone in Middle School to be able to come on this trip," says Michelle. Fund raising efforts have been fast and furious as their departure date approaches. The group sets sail on February 21st from

Oahu. Ice cream, cookie dough and bake sales have also helped defray the costs.

Besides exploring the ocean as real marine biologists do in the field, the program helps young adolescents foster relationships and develop a sense of community. They develop a sense of

High School Dive Club members are accompanying the group. We wish them all a Bon Voyage!

Character Education *the importance of teaching values*

Some call it the "unwritten curriculum" or the "hidden curriculum." We call it "essential."

Education, by its very nature, is about values. Character education permeates the fabric of the school community and it is modeled by all involved: in the classroom and lunchroom, at recess, on field trips, in student government and parent meetings; it can be found in our discipline policy and among our requirements for graduation. Character education is everything we do that influences the character of our students.

We want our children to be able to look for and consider alternatives, giving serious thought to the consequences and making decisions based on the best evidence possible. Everyone will likely agree that we want them to be able to stick to their values in the face of peer pressure and temptation.

At Island School, we take character education seriously. An example is



our middle and high school Hui program, where it is a deliberate focus. Students participate in a variety of activities involving basic human values, including integrity, tolerance, generosity, courage, empathy, equality, and respect. In addition, schoolwide goals for character education are stated in Island School's ESLRs (Expected Schoolwide Learning Results), especially in #8 (Clarify personal values and assume responsibility for choices) and #11 (Demonstrate qualities of leadership, perseverance, commitment and loyalty).

A closer look at our ESLRs will find values imbedded in every discipline. Consequently, they are vital to the design of every curriculum and class syllabus. The goal is to raise children to become morally responsible, self-disciplined citizens. Or, as written in our mission statement: *to prepare our students to live productive, fulfilling lives as confident, responsible life-long learners and contributing members of society: ... [in an environment that] fosters creativity, critical thinking, initiative, and respect for self and others.*



Leading by example

Island School's parents are a positive influence



Denese Alcott

Among the character traits we value are the ones well represented by members of Island School's Parent Association. These people who step up to the plate are living and breathing examples of attributes we hope our children will embrace.

Parents with leadership skills teach their children many important lessons just by being leaders. Children look up to their parents and, whether it's intentional or not, assume many of the qualities their parents exhibit. The very nature of an independent school provides numerous opportunities for parents to lead, and Island School parent leaders are, fortunately, plentiful.

The Parent Association is a prime gathering place for our parent leaders. Commitment and perseverance are almost prerequisites to membership. A case in point is the founder of our current parent Association, Denese Alcott.

"For a few years we

were small, but mighty," remembers Denese, whose involvement began in 1999. "Volunteers were enlisted mainly to help with events and parent forums, but the group wanted to further impact the school and its students. The parents got together and started to make changes, beginning with its name. The Parent Council became The Island School Parent Association and has grown from only a few parents attending monthly meetings to an Executive Board plus a representative for almost every grade. It has been exciting to

"Leadership is about leading other leaders."

- Kristina Caminos
PA President

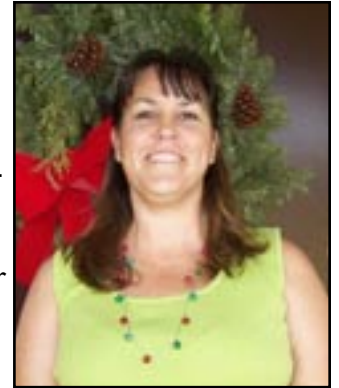
be a part of this group as it finds its role in making positive contributions to the entire Island School 'ohana."

Denese describes the Parent Council's role as listening to the concerns of parents, students, staff and faculty. "It is my hope that as the school grows, so will the Parent Association, and that the family feeling will continue to be a part of it all," says Denese.

After six years leading the PA, it was time to pass the torch. A slight nudge

and encouraging word from another long-time parent leader, Lisa Sullivan, convinced Kristina Caminos to step into the position.

"To me, leadership is about leading other leaders," says Kristina. "No longer do I only voice my own opinions, but rather listen to what others have to say and put the best ideas into action. I learn from everyone I work with."



Kristina Caminos

The opportunity for parents to lead isn't limited to the Parent Association. It can manifest in a committee chair position, or simply as a brilliant idea. Parent leaders come in many packages: Room Parents, classroom volunteers, auction organizers, set-designers, Art Day volunteers, and speakers. Parents model leadership through their careers, their community involvement, and by running households.

As John F. Kennedy said, "Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other." It's nice to see so many fine examples among Island School's parents. Our students are watching!



On Leadership

by **Robert Springer**
Head of School



Island School's eleventh statement about what students are to learn is on leadership, including perseverance, commitment, and loyalty. Students are expected to become leaders. By leadership we mean achieving excellence, being at the forefront, making a difference, influencing events. In other words, we see leadership as a function, not a position, as a behavior, not simply a definition.

