

# The Children's House News

March 2021

**Dear Parents and Grandparents,** We have recently experienced two schoolwide shut-downs due to COVID-19. While we hope this doesn't become a regular event, we can use these opportunities to reflect on the effectiveness of our work towards our goals.

*Through modeling the character of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, our students will be confident, self-directed learners whose character is in Harmony with God, Harmony with Self, Harmony with Others, and Harmony with Creation.*

At The Children's House, our first goal has always been to guide our students towards developing the character that enables them to be independent and responsible *people*. We also have always believed that character begins early, and that these traits can begin developing at the youngest ages, from preschool and onward.

From the start of your child's time with us, we guide them towards making good choices independently. We set up the Prepared Environment, one that meets their needs and provides opportunity for self-discovery and growth, and one that provides opportunities to practice being independent without fear of failure or correction. It is our hope that the habits they practice and develop in school will carry over to their habits and practices when they are away from school, at home and at the schools they will attend when they leave The Children's House.

Independence and self-discipline are character traits that will lead to success personally, in school, and later as professionals. These traits don't just develop on their own, and are harder to teach as our children grow older. They need to be practiced early, and strengthened over time. With reverence for the lives that God has given them, and humility in understanding that they always have more to learn and improve, we can help our children develop these traits. While at home, it is our hope that the students would be able to perform similarly to the way they perform each day in school.

*"I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;  
your works are wonderful, I know that full well."  
Psalm 139:14*

*"Whoever ignores instruction despises himself,  
but he who listens to reproof gains intelligence."  
Proverbs 15:32*

In the Preschool and Kindergarten, the children begin with a short morning routine that includes worship songs, prayer, going over the calendar, and then the daily schedule. Children are then excused to work independently, choosing from work and materials that have been shown to them previously. They may take the same work out each day, or try new work. Teachers will call on a few children at a time to teach a new skill, as they are ready. Otherwise, they observe and monitor children, but refrain from interfering them while they are working. Thus, on days when children are "learning from home," we encourage parents to follow similar procedures. Using the videos and ideas for activities provided by the teachers, parents should help their child get set up for the day, and then allow the child to work independently. At first, the child may be in the habit of seeking the parents' approval and permission throughout the day. Parents will need to be consistent and remind their child that this is "school-at-home." Do they follow their teacher around all day? Definitely not! After following the school routines of independence for over five months, they should have no problem working independently at home.

In the elementary grades, students have been practicing greater accountability to complete work without continual prompting and checking. Teachers assign certain daily work, but also provide activities that offer opportunities to practice content and critical thinking skills independently. The students are guided towards using their time wisely so they can fulfill assignments while also having time for free choice activities. Isn't this the skill we all need? With more work being done from home, many adults are struggling with balancing responsibilities and free time for themselves. When your child has to stay home from school, please reinforce the development of independence. Refrain from hovering over them and checking all their work. Ask them if they have finished everything, and trust them. Don't nag or question their truthfulness if you see them playing or relaxing. Don't you take breaks during your workday? The teachers will hold them accountable.

Our children need us to help them develop humility and discipline (self-control). These traits will fortify them to be strong contributors to their families and their communities.

*"A man without self-control is like a city broken into and left without walls."  
Proverbs 25:28*

## Important Upcoming Dates

March 10 Preschool Healthy Heart Day  
March 11 Kindergarten Healthy Heart Day  
March 12 Grades 1-4 Healthy Heart Day  
March 15-19 Spring Break, No School  
March 26 Kuhio Day, No School  
April 2 Good Friday, No School

## Reminders:

We are so thankful to be moving into Tier 3 of our state's COVID protocols. It is the result of our community's diligence and commitment to safety and gives us all an opportunity to breathe a little easier. We do ask, however, that you continue to be cautious, and practice carefulness and discernment in your activities and social events. Please continue to follow the school's guidelines for safe procedures so that we can finish the school year strong and healthy!

Please contact [business@childrenshousehawaii.org](mailto:business@childrenshousehawaii.org) with any tuition or financial aid questions.

### The Children's House Tax ID numbers are:

Federal 99-0340922

State GE-012-745-7280-01

Travel Plans Please continue to notify the office of any travel plans. You may send any information or dates to [attendance@childrenshousehawaii.org](mailto:attendance@childrenshousehawaii.org).

## Summer School

Summer School will be offered for Preschoolers and students entering Kindergarten to Grade 3. It will run from Monday, June 7<sup>th</sup> to Friday, July 16<sup>th</sup>. There will be no school due to the holidays on Friday, June 11<sup>th</sup> and Monday, July 5<sup>th</sup>. Additional Summer School information and registration forms will be sent through email in March.



## Healthy Heart Day Celebrations

Spring is a time for rebirth and renewed energy! Each March we celebrate Healthy Heart Day, a celebration of how to take care of the wonderful bodies God gave us! It has always been an exciting day that the kids talk about long after. The students will participate in a variety of activities that help them use the skills they have been learning in PE, including locomotor skills (running, jumping, skipping, etc.), and ball skills (such as dribbling, kicking, catching). The students will also learn about healthy habits and may try some new healthy snacks.

This year we will run 3 separate days of activities for each division of the school. To make this a schoolwide celebration, students will be able to dress out in special attire each of the three days. Your teacher will email you a letter with more information about colors and ideas for outfits. While we encourage dressing up on these three days, it is optional. If your child prefers not to dress up, they may come to school in their school uniform. The table below will give you an idea of the dress-up options for the three days:

	Wednesday, March 10	Thursday, March 11	Friday, March 12
Preschool	<u>Healthy Heart Day Activities</u> Wear specific class color and school shoes.	<u>Fun Fit Day</u> Wear the clothes that you wear when you want to exercise and be fit!	<u>Sports Team Day</u> Show off your favorite team or sports figure! (Wear school shoes)
Kindergarten	<u>Sports Team Day</u> Show off your favorite team or sports figure! (Wear school shoes)	<u>Healthy Heart Day Activities</u> Wear specific class color and athletic or school shoes.	<u>Fun Fit Day</u> Wear the clothes that you wear when you want to exercise and be fit!
Grades 1-4	<u>Fun Fit Day</u> Wear the clothes that you wear when you want to exercise and be fit!	<u>Sports Team Day</u> Show off your favorite team or sports figure! (Wear school shoes)	<u>Healthy Heart Day Activities</u> Wear specific class color and athletic shoes.

### Preschool and Kindergarten Parents:

Please choose clothing that your child can pull off by themselves, so they will not be hindered when they go to the bathroom. No hats or sunglasses please.