



# FIRE FIGHTER VISIT

The Kailua Kona fire fighters came by the school for a visit and lesson on fire safety and fire prevention. The fire department inspected our campus for fire safety and prevention procedures, working smoke detectors, and fire extinguishers, and evacuation routes to ensure that we were well prepared for an emergency on campus. To demonstrate student preparedness; the school also conducted a fire drill for the inspectors to observe which allowed students the opportunity to show how well practiced and ready they are in the event there were an actual emergency. Later in the week, students in grades K – 6<sup>th</sup> were invited to climb aboard the fire engine and check out the gadgets and gizmos on the truck that help fire fighters battle fires around the island. It was a great and fun experience for the students and an awesome way for the school to meet some of our local heroes.



# MAUKA MALA NEWS

The Mauka Mala is taking shape! We have all been working hard during resource class to turn our bare lot into an edible oasis. Students have been building muscle and knowledge in our future "production garden". We have been removing stones, forming and amending garden beds, mulching the soil (to keep valuable moisture in for our plants and soil microbes), and planting cover crops to increase our soils fertility. Our goal is to have the production beds ready to do a big planting when the summer rains arrive so we can harvest and feast in the fall!



In a giant arc around our production garden we are planting and caring for a lemon grass row that will help keep our soil from eroding, provide a delicious product, and will be a useful mulch crop as well.

Aside from our more physical tasks students have also been exploring seed saving. Mrs. Krista brought us 4 over-ripe eggplants from a variety that mysteriously showed up at IPCS on its own and thrived! From those 4 eggplants, we harvested approximately 3,000 seeds! We figured each seed could turn into 1 plant that could produce 30 eggplants in its life...let's do the math:

3,000 plants x 30 eggplants per plant = \_\_\_\_\_ possible eggplants total! (answer at the bottom)

A few more than we could eat! So if you would like to grow some of our special IPCS eggplant come visit the garden and get a student made seed package!

Students have also been observing and celebrating the difference in seeds (sorting seeds, seed art), learning to water properly, choosing and using the right tool for the job, and of course expanding our tastes by trying all different type of in season fruits!

Please come visit the garden, it may not look like much now, but if you see where we are starting you will enjoy watching us grow! Mahalo to all our hardworking student gardeners!

Aloha,  
Ms. Melissa

Eggplant Math: 3000 plants x 30 eggplants = 90,000 possible eggplants!!!!



## FAME Takes on Shrek Jr.

The Fine Arts Mentorship Experience or FAME program has begun rehearsals on this school year's production of the cooky comedy fairytale of Shrek the Musical Jr. Students in the program are able to experience the full production from acting, dancing and singing to creating sets, props and costumes. Rehearsals will continue through March until the actual performances on the weekend of March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017 to April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017 at the Aloha Theater.



Picture Above: Ms. Heather (3/4 Tutor) steps in as choreographer this year. Students learning "Duloc" number.



Picture Above: Costume & Set Design Crew trying on some costumes



Picture Left: Ms Tiff teaching students "Story of My Life" number

# 5<sup>TH</sup> & 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS ON THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

It was "Survivor" meets the History Channel in this year's 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade performance. Students took us on a journey to the birth place of our country, in a mock game show where our countries founding fathers came back to life to compete with one another to determine who would win as the most influential contributing leader of this great country.

It was a fun and comedic performance highlighting all that the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders have learned in their unit of study this trimester. Students portrayed some of the most iconic leaders, founders, and innovators in our country, like George Washington, America's first elected President and Ben Franklin, one of our countries most celebrated inventors. The performance covered how things like the Bill of Rights and U.S. Constitutional were conceptualized and then implemented; setting a foundation for the country's laws, governing systems, rights, and liberties we now know today.

The 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> graders did a wonderful job and like America's founding fathers, set the stage for this school year's grade level performances.



# Spirit Week

## Why Spirit Week?

Spirit Week is a tradition at Innovations that began the first year we opened as a way to celebrate and create a sense of unity and collaboration among our learning community. Spirit Week is designed as a week of student-generated themes with the hopes that everyone in our learning community will participate in celebrating of the fun and risk-taking we embrace in our learning model. Teachers, support staff and students participate in the dress-up themes of the week to demonstrate that we're all in the learning together: taking risks, having fun and uniting in a common vision. Spirit Week used to be a separate week that occurred in the beginning of the school year – we then decided to incorporate Halloween into our week and thus: Spirit Week falls during Halloween week. Throughout the year, we reflect and often benefit from the crazy spirit that is demonstrated through everyone's participation as we work to struggle through a challenging problem, lesson or behavioral situation as we can build upon the relationship we've built through the crazy wigs we wore or dance we did to the Monster Mash. Gaining new perspective and building our relationships helps us determine the best ways to approach learning for individual students and see them in a different light. This is what helps our "whole child" instructional model effective.



# Annual Seiko Visit



Students from our sister school, Seiko Gakuen Primary in Tokushima, Japan visited once again for the 10<sup>th</sup> time in our sister school partnership. The sister school partnership with Seiko brings Japanese students in 6<sup>th</sup> grade from the International, bilingual school travel to Innovations for a week each year. This year we had 27 Seiko students attend. They participated in island tourism activities with school chaperones and former Innovations parent, Shizuka Miller and then stayed with Innovations families in a host situation for 4 days and 3 nights – the longest homestay arrangement we have had to date! Through the homestay experience, both Seiko and Innovations students have the opportunity to experience cultural exchange. Exposed to a new culture, language, family structure and learning environment, students were able to walk in the shoes of another culture for a few days.

Seiko students share in our curriculum by studying our 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade unit of study for the school year before they arrive. While they are here, learning alongside Innovations students for a few school days, they present their learning on the shared topic through demonstration to our 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders. This year's topic was "Government". It was a timely study of government structures across the world as the US is on the heels of its Presidential election.

Seiko students focused on three areas in their government study:

- voting age
- government leaders and the structure they lead within
- voting rate



It was a very interesting study of the range of voting ages across the world which extended into students' inquiry of why certain ages are used in various countries as well as what they, as students, believe the voting age should be. Japan recently changed their voting age from 21 to 18.

Seiko students presented a 'compare and contrast' of the US government's 3-branch organization and criteria for leading the US government as "President", compared to the Japanese government which also has three branches of government, but is led by a Prime Minister who is elected by a cabinet of elected members of the government rather than elected directly by the people. Students then explored ways they feel their government structure could be improved to better represent the opinions of the citizens.

Voting rates in Japan are very low. Seiko students noted that America's voting rate is also quite low, whereas Australia (which charges citizens a penalty for not voting) has a 95% voter turnout and Sweden, which does not have a penalty, but has a high rate of voter turnout. Students explored why this may be and what can be done to increase voter turnout in countries with low voting rates.

