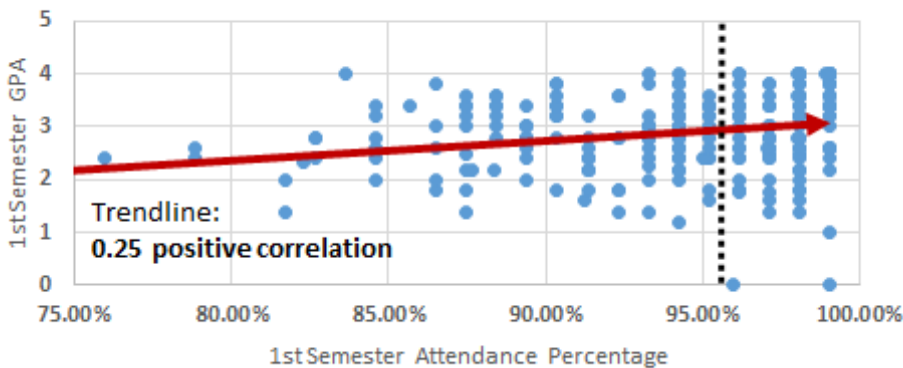


# Attendance Matters

**Better Attendance = Better Grades**



**Every school day counts in a child's academic life...**

A missed school day is a lost opportunity for students to learn, so it's not surprising that there is a positive correlation between student attendance and student achievement.

**The US Department of Education, National Center for Educational Statistics reports:**

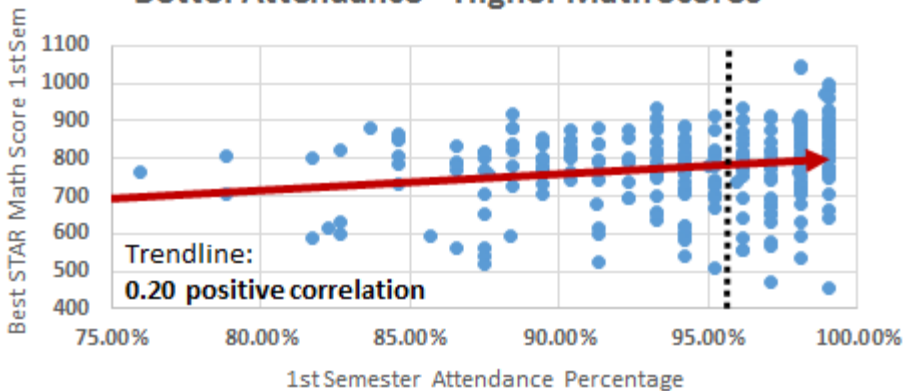
"While teacher effectiveness is the strongest school-related determinant of student success,<sup>1</sup> chronic student absence reduces even the best teacher's ability to provide learning opportunities. Students who attend school regularly achieve at higher levels than students who do not have regular attendance."

1) Adelman, C. (2006). *The Toolbox Revisited: Paths to Degree Completion from High School through College*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

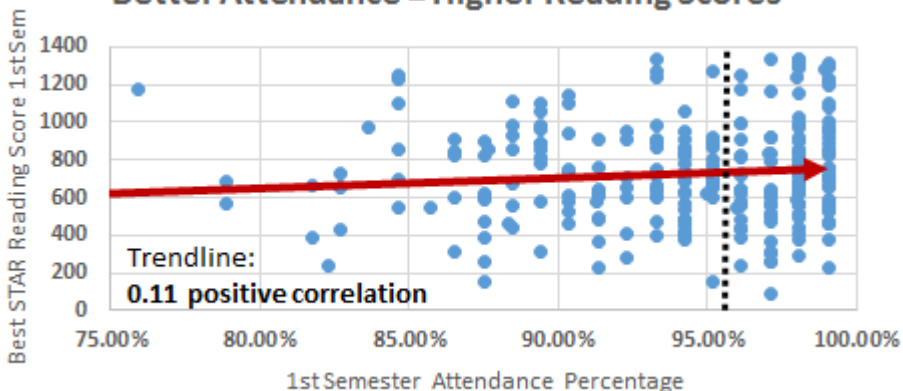
The graphs to the left capture a glimpse of how attendance (95% or better) enhances both grades and proficiency in reading and math at Waimea Middle School.

