



Mālamalama Waldorf School



News Notes September 2025

On the Calendar

News from the Office

Every Friday

Fall Faire Committee Meeting 1pm

September 1st

Labor Day NO SCHOOL

September 5th

4/5 Class Meeting 12:45

September 8th

2/3 Class Meeting 4:30–6:30pm

Grade 1 Class Meeting 4:30–6:30pm

September 11th

Parent Hui Meeting 2:45–4:15pm

September 19th

Site Committee Meeting 1

September 26th

Michealmas time TBD



SAVE THE DATE!

October 25th Fall Faire

Sign up for Kinderhale soup

Attention grades students! Our Kinderhale Kitchen serves organic, hot and delicious soup made out of vegetables from the school garden with bread from a local bakery every WEDNESDAY for lunch. If you'd like to enjoy this meal, please sign up at the office. Availability is limited.

GF/vegan options available

Cooked with love!



"Joy and happiness in living, a love of all existence, a power and energy for work ... the need for imagination, a sense of truth and a feeling of responsibility, these are the forces which are the very nerve of education."

-Rudolf Steiner



Join Waldorf Connect FB group

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

The Daily Dance: Drop-Off, Pick-Up & Beyond

A new school year means fresh chances to practice our *traffic flow choreography*! Think of drop-off and pick-up as a little daily dance—we all move more gracefully when everyone knows the steps. Mahalo for helping keep our mornings and afternoons safe, smooth, and neighbor-friendly.

Please drive slowly on campus at all times. Speeding, quick starts, or "burning out" creates a real safety concern for our keiki and families. Also remember to turn off your engine while waiting, and to respect our neighbors by not lining up on Maku'u or driving down 26th past the Hui Liliko'i gate. The paved circle driveway is for grades' active pick-up and drop-off only—after 8:00 a.m. it may not be used, and cars should never be left unattended. If you'd like to park and walk your child in, please use the gravel lot off 26th Avenue. Late pickups will be charged at \$1 per minute.

If your child arrives after 8:00 a.m., please stop by the office first to pick up a tardy pass, then walk them to Morning Protocol (if still happening) or to their classroom until the teacher welcomes them in. Students not ready to enter class by 8:00 will be marked tardy, and arrivals after 10:00 a.m. will be counted as absent for the day.

When coming to campus during the school day, please check in at the office before delivering items or visiting a classroom. All adults must have office consent to enter classrooms, and as always, Mālamalama Waldorf is a cell phone-free campus during school hours.

Mahalo for your k ōkua.



Letter from Administration

It is wonderful to have our campus alive again with the sound of children's laughter and the energy of daily life flowing through Mālamalama Waldorf School. After the quiet of summer, it is a joy to see how our students have grown and to welcome the many new faces in our school 'ohana.

Mahalo to everyone who joined our All-School Meeting and signed up for committees. Your enthusiasm is deeply appreciated. Please explore what speaks to you and pace yourselves as the year unfolds.

A quick reminder about our online tools: the **FACTS Family Portal** at familyportal.renweb.com is the go-to place for announcements, calendars, and tuition balances. **When signing in, please use our district code MW-HI.** Families may also download the FACTS Family app (\$4.99 per year) for easier access. We will be rolling out photo sharing and calendar updates over the year. Mahalo for your patience as we grow into this system together.

Volunteer hours are tracked through **Track It Forward**, which is connected to your FACTS account. If you haven't already, register at trackitforward.com/site/malamalama-waldorf-school using the same email and password you use for FACTS.

And don't forget our **parent lending library** in the office: come browse, and if you borrowed books over the summer, now is the perfect time to return them (no late fees, just smiles!).

It is going to be a terrific year filled with learning, growth, and community spirit. Let's make it a memorable one together!

New Hires

We warmly welcome back Kumu Des Haumea, guiding Grades 6–8 in Hawaiian Studies, and are delighted to introduce new staff members: Katalin (Handwork and Music), Angela Ann (Hawaiian Studies PreK–5), Jadelyn (Administrative Assistant), Sean (Kitchen Manager), Ashley and Akala (Kinderhale Aides), and Cherie (Kinderhale Assistant). We also celebrate familiar faces in new roles: Ms. Hooser (Grade 1 Teacher), Evan (Movement), Mellissa (Kinderhale Assistant), Ariana (Class 2/3 Assistant), and Yulia (Kitchen Cook). Together, they bring their gifts and talents to enrich our school 'ohana.

