ALI'IOLANI NEWS

LIVING, Loving & LEARNING

QUARTER 1 | 2026



OUR VISION

Empowering students to make a difference.

OUR MISSION

Ali'iolani Elementary School provides a supportive community that values: Living, Loving & Learning

Exciting New Learning Space:

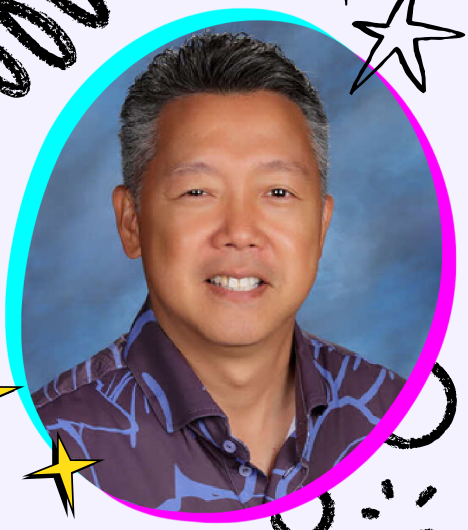
The Ali'iolani Hawaiian Rain Garden!

We are thrilled to share that a new Hawaiian Rain Garden has been installed on our campus! Located along the 7th Avenue side behind Building A, this beautiful native rain garden was created in partnership with the Hawai'i Department of Education and Hawai'i Green Growth.

Hawai'i Green Growth is a statewide organization that brings together government, business, and community partners to build a more sustainable and resilient Hawai'i through shared priorities like the Aloha+ Challenge.

This new outdoor space will serve as a wonderful gathering place for our students to connect, learn about environmental sustainability, and explore native Hawaiian plants firsthand. Be sure to take a peek next time you are near Building A!

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Aloha Ali'iolani 'Ohana,

Thank you so much for a remarkable first quarter of our school year. My heart is filled with appreciation and gratitude for our students, dedicated faculty, and amazing families. From our very first morning together, the campus has been alive with the spirit of learning, community, and aloha. It has been a joyful journey of growth as we continue living out our mission to empower every child to make a difference.

We launched the school year with immense excitement during our Welcome Back Assembly. Seeing our cafeteria packed with enthusiastic students, eager teachers, and welcoming staff set an inspiring tone for the months ahead. Together, we introduced new team members, celebrated returning friends, and renewed our shared commitment to respect, responsibility, and kindness.

That strong sense of togetherness extended directly into our classrooms during our fantastic Open House. We were deeply moved by the incredible turnout of parents, grandparents, and family members. Walking through the halls and watching our students proudly guide their families through their learning environments showcased the vital partnership between home and school that makes Ali'iolani thrive.

In our early childhood classrooms, learning came alive in a splash of vibrant colors during Kindergarten Rainbow Week. To help our youngest learners master color identification and vocabulary, each day was dedicated to different hues of the rainbow. The campus was transformed into a sea of red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple as students and teachers dressed up and learned the color words through collaborative fun.

Our commitment to active, real-world learning was also highlighted through our Rain Garden Project in partnership with Hawai'i Green Growth. By building a sustainable rain garden on campus, our students will have the opportunity to gain firsthand experiences in environmental stewardship and caring for our 'āina.

Student voice and democracy were proudly displayed as our upper-grade candidates prepared for the Student Council Elections. Candidates crafted inspiring campaign speeches and posters, demonstrating leadership and civic responsibility. All eligible students participated in the voting process, practicing democracy in action and selecting student leaders who will advocate for peer initiatives throughout the year.

Our school community spirit shined equally bright during our McTeacher Fundraiser Nights! It was an absolute joy to see our hardworking teachers and staff trade classroom whiteboards for restaurant counters to serve meals and greet families in the drive-thru. Thanks to your generous appetites and participation, these events raised meaningful funds that directly support classroom materials and student enrichment activities.

We rounded out our first quarter festivities in the cafeteria at our Friends of Ali'iolani Movie Night. Families gathered in the cafe on picnic blankets and camping chairs to enjoy a wonderful evening together. Seeing our families relax, connect, and smile reinforced what makes our school community so uniquely special.

Exciting Quarter 2 Events!

Leading up to the halfway point of the second quarter, our calendar was packed with engaging programs and community celebrations that brought us all together:

After-School Clubs: Extracurricular activities and student enrichment clubs are kicking off this quarter! These programs provide students with wonderful opportunities to explore new hobbies, build skills, and build friendships outside the regular classroom.



Unity Day (Wednesday, October 21): Students and staff were invited to wear orange in recognition of National Bullying Prevention Month. Our school motto for the day is "Be Kind, Share Aloha."

AES Math Night (Friday, October 23): Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Annual Math Night! The evening was a huge success, and it was wonderful seeing our students and families learning, playing games, and solving math problems together. A special thank you goes out to our incredible teachers and staff members who organized and cooridnated the event. Their hard work and dedication made the night unforgettable!

Friends of Ali'iolani Trunk-or-Treat (Friday, October 30): Thank you to all our families who came out to make our annual Trunk or Treat event such a fun and memorable evening! A big mahalo goes out to the FoA and our incredible parent volunteers and teachers for supporting the event, donating their creatively decorated trunks, and handing out treats to our students. Your generosity and community spirit made the night a fantastic success!



