



LE JARDIN
ACADEMY

Annual REPORT 2022-2023



Aloha LJA ‘Ohana,

On behalf of our board, faculty, staff and students, we would like to thank you for your incredible support throughout the 2022-23 school year. You were simply amazing!

After two years of “distancing”, we reacquainted ourselves with the idea of community in schools. From tentative first steps at on-campus events, we crescendoed to memorable festivities like the Hidden Gem Gala and celebrations of learning like ArtsFest and Graduation. The time and energy you invested in building relationships and strengthening community cannot be understated. A strong sense of community is one of the distinctive features of an LJA education and a vital ingredient to our students’ success.

As a community, you’ve also led the way in giving back to LJA. Your generosity in the areas of scholarship, program innovation and facilities have advanced our mission and vision. Together, we:


- Increased the number and size of student scholarships;
- Strengthened our learning support and social-emotional learning systems;
- Broadened our school’s impact through Ko’olaupoko Impact Collective initiatives with community partners;
- Improved our campus by extending the soccer field to competition length and adding a new mobile kitchen and learning commons to enhance student life.

While it’s true that by accepting admission to or employment at LJA, we accept the kuleana that has been passed to us from those who came before—“to care for these rich lands/ in the good work of us all”—as a community, you continually demonstrate your commitment to LJA, and we are humbled by your kindness and generosity. Aloha kekahi i kekahi.

Here’s to you, and to an even more exciting 2023-24 school year!

Mahalo piha,


Jennifer Meehan
Chair, Board of Trustees


Earl Kim
Head of School





BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Chair & Treasurer

Paul Sibley,
Vice-Chair

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Earl Kim

Head of School

Courtney Chow, CFRE

Executive Director of Advancement

Melissa Handy

*Executive Director of Strategic Planning
and Technology*

Stacy Kilty

*Executive Director of Business and
Operations Support*

Leah Magaña

Head of Primary Division

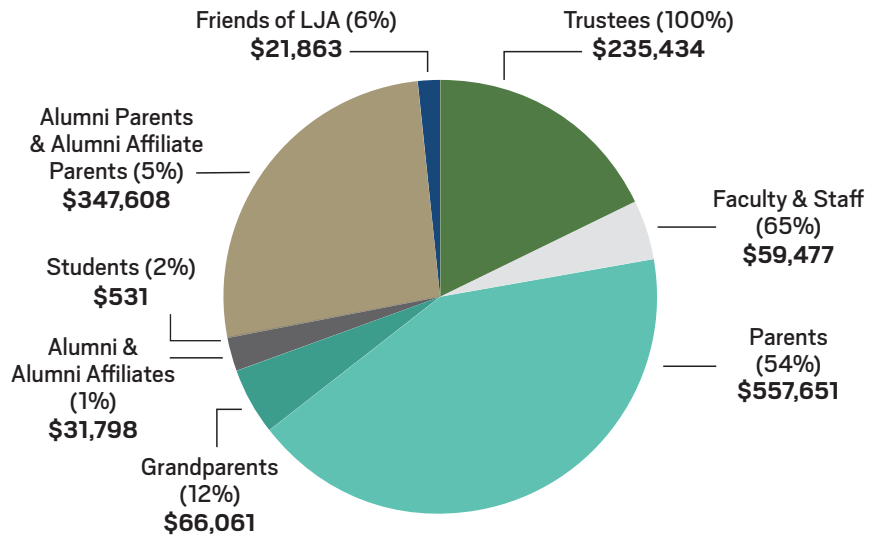
Alex Ramsvig

Head of Secondary Division

Summary OF GIFTS

Total Gifts by Constituency* with % participation

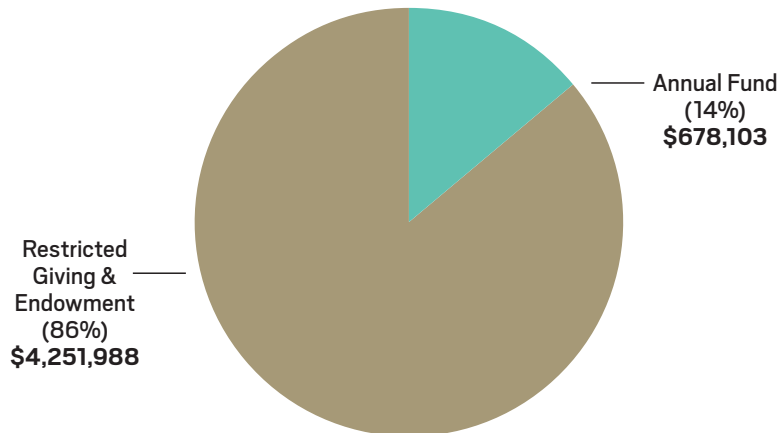
* Gifts are credited to all relevant constituencies



	\$ Raised	% Participation
Trustees	\$235,434	100%
Faculty & Staff	\$59,477	65%
Parents	\$557,651	54%
Grandparents	\$66,061	12%
Alumni & Alumni Affiliates	\$31,798	1%
Students	\$531	2%
Alumni Parents & Alumni Affiliate Parents	\$347,608	5%
Friends of LJA	\$21,863	6%

Total Gifts by Fund* \$4,930,091

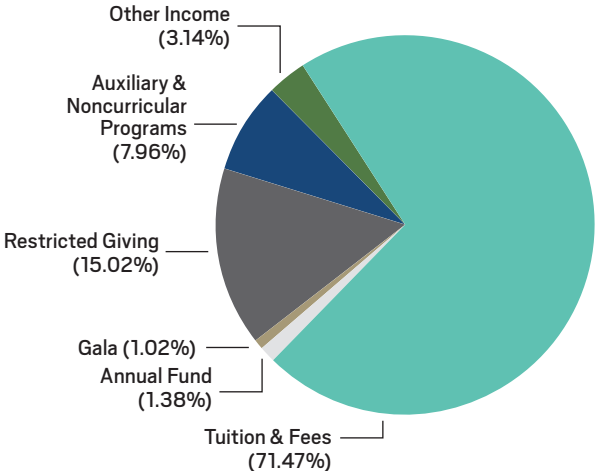
*Includes one-time Employee Retention Credit



	\$ Raised	Total
LJA Fund	\$678,103	14%
Restricted Giving & Endowment	\$4,251,988	86%
Total Raised	\$4,930,091	

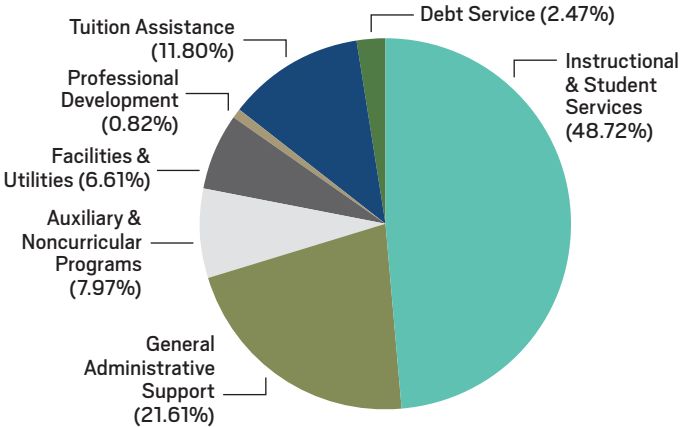
Income

\$28,301,865



Expenses

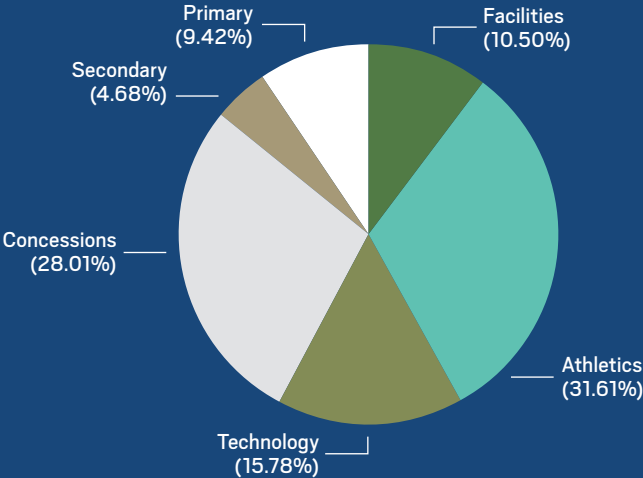
\$24,545,346



Capital Expenditures

by Area

\$881,295



Your Gifts Funded...

