

The Children's House News

April 2021

Dear Parents and Grandparents,

Recent news from around our country can make us very sad and worried about the world in which our children are growing up. As parents and educators, we cannot ignore the stories of people who are so divided and separated, even angry at others who are different from them. In Hawaii, we may feel a little distant from these problems. Hawaii truly is a melting pot of many cultures. We eagerly enjoy each other's cultures, and appreciate the variety in our foods and lifestyles. Just take a look at the lunch favorites here at TCH - chicken long rice, fried noodles, beef broccoli, pasteles stew. Children don't ask, "What kind of food is this?" They eat it because it is delicious!

Important Upcoming Dates

April 2 Good Friday, No School

April 30 Staff Inservice, No School

May 31 Memorial Day, No School

June 3 Last Day of School

June 7 First Day of Summer School

Our children in Hawaii are blessed to be raised in such culturally diverse and accepting communities. You are already teaching your children to respect and appreciate other cultures and people. As our children grow up, it would then be our hope that they would take that attitude with them wherever they go, and maybe even influence others to be more accepting of those who are different from them. At The Children's House, we incorporate biblical truth into our curriculum. Two of our "Stones" are foundational scriptures to living in harmony with God and with others.

"Then God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was very good! And evening passed and morning came, marking the sixth day."

Genesis 1:31

"I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well."

Psalms 139:14

We begin early, helping our students learn that *everything* God made is good. God provided unique resources on each continent to meet the needs of the people there. Our God is highly creative, and could not be limited to creating just one kind of culture. He created a multitude of cultures, all of which should be enjoyed, appreciated, and respected.

We also teach the children that God made each of us special and unique. If a child says, "I am fearfully and wonderfully made," he or she must also understand that *everyone* is fearfully and wonderfully made.

If we want our children to be influencers for peace and harmony, we need to help them learn to be proactive in thinking of others. We have to consciously and conscientiously equip our children to speak up and act for others' needs. We can start by guiding them towards feeling connected to others beyond the family. When you go out to stores and restaurants, encourage your child to speak and make eye-contact with the clerks and servers. Making eye contact is respectful, and makes people feel appreciated. It's important that children learn that everyone deserves to be treated with respect and care, even if we are just seeing them for a brief moment. The idea is to learn to see people the way God sees them, each "fearfully and wonderfully made."

At school, each day starts with prayer and worship, and the students often ask for prayer for family members. Maybe you can start to talk to your child about praying for people outside the family - the clerk or server you just saw, a neighbor, or any community helper. It's as simple as, "Dear Lord, I pray our mail carrier has a good day today and is safe as she drives around on the streets." Or, "Lord, thank you for the friendly server we had at the restaurant. I pray their needs are met and they have a good night's rest." These two simple habits can help your child connect to people around them and develop a sense of caring for the people God brings into their lives each day.

We always think of harmony as "getting along," or "being at peace with one another." In music, though, harmony is more than that. Many notes played together at the same time, each retaining its own sound, but put together, they blend and balance to create a beautiful sound. Living in harmony should be the same, where each person is able to retain his or her own identity, and live with others peacefully. Each person appreciates and values what others have to share, understanding that each person contributes something unique to the community. This is the world we want for our children.

Healthy Heart Day Updates

The weather has certainly kept us on our toes, and in our classrooms! While we were not able to do all the fun activities planned for Healthy Heart Day last month, the students and staff still had fun dressing up in fitness and game attire. We still want to enjoy all the fun activities planned for the day, so in order to be assured of good weather, we have decided to postpone the Healthy Heart day activities until sometime in May. This works out nicely, too, because that is the month we have traditionally had our schoolwide Beach Days. Due to the uncertainty of our island's safety status and protocols, we were not able to schedule and secure any beach excursions this year. It is nice, then, that we can have these fun activities for the end of the school year, to cap off our year together as well as help our summers get off to a healthy start! We will keep you posted for more information about these days.



Easter "Assembly"

The schoolwide Easter assembly is another tradition we have had at The Children's House for many years. The older children would read scriptures and light the candles and the whole school would sing songs to remember and celebrate the gift of reconciliation brought by the resurrection of Jesus. This year, since we can't all gather in the pavilion, Mrs. de los Santos and Mr. Erber have pre-recorded the assembly program, much like they did with the Advent Assembly. Each class was able to participate in the program from their own room. The children have heard the Easter story in Chapel and have been learning about what Jesus did to share about the Kingdom of Heaven. The Easter service at school is very special and we encourage the children to share the story with you at home. We pray you have a blessed Easter Weekend!

IOWA Testing

Students in Grades 1-4 will be participating in standardized testing during the weeks of April 12th and April 19th. TCH administers the IOWA Test, a nationally recognized standardized assessment. On testing days, please make sure your child arrives to school on time. Also, please prepare them by making sure they have had a good night's rest and a healthy breakfast beforehand. The results of this assessment do not impact grades or suggest any indication for future success. These tests help us know how well we are preparing our students with the skills and knowledge they need at each grade level.

Other School Reminders...

Summer School 2021

Summer School Registration for students entering Preschool through Grade 3 were due on March 22nd. If you are still interested in registering your child, please contact the office.

Travel Plans

Continue to notify the office of any travel plans by calling or sending an email to attendance@childrenshousehawaii.org

If you will travel over the summer and your child will miss more than 5 consecutive days of school, please let us know and we can prorate your tuition.

Tuition and Financial Aid

Tuition and Financial Aid Questions can be sent to business@childrenshousehawaii.org

Tax Information

To assist you with your tax preparations, the following are The Children's House Tax Identification Numbers:

State: 012-745-7280-01

Federal: 99-0340922

Lost and Found Items

Please continue to label all of your child's clothing items and check with your child's teacher first if something is missing. We do have some items at the office.