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

We warmly invite all parents and caregivers to gather with us for our Parent Hui meetings. Together, in the spirit of aloha and community, we nurture the life of our school. Each voice and heart added helps our shared garden of learning grow stronger and more vibrant.

Please note we are changing our meeting days!

The Parent Hui will now meet on the second **Thursday** of the month, from 2:45–4:15 in the Hui Lilikoi yard. Our first meeting will take place on Thursday, September 11th.

Free childcare will be provided at all meetings! We are also working on having healthy snacks for the keiki. If you are the caregiver of a 7/8 student who would like to babysit at Parent Hui meetings (paid position, \$3 per child), please email parent_hui@hawaiiwaldorf.org or text Marissa at (312) 912-5628.

Already, the Parent Hui is tending to many beloved projects—both new and ongoing—that help our school community flourish. From gathering a spirited Fall Faire Committee to calling together the Spring Faire Fundraising Fairies, our shared efforts pulse with life and kuleana.

We also continue the tradition of providing meals for our devoted teachers and staff during their weekly meetings. In September, this gift of nourishment will be offered by our dear Hui Kukui. To join in this gesture of gratitude, please visit Track It Forward to sign up to share a meal. Simple instructions will be provided.

Lastly, we are seeking donations of gently used lamps to bring a softer, warmer light to the 1st grade classroom. The fluorescent lights can be tiring to young eyes, and their hum can distract our newly risen stars as they find their rhythm in this new year. If you have a lamp or are handy and able to help install light-softening fabric or other calming covers, please connect with Ms. Hooser.

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

"If in all of forever, I never endeavor to fly, I won't know if I can."

— Holly Meade, *If I Never Forever Endeavor*

Mahalo nui,
Marissa, Parent Hui Chairperson



From The Board

Aloha mai k ākou e M ālamalama ‘Ohana,

Mahalo nui to each of you who joined us at our All-School Meeting on August 25th. Together, we celebrated our shared values, reflected on our growth, and envisioned the bright future of Mālamalama Waldorf School.

Our gathering reminded us of the ‘Ōlelo no‘eau: **Ma ka hana ka ‘ike** — “*in working one learns.*” Just as our keiki learn best through active engagement, so too does our community flourish when each member brings their gifts, energy, and vision to the life of the school.

What We Envisioned Together

At the recent **Strategic Planning Retreat**, parents, faculty, staff, alumni, and board members gathered to dream big. We asked ourselves: *What will Mālamalama look and feel like in 5 years if we truly thrive?*

From that dreaming, we shaped clear areas of focus:

- **Garden & Campus Care** – nurturing the land that nurtures us.
- **Infrastructure** – strengthening facilities for our growing needs.
- **Community Engagement** – deepening pilina (connections), building support, and ensuring long-term sustainability.

We also took a careful look at our school’s budget realities. With 98% of income coming from tuition, we must grow enrollment, strengthen fundraising, and work together to close the deficit. Every contribution, whether of time, skill, or resources, helps sustain our mission and support our teachers.

How You Can Participate

Our school thrives when the whole community stands together. Here are some meaningful ways you can join in:

- **Join a Committee:** Bring your skills to Garden (site), Infrastructure (site), Community Engagement (development/outreach), Finance, or Parent Hui. *Committee meeting times will be sent out school wide once they are set.
- **Attend Parent Hui Meetings:** Every 2nd Thursday from 2:45–4:15 pm. Your voice and presence matter.
- **Serve on the Board of Directors:** Help shape the vision and governance of Mālamalama Waldorf School.
- **Support Fundraising & Donations:** Even the smallest contributions make a big difference toward closing the gap.
- **Share Your Gifts:** Each of us carries unique talents and resources that can strengthen our school community.

Why Your Involvement Matters

Mālamalama Waldorf School exists because of the collective care, love, and work of our ‘ohana. By stepping in, whether to help in the garden, offer professional skills, invite new families, or serve in leadership, you are directly shaping the future of our keiki and ensuring that Mālamalama continues to shine for generations to come.

Together, let us cultivate a school where every keiki learns with joy, every teacher is supported, and every family feels the strength of community.

Me ka mahalo piha,

Mellissa Haskins, Kelly Teamey and Megan Cannon

On behalf of the Mālamalama Waldorf School Board of Directors



Out In The Garden

We are back and the classes are enjoying getting back into the garden and getting our hands dirty and growing food. We are excited that all the classes are really participating this year. We have all chosen a row in the garden to nurture for the year. We will be working with the KH kitchen and cook to plant and grow food that we will all enjoy eating.