- Athletic Field expansion and regrassing
- Purchase and outfitting of a new Mobile Kitchen
- Construction of a new Student Commons
- Resurfaced gymnasium floor
- Electrical and plumbing upgrades
- Laptops for learning
- Upgraded ceramic kilns
- Replaced pool heater
- Scholarship and Financial Aid for families in need
- Formation of Ko'olaupoko Robotics and travel to Houston for the First Robotics Championship
- Professional Exchange for LJA Educators
- Artsfest 2023
- Development of Student Support Framework

Celebration OF THE LJA FUND

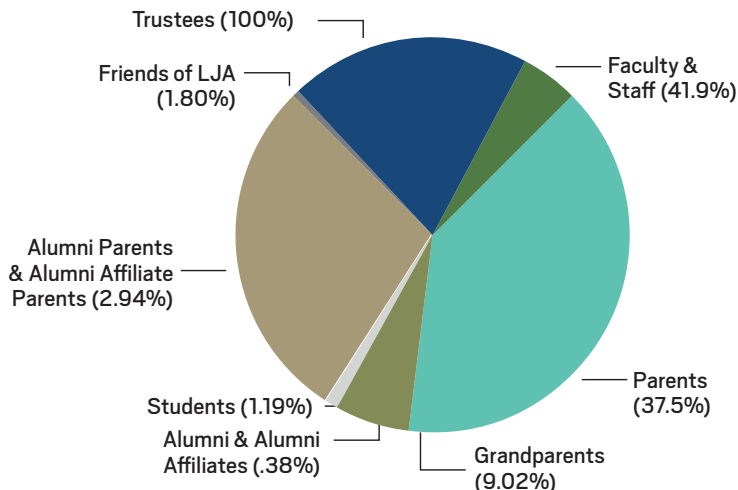


LJA Giving Day

THIS IS A PLACE where generous support from our LJA 'Ohana embraces students as they create individual pathways to success and happiness. On October 20, 2022, our community banded together to make 496 gifts totalling \$211,361 and unlocking \$100,000 in matching funds from LJA trustees. These flexible funds were dedicated to amplify student life and learning by expanding our athletic field to regulation size, purchasing

and outfitting our Mobile Kitchen to improve lunch services and student programs, and replenishing funds for scholarship and financial aid to reduce barriers to access to an LJA education for deserving students. We extend a very special mahalo to our 88 LJA Giving Day volunteers! From the dozens of students featured in our Embrace Our Place video, available on LJA's Vimeo channel, to the parents, grandparents and alumni that waved signs and shared stories, there were many hands contributing to the day's success. This is truly a place **we all embrace!**

LJA Fund



LJA Fund by Constituency

	\$ Raised	% Participation
Trustees	\$112,546	100%
Faculty & Staff	\$26,671	41.90%
Parents	\$224,155	37.50%
Grandparents	\$35,002	9.02%
Alumni & Alumni Affiliates	\$5,818	.38%
Students	\$240	1.19%
Alumni Parents & Alumni Affiliate Parents	\$160,952	2.94%
Friends of LJA	\$2,342	1.80%



LJA Fund Totals

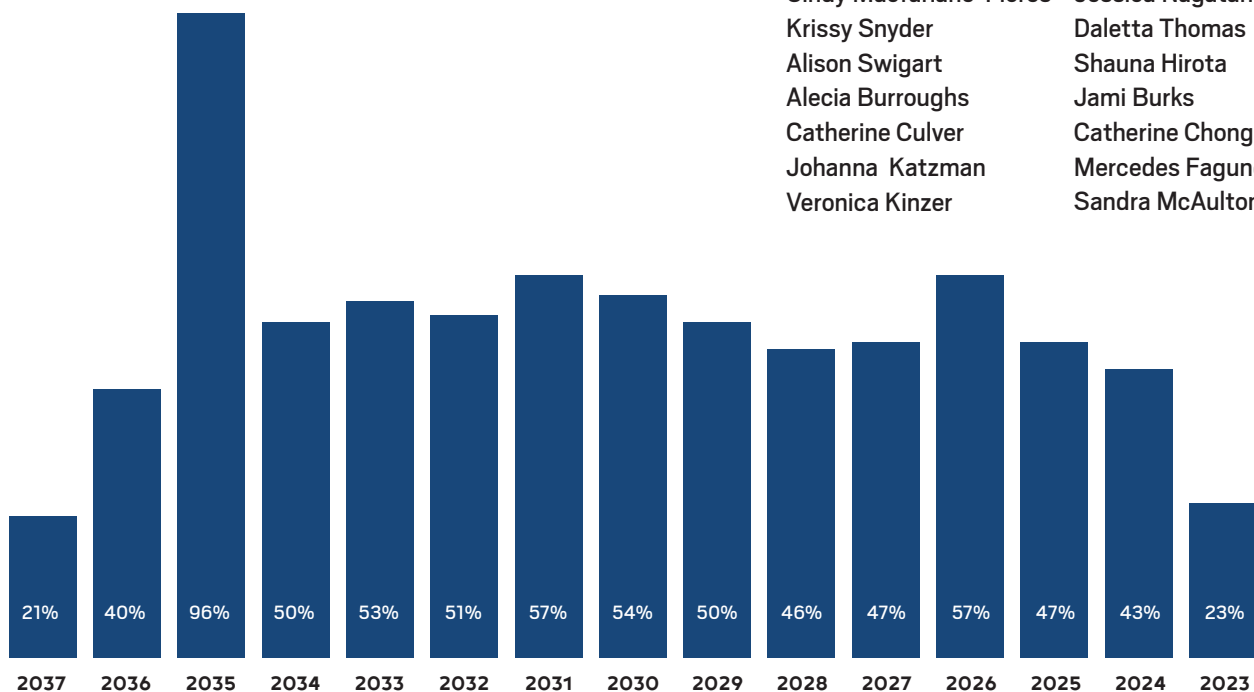
Total Raised	\$678,103
Number of Gifts	993
Total Donors	614
Average Gift/Donor	\$803

Parent Champions Committee

EACH YEAR, a Parent Champions Committee is assembled. This group, working closely with LJA Advancement and the Parent Faculty Association (PFA), proactively inspires parent participation through gifts of time, talent, and treasure to support LJA's fundraising goals and initiatives. Mahalo to our exceptional volunteers!

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Dana Bush | Morgan LaRue |
| Cindy Macfarlane-Flores | Jessica Nagatani |
| Krissy Snyder | Daletta Thomas |
| Alison Swigart | Shauna Hirota |
| Alecia Burroughs | Jami Burks |
| Catherine Culver | Catherine Chong |
| Johanna Katzman | Mercedes Fagundes |
| Veronica Kinzer | Sandra McAulton |

LJA Fund by Class



LJA Gala

HIDDEN GEM



IN OUR RECENT REAUTHORIZATION VISIT from the International Baccalaureate Organization and an accreditation visit from HAIS/WASC, LJA was called a “jewel in the crown” of IB education. This sentiment inspired our *LJA Gala: Hidden Gem* in an effort to unveil our success in providing excellence in teaching and learning and extraordinary experiences for students. On Saturday, April 22, 2023 we shared a memorable evening celebrating all that makes LJA shine as an emerging leader in IB education. Donors gave generously in support of LJA’s mission through an array of activities, including a wishing tree draped in jewel-toned fabric and crystals hanging from every branch, live and silent auctions teeming with art, apparel, and experiences, and of course, our hallmark paddle raise for ‘Pledges of Excellence.’ Guests enjoyed entertainment by Laupepa Letuli, Air, and Jason Laeha, food from Chef Jason Kiyota



and Threadfin, dessert from Sucre: A Patisserie, cocktails from our partners at Ko’olau Distillery, and wine provided by Bottleheads.



• We mahalo the many donors that came together through table sponsorships, donations of cash, auction items, services, and volunteer time – what an amazing village we have!

Together we raised more than \$300,000 in support of the LJA Fund to enhance student life and learning. To witness the magic that inspired this overwhelming support, watch our Hidden Gem video.



The Wishing Tree



THE WISHING TREE MADE ITS GRAND DEBUT at the LJA Gala, and because of its popularity was featured at subsequent spring events including Artsfest, the Middle School/ High School band concert, and our spring plays. Donors perused an array of faculty wishes and fulfilled those wishes most meaningful to them to improve campus life and learning for students! The generosity of 41 families made a total of 55 wishes come true! **Amongst the highlights were Ms. Manso's wish of a potter's wheel for Secondary Art, Mr. Gaines' wish for new black curtains for the Harold Theatre, Ms. Vinsonhaler's wish for portable keyboards to build out a piano lab, and Mr. Marsden's wish for professional development funds for PYP teachers—all granted!** These dreams impact every corner of our campus to enhance the student experience as we continue to strive for excellence. This initiative raised over \$40,000 in support of design, visual and performing arts, athletics, classrooms, and beyond.



DONOR APPRECIATION

Hawai'i Flower Lei

LJA EXTENDS ITS MOST HEARTFELT GRATITUDE to Emily Steele and Hawai'i Flower Lei, whose enduring generosity through the provision of many, many lei over the years has enabled students to continue to foster a strong sense of place and deep appreciation for a Hawaiian cultural tradition as part of their learning.

Rooted in the legacy of early Polynesian voyagers, the tradition of gifting and receiving lei is a living testament to the essence of Hawaiian culture – from warm greetings to fond farewells, expressions of love, symbols of friendship, markers of celebration, and tokens of reverence for exceptional individuals. At LJA, lei serve as more than ornamental adornments – they embody the spirit of our school's traditions and culture of community. From our vibrant May Day celebrations, galas, and graduation ceremonies, to heartwarming welcomes extended to visitors on our campus, lei are woven intricately into the fabric of our school's culture.

We are appreciative of this enduring partnership and Hawai'i Flower Lei's role in fostering a legacy of cultural understanding for LJA students that resonates beyond campus walls.



DONOR APPRECIATION:

Mobile Kitchen & Student Commons



ACROSS CULTURES AROUND THE WORLD, people come together around food. Beyond sustenance, mealtimes represent an opportunity for sharing and connection, particularly in Hawai'i. At LJA, we also prioritize physical and emotional well-being for our student community and educate our students about their connection to 'āina and how the production and preparation of food is vital to our relationship to each other and our planet. For this reason, LJA jumped at the opportunity to purchase a high quality pre-owned food truck in October 2022 to amplify its lunch program, and 116 generous benefactors rallied to accomplish our goal!

The kitchen was an immediate boost to our capabilities, as it provides twice the fridge and prep space, four times the cooking space, and a fun and engaging way to serve tasty, nutritious meals to our students. Students and faculty now enjoy a healthy

array of freshly prepared and made-to-order lunch options. To compliment the kitchen, a beautiful new student commons space adjacent to the Wang Auditorium gives students a place to eat together and connect! Having laid the groundwork with pavers, gravel, and grading, picnic tables, umbrellas, bench seating, and landscaping have also been added. Shade awnings will be erected in 2023.

