



Mālamalama Waldorf School

News Notes February 2026

On the Calendar

February 4th

Outreach and Volunteer Committee Meeting 3pm

February 10th

Treat Tuesday 2:30 pm

February 12th

Parent Hui Meeting 2:45-4:15

February 13th

Spring Faire committee meeting
12:30-2pm

February 13-17th

Waldorf Conference NO SCHOOL

February 16th

President's Day NO SCHOOL

February 20th

Site Committee Meeting 1pm

February 23rd

Board meeting 5:30pm



February 25th

Picture Make-Up Day 12:30 pm

Sign up for Kinderhale soup

Attention, Grades Students!

Our Kinderhale Kitchen serves hot and delicious homemade soup, made with fresh vegetables—including some from our school garden—and served with bread from a local bakery every WEDNESDAY for lunch. If you'd like to enjoy this meal, please sign up at the office. GF/vegan options available.

Cooked with love!



News from the Office



Please follow us

Join Waldorf Connect FB

group

It's a good 'community board' for parents to connect in a closed group.



Early Enrollment for 26-27

2/12- 3/12

Early Enrollment for the 2026-2027 School Year

We are excited to announce that early enrollment for the 2026-2027 school year will take place from February 12 through March 12.

Early enrollment comes with some great benefits, including tuition savings for Grades families choosing payment plans 2 (semester) or 3 (monthly). It also guarantees your child's spot in both Kinder and Grades for the upcoming school year.

We'll be sending out instructions soon to help you re-enroll through your family portal.

We're looking forward to getting everyone set up and ready for next year

Blood Bank of Hawaii Lifesaver Club (Sponsor Code

3521)

Mālamalama Waldorf School is now an official Lifesaver Club with the Blood Bank of Hawai'i. There will be a Kona Community Blood Drive in February (see flyer for details). Blood Bank of Hawai'i also hosts several blood drives each year on Hawai'i Island, including Hilo drives, and we will share those dates as soon as they are announced. If you would like to participate, please schedule an appointment by calling (808) 848-4770, visiting bbh.org/#blooddrive, or using the QR code on the flyer. When donating, please mention Lifesaver Club Sponsor Code 3521 at check-in so your donation is counted toward Mālamalama Waldorf School.



Together we can save lives

Kona Community

BLOOD DRIVE

Outrigger Kona Resort & Spa – Keauhou Ballroom

78-128 Ehukai St. Kailua-Kona, HI 96740

Please provide the Mālamalama Waldorf School Lifesaver Club sponsor code (3521) to the BBH Staff when you arrive for your appointment

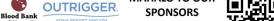
Tuesday, February 10 Wednesday, February 11 Thursday, February 12

9:00 am – 7:00 pm 8:00 am – 6:00 pm 6:00 am – 3:00 pm

PLEASE SCHEDULE YOUR APPOINTMENT AHEAD OF TIME

To schedule an appointment, call Blood Bank of Hawaii at (808) 848-4770, scan the QR code or visit bbh.org

MAHALO TO OUR SPONSORS

Follow us on social: [@bloodbankhawaii](http://bloodbankhawaii)  

WAI'ANAЕ HAWAII FISHING WIDE



As we move into February, we want to begin by thanking you for the care and partnership that hold our school community.

A brief reminder that early enrollment for the 2026–2027 school year opens on February 12. Grades tuition assistance applications will also open on February 12. Preschool Open Doors (POD) applications for Kinder preschool-aged students have not yet opened for the 2026–2027 school year. Families will be notified when applications become available.

We are also happy to share that we have officially received licensing for our Grades Aftercare / Extended Day Program. Families interested in enrolling their child in aftercare are invited to reach out to the office for more information.

We would like to share a few important community reminders. Morning protocol is an essential part of the grades students' day, and we ask families to make every effort to arrive on time. If a student arrives tardy, a parent or driver must walk them into the office to sign in, then walk them to class/protocol and remain outside until the teacher welcomes them in. Frequent tardiness can be disruptive to the learning rhythm, and we appreciate your support.

Please remember to notify the office if your child will be absent and include the reason. We understand that life happens; however, consistent attendance is important. In the grades, frequent absences can make it difficult for students to fully receive their main lessons, and in the Kinder program, frequent absences can disrupt the rhythm of the school day.

