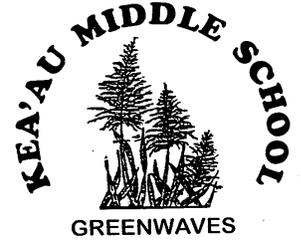


Keaau Middle Parent-Teacher-Student Association

April 2021 Newsletter



Welcome Back!!!

Dear Keaau Middle PTSA Members and School Family,

We had to hit pause as the school was closing toward the end of March 2020 due to the pandemic. With vaccine availability and the diligent practice of mask wearing and social distancing, we are glad to see that school has gradually reopened and thankful that no one in the school community has gotten seriously ill.

In this newsletter, we aim to update you on what Keaau Middle PTSA has done to support our school since our last newsletter and to inform you of upcoming opportunities. We welcome your feedback, including on how we can better serve your needs. Please feel free to email estheryatwell@gmail.com if you have any questions, concerns, comments, or suggestions.

Thank you for taking part in the local chapter of a national organization that has worked hard for over 120 years to **STRENGTHEN** family and community engagement in schools, **ELEVATE** the voices of families in critical child advocacy work, and **SUPPORT** programs that improve student outcomes and success. Thanks for investing in our keiki.

Keep up to date on Facebook at **Keaau Middle PTSA!**

Sincerely,

Esther Atwell, President

On behalf of the Keaau Middle PTSA Board

PTSA Means:

- Community
- Advocacy
- Programs
- Grants
- Leadership
- Resources

Help Wanted!!!

All board positions are open for our upcoming virtual election in May for the 2021-2022 Keaau Middle PTSA Board: **President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Membership Chair, Public Relations Chair, and Student Representative(s)** (PTSA membership for the student(s) will be sponsored by Keaau Middle PTSA). Please submit your nomination to estheryatwell@gmail.com on or before **May 15**.

Upcoming Events

May 15, 2021: Deadline for Keaau Middle PTSA Board nominations

May 22, 2021: Deadline to send in your votes for the Board (ballots will be sent to members on May 16, 2021)

Congratulations!!! KMS Winners of 2020-2021 PTSA Reflections Contest



We are super proud of **Jennifer Kaneshiro** and **Maile Rayna Pagala**, who won first place for Literature and for Film Production, respectively, at the Hawaii state level in the 2020-2021 Reflections Contest with the theme of **I Matter Because...**. Since they were first-place

state winners, they have been automatically entered into the contest at the national level. Keaau Middle PTSA has awarded both winners \$100 each in lieu of our traditional sponsorship of the first-place winners' attendance at the awards banquet in Honolulu, which has been cancelled due to the pandemic.

Special thanks to Ms. Joanna Silva, KMS PTSA Reflections Chair, that we have winners during this pandemic year is a reflection of your hard work and dedication!



KMS PTSA Support
of KMS Community

What have we done for you lately?

Since our last newsletter, we have:

- ✂ Awarded the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 Reflections contest winners with monetary prizes in lieu of sponsorship for attendance at the cancelled awards banquet
- ✂ Distributed cookies in April 2020 to all who participated in our cookie fundraiser
- ✂ Sponsored 8th Grade Promotion by providing a memory-book-USB to each 8th grade student, which commemorates the cohort's time at Keaau Middle School
- ✂ Distributed 2021 Keaau Middle PTSA calendars to all faculty and staff as appreciation for their efforts year-round
- ✂ Distributed \$10 Subway gift cards to all faculty and staff as appreciation for their hard work during the pandemic
- ✂ Distributed a \$100 grant for seeds for the school garden, \$100 grant for a "pop-up shop" for Christmas, \$100 grant for materials to cover Covid-related safety measures



Please Join Our Standing Fundraiser

Shopwithscrip.com is the year-round gift card fundraisers for us (see flyer attached). The enrollment code for Keaau Middle PTSA is **CF33BA3966L26**, or email estheryatwell@gmail.com and I will send you an invitation to join.

A percentage of the gift card(s) you purchase at face value is rebated to Keaau Middle PTSA, which adds up to help us support different efforts at the school **without asking you to spend any more than normal or buy something you don't really need or want.**

For example, instead of paying with my credit card, I buy e-gift cards for Amazon through Shopwithscrip.com, which are available immediately to pay for Amazon orders, and I send gift cards to friends/family for places they go to in daily life like gas stations, grocery stores, coffee shops, etc.



Support our organization while you shop

More than 50,000 organizations have used gift cards to turn everyday shopping into earnings—our organization is one of them. Pay with gift cards and offset costs for our organization.



Buy gift cards at face value



Earn a rebate up to 20%



Use gift cards for everyday shopping

Shop 750+ top brands

Use eGift cards and physical gift cards, and earn on gas, groceries, eating out, clothes—the list goes on. It's easy, it's rewarding, and it fits right into your busy schedule.

See a full list of brands at ShopWithScrip.com or MyScripWallet.com

"It's super convenient. All I need to go shopping is my phone—I don't even need credit cards or my purse. I'm going to pay for these things anyway, I love being able to use gift cards so we get something in return."

Jen H., earns for hockey



Local Happenings Worth Checking Out!

With our continued exploration of Mars, establishment of the U.S. Space Force as a separate branch of the Armed Forces, U.S. plans to go back to the moon, and technological breakthroughs in private space travel, why not check out **Astro Day** as a family to see what lies ahead for our keiki? In addition to the organized activities, some stores are providing little giveaways!