This project is made possible by the invaluable support and generosity of donors, including First Hawaiian Bank, who granted \$50,000 to the project, and Matson, who granted \$7,950. In all, an impressive \$140,000 was raised! This achievement, fueled by the dedication of our compassionate supporters, stands as a testament to the profound impact that can be achieved when like-minded partners unite for a common cause.

'Mahalo to our partners!



Malze-von Finck 'Ohana



INDIVIDUAL PATHWAYS

PYP Exhibition



EXPLORING ISSUES OF LOCAL AND GLOBAL IMPORTANCE

kept LJA's Class of 2030 focused throughout the year. In May 2023, grade 5 students marked the culmination of their Primary Years Programme (PYP) learning with the PYP Exhibition, in which groups of students explored issues and presented solutions in a public exhibition. And as always, these eleven-year-olds did not disappoint! Their ability to apply the thinking skills, communication, research, self-management, and social skills they acquired over the course of the Primary Years Programme in grades PK through 5 was evident through each group's learning process as they collected primary research, evaluated multiple perspectives, made collaborative decisions about where to take their learning, and raised awareness

around their issue of study.

In one outstanding example, anchored by the central idea that technology develops new innovations for the food industry, grade 5 students Aiden, Issey, Bailey, and Alssya explored advances in and perspectives on food technology, citing technology's impacts on food production, food systems, and use of GMOs. Ultimately they concluded that food technology will continue to be important to our future to keep people healthy and fed.

INDIVIDUAL PATHWAYS

MYP Personal Project

IN THE FINAL YEAR OF THE MIDDLE YEARS PROGRAMME (MYP), the Class of 2025's innovative explorations through various personal projects exemplified the program's commitment to fostering holistic growth, critical thinking, and community engagement among its students. The following are some standout personal projects that underscore the merits of the IB MYP framework:

ELI INOUYE Sustainable Ahupua'a

Eli Inouye's personal project showcased his journey of connecting with his cultural heritage and understanding the significance of sustainable land use. Through his video project, Eli documented his process of cultivating kalo, hunting, foraging, and processing/cooking using his ahupua'a. This endeavor not only honed his practical skills but also deepened his understanding of responsible resource management, contributing to the preservation of his community's traditions and environment.

HELENA CONNELL Eco-Conscious School Lunches

Helena Connell's personal project was a testament to her commitment to addressing environmental concerns on a practical level. By investigating the impact of food transportation on the environment and researching her school's lunch preparation process, she highlighted the importance of sustainable food choices. Helena's exploration of programs integrating local produce and effective presentation techniques showcased her dedication to raising awareness and fostering positive change within her school community.



REBECCA FITZGERALD Beekeeping and Sustainability

Rebecca Fitzgerald's personal project delved into the realm of beekeeping, underscoring the vital role of bees in creating a sustainable community. Collaborating with a local mentor, she researched and learned the art of maintaining beehives. Her interviews and research shed light on the essential role of bees in maintaining ecosystem balance and supporting food production. Rebecca's project highlighted the interdependence of species and ecosystems, emphasizing the significance of sustainable practices.

The IB MYP personal projects exemplified the programme's core principles of inquiry, reflection, and community engagement. Students not only acquired valuable skills and knowledge but also demonstrated their capacity to enact positive change within their communities. These projects serve as shining examples of how the IB MYP framework empowers students to explore their passions, engage with real-world issues, and contribute meaningfully to a sustainable and interconnected global society.

INDIVIDUAL PATHWAYS

Extended Essay

THE CLASS OF 2023 showcased their remarkable dedication and intellectual prowess through their completion of their Diploma Programme (DP) Extended Essays. These final capstone projects, conducted in diverse subject areas, allow students to delve into university-level research, critical analysis, and insightful conclusions. This is a short summary of the exceptional work accomplished by the Class of 2023, highlighting the unique perspectives explored in their 4,000-word essays.

One notable investigation, titled “How does the energy absorbed by photovoltaic cells vary with the angle of incidence?” explored the fascinating field of renewable energy. Through meticulous experimentation and data analysis, this student explored the relationship between the angle of incidence and the energy absorbed by photovoltaic cells and how these ideas help our understanding of solar panel efficiency.

Another thought-provoking work entitled “Is environmental authoritarianism a more effective way of addressing climate change than environmental democracy?” looked into environmental politics. The student compared different governance approaches and then critically analyzed the efficacy and ethical implications of environmental authoritarianism and democracy in combating climate change, highlighting the complexity of environmental decision-making.

Exploring the intersection of art and psychology, the extended essay titled “What message is Theodore Gericault trying to express about individuals with mental illness through his paintings?” captured the attention of art enthusiasts. This essay considered the profound works of Gericault, interpreting his portrayals of individuals with mental illness and deciphering the underlying messages and societal perceptions conveyed through his art.

Lastly, the investigation titled “To what extent did the American Revolution impact the course of women’s rights in America?” examined the transformative impact of the American Revolution on the trajectory of women’s rights. Through meticulous analysis of historical documents and scholarly research, the student uncovered the multifaceted



nature of this pivotal event and its influence on the struggle for gender equality in the United States.

The Class of 2023’s extended essays demonstrated not only their intellectual rigor but also their ability to approach complex topics with critical thinking, creativity, and a commitment to research excellence. These essays epitomize the essence of the IB DP Extended Essay, fostering a spirit of inquiry and encouraging us all to become knowledgeable, open-minded, and reflective learners.

Parents and students looking forward to the extended essay should see the breadth, depth and uniqueness of these titles as a sign that this capstone project truly allows the realization of one of our values of “individual paths to success and happiness.” Each student choosing their own unique topic, working with subject matter experts, and producing a university-level piece of academic work results in an outstanding final written project for an IB student.

INDIVIDUAL PATHWAYS

Queen's Hospital Internship Program



“These students helped to improve the quality of life for many of the patients recovering from surgery, and in doing so gained *valuable insight* on the importance of patient comfort and emotional well-being in facilitating the healing process.”

–Dr. Lisa Privitera

INSPIRED BY POTENTIAL PATHWAYS toward medical school or other healthcare-related fields and their semester on Anatomy and Physiology, LJA students interned weekly at Queen's Hospital to get medical field experience working with patients. This program was initiated by two seniors, Piper Pickford and Hiram Apo, who expressed interest in volunteering at a hospital as part of LJA's Impact Academy on Well-being to get hands-on experience observing doctors and other staff and interacting with patients. Guided by LJA faculty advisor Dr. Lisa Privitera, the team successfully navigated an extensive application process and was invited to spend time starting Fall 2022 in the neurology, cardiology, and other departments. They participated in Queen's Hospital's Comfort Rounding Program, which provides support for hospitalized patients through bedside visits, and recreational activities in order to improve patient well-being and reduce risk of injury. Students used their Academy Block and spent three hours every Tuesday afternoon at the hospital. The Approaches to Learning (ATL) skills these students have developed over time proved instrumental in mastering bedside manner, an essential part of any medical profession.

INDIVIDUAL PATHWAYS

The Influence of Impact

NOW IN ITS FIFTH YEAR, LJA's signature Impact Term offers Secondary students an increasingly robust catalog of immersive learning experiences designed to build community, nurture relationships, and cultivate responsible global citizenship. From inception, each course is shaped by the interests and curiosities of individual faculty, staff, and community and ultimately draws the participation of students and teachers who are genuinely passionate about each topic. In January 2023, the result was 24 I-Term cohorts who broke from classroom learning for a week to dive into such topics as E-Sports on O'ahu, Music Career Pathways in La La Land, Surf and Sustainability in Fiji, and quite literally the waters surrounding Australia's Great Barrier Reef—amongst others. A record 125 students in grades 7-12 participated in international travel, many with the help of Impact Term Scholarships funded by donors. Multi-aged cohorts provided the conditions for strengthened peer-to-peer and mentor relationships and appreciating diverse perspectives, while individually, participants were given space to develop courage, confidence, patience, deep listening, understanding and knowledge along their own I-Term pathway. Students said:

“I diversified my understanding of *self* and *community*.”



The Influence of Impact



“I learned how much ***I love farm work***, and that maybe in the future I would love to have a farm or orchard of sorts.”



“I learned a newfound ***love and appreciation*** for the environment.”

“I learned how to be ***more open-minded*** and ***positive***.”



EXCELLENCE

Academic Excellence Awards



AS A LEARNING COMMUNITY that values the pursuit of excellence, LJA is fortunate, thanks to the vision and generosity of a current LJA family, to have the means to celebrate and recognize teachers and support personnel who, by their performance and dedication, have demonstrated the highest commitment to their duties and to the development of students. Winners receive public recognition of their achievement and a cash award. This year's awards are the culmination of a community-wide nomination process in which students, parents, and faculty honored their top picks for those who embody a commitment to excellence in their work. Congratulations to our SY2022-23 Academic Excellence Award Winners.

EXCELLENCE IN PRIMARY YEARS EDUCATION

5th Grade Teachers – Eric Ameng, Maggie Foley, and Terri Marshall

EXCELLENCE IN MIDDLE YEARS EDUCATION

Erin Tseu

EXCELLENCE IN DIPLOMA PROGRAMME EDUCATION

Dr. Lisa Privitera

EXCELLENCE IN SUPPORTING TEACHING AND LEARNING

Christina Webb

EXCELLENCE

PYP Pilots New Report Card in Pursuit of Excellence



OUR GRADE 5 TEACHER TEAM was recognized with an Academic Excellence Award this year for their development and pilot of a revised progress report card. The revised progress report better aligns with the IB Primary Years Programme's philosophy and utilizes the five Approaches to Learning skills categories (communication, social, self-management, research, and thinking skills) to better communicate learner growth to parents. These skills, which are built upon throughout the IB continuum, are the skills most sought by today's employers. The team's initiative, commitment to student learning, and creativity was evident throughout the year as they developed the reporting tool, communicated with families, and identified areas for refinement. The Primary Division is eager to launch the full roll out of this new reporting tool to PK-5 families in the 2023-24 school year.