All WMS students will be bringing home **Mid-Quarter Academic Reports** today for families to review and sign off to acknowledge receipt. **If families have questions, please call the school office: 887-6090 Ext. 221.** Also, please help your child do his or her best by attending school regularly — rested, arriving on time, and ready to enjoy a day of learning.

**Better Attendance = Higher Math Scores**



**Better Attendance = Higher Reading Scores**



**Student \$\$\$ Reminder:**

**Tomorrow - Wed., Feb. 18 - is a "Save First" Day to contribute to your savings program and — concurrently — earn a significant reward! 6th and 7th graders successfully making the required deposits earn a \$20 gift at year's end; 8th graders earn a FREE Exit ticket valued at \$40! 7:30-7:50 a.m. and during first recess.**

# HOW CAN WE FEED OUR VOYAGERS?

## Mala'ai Super Kitchen: 'Ai Pono - Healthy Sustainability Takes A Village!

Warm Mahalo to all who contributed, and all who attended last week's 3<sup>rd</sup> Mala'ai Super Kitchen to help begin a year-long celebration of Mala'ai's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Makali'i voyaging canoe's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

It was a delicious gathering of Waimea families and friends enjoying a mostly-grown-in-Hawai'i meal but there was so much more to it than a healthy, affordable feast.

Just as the late **Clay Bertelmann's** vision 20+ years ago challenging Waimea to build its own canoe has since rippled out across the State and Pacific, teaching lessons of sustainability, self reliance and kuleana, so now is **PWO Navigator Chadd Paishon's 'Ai Pono** challenge to school gardens to feed our voyagers...and ultimately, ourselves – beginning to send out new waves of understanding about how to **Malama Honua** -- care better for our planet – now and for future generations! Deep gratitude to all who contributed including:

Amanda Rieux  
Chadd Paishon  
Pomai Bertelmann  
Matilda Tompson  
Kalei Lagaret  
Maulili Dickson  
Harry Betancourt  
Kai'ulani Odom  
Holly Sargeant Green  
Seri Ni'imi-Burch  
Keala Kahuanui  
Sam Murray  
Laurie Edmondson  
Pat Rice  
Luke Simms  
Erin Lee  
Pua Case  
Luke Simms  
Kahea Thronas  
Jileen Russell  
Susan Rose  
Derrick Greene  
Todd Evangelist  
Pua Case  
Mahina Paishon-Duarte  
Noah Dodd  
Sam Robinson

Vivienne Aronowitz  
Heidi Emmons  
Patti Cook  
Amy Kendziorski  
Erin Lee  
**Student Volunteers:**  
Mikaila Bates  
Joey Bates  
Sophia Cash  
Scott Cash  
Juliana Andrade  
Leiani Hurtado Bennet  
Violet Stevenson  
Keahiwai Lindsey  
Vivi Andaya  
Takashi Randall-Parker  
Peter Amerling  
Angel Martinez  
Nadia Yoshizumi

**Posters:**  
Teacher Kathi Foster's  
Art Students

***Many more helped with growing the food and making it all possible - it really was "the village"!***

Raymond Carson- Davis  
Michele Chavez-Pardini

### **Ti Leaf Lei:**

Teacher Jami Mareko's 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies and 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Future Bound students





# How Can We Feed Our Island?



**Māla'āi**  
The Culinary Garden of  
Waimea Middle School

Happy 10th Anniversary, Mala'ai!



## Dr. Kenneth Fischer Named To Ho'okako'o Corp. Local School Board For Three Public Conversion Charter Schools Including WMS - Serving 1,500+ Students

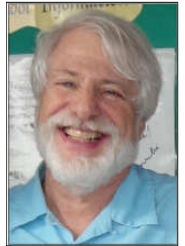
Dr. Kenneth Fischer, a Waimea optometrist and community leader, has been invited by Ho'okako'o Corp. to serve on the local school board for Waimea Middle School, Kualapu'u Elementary School on Moloka'i, and Kamaile Academy in Waianae.

