

The Children's House News

May/June 2021

Dear Parents and Grandparents, A few years ago, a 3-year old at TCH told his teachers that his mommy had two babies growing in her tummy. The teachers were so excited for the family, so when the mom came to pick up her son, they joyfully approached her and congratulated her. She looked confused, then looked down at her son. He smiled slyly and said, "That was a lie." It is a super cute story to share, and very funny, but it also shows that telling the truth, honesty needs to be taught. It seems that children begin life only knowing how to be honest, often being quite honest at some inappropriate times! But as they get older, they learn that they can retell stories differently, stretching the truth. We cannot take the learning of honesty for granted. Honesty is a learned skill, one that needs to be monitored and reinforced.

To help our children value and learn to be honest, we need to show them that honesty brings about positive results, and that it is not associated with "tattling." We first learn to be honest with ourselves, as a tool that helps us improve ourselves and meet our goals. Then we learn to be honest throughout life.

"One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much."
Luke 16:10

In just about a month, your child will receive their last report card for the year. It's very easy to view a report card as a statement or description of the child, rather than an assessment of a period of time in the child's life. Children, though are still growing, still developing the skills and habits that will help them become successful adults. Report cards should be seen as a reflection that can help our children set goals for future behaviors and growth. Rather than using report cards as evaluations of the year, we can take the information in them and use the teacher's comments to design objectives for the next year. This is where we can help our children practice honesty.

"Honest people don't hide their deeds."
Emily Bronte, *Wuthering Heights*

When you get your child's report card, take the time to review it yourself, noting your child's strengths as well as where they may have opportunities for growth. Refrain from making a judgement and emotional response. Your responses will affect the way your child receives the feedback in this report and will determine their ability to receive feedback in their future.

Next, within a couple of days of receiving the report, you should set aside purposeful and intentional time to read through the report with your child. You can do this with any aged child, preschool and up, but should be done one child at a time. Begin by letting them know that their teacher has written some honest comments that will help you all reflect on the school year, and set goals for next year. Add that the goals are not about "doing better," or getting higher grades. Remember, the goal at TCH is to develop strong character.

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.

As you read through the comments with your child, ask them to share some examples of what the teacher says. If the teacher says your child is a good helper, ask them what they do to be helpful. If the teacher notes that your child hesitates to try new work, suggest that at home, you may work on trying new things so that next year in school, they won't hesitate so much. If your child is stronger in one area of school work, but not as strong in another, talk about being open-minded, and not letting past experiences prevent them from embracing new challenges.

As adults, we don't receive report cards for our actions or behaviors. However, the vast number of blogs, podcasts, and self-help books available suggest that we all want to find ways to improve ourselves. The key to self-improvement, change, and progress at any age is honest self-reflection. By strengthening the trait of honesty in their lives early on, you can help your child make this a positive life skill for years to come.

Important Upcoming Dates

May 10 Last Day to Withdraw for refund
May 19-21 Healthy Heart Days
May 31 Memorial Day, No School
June 3 Last Day of School
June 7 First Day of Summer School
July 16 Last Day of Summer School
August 9 First Day for Returning Students

Healthy Heart Days - May 19, 20, 21

Get ready for the summer with Healthy Heart Day activities! Even though we have wonderful weather all year long, the summer invites us to get out even more, get more physical, and enjoy the sun and tropical breezes! Please be on the lookout for an email from your teacher with specific information and guidelines for what to wear, and on which day. Each division - Preschool, Kindergarten, and Elementary, will have its own Healthy Heart Day. Students will be able to rotate through 3 designated areas on the campus, learning some new, and practicing some skills learned this school year. We hope they will share these activities with you all at home so you can make them part of your summer fun!

Because we will miss our annual beach day this year, the healthy heart day activities will incorporate a water day much like the students experience in the summer! The teachers are looking forward to this with the students and additional information will be emailed to you. Below are the planned dates for each class' water day:

Wednesday, May 19th – Grades 1-4

Thursday, May 20th – Preschool

Friday, May 21st – Kindergarten

Other Reminders:

The last day to withdraw from the 2021-22 school year is May 10th. Any withdrawals received after that date will **not** receive a refund of your registration fee.

Please email any tuition questions to business@childrenshousehawaii.org

The first day of Summer School is Monday, June 7th. If you have any vacation dates occurring during summer school and would like to request your tuition to be prorated, please contact the office. We will prorate tuition for students missing 5 or more consecutive days of school.

End of Year "Aloha Assembly"

Goodbye to the 3rd and 4th Graders

The administration along with the 3rd and 4th Grade teachers are planning a virtual Aloha Assembly to share with the rest of the students and teachers during the last week of school. These students have been at TCH for 5-8 years, and have a lot of shared memories and experiences. The Preschool and Kindergarten teachers really enjoy seeing their "little ones" all grown up!

More updates will be emailed and shared as the end of the year approaches.

2021-22 Student Uniforms

In preparation for the new school year, you may need to purchase uniforms for your child. In observance of Covid health and safety practices we will allow families to visit the school on the following dates to view uniforms for sizing, by appointment only:

- Thursday, June 10th
- Monday, June 14th

In addition to this, we will have one day where all donated uniforms will be available for families to look through. This will be on Friday, June 4th.

More information, appointment times, and the link to sign up will be emailed toward the end of the month.

TCH will also be happy to accept used uniform donations. We ask that you drop off any uniforms to the office by the last day of school, June 3rd.

Pre-orders for the 21-22 school year will be online from June 7th to June 18th. Orders must be received by Friday, June 18th to ensure that your uniforms are ready in time for the new school year. Due to restricted operations from the manufacturers and suppliers, returns and exchanges will only be accepted if the items are unworn with tags still attached.