“We believe this new communication tool will bring students, parents and teachers closer together with *common language* to facilitate richer discussion around student learning and best next steps to challenge and support each individual learner.”

**– Leah Magaña
Head of Primary**

EXCELLENCE

Enhanced Student Support System



FOLLOWING LAST YEAR'S WORK to run a series of 15 Student Success Reviews in order to learn more about our strengths and ways in which our program needs to grow, educational leadership set out this year to apply this knowledge toward continued development and enhancement of our Student Support system. The educational leadership team worked diligently to address our areas of growth. Additional personnel were hired and classroom space was allocated to increase support for students.

System improvements include:

- An internal guide to clarify processes for referring struggling learners for Student Support;
- Improved communication documentation and timelines to better monitor student growth and communicate internally in order to support students more effectively;
- A tiering system to clearly identify the level and type of support needed by each individual in order to better shift resources to more efficiently support the needs of all learners;
- Development of partnerships with outside resources to support students on and off campus;
- A plan for increased communication with parents to strengthen the school-home partnership for greater student success.

With our first phase of implementation complete, we will continue to work to refine our procedures over the 2023-24 school year and build excellence in our program to better support all of our learners.

In the Primary Division, the counselor's office has become a hub of activity. Christina Webb has created a warm and inviting space for students with a comfy couch, books and toys to help students work through their thoughts and feelings. She has been running "lunch bunches" to support students with relational and friendship-building skills, and also holds one-on-one sessions to meet individualized needs. Her beloved therapy dog, Duke, was a beloved addition to the LJA 'ohana, and a new therapy dog is in training.

The development of partnerships with outside resources is key to meeting the individualized needs of our students. A speech services provider comes in 3-4 times each week to work with students out on the lanai, and a behavioral specialist is another available support. Plans are also in place to contract an occupational therapist, which will round out the specialist team and enhance our capabilities to individualize support.

In Secondary, emphasis is placed on meeting students where they are—in their classrooms! Support Specialists "push in" to the classrooms in a team teaching approach, resulting in increased support for students wherever needed without creating a stigma of needing student support. This approach is augmented by individual time and support as needed.

With this first phase of implementation complete, we will continue our work to build and strengthen our program for the benefit of all students over the 2023-24 school year.



EXCELLENCE

New SEL Vision, Framework, and Policy



LJA HAS ALWAYS been known for its caring teachers and attention to the social and emotional well-being of its students. In fact, it's one of the reasons the IB was attractive to LJA, for its emphasis on the "whole child" including one's personal, social, and emotional well-being.

During the pandemic, we recognized the need for taking our already strong foundation in this area one step further through a vertical scope and sequence of social and emotional skills that would be explicitly taught. We are proud to report that this multi-year initiative was advanced this year after offering professional learning to teachers, enhancing the quantity of time spent on social and emotional curricula, ensuring the social and self-management approaches to learning (ATL skills) were embedded in the units of inquiry (PYP and MYP), and progress on a Social Emotional Learning vision, framework, and policy to ensure continuous integrity of best practices in teaching and learning.



New SEL Vision, Framework, and Policy

Examples of SEL skills acquired by grade level:

SOCIAL SKILLS

PYP (Early Years)	Interpersonal Skills: Shares and takes turns.
PYP (Early Years)	Conflict resolution: Uses the strategies learned in class to solve conflicts.
Grade 5 PYP (Upper)	Respecting Others: Cooperates with peers well and respects the needs and boundaries of others.
MYP	Collaboration: Makes fair and equitable decisions.
MYP/DP	Collaboration: Exercises leadership and takes on a variety of roles within groups.



SELF-MANAGEMENT SKILLS (EXAMPLES)

PYP (Early Years)	Emotional Management: Is able to identify and manage their feelings, actions, and words.
PYP (Upper)	Perseverance: Has strategies they use to overcome challenges or barriers in their learning.
MYP	Perseverance: Practices delaying gratification.
MYP	Self-Motivation: Practices analysis and accurate attribution of causes for failure.
DP	Mindfulness: Practices strategies to reduce stress and anxiety.



EXCELLENCE

Hitting the High Notes



THE EXPLORATION OF MUSIC develops creativity, emotional intelligence, discipline, and perseverance, while serving as a universal language and connecting people from diverse backgrounds. LJA's music educators encourage our students to improve their skills over years of study to foster a lifetime pursuit of excellence.

During the 2022-23 school year, every LJA student from the youngest preschoolers to our seniors took part in multiple showcase performances that displayed their dedication, hard work, and collective effort. The Music Impact Term trip to Los Angeles introduced our students to every level of the music industry from production to performance and treated them to a full orchestra concert by the Los Angeles Philharmonic at Walt Disney Concert Hall. The *LJA Music Brings Us Together* program, which has spurred cross-cultural exchange and collaboration since 1995, returned in triumphant form when LJA

hosted the Konan Jazz Band from Kobe, Japan. Music students and faculty from both schools engaged in Tribe activities, group skits and a vibrant jam session, culminating in a joint performance in front of the entire school.

In 2022-23, LJA's community redoubled its support for our performing arts programs. LJA was the recipient of an inspiring array of in-kind gifts, including use of professional theater lights, a full professional-level Carvin PA and performance audio system, and even a Yamaha Conservatory grand piano! A refresh of our beloved Harold Theater is underway, creating storage, permanent curtains, and equipment upgrades that will allow our performers to shine like never before. Our community rallied to fulfill the wishes of our music teachers, which will establish a piano lab, bolster our strings program, and provide in-house audio support for all of our performances.



“Our arts program is a portal that allows students to bridge geographical distances, cultural differences, and language barriers to create a more harmonious world.”

– Louise Vinsonhaler
Subject Area Leader for the Performing Arts



Our commitment to a vibrant and growing arts program ensures that LJA students acquire and apply the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to develop healthy identities, manage emotions, and achieve personal and collective goals. Their ability to feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain supportive relationships, and make responsible and caring decisions will impact their trajectory no matter what individual paths they take.



LJA Educators at the Forefront of Education

FOLLOWING THE POSITIVE recognition received during the IB’s evaluation in Fall 2022, LJA has been sought after for expertise and insight. In April 2023, three of our administrators were invited to participate on a panel on indigenous knowledge at the IB global conference in Adelaide, Australia. At the invitation of the IB, Rachel Domenic, Dean of Academics and MYP Coordinator, accompanied Division Heads Leah Magaña and Alex Ramsvig to present to interested schools considering candidacy for the IB Middle Years Programme. LJA was later asked to be one of only nine schools to pilot the new IB Primary Years Programme (PYP) transdisciplinary themes for the 2023-24 school year.

Looking forward, LJA has also been invited to present on learner agency at the 2024 National Association of Independent Schools confer-



ence with a presentation called, “Empowering Change Makers: Unleashing the Potential of Student-Led Action in Independent Schools.” Additionally, Rob Marsden, Primary Dean of Academics, was selected to join a cohort of leaders, the IB Educator Network, to lead IB workshops and evaluation visits across the Americas.

These engagements are meaningful not just as opportunities for our educators to share their knowledge and mastery with the global education community, but as indicators that, true to the vision that was articulated in LJA’s 2017 strategic plan, LJA has worked to become Hawai’i’s leader in international education. LJA is increasingly being recognized for extraordinary teaching and learning and is no longer just a hidden educational gem. Ku’upau!



Owen Pflipsen Earns Bilingual IB Diploma

OWEN PFLIPSEN – a member of our graduating class of 2023 – has succeeded in a significant achievement by earning a bilingual IB diploma. In order to achieve this endorsement on their diploma documentation, students need to score 3 or higher in two studies of Language and Literature courses, demonstrating their fluency in two languages at a native language level. Typically only around 27% of students worldwide fulfill this requirement to earn a bilingual IB diploma, or less than one-

third of all candidates who achieve the full IB diploma. In Owen’s case, he went well beyond the minimum expectations for this award, scoring 5 points in both English A: Language and Literature HL and in French A: Language and Literature SL. Across the world in the May 2023 IB exams, only just over one-third of students scored 5 points in each of those subjects (33.9% of students taking English A: L&L HL and 37.6% of those taking French A: L&L SL), making his achievement particularly notable. With his bilingual IB diploma in hand, Owen is enrolled at McGill University in Fall 2023. Congratulations, Owen!

Excellence in Early Learning



LJA RECOGNIZES 20 years of dedicated service for not just one, but three of its early learning educators. For two decades, Ann Yoshida, Rochelle Fairbairn and Summer Robello have nurtured classes of pre-kindergarten and junior kindergarten students through the foundational components of an IB education. In prioritizing the social, emotional, and academic well-being of their students above all, this team has successfully perpetuated the long-standing traditions of the preschool while ensuring the program's continued development and growth on LJA's trajectory toward a culture of shared learning, innovative programming, and impact. In their *How Things Grow* unit, pre-kindergarten students tended to young ti plants as they learned about how these plants grow, what they need to thrive, and how to best care for them. Students then presented these ti plants as a makana to their 'ohana to plant and continue to nurture at home. What a gift to be able to watch our students grow in a similar way as they are nurtured and loved by this dedicated team of educators.