As shared in recent communications, we ask families to remain vigilant with regular hair checks as we continue to manage head lice across the school. Additionally, with Pele's hair currently present in our area, students should come to school wearing closed-toed shoes to help protect their feet.

Looking ahead, we are now accepting vendor applications for our Spring Faire on Saturday, April 18. Applications are available in the school office.

We also offer a gentle reminder that each parent is required to complete volunteer hours each school year. Families are encouraged to log in to [Track It Forward - Malamalama Waldorf School](#) to view opportunities and log hours throughout the year. If you need assistance logging in, please feel free to stop by the office and we will be happy to help.

With gratitude,
Mālamalama Waldorf School Administration



February '26 Board Update:

Aloha e Nā Mālamalama 'Ohana,

The Board is happy to share that we have welcomed three new board members over the past few months. Please join us in warmly welcoming **Sarah Freund, Bridget Lawrence, and Rachel Short** to the Mālamalama Waldorf School Board of Directors. Each brings unique strengths, thoughtful perspectives, and a shared commitment to the well-being and future of our school. We are grateful for the energy and care they bring to this work.

Our Board currently consists of:

- **Kelly Teamey** – Interim President & Treasurer
- **Megan Cannon** – Director
- **Sarah Freund** – Director
- **Bridget Lawrence** – Director
- **Rachel Short** – Director

Ex-officio members:

Mellissa Haskins, Karen Rose Jenkins, Cortney Koors and Kelley Lacks.

We also want to share that the Board still has **seven open seats**. Having a full and diverse Board allows us to better share the workload, bring a wider range of skills and perspectives to decision-making, and strengthen governance in support of our faculty, staff, and families. A well-staffed Board helps ensure sustainability, transparency, and long-term vision for the school.

If you or someone you know feels called to serve, please don't hesitate to reach out. We would love to connect and talk story about what board service at MWS can look like.

Mahalo nui,

Your MWS Board of Directors.

Notes from the Parent Hui

Important Dates to Remember

Treat Tuesday: February 10

Parent Hui Meeting: February 12

Spring Faire Committee 1st Meeting: February 13

Plant Sale : Begin your plant starts NOW!

Treat Tuesday

As Valentine's Day draws near, hearts turn toward love and kindness. Our next Treat Tuesday will be held on February 10th after school in the alcove, where children and families are invited to share sweet treats and joyful moments together.

Llama Tumblers

Our Parent Hui's thoughtfully created Mālamalama llama tumblers are now available for purchase in the office and on Fridays after school in the alcove beside the Lilipops. Each tumbler is \$20 — a lovely way to support our community.

Spring Faire Committee & Plant Starts

All are warmly invited to join the Spring Faire Committee as we begin weaving together plans for our joyful celebration of springtime. Our first meeting will be held on Friday, February 13th at 12:45pm at the picnic tables outside the Grade 1 classroom.

We also welcome families to begin planting seeds and sign up on Track It Forward to contribute plant starts for the Spring Faire Plant Sale. This is a beautiful season to begin growing!

Faculty Meals

With heartfelt gratitude, we thank Class 2/3 for nourishing our faculty with lovingly prepared meals during January's meetings. In February, this act of care will be carried forward by Class 4/5. Please visit Track It Forward for sign-ups and details.

Next Parent Hui Gathering

Please join us on Thursday, February 12th, from 2:45-4:15pm in the Hui Lilikoi yard for our next Parent Hui meeting. All are welcome — bring a friend, share your voice, and help nurture the life of our school community.

If you have any questions about Parent Hui or volunteer opportunities please email parent_hui@hawaiiwaldorf.org

Mahalo nui,

Marissa 

Parent Hui Chairperson

Your involvement in the Hui makes all the difference—join us!!

"The most important reason for going from one place to another is to see what's in between, and they took great pleasure in doing just that."

— Norton Juster, The Phantom Tollbooth



Out In The Garden

Aloha from the garden.

The garden is looking really wonderful and full. We were able to eat some yummy veggies from there before winter break. Now that we are back we are looking to plant seeds in time for spring veggie eating.

