



HAWAII ASSOCIATION OF MIDDLE SCHOOLS (HAMS)

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'O Nā Leo i Waena The Message in the Middle

Spring 2017

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Aloha Everyone!

I just wanted to share some exciting news with all HIDOE Middle Level Educators!

Hawaii public school principals have created the **Hawaii Public Middle School Consortium** where middle level administrators from across the State come together with high school principals during a Secondary Principals Forum each quarter. It is here that principals are able to interact with the State DOE Leadership Team (Superintendent, Deputy Superintendent, Assistant Superintendents) to share information, consult and gain clarification on initiatives and policies, review guidelines and procedures, and discuss curricular and operational plans pertinent to student, staff and school success. This vehicle is helping us synergize and focus on implementing the best statewide structures and supports we can for the keiki of Hawaii!

Based on requests from principals to build and enhance professional development and to access middle school resources (e.g., teaming, looping, flexible scheduling) for themselves and their staff, we have partnered with the Association of Middle Level Education (AMLE) to share these resources with Hawaii's educators.

What is AMLE?

AMLE is an international organization dedicated to advance the middle level education of all students ages 10 to 15. They are committed to providing support to all middle level educators through professional development, conferences, online trainings, in-person trainings, research-based information and current resources.

As a result of this partnership, the Middle School Principal Consortium Executive Committee has obtained a statewide membership license for all HIDOE middle schools. ***This means that every principal, VP, teacher and EA can have access to AMLE online site and all it's resources!*** (See: [AMLE Membership Benefits](#))

The Statewide Annual AMLE membership will begin on **January 1st, 2017**. Principals are asked to submit their staff list for processing. An email via Lotus Notes will be sent from AMLE Membership and provide educators with their own member number and individual access to the site. If you have any questions or have not received an email regarding this membership, please contact me at: Lisa_Nagamine@notes.k12.hi.us.

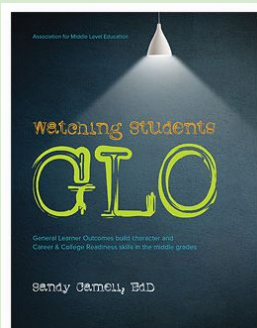
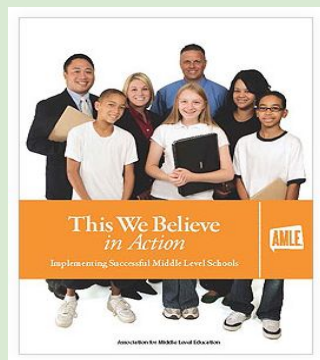
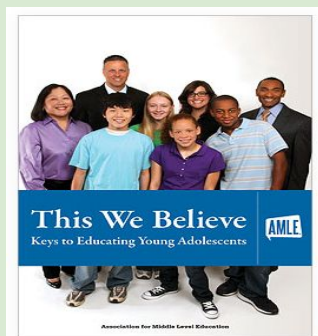
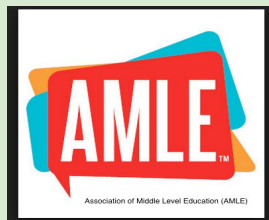
Mahalo!

Lisa Nagamine

Principal-In-Residence for HIDOE Secondary Schools
HIDOE Leadership Institute



RESOURCES FOR MIDDLE LEVEL EDUCATORS



Musings from a Middle School Librarian

Kathleen Nullet, Kailua Intermediate School

I love the annual Schools of the Future (SOTF) conference. Like all conferences and workshops, I may be aware or knowledgeable of about 80 percent of the information, but it's the other 20 percent that always inspires and transforms me, whether it's in my middle school library, online classroom, professional activities, or my personal life. What a gift to be able to say, "I never thought about it that way" and then actually change something. My goal at each conference or workshop I attend is to write down things I will follow up on and try out. Here are some of my takeaways:

Takeaway 1 - Dr. Alec Couros, Friday's keynote speaker, introduced two new concepts to me: 1) *Filter bubbles* are personalized results based on your search pattern. I had a feeling my Google searches were being manipulated. Check out [TedTalk](#) and The New York Times article [Blue Feed, Red Feed](#); 2) *Slacktivism*. Yikes! I will certainly remember that when I casually "Like" a Facebook feed. Oh the horror, realizing I can be a bit of a slacktivist! Definition: "*Political activities that have no impact on real-life political outcomes, but only serve to increase the feel-good factor of the participants*".