A 'Sense' We're On The Right Track

EACH YEAR, our faculty and staff join to support our Junior Kindergarten educators in organizing our JK Sensory Fair. The Sensory Fair is specially curated to engage students in an exploration of their world via a broad assortment of sensory centers, using their Approaches to Learning (ATL) skills as tools for exploration. As students slathered shaving cream on bubble wrap exploring texture, or sprayed food coloring to create unique art, their practice of research and thinking skills, and sharing back observations exercised ATL skills while enjoying the fun and freedom to explore. These foundational experiences inspire a curiosity that stays with students and becomes fundamental to their inquiry, design-thinking, and problem-solving later in the IB program.



EXCELLENCE *Athletics*

THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF OUR LJA BULL-DOGS are a consistent point of great pride for our community, as they highlight how incredibly talented and versatile our student athletes truly are. As our athletes continue to solidify LJA's place in Hawai'i's sports history, we celebrate all of our athletes in their pursuit of excellence.



CHARLI KENNEDY BREAKS STATE HIGH JUMP RECORD

When sophomore Charli Kennedy decided to join the track and field team—a sport she's never tried before—in February 2023, no one imagined the heights she'd reach. Within three months, Charli was beating every high jumper in the State. While competing in the State Championships in Maui, Charli broke a long-standing, 23-year-old record and cemented her name in the record books with a 5'7" high jump, making her the best high jumper in Hawai'i state history.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR ILH CHAMPIONS

Girls' Varsity Water Polo
Girls' Volleyball
Track and Field
Junior Varsity Kayaking
Intermediate Boys' Basketball
Junior Varsity & Varsity Swimming
Boys' Water Polo

A GAME TO REMEMBER

LJA Bulldog pride was in full effect as the school rallied to support Girls' Varsity Water Polo after they forced a playoff game for the ILH title, beating Punahou not once, but twice in their own pool!



UNDEFEATED SEASONS

Congratulations to LJA's Intermediate Boys' Basketball and Girls' Varsity Volleyball teams, both of which celebrated undefeated seasons this year!

TWO COACHES OF THE YEAR

LJA proudly congratulates Coach Randy Burgess, Girls' Water Polo, and Coach Lee Lamb, Girls' Varsity Volleyball – both of whom were named ILH Coach of the Year!



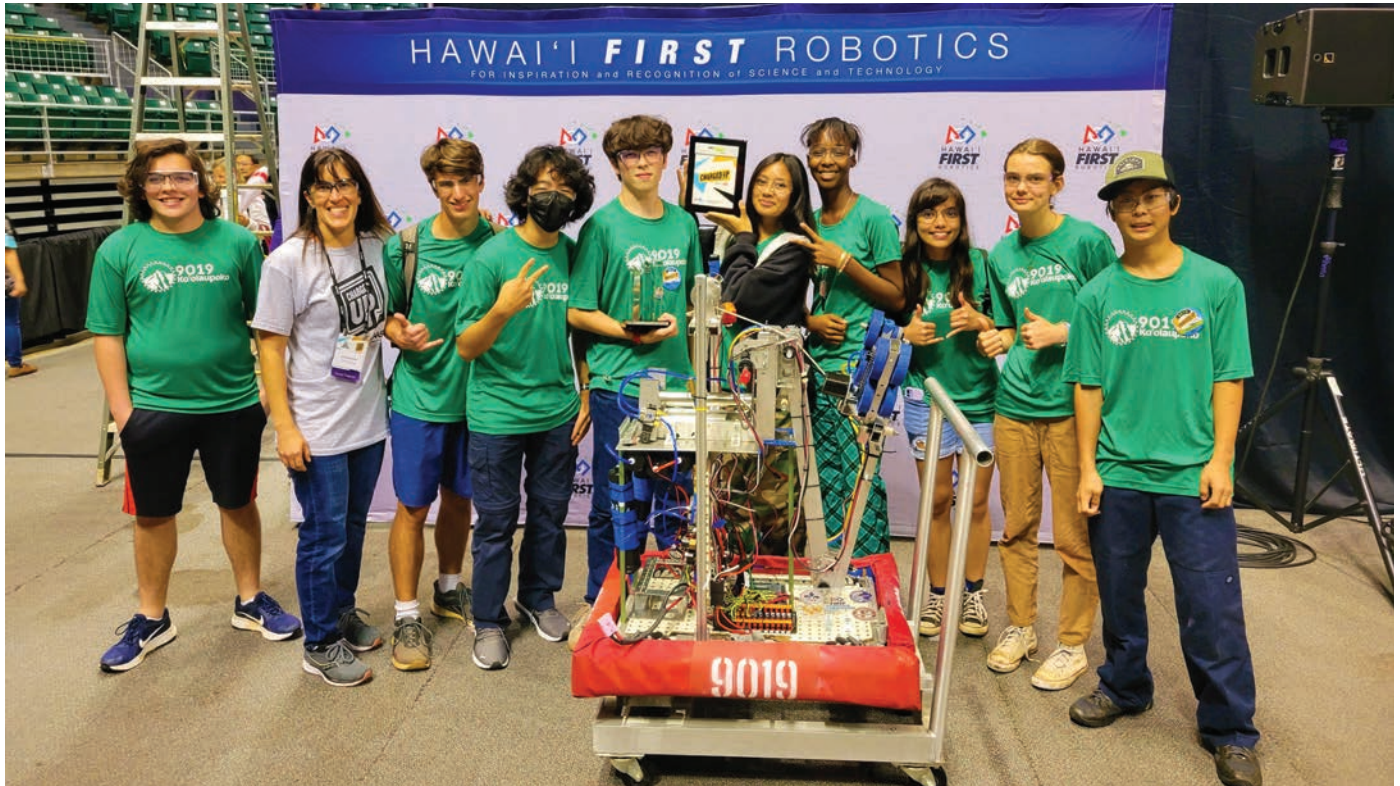
HOLE-IN-ONE!

Hats off to 8th grade golfer, Jack Ferandin, who hit a hole-in-one, on a par 5 hole from 245 yards out! Following his swing, Jack sprinted up to the green to find his ball in the hole for one of the rarest types of hole-in-one possible—a condor. What is a condor you ask? Apparently it's 'holing out' in four shots under par! But because a condor has only ever officially been recorded by golf courses six times in history, the odds of hitting a condor hole-in-one are close to a million to 1!



INNOVATE FOR POSITIVE CHANGE

Alumni Give Back Through Ko'olaupoko Robotics



LE JARDIN ACADEMY'S EMPHASIS ON STEM AND ROBOTICS has not just been about instruction; it's about fostering a community of mentorship. The legacy of this program is enriched by dedicated alumni who return to pass on their knowledge. Jack Weinstein '21, now a Computer Science student with a minor in Data Analytics at Worcester University, once guided the middle school team. Even after heading to college, his commitment remained unyielding, making frequent returns to tutor students in programming and problem-solving. Class of 2023 graduate Izzy Eastmond, beyond her laudable dedication to mentoring the middle school FIRST Tech Challenge team in her junior and senior years, pioneered the community-based Ko'olaupoko Robotics team this year, making robotics accessible to students beyond LJA. Now she's bound for The University of Washington to dive deeper into mechanical engineering.

Last season saw the Ko'olaupoko FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) team receiving invaluable

assistance from two remarkable mentors, Austin Caires '19 and Ke'alo'hi Young '19. Austin, a skilled machinist and welder, once championed the build of LJA's very first FRC team robot. This year, he again lent his expertise, ensuring the team's mechanical design was competition-ready for the World Championship in Houston, Texas, after the team won the Rookie All Star bid for their performance at the Hawai'i FIRST Robotics Competition Regional on March 25, 2023. Ke'alo'hi, after her academic journey took her from LJA to Embry-Riddle to study Cyber Security, eventually returned home to continue her studies in Computer Science at Hawaii Pacific University. Ke'alo'hi's nurturing presence extended beyond technical mentoring, culminating in a memorable celebration she hosted for the graduating members in Houston. Their stories stand testament to the ethos of LJA's robotics program: it's not just about building robots, but also about cultivating a passionate community that gives back.

INNOVATE FOR POSITIVE CHANGE

Earth Day: Two Miles of Impact

ON FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 2023, our community—from PK to Grade 12—came together for a day of hana pono during its annual Earth Day celebration. Engaging in a number of impact projects, our students, faculty and staff, and community members dedicated the day to stewardship and the environment. From working in the lo'i at Ulupō to continuing our stewardship work at Kahanaiki, some of the exciting highlights of the work put in on Earth Day included:

- **High school students took the lead at Kawainui**
Grade 9 and 10 students stepped into leadership roles and planned, prepped, and executed the work at native ecosystem restoration sites, Kahanaiki and Nā Pōhaku. LJA high school students, who have regularly stewarded these ecologically and culturally significant sites for some time, helped coordinate the efforts of over 140 community members participating in these projects.
- **Creation of a new outdoor learning space**
Thanks to the support of Native Ecosystem Services, the LJA community has a new nature-based learning space in the Upper Playground. Named Ulu Niu (Coconut Grove) by the students who helped envision it, it's now home to a native pollinator garden and an orchard of native trees.
- **Preschool launched a campus recycling effort**
Our junior school demonstrated that even the smallest students can make a big impact through a range of recycling projects. PK and JK students collected litter around campus and sorted them into different recyclable groups; learned how to compost leftover food; found new uses for old crayons; and turned recycled newspapers into Mother's Day art cards.