Such an aspiration needs avenues for application. At Island School there are numerous opportunities for students to practice leadership, from student government to morning meetings. Competitive athletics provide experiences in training and testing, where leadership is identified and utilized. Clubs such as the National Honor Society and Interact involve students taking initiative and assisting others. Recently 16 of

our high-school students traveled to Oahu where they took an active part in a Model United Nations forum, arguing their points against students from schools such as Punahou and Iolani. The impetus for this came from a student. Two years ago, Island School journalism students committed themselves to writing, publishing, and distributing a teenage newsmagazine, the only such publication for teenagers on Kaua'i. In these and many other ways, Island School students are actively engaged in learning about and practicing leadership.

A culminating activity for Island School seniors is the preparation and presentation of a senior project. This involves their selecting a subject of particular interest to them and then conducting an independent study of it. In the spring they present the results of their study before an audience. Such an experience well prepares them for public presentations on issues of concern and/or interest to them.

At Island School leadership is respected and fostered. This is an important facet of an Island School education.

Development Update

The long wait for the County to approve our construction permits to build the Mary D. and Walter F. Frear Center for Hawaiian Culture & the Arts is finally over. Permission was granted and we are now in the process of soliciting construction bids. The Center will stand near the reservoir, facing the new gymnasium currently under construction.

The roof is on and the walls are going up around our new Samuel W. and Edith K. Wilcox Gymnasium. Progress can be seen on nearly a daily basis. The next phase of the capital campaign will fund the completion of the interior of the gym, (wood floors, bleachers, etc.), and the Frear Center.

One interior feature of the gym, the basketball backstops, will be installed early while vehicles and equipment can still maneuver inside the building without damaging interior walls and floor. The backstops are being funded by a special grant from the G. N. Wilcox Trust. The EZ FOLD Basketball Backstops will enable students to use the gym for both middle and high school play. They are designed to bend and fold up to the ceiling when the gym is to be

used for other games and for special event. County-wide private school intramural basketball games can be played at Island School, the most central location for both west side and north shore schools.

We anticipate the Wilcox Gymnasium will be ready to open its doors sometime this spring! A Completion date for the Frear Center has not yet been set.

Funds and pledges toward our Capital Campaign, Phase I now total over \$4,400,000. We continue to receive gifts and pledges each month toward our goal of \$6 million. The number of individuals, business, foundations and trusts who are supporting our efforts is growing as they realize the value this campus expansion will offer, not only to the faculty and students of Island School, but the entire community of Kauai.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 10, 2007, and plan to attend the annual auction, 'Under the Sea', at the Kaua'i Marriott Ballroom celebrating Island School's Pearl (30 year) Anniversary.



The Samuel W. and Edith K. Wilcox Gymnasium as of mid January, '07.



Up Close with Michelle McGregor



In her 15 years at Island School, Michelle has emerged as a model of leadership. As Chair of the Middle School

faculty, a four-year advisor to Student Council, and a lifelong learner herself, Michelle's insights into leadership are noteworthy.

"A leader influences people," says Michelle. "A leader is innovative, goal-oriented, persistent and tolerant."

Michelle's style of leadership has been recently shaped by her participation in the year-long program, Leadership Kaua'i. "The concept of *laulima* was an inspiration to me," admits Michelle. *Lau lima*, "many hands working together," describes the importance of being connected with others in your community. Student leaders experience *lau lima* as they discuss issues and organize activities.

Michelle encourages students to be creative thinkers and move past obstacles. She recalls a particularly innovative Student Council President who thought *outside the box*. "Sensing that her classmates might enjoy a wider variety of activities, she successfully moved past the traditional middle school dances to bowling and outdoor cinema events."

Thinking *outside the box* is a particular forte of Michelle's. The Marine Expedition [see article on page 3]

is a perfect example. "When I first heard about this opportunity, it was an overwhelming challenge. But when I broke it down into smaller pieces, I saw a way to make it happen." Michelle's enthusiasm and persistence were contagious and the Marine Expedition became a reality and a tradition for Island School's middle school students.

Another example of Michelle's visionary thinking is the school's recycling program. "I knew this was something I wanted to start here. The process began with brainstorming, then researching options, getting others to buy into the idea, and finally putting it into practice." The results of her efforts are pervasive and include student, teacher, parent and community involvement.

"The potential is there for everyone to be a leader," believes Michelle. In her case, it takes one to know one!



Island School
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Lihu'e, HI 96766

**Under the Sea
Pearl Anniversary
Auction**

Call 246-0233 and
reserve your table
Now!

**Kaua'i Marriott
Grand Ballroom**

Saturday, March 10