Our garden pavilion is almost complete. Another work day or two will really put that into place. The 6th and 7th grade class is going to begin building picnic benches for use in the pavilion.

If you have not had a chance to tour the garden, please walk up and see it.

Come see what's growing.



News Notes Advertisements



Monthly NewsNotes Advertising Opportunity!

Promote your business in our upcoming Monthly NewsNotes. Whether you have a small local business, offer services, or have a special event to share, this is your chance to reach out to our vibrant community.

Cost: \$20 per month

Submission Deadline: 20th of the month before the month of advertisement

How It Works:

Submit your information to info@hawaiiwaldorf.org by the 20th of the preceding month. We will review it.

Once approved, your ad will be featured in the upcoming Monthly NewsNotes. This is a fantastic opportunity to support our school community while also potentially benefiting our entire school family.

Share your offerings and let's grow together!

Research shows that parent involvement boosts student success, making your volunteer efforts invaluable to both our community and your child's growth.

If you have not yet visited the Track It Forward website to register yourself or log hours please use this link [Track It Forward - Malamalama Waldorf School](#). If interested there is an app you can put on your phone for ease of access. Find it at Google Play Store or Apple Store.

DON'T FORGET TO LOG ALL OF YOUR HARD EARNED VOLUNTEER HOURS!



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Class 8

Aloha 8th Grade Families,

It has been a nice return to rhythm to start the new year. We have finished up our math block, focused around geometry and graphing. Along the way, the students have heard biographies of a few mathematicians: Sophie Germain, Dr. Gladys West, and Albert Einstein. A wonderful culture of cooperation, hard work, and laughter pervades the room as they work, learning that organization is key to longer math problems.

We also began a new book together, *To Kill a Mockingbird*. The students seem to have adjusted to the different language style of the text and are able to appreciate the entertaining storytelling as well as the deeper themes found along the way. We have been studying ideas such as theme, character foils, and symbolism. The students have improved on this deeper reading, best exemplified when we came across a description of red geraniums, which made one student exclaim, "a symbol!"

Next week we will begin our physics block, focused especially on hydraulics and electricity. Much of the studies of hydraulics will tie to our previous studies of meteorology, and their studies of electricity will make sense of many of the devices around them.

We will have our next Parent Meeting on Wednesday February 11th after school. Please be there!

Mahalo for your continued support.

Warmly,
Mr. Dewey



Class 6/7

Aloha Malamalama 'Ohana,
As-salamu alaykum,- Naanga deff? Anawa keurga?

The second greeting means "Peace be upon you" in Arabic. This is followed by the local Wolof greeting of "how are you?" and "where is your family?"

We are studying the vast continent of Africa. The greetings above are the familiar beginnings of greetings in Wolof, an Senegalese ethnic group and language from west Africa. The students have been enjoying stories of my time in Senegal as a Peace Corps Volunteer in the early 90s.

We have also been exploring the work of Jane Goodall with the chimpanzees in east Africa and the work of Wangari Maathai the tree planting rebel of Kenya. Both women contributed extensively to the world's knowledge and betterment through their work.

The students will be finishing up their individual African country projects and as a class we are working on a large 3-d map of the continent.

We continue to work on our play - scheduled to be performed on March 5th and 6th.

In February we will begin looking at the way our bodies function with a more in depth look at the respiratory, circulatory, digestive and reproductive systems of humans.

We are also looking forward to and beginning to prepare for our Global Games trip to Kona Pacific Charter School in April.

Warmly, Mr. Cox



Class 4/5



Dear Class Three/Four,

Thank you all so much for your patience and understanding with my long absence. As you can imagine, it was an intense journey. I was able to pack up my mother's whole home and her many collections and find new homes for everything. Her memorial service was beautiful and attended by around 200 people. She was well loved by many. Needless to say, I am thrilled to be back with the class and back home on the island. I missed the students and their shining faces. I was so grateful that Mr. Ragland was able to step in and carry the class in my absence with help from Aunty Noa.