Takeaway 2 - Jennifer Lagarde, AKA "The Library Girl," gave three informative and inspiring talks. <https://goo.gl/eswKuN>. Jennifer's first presentation strongly emphasized the need to advocate for our libraries and our profession. There are only two types of librarians... [Zombies and Zombie fighters](#). Do you love books more than kids? Do you fail to see a need for technology in the library? Do you like quiet, empty libraries? If you said yes, then you are a zombie librarian. Fortunately, I have met very few zombie librarians. Keep advocating. Be a zombie fighter!

Takeaway 3 - I really need to start reading my Twitter account. I am missing some pearls of wisdom. I have identified a few people and organizations to follow, one being Jennifer Lagarde of course. She recommended Donna McDonald. Like physical exercise, I have to schedule 20 minutes a day to read meaningful, informative posts. If it's not on my To-Do list and calendar, it will not happen.

Takeaway 4 - Jennifer introduced online book clubs and blogs, such as "The Nerdy Book Club". You can find a great list on her website. #SOTF2016 or [Using Social Media To Cultivate a Community of Readers!](#) I also love this blog written by a young black girl about books featuring black girl protagonists. #1000blackgirlbooks

Finally, Jennifer suggested asking visitors to evaluate our library. Per her recommendation, I created a survey, using old-fashioned clipboards, paper, and pencil, and ask visitors to answer these questions:

1. What does this librarian value? What is she about? Does the librarian value kids over books?
2. What happens in this space?
3. How does what happen here impact learning?
4. Why do we still need libraries?

So, here is a list of my Big Takeaways, plus one more because I think evaluating my library is an ongoing process to hopefully prevent me from becoming a zombie librarian!



BRIGHT SPOTS & SHINING STARS

The Hawaii Board of Education (BOE) in partnership with the Hawaii Department of Education (DOE) celebrate the _____ from across the State. HAMS congratulates these exemplar educators for their inspirational work and will be highlighting those working at the middle level in the next few issues!

- **Kay Beach**, Public Charter Schools TOY, School for Examining Essential Questions of Sustainability (SEEQS)
- **Luane Higuchi**, Leeward District TOY, Waianae Intermediate School
- **Tracey Idica**, Central District TOY, Aiea High School
- **Kristi Kusunoki**, Windward District TOY, Kailua Intermediate School
- **David Mireles**, Kauai District TOY, Kapaa High School
- **Laurie Ann O'Brien**, Hawaii District TOY, Keaau High School

of the Year"

- **Jennifer Suzuki**, Maui District TOY, Maui Waena Intermediate School





Pictured: Kristin Silva, Michael Harano & Sun Man Park of Washington Middle School

Something in the Water

*By Sol G., Katie H., Von E., Alex L., Trent P.
WMS Student Reporters*

There are about 320 schools in Hawaii and yet three significant awards were given to one school, us, Washington Middle School. Mr. Harano won “Principal of the Year”, Mrs. Silva won “Counselor of the Year”, and Mr. Park won “Teacher of the Year”, how amazing. We are truly proud to have these three people working at Washington Middle School.

Although Mr. Harano is our principal, his dream job was to actually become a teacher. When he was working as a teacher he came to the realization that if he became a principal he could help more students than just the ones in his class. Throughout Mr. Harano’s career he always wanted to work with students,

“It’s far easier to work with students than it is to work with adults,” responded Mr. Harano.

He is really proud to be the principal at Washington Middle School and he loves it when students are able to accomplish their goals. Mr. Harano has lots of challenges being a principal, one of them is dealing with lots of different people and their different opinions, but he still manages to come up with a solution and move forward. This is why he deserves to be Principal of the Year.

