



Rainbow School Honolulu December 2011 Newsletter



December's Theme

The theme for the month of December is "Discovering how good it feels to share". The children will be learning about how important it is to share (especially during this time of the year). The children will also be busy preparing for the Holiday Season and our Christmas Program.



Mark Your Calendar

November 29 - Holiday Gift Card orders are due today. Please support our school ☺

December 2 – Traveling Storytellers perform "The Songs of Christmas" at 10:00am

December 5 – 9 – Food Drive. Non-perishable food donations will be given to the Hawaii Food Bank. Please kokua and help those in need for the holidays. Thank you.

December 8 – Dynamic Dolphins walk to Honolulu Hale to see the Christmas decorations.

December 9 – Holiday Gift Cards distribution. Thank you for ordering ☺

December 16 – Christmas Program at 9:30 am on our playground (weather permitting, rainy day plan would be at the cafeteria on the 5th floor)

December 21 – Holiday Book Exchange

December 22 – Puppet Times Christmas Show w/ Christy Lipps AhSing 9:30am

December 26 - School is closed in observance of Christmas. Merry Christmas!

December 30 – Na Pueo class walk to the waterfront to explore/discover more about their underground water project. (9:30-10:30)

January 2, 2012 - School is closed in observance of the New Year holiday. Happy New Year!

Christmas Program

This year our Christmas Program will be on December 16th, 2011 at 9:30 a.m. Please look out for notices from your child's teacher regarding attire and other special instructions to prepare for this event. The children will be learning different movements and verses to Christmas songs to share their wonderful talent with all of you. This event will be on our playground but if the weather doesn't cooperate our "rainy day plan" would be in the cafeteria. We look forward to seeing all of you there.



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Mahalo!

A great big “Mahalo!” goes out to all of the families and friends who attended our annual Thanksgiving Luncheon. The food was delicious and the attendance was great. Thanks also to those of you who brought desserts and breads to share. There were a lot of people catching up on old times and just enjoying each other’s company. We are so thankful for each and every one of you! Seeing all of you sharing and celebrating this wonderful occasion with us is the best gift.

Flu and Cold Season

The flu and cold season is here as evidence of the absentee rates this past month. The following are some tips that you can use to help prevent the spread of unwanted germs:

- ✦ Always wash your hands when assisting your child with wiping his nose. Have your child wash his hands as well.
- ✦ Remind your child to cover his coughs and sneezes and to use a tissue to clean his nose. Using his t-shirt to clean his nose is not sanitary especially when the probability of your coming in contact with furniture, other people, etc. is very high. Change your child’s shirt if that ever happens. Your child should also wash his/her hands after coughing or sneezing.
- ✦ When entering and exiting school, have your child wash his hands. You can also do this as well. This helps prevent the germs from home and elsewhere from coming into school and vice versa.
- ✦ On a weekly basis we make sure we sanitize all of the toys at school. If your child shares toys with a sibling or other family members and friends, it’s a good idea to disinfect the toys periodically. A simple solution of 1 Tablespoon bleach to 1 quart of water in a sink will help to disinfect your child’s toys. Air dry.
- ✦ For more information you can log onto www.cdc.gov.

Special Note

Because the holiday season is upon us, many of our staff has requested time off to spend time with their family. Please let your child’s teacher know if you will be keeping your child home during the holidays so that we may have a better idea of how many children to expect and what kinds of ratios we will be having. Knowing the count will also allow us to prepare for our meals. We do have enough qualified substitutes to help cover for those requesting time off. Thank you for your consideration regarding this matter.



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Merry Christmas

Welcome Aboard!

Welcome to Alyssa Mizushima in the Lovable Jungle's classroom. We are glad to welcome Alyssa and her family to Rainbow School Honolulu.

FCCB Fund Raiser

A big MAHALO to all our families that participated in our Holiday Gift Card event. We set another record for this event by selling 761 cards and raising \$1,462.56 for our school simply by doing your holiday shopping with us! So now just sit back and let us handle the rest. The gift cards will be distributed to families next week. We have not decided on where the funds raised will be used, we do have some great ideas on the table for discussion and hope to reach a decision in January. Stay tuned.

As we enter this wonderful season of giving, we are reminded of those in our community who are less fortunate. With this in mind, we decided to do a Rainbow School Honolulu community project. We selected the Hawaii Foodbank as the recipient of our project this year and are asking for your assistance. During the week of December 5th – 9th, we are asking that your child bring in a canned good each day of the week to match the theme for the day. The daily themes are: Meaty Monday, Tuna Tuesday, Soupy Wednesday, Veggie Thursday, and Fruity Friday. Also during this week, our children will be learning about hunger and the importance of eating good meals. Flyers will be distributed to all families and posted throughout the school. We thank you in advance for helping us with this wonderful community service project while teaching our kids important life lessons.

Another Mahalo to our families who donated funds to go directly towards purchasing specific items listed on the classroom wish lists. The items are in the process of being ordered. The vendors that we will be purchasing from are Kaplan, Lakeshore, and Discount School Supply. The items should arrive by the start of the new year. Again, mahalo for your generosity and support. Together we make our school a success!

Holiday Spirit

Thanks to the Watson ohana (Daly's family – Gloriann and Derrick) who shared their spirit of giving by purchasing a Christmas tree for our school. As you enter our school, you'll be greeted by the wonderful pine scent and you'll see the tree come alive with beautiful ornaments created by our children.

The Na Pueo class entered the City and County of Honolulu's 26th Annual Holiday Wreath Contest. They turned in their wreath on November 29th. The children enjoyed making their wreath out of yarn, pine cones (owls), other art materials, and lots of glue. The theme for this year's wreath is "Holoholo Holiday". Good luck Na Pueo class! We know that all of your hard work and fun will pay off in the end.

Raising Caring and Giving Children

Article provided by Heather Jack, founder of *The Volunteer Family*

(Received through email from the Bright Horizons e-family news <efamily news@bhefamilynews.com>)

Similar to other personal qualities, children learn empathy and compassion over time and through practice.... There are things that you can do at home to encourage your child to be a compassionate and empathic person.

These include:

- **Modeling the ideals of caring and sharing with your children**

You are one of the most influential people in your child's life. A child notices what you do and say. By demonstrating respect and tolerance toward your own friends, family, and acquaintances, you become a wonderful role model for your children.

- **Volunteering with your children**

Volunteering with your children not only teaches them compassion and understanding toward others, but also gives them an opportunity to build their self-esteem and learn new skills. In addition, nonprofit organizations can undertake new initiatives and achieve new goals thanks to the participation of eager families.

- **Using your own charitable donations to teach your children how to give back**

Most of us have donated in one way or another to a cause that we believe in. If you involve your children in the process, the check that you're writing can go even further. And, as an added bonus, they'll learn valuable lessons in money management, philanthropic values, and community involvement.

Exposing your children to experiences that encourage kindness and empathy allow them to realize that they can make a difference even at an early age. Letting them see how, even as children, they have the power and ability to do some amazingly caring and giving things will be a message they will carry with them for the rest of their lives.

Resources

- Bright Horizons' [Toward a Better World](#) website provides resources for helping children make a difference
- The [Volunteer Family](#) helps families find volunteer opportunities in their area and match them with their interests.
- Oprah.com offers ways for children to volunteer
- Parents.com suggests 14 little ways to encourage kindness



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