The appointment, recommended by WMS' Local Advisory Panel (LAP), was announced by Ho'okako'o Corp's Chair Ann Botticelli. Ho'okako'o has served as WMS' local school board – in lieu of the State Board of Education – since 2003 when WMS opted to become a public conversion charter school under a new law passed by the 2002 State Legislature.

"I am committed to supporting the children and families of Waimea Middle School, which became the first public school in the state to 'convert' to charter status in 2003 to assume more local responsibility for school leadership and academic progress. This is essential if our children are to be prepared for the exciting college and career opportunities available to them in the 21<sup>st</sup> century," said Dr. Fischer.

"Every school can be even better and I look forward to working both with the Ho'okako'o Board and school leadership in Waimea as well as at Kualapu'u and Kamaile schools to help further raise the bar," he said.

Dr. Fischer is long time Waimea resident though comes originally from New York. He obtained both his bachelor's degree and medical degree from Pacific University and has been a practicing optometrist in Waimea since 1974.



Dr. Fischer

"This town has been his home and it's where he and his wife raised their family," said Colin Miura, WMS' LAP Chair. "Ken is an active member of our community and we are glad to have a Waimea resident on the HC board."

**WMS Local Advisory Panel Meets  
Mon., Feb. 23 - 4:30-6:30 p.m.**

**All Welcome - K-04**

**Very Important For Class of 2019 Students:**

### **Honoka'a High Incoming Freshmen Registration Family Night**

**5:30 p.m., Wed., Feb. 18. Honoka'a High Auditorium**

Class of 2019 students and families are invited to learn about the new graduation requirements, select student electives for the 2015-'16 school year, and learn about Honoka'a High's summer transition program to set students up for success. Refreshments will be served. Info: Honoka'a High Registrar Tel: 775-8800 Ext. 227 or email:

[Steve\\_Hanks/HONOKAHI/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us](mailto:Steve_Hanks/HONOKAHI/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us)

## **FEBRUARY SPIRIT WEEK RESULTS**

**AWESOME WEEK EVERYONE!** You should all be proud of yourselves - between the spirit games and Track & Field awards (WMS students brought home 38 medals from the Feb. 7 Meet), we certainly represent school spirit and the Waimea community. After all of the events last week, here's the final Spirit Point tally:

- Grade 6 - 40 points
- Grade 7 - 30 points
- Grade 8 - 50 points

Thank you to all the performers, players and supporters of this second to the last Crazy Olympics for the year. And way to go Track Team!

March Spirit Week starts March 9 so look for the sign ups starting Mon., March 2.

-- Spencer Hess, Darby Muromoto, Robbie Nitura & Tasha Ohta - February CO Team

## **WMS - P&R Track & Field Meet**

**Saturday, Feb. 21 - Konawaena Track  
All Invited To Cheer For Our Athletes!**

### **School Lunch Menus**

*(All Served With Fresh Local Milk)*

**Tues., Feb. 17: Chicken Tenders on Shredded Cabbage w/ Steamed Hapa Rice, Broccoli, Carrots & Applesauce.**

**Wed., Feb. 18: Italian Sausage Pizza, Garden Salad, Baby Carrots & Diced Pears.**

**Thurs., Feb. 19: Whole Grain Corn Dogs, Potato Smiles, Baked Beans & Orange Wedge.**

**Fri., Feb. 20: Kalua Pig 'N Cabbage, Steamed Hapa Rice, Lomi Tomato, Pineapple & Portuguese Sweet Roll.**

**Mon., Feb. 23: Weiner on Whole Grain Bun, Potato Rounds, Baked Beans, Carrots & Celery Stix & Apple Wedge.**

**Tues., Feb. 24: Creole Macaroni w/ Mixed Green Salad, Peaches & Whole Grain French Bread.**

*All menus are posted on our website & Facebook.*