After winter break, we began the new year with a freehand geometry block. Now we are in a block about ancient Mesopotamia and Persia. The epic of Gilgamesh, from ancient Mesopotamia, has been an ongoing story throughout the block. It is believed to be the oldest written story. It was recorded on clay tablets in cuneiform. The story of Gilgamesh will be our class play this year. It was originally scheduled for March 12, but it has come to my attention that a visiting accreditation team will be on campus that day, so we will perform it on March 13 instead. There is a small chance that we may need to push it forward until right after spring break, but I will let you know as it unfolds. As I am still telling the story, we have not yet begun looking at the play. The students are excited about it, though, and are already wondering who will play who. The rich history of Mesopotamia and Persia is providing ample opportunities to practice composition writing skills, which is a focus of this block. The class is still working with punctuation and how to put their thoughts down on paper. We have been working a lot with how to brainstorm ideas, outline them in a cohesive manner, and then begin writing.

Our specialty program has been so rich this year. The students are making beautiful embroidered handwork bags with Aunty Kati. She is also teaching them how to read music, play recorders and ukulele, and sing like angels. Yuki Sensei is bringing more and more spoken Japanese as well as writing and cultural studies. Kumu Angela has been working with the students to practice kilo, careful observation. Mr. Ragland has been bringing a wide variety of movement activities and games. Our garden rows are thriving, and we are happily harvesting greens for the weekly soup. A wonderful master gardener from the community, Uncle Patrick, has been joining us for gardening class. The students are truly blessed with all of the wonderful classes.

Thank you to everyone who has been able to let the office know about next year's enrollment plans. That greatly supports us to make plans as we move forward. Naturally, I hope everyone returns. I am very fond of this amazing group of children and feel honored to guide them. We are happy to welcome Cali and family back to the class and hope to welcome more new students soon.

With gratitude,
Ms. Jenkins



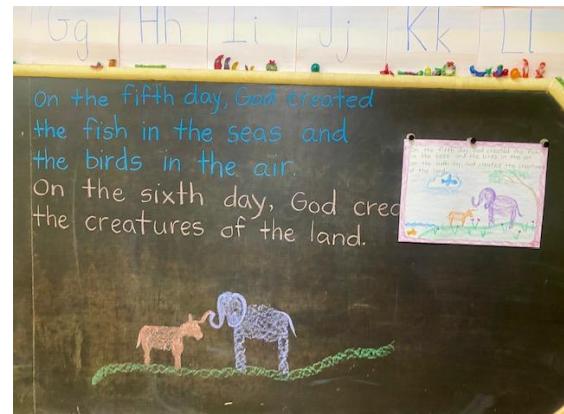
Class 2/3

Aloha Class 2/3,

This month in our class, we entered into the great images of beginnings by listening to the first seven days of Creation as told in the Old Testament. From there, we continued with Hebrew stories from the Bible, allowing rich language, rhythm, and meaning to live into our daily work. In our Language Arts block, the children were introduced to Naming Words and Doing Words, which they are now practicing through movement, speech, and written work.

In Handwork, we began learning the art of crochet, developing patience, focus, and coordination as each stitch builds upon the last. Through music and movement, the children are also learning the Jewish song and dance "Hineh Mah Tov" with Ms. Ariana. This joyful song celebrates togetherness, and its translation is: *"Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brothers and sisters to dwell together in unity."*

A highlight of the month was our field trip to Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, where we experienced the living beauty of creation firsthand. We were delighted to spot brilliant 'I'iwi birds, search for signs of life within the darkness of a lava tube, and enjoy lunch overlooking Kīlauea. Mahalo nui loa to all the parents and community members who helped make this meaningful and memorable trip possible!



Class 1



Aloha First Grade Ohana and Mālamalama village,

What an adventurous Winter Season we are having thus far. December was full to bursting with celebrations, sharing, decorating, leading the Pāhoa parade, glorious music, love, gratitude, and shining our magical light into the growing darkness. We are now acquainted with all of our letters, have written several sentences, and read what we wrote. And yes, of course we had a dance party when we realized that first grade is reading. We very much look forward to honing our writing and reading skills in February.

In Japanese, we loved making number books and musubi mountains. During music class, we sang holiday songs to our heart's delight. Our knitting talents produced a growing family of kittens and bunnies. We created beautiful Hawaiian quilt patterns inspired by our plant brothers. The hand-made gifts we made for each other for our Holiday Party were beyond adorable, and the joy with which they were presented was truly heartwarming, even beyond my expectations, which were big.