As some of you may have heard, we received a couple of grants that are being used to build a pavilion and new garden shed. We will also be purchasing more garden tools. Eventually (in the next 6 months or so) we hope to build a new catchment tank up in the garden area too.

Watch for an announcement for a shed and pavilion work party sometime in September. If you have the time and tools, please plan to attend and help us put the pavilion and new shed together. Later in the year other work parties that will be happening will be to build a composting system and cob oven for biochar and baking. Keep an eye out for those announcements too.

In addition to the new and exciting building projects, we have general maintenance that needs to be done around the garden and grounds around some of our existing food trees. Please check Track It Forward and sign up for one of the monthly weed-eating projects to keep our trails maintained.

The garden/grounds has become a sort of subcommittee of the Site Committee. For those of you that didn't attend the All School Meeting, and you are interested in helping with trees, plantings, weed eating, composting and gardening please contact me to get your name on the list and Ms. Jenkins and I will let you know when our first meeting will be.

Mahalo and here's to eating fresh veggies!

Mr Cox



JOIN THE
FALL
faire
COMMITTEE

PICNIC TABLES BEHIND GRADES 12:30 -2PM

FRIDAYS AFTER SCHOOL

FIRST MEETING SEPTEMBER 5TH

Sign up on Track It Forward

FOR MORE INFO EMAIL: parent_hui@hawaiiwaldorf.org



Mālamalama Waldorf School

OPEN HOUSE

HAWAIIAN PARADISE PARK @ MAKU'U & 26TH

Preschool-Grade 8 | Beautiful 20-acre Campus
Dedicated Certified Teachers | Enthusiastic Students
Successful Alumni
Preschool Open Doors | Child Care Connections

8:30-10:00 am
OCTOBER 7
NOVEMBER 18
JANUARY 27
MARCH 10

Affordable school-funded options for K-8

Explore the campus
Take a glimpse inside our classrooms
Meet our teachers

CONTACT
808-982-7701
info@hawaiiwaldorf.org
www.hawaiiwaldorf.org





 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!

Join our Puna Keiki Chorus Tuesdays @ 3 pm and our Keiki Uke Ensemble Wednesdays @ 3:15 pm! Text Aunty Melissa @ 517-410-5304 for visit www.auntysmusic.com for more information. Classes start September 8!

Pau Hana Pet Resort

Services:

DOG BOARDING

DROP-IN VISITS

DOGGY DAYCARE

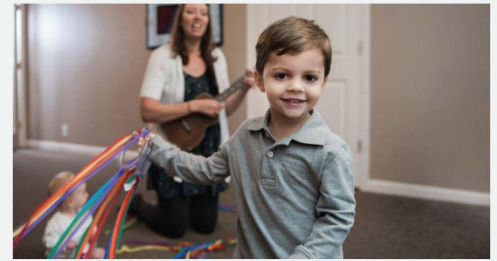
EXIT BATHS



Book Today!

808-966-3225

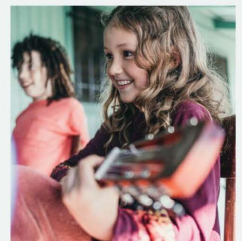
www.pauhanapetresort.com



MUSIC LESSONS

@ Aunty's 13th Ave Music School in HPP

**Group instruction for keiki:
ukulele, vocal chorus,
and early childhood music**



www.auntysmusic.com



Aloha e 8th Grade Families!

What a great beginning to our final school year together! Mahalo for coming to the back to school gathering with the 1st Grade. It was wonderful to see the 1st Graders begin to develop bonds with the 8th Grade, making it easier for Ms. Hooser and I to see who would make a great buddy pair. The 8th Graders beautifully walked their buddies across the bridge, and in a blink of an eye it will be the 8th Graders being walked over at the end of the year.

The students have been very diligent about writing in their planners and returning it with it signed. We have only had one slip-up! Bravo! Thank you to all of you parents for supporting this organization and accountability.

The students have been very engaged with our first block of the year: Gastronomy. We have spent an entire week studying sugar, its history, how it spread, its encouragement of slavery, the Haitian revolution against colonization and slavery, the development of sugar from beets, and the life and death of the sugar industry in Hawaii. Thank you to Alex and Sylvi for driving on Monday! It was great to get the students out and see real artifacts that tell some of the stories of Hawaii. Yesterday they began their first essay of the year where they could choose to write about any two topics related to sugar. They all came in today with excellent work that they were proud of.