Pono Popoki Project Wins Philippe Cousteau's 2023 OurEcho Challenge



WE BELIEVE THAT POSITIVE CHANGE can be achieved at any age. This year, grade 7 students Evan Smyth and Alexa Scherman of Team Pono Popoki were the grand prize winners in the 2023 OurEcho Challenge, a national STEM film competition held by Philippe Cousteau's EarthEcho International. In their winning film submission, which they were inspired to make as the culminating project for an IB interdisciplinary unit, Team Pono Popoki explored strategies to protect native Hawaiian birds by addressing the feral cat population. "We broke the budget down into three parts; the Trap-Neuter-Return-Manage process, annual colony management, and foster care for cats," says Evan. "We were excited when we found out we won. All of our hard work paid off."

After researching their topic, students could choose to take personal action, inspire others to take action

with them, or they could reach out to an organization or an elected official with their idea(s)," shares LJA science teacher Erin Tseu. "This team chose to apply for a grant to try and raise funding for their action ideas." A second LJA team also advanced to the finals, and both teams were recognized on campus for their tremendous achievements.

"The 2023 OurEcho Challenge grand prize winners impressed our judges with their in-depth knowledge of local biodiversity issues and their vision in developing viable solutions tailored to their communities," said EarthEcho founder Philippe Cousteau, Jr. LJA is proud to support Evan and Alexa and their fellow middle school scientists, and encourage them to continue their journey to advocate for environmental sustainability and global impact.

INNOVATE FOR POSITIVE CHANGE

• *What School Could Be*

LJA WELCOMED EDUCATIONAL LEADERS AND COMMUNITY on October 22, 2022 to a full-house screening of *The Innovation Playlist*, a collaboration between Josh Reppun Productions and Searider Productions which tells the story of how several Hawai'i public schools are reimagining education and the "small steps" innovations that they brought to their campuses. Afterwards, a panel of LJA Secondary students expertly facilitated a community conversation about the innovative programming, new ways of thinking, and the future of education in Hawai'i which featured special guests Josh Reppun, producer and co-editor; Ed Noh, Castle-Kahuku Complex Area Superintendent; and Ted Dintersmith, the founder of [WhatSchoolCouldBe.org](https://www.what-school-could-be.org), author of the best seller, *What School Could Be*, and producer of the well-known film *Most Likely To Succeed*.

Reflecting on the conversation, student facilitator Massimo Flumian, a senior during the 2022-23 school year, said it made him realize that, although there is still resistance from people who think education should stay the same, there was a mounting desire and motivation for education to become more immersive and engaging, especially from people on the front lines of education. Massimo, who joined LJA in Grade 5, felt his education at the school aligned closely with the ideas presented in the film because it was "a very immersive education that required [him] to expend [his] critical thinking, teamwork, and engagement skills." The film's lasting impact also spurred him to ultimately choose Colorado College with a similar education model.



INNOVATE FOR POSITIVE CHANGE

Innovative Solutions to Increase Student Agency



IN ACHIEVING THE SECOND MILESTONE of our operational goal around programmatic excellence, a task force composed of teachers, parents, and administrators collaborated to research, develop, and propose a multi-year plan for improved learner agency.

At LJA, learners exercise choice, voice, and ownership and are active participants in their learning process. Learner agency is strongly connected to the concept of self-efficacy, the belief in one's ability to succeed, resulting in learners who have the skills and mindsets to initiate their own action, persist through challenges, and positively impact themselves and the world around them.

Learner agency, simply defined as choice, voice, and ownership, leads to self-efficacy, a belief in one's ability

to succeed, that directly impacts lifelong achievement (Hattie, 2018).

Through the reading of IB documents, peer-reviewed research, books and articles by experts in the field, interviews with partner schools, attendance at conferences, school visits across New Zealand, Australia, Canada, and the U.S. mainland, along with our own reflection around current practices at LJA, the team developed a multi-year plan for enhancing student agency PK-12 to guide our next stages of work. Model components include intentional work around a culture of learning, personal and shared inquiry, experiential learning, enrichment, and assessment. We are excited to launch the first model components in SY 2023-2024.

SERVE PEACE

Lobbying for Change— Hawaiian Honeycreepers



IT STARTED WITH A SPARK. As part of their inquiry into the local environment and native animals, Kindergarteners learned about the native honeycreepers and the challenges they face with rising temperatures, how mosquitoes are now able to reach the highest canopies of the Hawaiian rainforest, and how they are dying at rapid rates due to the avian-malaria the mosquitoes carry. They wanted to take action, and through this action they got the word out. Second grader, Meara Marsden, picked up the info and as part of her Caves to Canvas unit, painted a beautiful piece expressing her concern for the native birds. Now second grade was hooked, and with Meara leading the team, the four girls worked to fundraise to save the birds. This led to an invitation to provide testimony at the legislature for two bills raising awareness about the fight to preserve the species. Soon fourth graders got involved, researching, speaking with local experts, and finally painting honeycreepers onto postcards that they mailed to legislators. As these problem finders and problem solvers take action from their learning, the future looks a bit brighter.

“We aren’t just teaching children the skills to make a difference when they’re older, we want them to be making a difference now and the way our students rose to the challenges surrounding the native Honeycreepers is such a perfect example of this.”

– Josh Masagatani,
Dean of Experiential
Education & Community
Partnerships PK–5

SERVE PEACE

A Student's Perspective: Model United Nations Conference



MODEL UNITED NATIONS (MUN) is active diplomacy – a student-led simulation of the United Nations, where participants act as diplomats, discuss global issues, and acquire essential collaborative skills. In February 2023, twelve LJA MUN students had the opportunity to participate in the three-day Vancouver Model United Nations (VMUN) conference hosted by St. George's School in Vancouver, BC. The event hosts over 1,000 delegates, teachers, and distinguished guests annually. At VMUN, our delegates arrived with limited prior experience and a general grasp of the workings of the UN. By the end of the conference, they had fearlessly tackled complex global issues, gaining in-depth knowledge about their assigned topics, and honing their abilities to collaborate and foster relationships with one another. Our delegation debated topics including The Protection of Schools During Wartime, child soldiers, and a joint crisis committee set in 1941 Japan. This transformative experience perfectly aligns with LJA's core values, inspiring students to strive for excellence in solving world problems and promoting peace. The LJA MUN team looks forward to welcoming future delegates (grade 8 students will be welcomed next year) and exploring innovative solutions to intriguing global challenges.

- Norah Dodson '26

SERVE PEACE

Hui Mahi'ai 'Āina

IN THE HEART OF WAIMANALO, a group of dedicated changemakers, inspired by Aunty Blanche McMillan, works tirelessly to improve the lives of those in need and the houseless in the Waimanalo community. Amongst them this year were 15 LJA design students from the Class of '25, who, with the support of Impact mentor Carolyn Flacker, dedicated four hours a week from September 2022 through May 2023 at Hui Mahi'ai 'Āina as part of their design class. Here, they applied their skills to design projects that addressed some of the community's urgent needs. The students designed a community gathering space and outdoor

kitchen, collaborated on a sprinkler system design, and put together an organic farming plan to aid the community's work to cultivate healthy food. They even collaborated with local chefs to design and print a farm-to-table cookbook that utilizes produce being grown on property and supports the community's commitment to education in nutritional management. Each of these students were committed through their good work to helping Hui Mahi'ai 'Āina with whatever was most needed, and their positive footprint in Waimanalo is as notable as the impact of real world learning.



SERVE PEACE

Common Ground Summit



EACH YEAR, THE WILD KIDS Stewardship Council hosts a student-led conference centered around global issues, activism, and environmental stewardship. For one weekend, we camp under the stars on campus with a diverse group of individuals, sharing a love for our planet and a commitment to positive change. The goal of every Wild Kids conference is to create a transferable framework of knowledge and a lasting network of change-makers. Through work and play, we find common ground.

After a three-year pandemic hiatus, this conference resumed. On April 15-16, 2023, more than 50

students and community members from across O'ahu gathered at Le Jardin Academy to innovate for positive change by collaborating on strategies to create communities that are more inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable. Over two days, participants took in a keynote address about water scarcity by Gabby Zimmer from the local nonprofit Wai, and connected and discussed solutions for a better O'ahu.

In alignment with the Global Citizen's Diploma, the Common Ground Summit addresses UN SDG11, Sustainable Cities and Communities.

SERVE PEACE

5th Annual Hawai'i Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Conference

LE JARDIN ACADEMY sent a contingent of teachers and students to Shanti Alliance's 5th Annual Hawai'i Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Conference, where they participated in an enriching experience focused on the theme Ma Ka Hana Ka 'Ike (The Knowledge is in Doing the Work). Held at Ala Moana Hotel and Punahou School, the event featured notable speakers such as Laura Hokunani Edmunds Kaakua and Kamueal Yim, a Social Justice Practitioner Panel, and LJA's own Christina Hoe, Director of Experiential Education and Community Partnerships, speaking on Indigenous Ways of Knowing! Through both "Inner Practice" for personal identity awareness and "Outer Practice" for community engagement, participants from LJA connected with like-minded individuals, learned from peers, and acquired skills and ideas to

foster a more friendly and welcoming school environment.

The school's participation at the conference aligns with the school's ongoing goal of fostering inclusivity and expanding enrollment to more closely reflect the diverse demographics of the island. One LJA sophomore who attended the conference shared, "The Hawaii DEI conference was an eye-opening experience for me and I really enjoyed the opportunity to collaborate with students from other schools." This perspective underscores the importance of the event in shaping the students' understanding and appreciation of diversity, equity, and inclusion, and it contributes to the school's mission to create a more connected community.