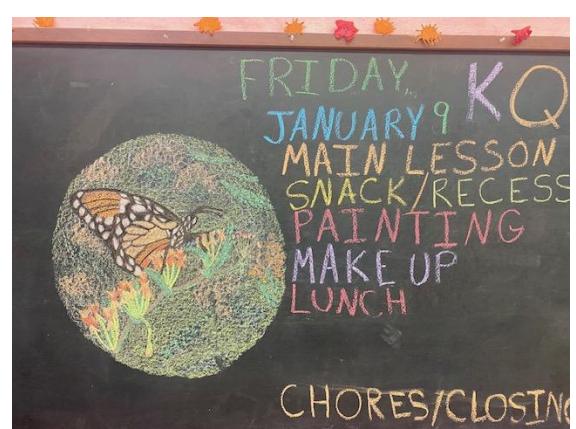
January felt, at first, like all things are indeed new, and yet clearly, all of our work has grown and deepened while we rested. Our spatial awareness is nicely budding out in movement class. The colors in painting class have richer friendships. To our surprise, our pulse can turn into music. The Menehune are helping to teach us more about Hawaiian language and culture. Bunnies, kittens, and rainbow balls are multiplying in handwork class. We are discovering shapes in our world through Japanese class.

With great joy, we also got to start this new year carrying heavy bags of cinder and soil over to our two new Butterfly Houses. These beautiful boxes and all the supplies were graciously donated by Gianni's mom, Jenn, and we are so grateful. We are waiting for our cute little milkweed starts to grow strong enough to be planted into their comfortable new homes.

Meanwhile, we are heartily enjoying the lessons we have been learning from Prince Plus, Princess Minus, Princess Multiply, and Prince Divide. King Counting tells us that we need these lessons in order to go help out in the land of confusion in April. We are excited.

All in all, 2026 is off to a very good start in First Grade.

With much love,
Ms. Hooser





From the Kinderhale



Dear Kinderhale 'Ohana,

The new year brings new possibilities and also encourages each of us to reflect on the year that has passed. Within these reflections, we often find that there are things that we wished we had done better, and we make “resolutions” for ourselves to help guide the year ahead.

What we hope for the families in the Kinderhale is that you also take time to reflect on the wonderful events that happened and all the things that you got right. Guiding children and the process of growth for ourselves that comes from working so closely together is one that is meant to be cherished. All of the parts. The ups and the downs. So that we also remember to celebrate. This is the living for today part, and children are the masters of finding joy in each new discovery. We can find joy in all of the precious moments with our keiki, even when they are trying to show us something new, something that will help us grow and become even better people. By honoring our wins, as well as areas that we need to grow, gives us the strength to continue to do the work and be present for the children each and every day.

This care and attentiveness is necessary for their growth and development (and for ours too, as adults). It conveys to the children that they are important, that they are valued, and that they are deeply loved. They feel our love when we are sharing moments of joy and when we continue to hold boundaries for them, which provide them the experience that the adults in their life are paying attention and care about their well-being. They take a sense of security when they know that they are being held. Later, this will instill in them the ability to make boundaries for themselves as they grow. What we provide now gives us all hope for the future.

We are all so excited to be coming back in the new year and continue the good work of the Kinderhale. Mahalo nui for all of your support. We especially want to give our mahalos to all the families who have been stepping up to support teachers with laundry and windows, and all those who came for the All School Work Party. It truly does take a village, and we feel so fortunate to be a part of this beautiful community that we are creating together on behalf of the children.

Looking ahead to February, we are joyous in our anticipation of Valentine's Day. Each class will have a small celebration where the keiki will be able to share valentines with each other. We all know how wonderful it feels to receive something special in the mail, and each child will receive “mail/valentines” from each of their friends. As a family, it is also good to focus on the “giving” side of Valentine's Day, where each child can show their love with a homemade valentine. Teachers are a wonderful resource if you are looking for ideas for creative valentines. Each class will share more information soon regarding the festivities. How can we widen our circle of love and care? How wonderful it would be, with everything happening in the world today, that we mālama others that are a part of our lives.

With Aloha,
The Kinderhale Teachers

“Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow.” - Albert Einstein

