



poetry in the gardens

by Joshua "Mr. Josh" Morse,
Language Arts Instructor and Poet

As a poet I learned that to write poetry and to understand it a person needs to become a keen observer of the world. One way we do this in the classroom is to leave the classroom. So on March 3rd I took my freshman Language Arts class to Foster Botanical Gardens, a short 10-minute walk from campus.



Adolescents love writing poetry as a vehicle to express powerful feelings. Rather than having to invent language capable of describing what they feel inside, feelings for which they have not yet developed the vocabulary, I asked the students to wander about the garden, observing the plants there, and transcribing the things they saw - and felt - in their journals. I call the method "mood practice": a writer records her observations of the world, and thereafter, the emotions evoked by it.

Our excursion to Foster Botanical Gardens succeeded wonderfully! As a poet, I feel deeply gratified when I see the things of nature in their poems, and thereby come to know the range of their feelings, the wide swath of their experience. I begin to hope the educator's hope - that in some small way, I have helped them discover a new part of the world, and themselves.



What this place calls upon is my old memories.
From each blade of grass and every
twig, new and old,
it seems all the same to me, just as before:
the monarch butterflies that flutter,
the falling leaves, jasmine and bay laurel -
to me they're just all names,
holding no feeling, no general movement.
The only thing I feel are memories:
the dead, fallen, half-broken pods of
the silk-cotton tree,
the poisonous beauty of the oleander.
Two birds, red cardinal, black cardinal,
sit side by side for sharp eyes to see.
The pink shower tree - I laugh at the name,
for it is neither pink, nor holds heavenly
showers in flower;
but great pods of black and brown, deadly
and silent.



This place holds memories new and old.
-Anolani Bennie

From the moment I set my foot on the path,
My eyes wandered the surrounding trees,
As though I were in a jungle.

First came the mighty twins, the earpod
And Queensland kauri, which stood with
great mass and power.
I walked past them, looking forward to a silk
cotton tree.

It's bare branches and orange petals look like fall.

Throughout the day I saw many different plants,
But when I left the garden, I passed a Chinese
fur palm:

So extraordinary that I became fool of heart
from looking at it.

-Del Staggs

Message from Mr. Toyama

As we near the end of the Pacific Buddhist Academy's second year of existence, the Board and I have been assessing the progress we've made thus far toward realizing our vision: Leadership, Intellect and Spirit in the Service of Peace.

With the addition of chemistry, pre-calculus, trigonometry, European history and literature to our core courses in fall '05, we'll be well on our way to establishing an outstanding academic program. Likewise, we're developing many innovative and effective ways of bringing spiritual practice and reflection into our daily lives, including an online Buddhist Living class that we'll be piloting in the fall. Over the next few months we'll be focusing our attention on developing the leadership facet of our program.

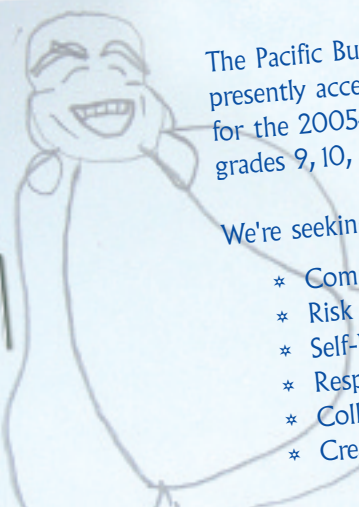


Rather than aggressive, competitive individuals who are driven by a desire for material and social status, we intend to produce a new kind of leader. Pacific Buddhist Academy graduates will draw on the Buddhist values of compassion and interdependence as they step forward to lead. By integrating leadership skills such as public speaking, conflict resolution, and discussion facilitation into all academic core courses and by providing opportunities for every student to learn and practice those skills, our students will become young adults who are open to change, self-aware and most of all, able to create and sustain lasting connections with others.

In this issue of The Wheel you'll read about the active learning experiences that are a basic feature of our program and about how we are nurturing spiritual growth through Asian arts such as kendo. You'll also have an exciting glimpse of the kind of student leader we intend to nurture.

Thank you for helping us make this dream of a more peaceful world a reality!

In gratitude,
Pieper J. Toyama
Head of School



The Pacific Buddhist Academy is presently accepting applications for the 2005-06 school year, grades 9, 10, and 11.

We're seeking students who are:

- * Committed to Peace
- * Risk Takers
- * Self-Motivated
- * Respectful and Responsible
- * Collaborative Learners
- * Creative Thinkers

Sketch by Daniel "Kau" Chin

Reflections from a Student

by Freshman, Jonathan Gates

I would like to share with you my personal thoughts and feelings about Pacific Buddhist Academy and how it has changed and enriched me over the course of the year. I would like to touch upon three different areas regarding the school; the academic challenges of PBA, its focus and mission on peace, and the school's support of spiritual growth in its students and teachers.

I feel that the academic challenges and demands of Pacific Buddhist Academy are stimulating and thought-provoking, while instilling Buddhist values of compassion and understanding. The school, because of its relatively small size, is capable of giving students much more individualized attention than most other private high schools in the state. This is a crucial element in learning, because even if the teacher is excellent, there are only so many students that teacher can competently handle at any given moment. In addition, it takes special teachers and extraordinary students to make this school a success. I feel that we as a school are achieving this goal of academic excellence not only in what we accomplish in the classroom, but how we apply it to our daily lives and the actions we take.

The school's central mission of peace is truly unique and I believe it has a positive impact on the students in



Jonathan
with his dad,
Ron Gates.