Mahalo nui loa for your ongoing support, dedication, and partnership in making Ali'iolani Elementary a place where every child learns, grows, and thrives.

With Aloha,
Leonard Padayhag, Principal

Great News for Ali'iolani Elementary!

Mahalo Honolulu Elks Lodge 616!



We are thrilled to announce that Ali'iolani Elementary School has been selected to receive a generous $15,500 donation from Elks Lodge 616!

Elks Lodge 616 is dedicated to building stronger communities by investing directly in local schools and neighborhoods. Their mission focuses on helping youth develop lifelong skills, sending students to college, supporting veterans, and funding local projects that improve quality of life.

This incredible $15,500 grant will go directly toward supporting key learning programs for our students right here at AES. We are deeply grateful to Elks Lodge 616 for their commitment to our school community and for investing in our students' bright futures!

Welcome to the TEAM!



Mrs. Nakamura-Heaton
Student Services Coordinator
A long-time Kindergarten teacher with over 10 years of classroom experience, Mrs. Nakamura-Heaton is stepping into the role of Student Services Coordinator (SSC) to support our Special Education learners.

Mrs. Sasaki
English Learners Coordinator
Mrs. Sasaki comes to us from Jarrett Middle and Kahala Elementary School with over 15 years of teaching experience. She is leading our staff in implementing best practices and strategies to support our English Learner (EL) students.





Ms. Beswick
3rd Grade Teacher
After completing her student teaching at AES last year, Ms. Beswick returns as a full-time teacher. She brings more than 15 years of experience working with young children.



Mr. Ford
3rd Grade Teacher
Mr. Ford joins our team as an enthusiastic new teacher, bringing prior teaching experience from the Windward side of the island.

Mr. Sullivan
5th Grade Teacher
Mr. Sullivan is a returning faculty member who previously taught at Jarrett Middle and Jefferson Elementary following his student teaching assignments.



Ms. Garcia
Kindergarten Teacher
Ms. Garcia has been a valued team member at AES for over 5 years and has stepped up into a long-term substitute teaching role this year.



Mr. Caba
School Baker
Mr. Caba comes to Ali'iolani with more than 30 years of experience in the restaurant and hotel industry. He worked previously at Nuuanu Elementary School.



Welcome to the TEAM!



Kumu Kalei
Hawaiiana Teacher
Joining us with five years of experience as a Kumu Hula from Hui O Kamaleinani, she brings a deep love for Hawaiian culture and tradition. Kumu Aria especially enjoys working with young children, and she is excited to guide and inspire our youngest learners.



Mr. Kim
Physical Education Teacher
Mr. Kim has taught P.E. and Health in both public and private school settings. We are fortunate to have him join our talented staff.



Mr. Nabu Ab
Art/Intervention Teacher
Mr. Nabu Ab joins us with experience at the middle and high school levels. He brings over 10 years of teaching experience across Performing Arts, Math, and Journalism.



Mrs. Millhouse
Paraeducator
She comes to AES from Denver, Colorado, bringing a strong background as both a STEM teacher and a 3rd and 4th-grade classroom educator. We are excited to have her hands-on expertise and enthusiasm in our school community.



Mr. Matthew
Educational Assistant
Mr. Matthew comes to AES with more than 9 years of experience in special education. This year, he is supporting our students in grades 3–5.



Ms. Ying
Educational Assistant
Ms. Ying supports our 1st and 2nd grade learners, bringing prior Educational Assistant experience from Aina Haina Elementary School.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Election Day

Tuesday
Nov 3

No School
Office Closed

McTeacher's Night

Thursday
Nov 5

Sponsored by Grade 1
Palolo McDonald's
4:00–7:00pm



Veteran's Day

Wednesday
Nov 11

No School
Office Closed

Turkey Trot for Technology Fun Run

Thursday
Nov 25

Students will run:
Pre-K: 1 lap
Grade K-2: 2 laps
Grade 3-5: 3 laps



Thanksgiving Holiday Weekend

Thursday & Friday
Nov 26 & 27

No School
Office Closed



McTeacher's Night

Thursday
Dec 3

Sponsored by Grade K
Palolo McDonald's
4:00–7:00pm





Kaimuki Christmas Parade

Thursday
Dec 3

6:00pm East on Waialae Ave.
Starting from St. Louis School / Chaminade University and ending near Koko Head Ave.

Winter Break

Monday – Friday
Dec 21 – Jan 1



Teacher Work Day

Monday & Tuesday
Jan 4 & 5

No School



SCHOOL CREED

As a mighty Ali'i
I promise to obey our school rules,
practice positive actions,
respect the rights of others,
develop physical fitness skills,
strive to be the best that I can be
to better serve our school,
community, state, and country

Ali'iolani
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

ALMA MATER

Praises to Ali'iolani School
We hail thy royal name
O, bounded by Sixth and Wai'alae
Keanu and Seventh too
We're proud to be a part of
Our school in Kaimuki
Hail to Ali'iolani School
Our alma mater true