One day when you come to Washington Middle School you might just see a farm, because Mrs. Silva’s absolute dream job is to be a counselor and also have a farm to bring kids there and teach them all about farming and the animals on the farm.

She has always worked with kids, before she could legally work she was the “neighborhood babysitter”, but it was totally not clear to her what she was going to do in college.

“My friend was talking about this counseling program and I thought it would be fun but he doubted me, and so then I tried out for the program, and I got in,” Mrs. Silva replied enthusiastically. She took that challenge and became Washington Middle School’s counselor, and she never told her friend that his challenge led her in the direction of becoming a counselor.

Mrs. Silva humbly accepted the award for “Counselor of the Year” but she still thinks she is going to change the world, but at a slower pace.

“Some challenges while teaching math are kids without a good work ethic or bad foundation. Kids don’t retain what they learn. My goal is to help students retain their learning,” said Mr. Park

This was a quote from the WMS 8th Grade Math Teacher, Mr. Park, “Some students are lazy and are unable to function in the real world. Kids sometimes forget about the things they learn in the past too.” He wants to change this problem. He wants students without a good work ethic to learn things and retain the knowledge that was lost.

Mr. Park also coaches the math team and does a great job too. He makes his team practice over and over again and makes sure they work hard. They currently have 6 consecutive MathCounts competition wins and are going for more. His slogan for the math team is “work hard, play hard.” If his students do a good job, Mr. Park rewards them with snacks and if his students get a 4.0 they will get dinner.

Mr. Harano, Mr. Park, and Mrs. Silva all have one thing in common. They all want to help students grow and succeed. All of them put students as their first priority. These individuals are helping Washington Middle School become a greater school and making learning much easier for students. All of us are grateful for these staff members and appreciate everything they do.



Professional Development Opportunities

Annual HAMS Conference - Spring 2017

The Hawaii Association of Middle Schools (HAMS) will hold its annual conference on Friday, Feb. 3, 2017. Location: Kailua Intermediate School • 7:30a-3:30p

Keynote Speakers: **Dru Tomlin**, AMLE Director of Middle Level Services and **Rick Smith**, author of “Conscious Classroom Management”

HAMS 2017 [Conference Registration Materials](#)

For more information contact: Karen Frato-Hildebrant % Kailua Intermediate School • 808-263-1500 or via email:

Karen.Frato-Hildebrant@notes.k12.hi.us

PDE3 Course: Middle School 101 (2 Cr.)

Course#: PD182022 • Section: 286127

This course is for participants who have attended this year's Hawaii Association of Middle Schools (HAMS) Conference. The course will provide participants with a basic understanding of philosophy, best practices and effective structures for middle level programming which supports early adolescents (Grades 5th-8th), with online follow-up and interaction to develop and implement Middle school best practices . Participants will attend 2-online sessions to fulfill hours and course requirements.

- PreRequisite: Paid Registration & participation at HAMS Conference (Feb. 3, 2017).
- Course Fee: \$50 payable to “**HAMS**”
- Follow-up sessions: March 18th & April 29th
- Portfolio due date: May 6, 2017 by 6:00pm

For more info. contact: Sandy_Cameli@notes.k12.hi.us

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Become a HAMS member! Annual dues: \$25/year (tax deductible)

Mail form & payment to: *(Checks payable to: **HAMS** or **DOE POs accepted**)*

Kathleen Nullet, HAMS Treasurer, % Kailua Intermediate, 145 S Kainalu Dr, Kailua, HI 96734

HAMS Membership Form - 2016-2017 SY

Name (first, last)

Position:

School/Office:

Preferred Mailing Address: *(select one: ___ home ___ work)*

Preferred Phone #:

Preferred Email:

(Optional) Feel free to share an example of “Bright Spot or Shining Star” from your school/office would you like to submit for a future HAMS Newsletter/HAMS Website item:

For HAMS Office use only:

Application Received: _____ Dues Paid: _____ Ck # _____