Now we are pivoting more towards chemistry. Yesterday we harvested and juiced sugarcane. Today we will boil it down into a solid form, and tomorrow we will do some experiments to further reveal sugar's properties and how to test for simple sugars. Next, we will turn our focus towards grains, beginning with rice!

The students also seem engaged with all of their specialty classes. They began yarn painting with Auntie Kati in Handwork class and working on a rhythm song, a Portuguese song, and a multi-instrument song with her in Music class as well. In Japanese they are refreshing their use of the alphabets and how to pronounce different place names in the world with Yuki Sensei. In Movement class Mr. Ragland has been bringing exercises that bring them levity and teamwork with Space Ball and volleyball.

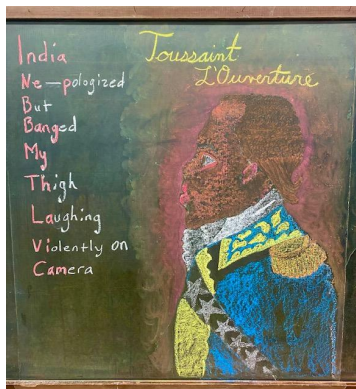
In our first math class we visually explored numbers, discovering patterns through shape and number. This led the class into reviewing divisibility rules. They were then given a new game to play at home as part of their homework.

Finally, we started our first book of the year, *The Outsiders*. The students already seem hooked, amazed that they actually got assigned a book that contains smoking and gang fighting!

There is an incredible harmony in this group, and they seem to be enjoying the small class and tight bonds that they are forming more and more each day.

Please continue to make progress on the 8th Grade projects!

Warmly,
Mr. Dewey



Aloha e Malamalama 'Ohana,

We are so excited to be back in school and looking forward to a great school year as 6th and 7th graders.

We have kicked off the year with a business math block. We are learning about currency, money, economy and small businesses. This will be especially handy as we will begin selling Lilipops on Friday afternoons beginning the last week of August.

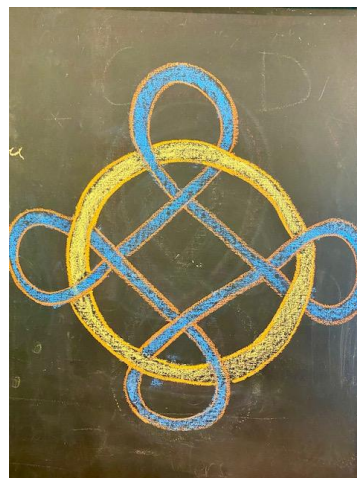
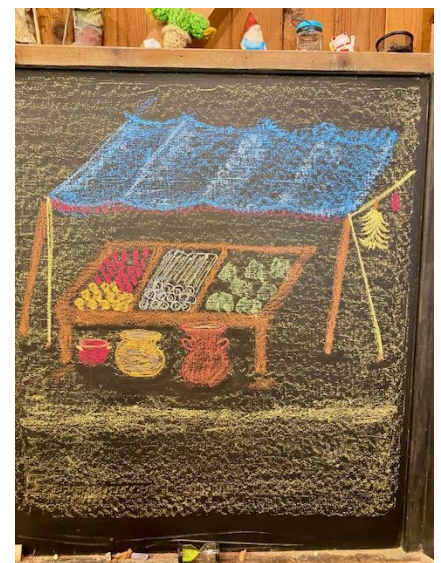
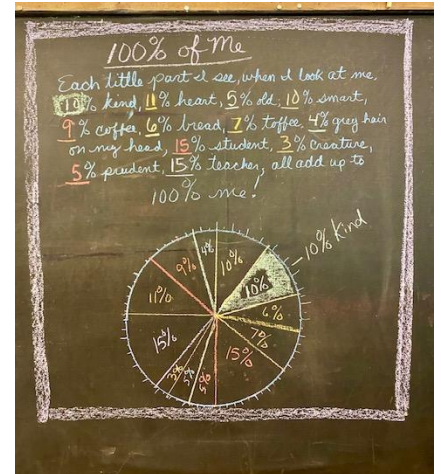
We have had a nice time settling in and becoming acquainted with our two new additions to our class. Nyla and Dominic are welcome additions and fitting in nicely with the class.