MAUNAKEA OBSERVATORIES

ASTRO DAY

PRINCE KUHIO PLAZA

FRIDAY
April 30
↓
SUNDAY
May 2

Learn about science in Hawai'i through our **contactless activities!**

PICK UP KITS & OTHER INFO
*go to participating shops and restaurants
while supplies last

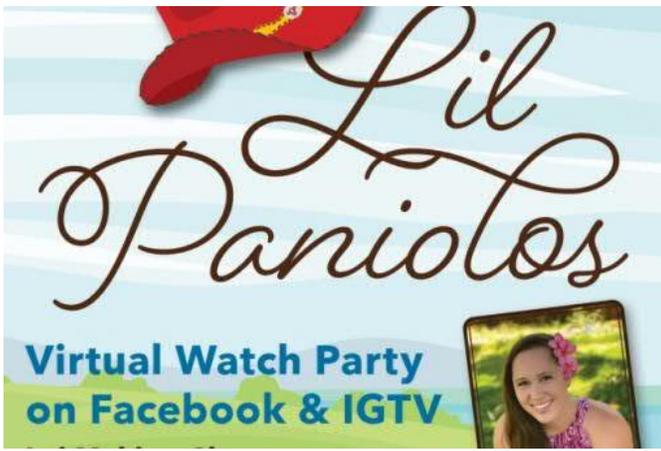
VIEW DEMOS & PRESENTATIONS
scan our QR codes throughout the mall

*Come at your own convenience
—during regular mall hours—*

The poster features a blue background with a white arc at the top containing the Maunakea Observatories logo. The word 'ASTRO' is in blue with a white star in the 'A' and an orange ring around the 'O'. 'DAY' is in red. Below the title, the location 'PRINCE KUHIO PLAZA' is written in white. The dates 'FRIDAY April 30' and 'SUNDAY May 2' are shown in orange and white, with a white arrow pointing down between them. To the right, text in white and orange describes the activities: 'Learn about science in Hawai'i through our contactless activities!', 'PICK UP KITS & OTHER INFO' (with subtext 'go to participating shops and restaurants *while supplies last'), and 'VIEW DEMOS & PRESENTATIONS' (with subtext 'scan our QR codes throughout the mall'). At the bottom, a white italicized phrase says 'Come at your own convenience —during regular mall hours—'. The bottom of the poster is decorated with a blue gradient and illustrations of various planets and stars.

DRIVE-IN Movies at the Grand Naniloa Hotel is happening this weekend (**April 29-May 2**). A lot of thought and care has gone into bringing this safe entertainment back for all to enjoy. Go to https://www.tickettailor.com/events/hawaiiislamd_movies for more information. Funny how the old is new again!

Parker Ranch Center's Keiki Club is hosting a virtual **Hawaiian Lei Making Class** with Kumu Nani Edgar, featuring flower lei making and paper lei making. Tune in live on Facebook or Instagram **@parkerranchcenter** on **Saturday, May 15th at 11:00 AM!**



Virtually attend the
**HAWAI'IKUAULI
PACIFIC & ASIA
CULTURAL FESTIVAL**
June 11 & 12, 2021

See <https://www.hikuauuli.com/events> for more information.

Reminder

Please download the Box Tops for Education app, choose Keaau Middle PTSA, and start scanning your grocery receipts to help us to continue to raise funds

Additional Resources to Help Learning from Home

The National PTA has many helpful resources for families, including podcasts, webinars, grade-level guides for academic success, and guides to preparing for college and career. Please check out this resource at <https://www.pta.org/home/family-resources>. Arm yourself with accurate information on college, especially financial aid, to give your keiki every opportunity for future success.

Nothing can replace real-life instruction with great teachers, but if your child wants to learn skills that are not offered at school or if you want to supplement your child's learning, www.khanacademy.org is a wonderful free resource. In addition to rigorous academic offerings that include video lessons and evaluated exercises to ensure mastery, it also has life skill classes, like personal finance, that can help kids and adults alike.

Another fun and free educational resource is www.thecrashcourse.com. There are currently 32 courses available from astronomy to study skills. Each course consists of a series of short and witty YouTube videos meant as supplemental material for an academic course in high school, but they are very accessible even for middle schoolers.

Why not check out these resources and be the role model of a life-long learner for your child?

Last but not least with a May 2 deadline...



Virtual May Day Lei Contest

The Hawaii State PTSA is pleased to announce a virtual May Day Lei Contest! We know that traditionally many schools host lei contests to celebrate May Day. This year, we invite you to enter your homemade (socially distance gathered) lei to us for a virtual contest. Each winner will receive a \$20 gift card.

Contest details:

- Two categories – (1) flower lei and (2) creative lei
- Age categories – Primary division (grades Pre-K – 2), Intermediate division (grades 3 – 5); Middle School division (grades 6 - 8); and High School Division (grades 9 – 12)
- Submissions are due no later than 11:59pm on Sunday, May 2nd.
- Please submit 1 - 2 clear pictures (at least one photo must NOT include the student) to HawaiiPTSAprograms@gmail.com and be sure the email includes the student's name, grade, and school.
- Winners will be announced via our Facebook page @HawaiiStatePTSA by Saturday, May 8th.
- *NOTE: Please be sure to follow all social distancing requirements when gathering lei materials. Flowers should be secured in a manner that does not risk exposure to COVID-19. For the creative lei category, we are looking forward to seeing where your imagination takes you with things you can find around the home.*