SERVE PEACE

IB Global Conference Embraces Indigenous Perspectives

LE JARDIN ACADEMY LEADERS attended and presented at the IB International Conference held in Adelaide, Australia. Christina Hoe, Josh Masagatani, and Kara Omori were featured on a panel that focused on “The Importance of Indigenous Ways of Knowing.” Their presentation aimed to showcase LJA’s efforts to integrate indigenous knowledge, particularly Hawaiian knowledge, into our educational practices. They emphasized the significance of tapping into what we refer to as ancestral knowledge, recognizing that all people possess this type of knowledge which includes learning from our human and non-human ancestors.

A key aspect of their presentation highlighted the idea that we all have a kuleana (responsibility) to this place thus our community holds a shared responsibility towards the well-being and sustainability of our environment and its culture. Through this approach, LJA’s team encouraged the understanding that everyone has a role to play in preserving our ancestral wisdom and passing it on to future generations.

“We’ve made a significant connection between our work on indigenous ways of knowing and the concept of “positive

peace.” By actively working to understand and appreciate others’ cultures, we can foster an environment of mutual respect and appreciation. Our goal was to present another perspective on diversity and its importance in building a more inclusive and harmonious society. We firmly believe that embracing indigenous knowledge and recognizing diverse perspectives can lead to positive change for our community and beyond,” said Dean of Experiential Education and Community Partnerships PK-5, Josh Masagatani.

LJA’s presentation was met with appreciation from fellow educators and conference attendees. The unique perspective LJA’s team brought to the conference was lauded for its depth and relevance in promoting cultural understanding and appreciation within the educational community. Many participants expressed their interest in incorporating similar initiatives in their own schools and institutions. We are grateful for the opportunity to have presented our perspective and are inspired to continue our work in the pursuit of cultural integration and understanding.



NURTURE RELATIONSHIPS AND RESOURCES

In Appreciation of Vicki McNeill



THIS YEAR, LE JARDIN ACADEMY BID A FOND FAREWELL to one of its longest-serving educators and administrators, Vicki McNeill. We would like to honor Vicki on a remarkable journey of service to our school community. Throughout her career as a math teacher, Middle and High School Principal, and Dean of Students, Vicki has left an indelible mark on the hearts and minds of faculty and students alike.

For over three decades, Vicki dedicated herself to nurturing young minds and fostering our school community. As she transitioned from classroom math teacher to the role of middle and then high school principal, her leadership style embodied compassion and understanding. She had an innate ability to connect with students personally, ensuring that they felt valued and heard. Before saying a hui hou, Vicki transitioned to the role of Dean of Students, and her time was marked by her wisdom and thoughtful guidance to all.

She was deeply invested in the holistic development of each student, nurturing their emotional well-being and personal growth.

The impact of Vicki's contributions extended far beyond the classroom walls. Her commitment to the betterment of LJA was evident in every aspect of school life. She played an instrumental role in shaping the school's culture, fostering a community built on respect, kindness, and inclusivity. Under her leadership, LJA saw tremendous growth and development, evolving into a nurturing and empowering environment for all.

While we wish Vicki a well-deserved and fulfilling next stage, we also want her to know that her impact on Le Jardin Academy will forever be cherished and celebrated. Thank you, Vicki, for your dedication and the imprint you've left on our school's history. You will always be an integral part of the LJA 'ohana.

NURTURE RELATIONSHIPS AND RESOURCES

Alumni Tracks

LJA ALUMNI are the personification of our vision, mission, and values. This past year, our alumni's numerous success stories demonstrate how former LJA students enact positive impact on their community in addition to their individual academic and career achievements.



KASEY TAMAMOTO '15

Dr. Kasey Tamamoto received her MD at the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine this year, and has begun her first year in her General Surgery residency. She graduated with a major in Biochemistry from Tufts University. She credits her initial interest in the sciences to her time with Dr. Lisa Privitera, who not only explained concepts but also gave context to their relevancy. Dr. Tamamoto credits the LJA IB program for thoroughly preparing her for her undergraduate studies. The emphasis on an exploratory mindset, of learning beyond the basic requirements of an assignment, was a skill that distinguished her from her classmates. She also claims that LJA's community-oriented values gave her the courage and confidence to ask for support from colleagues and physicians during the demanding transition from the classroom to a clinical setting. Dr. Tamamoto hopes to continue in the field of transplant surgery and is considering practicing on O'ahu.



AIDEN SPAGNOLI '20

Loyola Marymount University Men's Soccer athlete Aiden Spagnoli received the Alfred Kilp Award in recognition of his contributions to student-athlete campus life and his high level of service and promise in curricular leadership. As a sophomore, he was nominated to an executive role as Community Service Chair of the Student Athletic Advisory Committee (SAAC) and, in his junior year, served as VP of the West Coast Conference SAAC. In this role, he organized community parks cleanup by the LMU soccer team to appreciate that "every soccer player starts their journey in a community park". His leadership initiatives now include a drive to make the WCC more well-rounded using community service, justice, and DEI as significant parts of its strategic plan. Aiden credits LJA with developing his passion for service; inspiring the resiliency that allowed him to thrive in the restrictive school atmosphere of the COVID pandemic. After graduation, he plans to translate his community service into a professional career in finance, where he hopes to leverage his knowledge and experience to help others achieve their goals.



BERKANA MCDOWELL '19

Everywhere Berkana has gone, she has strengthened communities. At Chapman University, whether performing with the Floor 13 hip-hop dance team, collaborating on a communication toolkit in response to a coastal oil spill, counseling student colleagues as a peer advisor or interviewing prospective students as an Admission fellow, Berkana has made her mark. “Berkana is an example of the true renaissance scholar that Chapman strives to produce,” said Assistant Professor Richelle Tanner, co-director of the Environmental Science and Policy Program. “Her research in my lab explored how strategic use of environmental psychology improves environmental literacy in minoritized populations. Berkana is a fierce advocate for environmental justice in the ES&P core curriculum.” This fall, she will continue her academic journey at Yale University to pursue a master’s degree in environmental management.



AIDEN RIEHL '19

Aiden was accepted into the Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship (CIE) Summer Accelerator at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, an intensive 12-week program that provides Cal Poly students and recent graduates with the resources needed to turn their innovative ideas into full-fledged startups. Participants receive \$10,000 in seed funding, as well as access to expert mentorship, entrepreneurial workshops and a dedicated workspace in the HotHouse, the CIE’s office in downtown San Luis Obispo. At the age of 19, Aiden founded Ecoternatives, an online store aiming to make sustainable products affordable, being environmentalists first, providing value through education, building community, and creating an outstanding experience.



Visit
**Bulldogs
Forever** for
more alumni tracks!

Kawainui Stewardship Certification Program



LE JARDIN ACADEMY is located less than 500 yards from Kawainui Marsh, a Ramsar protected wetland and Hawai'i's second largest historical fishpond. As such, LJA's Ko'olaupoko Impact Collective proudly launched a new initiative, the Kawainui Stewardship Certification (KSC) in August 2022 with generous support from the NOAA Bay and Wetland Education Training (B-WET) Program through a grant award of \$136,040. This certification program leverages community leaders, field experts, educators, and sustained work at various sites within Kawainui to inspire and train a cohort of young stewards who are knowledgeable and able to increase community-wide engagement around watershed issues. Through this local action, students are connected to the UN Sustainable Development Goals of climate action, marine pollution and watershed awareness, and sustainable use of terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems. Students from LJA and Kalaheo High School participated in the course and several community work days. Impact at a glance:



- 21 students from LJA and Kalaheo High Schools
- 800 square meters of non-native plants removed
- 500 square meters of native ground vegetation restored, including 17 native species and a variety of wetland sedges for pollution and erosion control
- 250 native trees planted
- 80 meters of trails maintained
- 1600 liters of rainwater reclaimed
- 60 pounds of trash removed

NURTURE RELATIONSHIPS AND RESOURCES

How to Build a Hawaiian Hale



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH STUDENTS from Olo- mana School a dedicated group of LJA students spent time during their spring semester learning about and building a traditional Hawaiian hale. The structure was assembled in Ho'omaluhia Botanical Garden in Kāne'ohe on private property belonging to Uncle Mark Paliku Stride, in close partnership with cultural resources specialist Earl Kawa'a. The two are natural partners and mentors for our students – Mark has deep cultural knowledge, roots in Ko'olaupoko, and is committed to utilizing his property for 'aina-based learning for the students of our region. Earl Kawa'a is a master hale builder and he, along with Kanaloa Bishop, have shared their immense knowledge and experience with LJA students Adelaide Murphy '24, Kala'i Soares '26, Vaitua Quoniou-Yvan '25, and Eli Inouye '25. Alongside Kanaloa, these students will take the lead in the construction of a hale for the LJA community during SY 2023-24. LJA's hale will be situated on King Family property adjacent to campus near the famed "Meeting Tree," and will offer all members of our community an opportunity to engage with the project.

NURTURE RELATIONSHIPS AND RESOURCES

STEM Outreach Takes Flight at KMCB Airshow



LJA STUDENTS, PARENTS, AND FACULTY made the best of impressions in their volunteer roles as LJA ambassadors at the Kaneohe Marine Corps Base (KMCB) Airshow on August 12-14, 2022, where they anchored an interactive STEM activity zone and completely stole the show! Students demonstrated and gave lessons in how to fly drones, drive spheros, create with mechanized doodlebots, use a 3D printer, and build planes and robots. Over three days, the team engaged with an estimated 8,000 air show goers, creating a positive and lasting impression on local families and businesses alike. Mahalo to our volunteers for representing LJA in this amazing way!