As we approach September, we will begin working on our songs and poems of the season and preparing for Michaelmas and the celebration of autumn at the end of the month.

We are also excited to be getting back into the garden and will begin preparing the building materials for the pavilion and new garden shed that we will be helping to build.

Wishing you an exciting and engaging school year.

Aloha,
Mr. Cox's 6th and 7th Grade





Dear Class Four/Five,

This sunflower poem is recited each day by the students during part of our morning movement exercises as they toss their bean bags in various formations. The students remind me of golden sunflowers, with their shining faces and bright smiles as they happily greet each day! It has been a joyous beginning to the year. It's so wonderful being together again. We are glad to be reunited with friends from last year and to meet new friends as well. We are pleased to welcome Coral, Karuna, Lauren, Ayden and their families and to welcome back Mina, gone since first grade, and her family. The students are settling back into the school routines with ease and they are sweetly helping their new friends feel at home. I am so proud of their generous, joyful spirits.

We are beginning the year with a language arts block with tales from the Kalevala as the story material. This epic Finnish poem is rich with imaginative images and magical characters and provides the students with many wonderful ideas to write about. Composition writing is a focus of this block. The students are learning to organize their thoughts and their writing as they retell bits of the story. We are busily practicing punctuation skills, proofreading, editing and paragraph formation. A review of parts of speech is supporting them to learn how to enrich and enliven their writing.

Our specialty subjects are expanded this year. We are pleased to welcome back Yukiko Sensei for Japanese class and to welcome Auntie Kati for both music and handwork, Kumu Angela for Hawaiian studies and Mr. Ragland for movement education/games. I am continuing to offer gardening, painting, form drawing, language arts and math track classes. We also have reading groups twice weekly.

We will be having a class meeting on Friday, September 5. We will begin with a potluck lunch at 12:45. I am looking forward to sharing some fun activities and an overview of the curriculum planned for this year. It will also be nice to have a chance to have some time to get to know one another. I hope you will be able to come! I look forward to hearing from all of you and encourage you to email, call, or set up a time to meet with me to share any questions, concerns or thoughts you'd like to share if you are unable to attend the meeting, or have something personal to share.

I am so grateful to have the opportunity to guide this wonderful group of children.

Warmly,
Ms. Jenkins



*Sunflowers in the summer growing
Growing up towards the light
Light and warmth which draws them upwards
Upwards striving in their might
Mighty golden heads with seeds there
Seeds to sleep in winter's ground
Heads which turn from dawn to sunset
Following the sun's path round*



Class 2/3

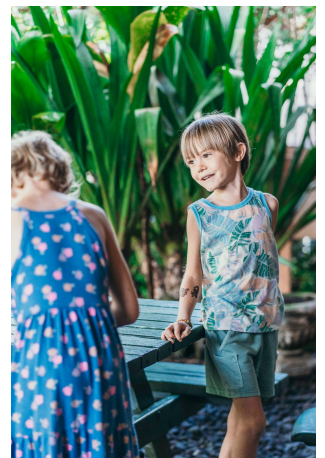
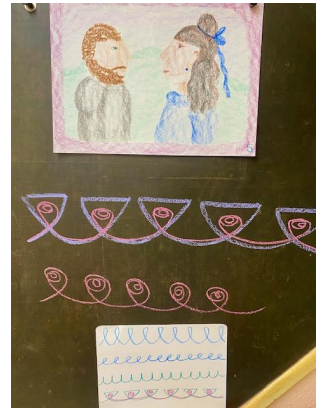
Our Class 2/3 students are joyfully settling into the new school year. In main lesson, we are working in our first Language Arts block. The children have been hearing stories of fables and of St. George, St. Jerome, and St. Francis, writing and drawing about their courage, compassion, and wisdom. These tales of bravery and kindness prepare our hearts for Michaelmas, where our class is busy preparing to share a short class play.

In the garden, we have begun working with the Hawaiian Moon calendar to guide our planting and tending. The children are learning to observe and honor the rhythms of nature, especially our moon. One afternoon while weeding, we discovered a *giant caterpillar*, which sparked much wonder and excitement!

As we find our rhythm together, I am filled with gratitude—for the unique beauty of each student, for the wonders of nature that we discover every day, and especially for the support of our parents and families. Thank you for adjusting home rhythms, for providing supplies, and for all the unseen ways you help the children meet each day ready for school. I am also deeply thankful for our larger community, whose continual offerings of time, energy, and care nurture and grow our school into the vision we hold together.