Jonathan presented a similar reflection to the 2005 Giseikai or State Legislative Assembly of the Honpa Hongwanji Buddhist temples of Hawai'i.



this school. Peace is a very important principle in today's society of violence and imperialism, and I am confident that this school will turn out individuals that are educated in the benefits and means to implement the practice of peace. I look forward to when Pacific Buddhist Academy is completely developed as a full high school, because this school is an exceptional place that will cultivate peace and good values in Hawai'i's youth.

Pacific Buddhist Academy's focus on spiritual growth is paramount to the success of the school. I believe that the school provides a positive environment conducive to the spiritual development of all the students. The positive atmosphere around the school has ensured this, and I believe this will be one of the many reasons this school will succeed in its mission of educating our youth about the importance of peace in our world of increasing violence. Thank you.

Thinking Ahead to College

In this competitive, high tech world a college degree is a basic necessity. As our first class approaches graduation, Pacific Buddhist Academy is establishing a college counseling program under the guidance of Mr. Daniel Feldhaus, who recently retired from a forty-three year career at Iolani School, thirty-four years of which he spent as the school's Director of College Counseling.



"Why do I want to attend college?" "How do I choose a college?" "Can I afford the school I want to attend?" These are questions that Mr. Feldhaus will help Pacific Buddhist Academy students consider as he guides them, along with their families, through the exciting process of college selection, application, and admission.

"We are truly fortunate to benefit from Mr. Feldhaus' experience and understanding of the college admissions process," said Pieper Toyama. Studies have shown that clear short and long term goals correlate with better academic performance. This college counseling program, "will help our students focus on how, in practical terms, they will make this world a better place."

TRIP TO KAHUKU: Experiencing Ecosystems

A Day at Kahuku High School

“Okay, you're going to WORK now,” shouted Pacific Buddhist Academy Biology teacher, Ms. C, which is short for Ms. Carbonneau. Sophomore Lori Kim turned to her and asked excitedly, “Do we get to WALK in the mud?!” “Oh yes!” replied Ms. C, “Everyone has to pick twenty-five taro leaves!” Lori gave a little shout and quickly kicked off her sneakers and rolled up her pants.

In early March, the Pacific Buddhist Academy sophomores rode the bus over the Pali to the North Shore to join Matt Kanemoto's Kahuku High School agriculture class. Students at Kahuku high school grow native plants such as kalo and koki'o ke'oke'o (endemic white hibiscus), raise hydroponic plants and breed catfish in wet labs from eggs to fingerlings. “I combine book learning with outdoor work,” said Mr. Kanemoto. This combination was not lost on the Pacific Buddhist Academy students. “Not only was it an outdoor lab,” commented Chelsea Toyama, “it was their classroom!!!”

Ms. C explained that she wanted her students to relate their textbook and classroom studies of ecology to aquaculture and horticulture in the field, and if the students' post-field trip reflections were an indication of the learning that occurred, the trip was a success. “The taro patch and the catfish...are kind of like little ecosystems,” explained Chelsea. “All had different organisms that were interacting with one another and with their environment.”

“... this school is an exceptional place that will cultivate peace and good values in Hawai'i's youth.”

— Jonathan Gates
Freshman



Sophomore Reynold Wong got into the tank to catch full grown tilapia and catfish and moved them to a larger tank.



PBA and Kahuku students work together to plant a new crop of lettuce in hydroponic trays which use a nutrient solution instead of soil.



Nick Henitz walked in the lo'i and snapped off lau kalo. Back at school, eating chicken lu'au cooked with these same leaves, he boasted, “Hey-you know these are the leaves WE picked!”

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Right Understanding | Right Purpose | Right Speech | Right Conduct | Right Livelihood | Right Endeavor | Right Thought | Right Meditation...the Eightfold Path

Practicing Compassion

In their Buddhist Living class, 9th Graders considered ways to live the Eightfold Path. A visit to the Hongwanji Mission School kindergarten class of Ashley Teixeira was an opportunity practice Right Speech and Right Action.



Clockwise, starting at top left: Shelby Taketa with Tadashi Muraki and Kyle Kawabata; Anolani Bennie with Kelsea Casabar; Brittny Ushijima with Kourney Yadao; Nadia Peer with Taylor Lau; Rey Chinen with Devin Ando; Jonathan Gates with Kameron Hall; Kristi Anne Yoshioka with Daniel "Kau" Chin; Mark Matsuoka with Lance Matsuda; Layne Nakada with Cade Ohata and Del Staggs



PACIFIC BUDDHIST ACADEMY

Leadership...Intellect...Spirit...in the Service of Peace

Pacific Buddhist Academy is a small, independent, college-preparatory high school, and part of a coordinated system of Buddhist education, pre-kindergarten through grade 12. PBA students and faculty engage in rigorous academic learning in a community that treasures each person and is strongly committed to promoting peace. Our primary concern is that our students become young adults with the skills and courage to live lives of insight and compassion.

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Golf Tournament

Mark your calendars!
On Monday, May 23, 2005, the Pacific Buddhist Academy will host its first annual golf tournament at the Waialeale Golf Course. If you're interested in golfing and/or would like to donate prizes or sponsor a hole, please call Kathi Takakuwa at 808-522-7395.

Fall '05 Admissions

We're presently accepting applications for the 2005-06 school year for students in grades 9, 10, and 11. Please call Colleen Kunishige at (808) 532-2649 for information OR go to our website at www.PacificBuddhistAcademy.org to download an application form.

Toyota's On Board for Education Program

When you buy a new Toyota Camry, Highlander SUV or Sienna minivan, designate a PBA teacher and student of your choice and they will each receive \$100. The program runs May to June 2005.