NURTURE RELATIONSHIPS AND RESOURCES

Community-Powered PFA



AT THE HEART OF THE LJA 'OHANA is the Parent Faculty Association (PFA), a volunteer organization dedicated to activities that advance LJA's mission by supporting school activities, student and teacher wellbeing, and creating pathways for parent engagement. This year, the PFA supported everything from welcoming new families to teacher appreciation, along with dozens of school-sponsored dances, poetry slams, concerts, and activities that improve campus life for students. The PFA was also integral in bringing parents together for LJA Giving Day and the LJA Gala, our two largest fundraisers for the year, and for collecting and donating 9 boxes for the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve's Toys for Tots Drive in December 2022. By way of a modest annual contribution, all LJA parents are members of the PFA and are welcome to attend general meetings throughout the school year and find their own pathways to get involved in campus life and learning. We mahalo the PFA for their heartfelt aloha and on-going contributions to better the LJA 'ohana. What an amazing community!

PFA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SY2022-23

Mercedes Fagundes,
President

Morgan LaRue,
Treasurer

Kulia Boerstler,
Secretary

Blair Morrison & Ann Medeiros,
Communications

Denice Kolody & Amy Lu,
VP New Families

Caitlin McOmish,
Primary Representative PK-JK

Kristy Scherman & Johanna Katzman,
Primary Representatives K-5

Jami Burks,
Secondary Representative 6-8

Amanda Murphy,
Secondary Representative 9-12

NURTURE RELATIONSHIPS AND RESOURCES

Artsfest Amplified!

IN THE COLORFUL PAGES of our school's 7th annual Artsfest, a remarkable partnership with The Henry Kapono Foundation added an exciting chapter to our celebration, amplifying the prominence of the performing arts for the event. This collaboration brought together a diverse array of talents, shining a spotlight on LJA students alongside promising up-and-coming artists from our local community and renowned stars like Tavana and the legendary Henry Kapono himself.

With the Foundation's invaluable support, we were able to unearth hidden gems from our community, giving entertainers a platform to showcase their artistry while highlighting the strength of LJA's performing arts program through hula and ukulele performances. Beyond the applause, this partnership has had a lasting impact on our community. It has united us in a shared appreciation for the Arts and provided a valuable platform for budding artists to find their voice and passion.

As we turn the page on this chapter, we look ahead with excitement and anticipation. The success of this partnership has set the stage for continued investment in arts programming and facilities so that the arts can grow and thrive on campus. Together with The Henry Kapono Foundation, we are committed to making a lasting impact on the lives of our students and the artistic landscape of our community.



Artsfest Numbers

14 Local Artists

18 Hands-On Activities

6 Musical Performances

5 Student Performances

5 Local Food Trucks

1,200 Attendees

1 Memorable Event



NURTURE RELATIONSHIPS AND RESOURCES

Making Space for Arts and Innovation and Bringing The ‘Ohana Together



FROM A SINGLE ROOM preschool in 1961 to Hawai‘i’s only PK-12 International Baccalaureate World School, we’ve come to know this: Our work as a learning community is to equip our students with the tools and character necessary to solve the problems of today and harness new knowledge in ways we can’t yet begin to imagine. As the needs of our students evolve, so must we – by creating the space and conditions necessary for students, staff, and families to collaborate, create, and innovate for change. During the 2022-23 school year, LJA’s Board of Trustees approved design development and capital fundraising for a transformative campus project. LJA will build an Arts and Innovation

Center to accommodate its growing student population and expanding programs. Plans also call for a renovation of the existing C-Wing Building, which will create space necessary to move our Preschool to the main campus, bringing the LJA ‘ohana together. These projects promise to amplify and strengthen learning, improve access to resources, expand partnerships and collective impact initiatives, and set the stage for our continued growth and expansion as a leading IB school. As a community, kōkua is our superpower, giving confidence that by pulling together, we can realize this extraordinary vision for our students and community by SY 2025-26. Let’s Build On This!



To learn more or support this project



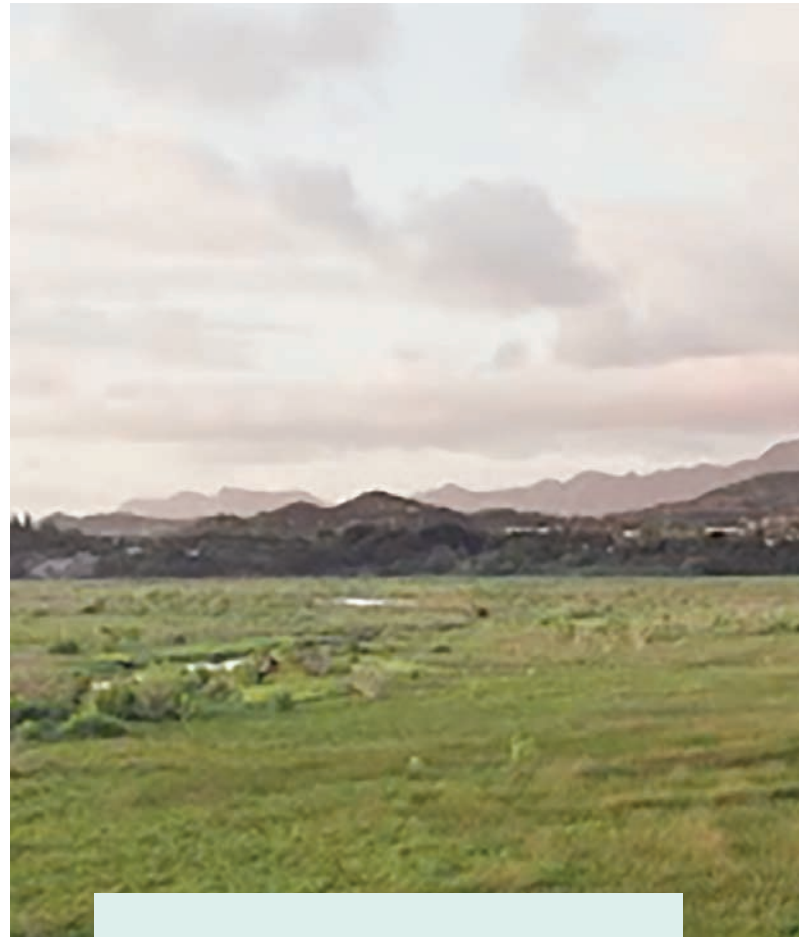
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Embracing Hana Pono: LJA's Bold Future

WITH THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION of LJA's 2017–2022 Strategic Plan—which envisioned LJA as Hawai'i's leader in international education, known for academic excellence and extraordinary teaching and learning, with a solid financial foundation and demonstrated growth in innovative programming and local impact—we set sights on our next chapter of strategic growth and development.

In Fall 2022, LJA initiated a strategic planning process following a year of self-study and WASC/HAIS and IBO visits. The process engaged a diverse array of constituents led by a guiding coalition composed of LJA's Learning Community Council (LCC) augmented by a Parent Advisory Committee (PAC), a liaison from the Employee Advisory Committee (EAC), and two liaisons from the Board of Trustees. These groups provided input and feedback on strategic initiatives and ensured communication amongst stakeholders. Three consultants—Rebecca Millman, Chris Pating, and Kaponi Ciotti with Susannah Johnson—were engaged to facilitate various parts of the process, which included extensive data gathering, mission and vision exercises, and discussions focused on innovative thinking about the school's future.

This inclusive, collaborative, and interactive approach successfully engaged various stakeholders in creating a shared vision for LJA's future around belonging and access for all learners, a culture of shared learning, innovative programming, and authentic local and global impact – along with an updated mission reflective of our shared work. Faculty previewed the new mission in June 2023 with excitement and eagerly anticipates the Board of Trustees' approval of LJA's new strategic plan in September 2023.



MISSION

Le Jardin Academy
cultivates a community of
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hana pono to positively
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View LJA's
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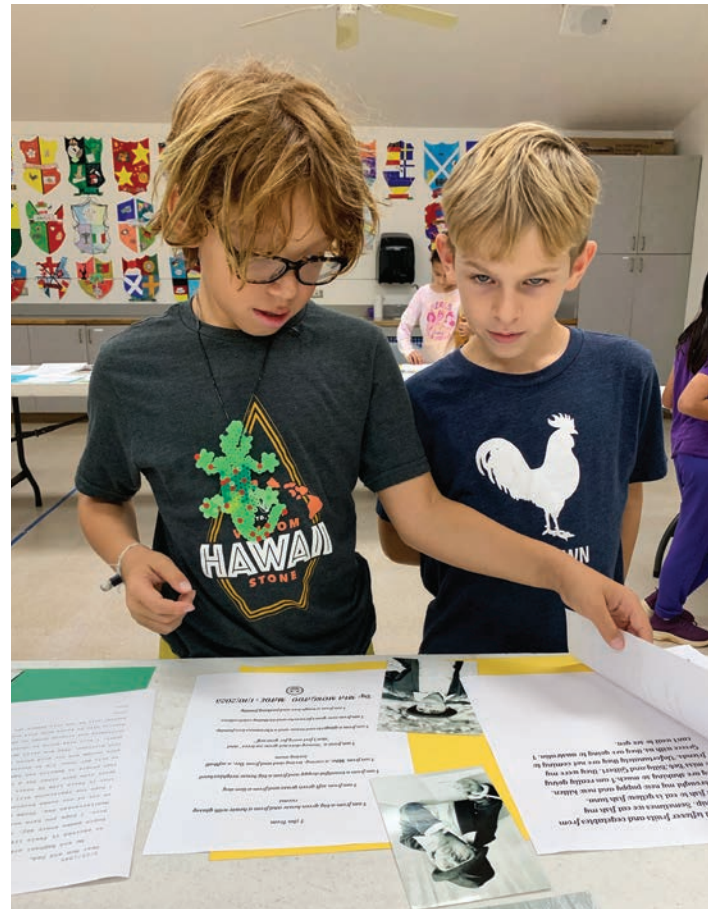
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