I look forward to the year ahead and the many new beginnings that await us.

Warmly, Ms. Koors





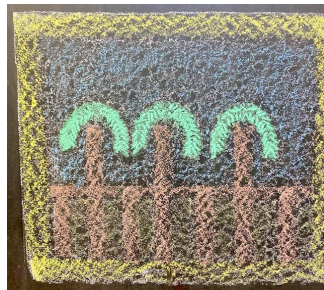
Aloha to our First Grade Village and our greater Malamalama Community,

Our Grade One Family has already benefited greatly by the abundance of Love, Wonder, and Magic that happens when something is new and precious. We are Happy-Tired at the end of each day, having worked hard to ground into our growing bodies, and to form our habit-bodies into the shape of school rhythms and structure.

We are just finishing our first Main Lesson Block, Form Drawing, and each student has already produced such beautiful work that we are inclined to get up and do little Art Walks several times a day. We will certainly be sharing some of this delight at our next parent meeting, Monday, September 8th, 4:30-6:30 PM. One of our students said, *"I don't know WHY Ms. Hooser Loves straight and curved lines SO MUCH!"* 😊💕 My true answer is because making them is beautiful and we will be using them a lot, all year. For the adult reader, however, I will share a little behind-the-matter magic written by a seasoned Waldorf Teacher, Donna Simmons: *"Form drawing is like water, it is like the movement of plants as they grow, it is like the forms snowflakes make and are made of ... Form drawing is about a moment of movement caught on a page. It is about concentration, perseverance, control of the will, grace, and purposefulness. Form drawing is a therapeutic art. It calls up the inner discipline the child needs to work beautifully and skillfully within the confines of a page. It helps a child learn about boundaries ... one needs to be aware of one's surroundings, think ahead where one is going with a form, control what one's crayon is doing, and relax into the movement of the form. It is a profoundly healing art."* So this is some of the depth of what we have been enjoying, and why.

Well, that is just Main Lesson! We are also having So Much Fun with our soul-nourishing subject classes: Learning how to say our favorite colors in Japanese, making knitting needles in Handwork class, making lovely music together, finding good rest, painting, forming with beeswax, and discovering our favorite games in Movement class. So Good. And So Much to look forward to. In September, we expect to meet our new Hawai'iana teacher, as well as some magical symbols that will come to us full of sound and meaning and lots of new adventures.

Much Aloha to All,
Ms. Hooser





From the Kinderhale

Dear Kinderhale Families,

Aloha and welcome to a new school year! After the spacious days of summer, we now step together into the gentle rhythms of the classroom. Rhythm is a gift for children, it gives them security, balance, and a sense of belonging, much like the steady rising of the sun or the flow of the tides here in Hawai'i.

In our class, each day will unfold with a familiar pattern of play, song, story, work, and rest. This dependable rhythm allows children to relax and thrive, knowing what comes next. You can support this at home by weaving in your own simple rhythms: regular times for waking, meals, and bedtime; a small weekly tradition like baking or gardening; and noticing the beauty of the changing seasons around us.

Together, the rhythm of school and home will create a strong foundation for your child's joy and growth this year. Thank you for all you do to bring warmth and steadiness to their days.

With aloha,

Aunty Gladys, Aunty Allyson, Uncle Aubrey

Finger plays are simple rhymes with hand motions that invite rhythm, movement, and joy into the day, and they can also be fun to try at home!

There once was a cobbler and he was wee. (Pointer R)
He lives in a hole in a very big tree.

(Two hands make a circle)

He had a good neighbor and she was a mouse. (Pointer L)
She cleaned and she tidied his wee little house.

(Draw circle on palm of r hand)

Each morning at 7 he heard a wee tap. (Hand to ear)
And in came the mouse in her apron and cap.

(Draw apron on L pointer tap for cap)

She lit a small fire.

(Criss Cross pointers)

And fetched a wee broom. (L pointer)
She swept and she tidied his wee little room.

(Draw circle on palm of r hand)

To take any wages she always refused.

(L pointer waggle)

So the cobbler said "thank you!"

(R pointer bows)

And mended her shoes.

(R pointer touches bottom of L pointer showing her shoes)

Little Penny (pinky)

Penny roo

Roo whistle

Mary jostle

And Old Man Bumbala! (Thumb)

Brow brow binky

Eye eye winky

Cheek cheek cherry

Nose nose nerry

Mou mou merry

Chin chopper chin chopper chin chopper chin

