



PACIFIC BUDDHIST ACADEMY THE WHEEL

Putting Peace In Motion

WINTER 06



A Life Lesson

PBA JUNIORS VISIT SHRINERS HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN.
DEREK KAWATA, PBA JUNIOR

I started volunteering at Shriners Hospital for Children because of the encouragement I got from my former teacher, Mr. Josh Morse, who suggested that the junior class and I volunteer at an organization over the summer. I decided to volunteer at Shriners because of the opportunities they offer to have one-on-one contact with the patients. I hope to get a job working with kids in the future. My experience at Shriners is helping me get used to being in an environment filled with children.



Shriners Hospital. We made musubis with the kids, and even played different games with them, including Connect Four, Jenga, chess, and pool. The patients had the opportunity to listen to a slack key guitar performance from Tyler Omura, a junior here at Pacific Buddhist Academy. I thought that the interaction was a success because of the enjoyment all parties experienced.

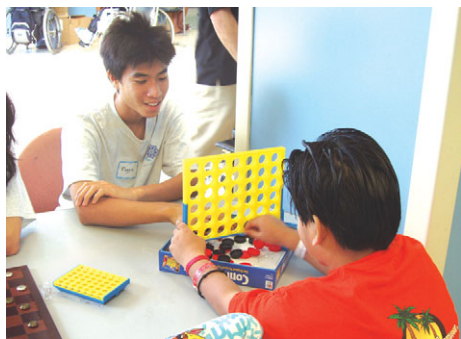
I've learned that children can be very strong emotionally, no matter what their physical condition. They never give up on what they are trying to achieve: in this case, getting better physically so they can return back home. The most important thing that I think that my classmates gained from visiting Shriners Hospital for Children was how other children are not as fortunate as we are. At the same time, they learned how to interact with people who have disabilities.



Candace Tomasu and a Shriners patient play Go Fish.

Lori Kim said, "If I were in a hospital 24/7, I wouldn't have the fun attitude they had. I'd probably be crabby or grouchy."

Reynold Wong played Connect Four with a Shriners patient and remarked, "Once you begin to talk to them, it didn't really seem like they had disabilities."



After my contract expired, I decided to continue volunteering at Shriners Hospital for another six months. They inspire me because of how strong they are emotionally; they never give up, no matter what their physical condition. I also enjoy the experiences I have with the kids; I even got the opportunity to develop close relationships with a few of them. I believe these experiences are ones that everyone should encounter at some point in their life.

On Thursday, October 20, 2005, the junior class and I went to

A Teacher's View

KATHI TAKAKUWA, BUDDHIST LIVING TEACHER

"Volunteering at changed my perspective about injured children," said Derek Kawata, a Pacific Buddhist Academy junior. "I realized they're much stronger than me." On Saturdays, Derek volunteers at Shriners Hospital for Children, a pediatric care facility that provides surgical and rehabilitative care to children in Hawai'i and the Pacific Basin. He'd come to tell me about the patients he works with in an attempt to convince me that our Buddhist Living class should visit the hospital. "Buddha was someone who always went out into the world to help others," he argued. "This experience can help us do the same thing."

Needless to say, Derek's insights and his sincere request that we "go out into the community and help others" convinced me that spending time with the Shriners patients would be a beneficial experience for the entire class. In the weeks that followed, Derek presented his idea to our Buddhist Living class. Together, we planned several activities to do with the Shriners' patients. Derek also gave a presentation about the project to the PBA families at a school wide parent meeting, single handedly raising more than \$200 from his classmates, their families, and the faculty and staff, money he donated to the hospital.

In the accompanying essay Derek recounts the class' experience. He shares his personal reflections on the service project that benefited all those involved.

Message from the Head of School

The vision of an organization is a kind of touchstone. If it's good, it's a short, memorable phrase that employees rely upon as a guideline for what they do everyday. The vision of the Pacific Buddhist Academy is Leadership...Intellect...Spirit...in the Service of Peace. These eight words capture the essence of our institution's meaning and guide our teachers and staff.



In this issue you will see examples of how students, through engagement in their student councils, clubs, and community activities, are developing leadership skills and a sense of compassionate purpose that energizes and enhances their academic studies.

Thank you for your continued support of the PBA this past year! Your contributions are making it possible for us to become an institution of educational excellence committed to laying a firm foundation for peace, one student at a time.

In gratitude,
Pieper Toyama, *Head of School*

Make a Difference Day

On Make-A-Difference Day in October 2005 PBA students and faculty made tissue pumpkins with Kuakini Day Care program participants: (clockwise from left) Daniel Chin, Mr. Pieper Toyama, and Taylor Nagata.



Authentic Responsibility

STUDENTS LEARN LEADERSHIP SKILLS THROUGH PARTICIPATION ON COUNCILS.

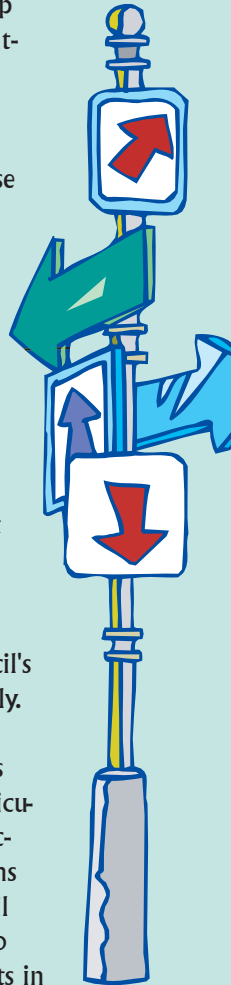
When he found food in the sink, backpacks and musical instruments on the floor, and candy wrappers and plastic Pepsi bottles in the desks, Head of School Toyama closed the door of the student lounge and locked it. "I told the students that the lounge would remain closed until they resolved the issue of caring for the room," said Mr. Toyama.

The Discipline Council, one of four student councils at Pacific Buddhist Academy, immediately took up the lounge issue. "Our council deals with preventing and taking care of discipline problems," said member Hollande Lawrence. According to Hollande, the council "talked about the main problems and brainstormed ideas to prevent those problems from happening again." She explained that the council also created rules for taking care of the lounge, including a system of Lounge Monitors responsible for cleaning and supervising use of the room and a list of consequences for misuse of the room.

"It took a really long time because there were so many issues to discuss," said Discipline Council chair, Layne Nakada. "We made the rules so that they benefited everyone, including the neighbors [who live behind the school]. We made them so that the teachers would agree to them too." At the end of the process, Layne reported the council's decision to his classmates at an all-school assembly.

PBA students participate in four student councils devoted to discipline, academic affairs, extra-curricular activities, and general student concerns respectively. "We take an active role in making decisions in the school," explained Extra-Curricular Council member Chris Date. The councils meet weekly to discuss issues that impact the daily life of students in the school and give recommendations to the school faculty and administration. By serving on councils, students practice decision-making procedures, organize activities, develop communication skills, consider other points of view and work collaboratively. They also develop a genuine appreciation for the responsibilities of leaders.

Karianne Kauleinamoku, a member of the Extra-curricular Activities Council, recently chaired a program for a group of students visiting from Japan. "It was stressful, fun and a



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Video as a Tool

PBA VIDEO CLUB RECEIVES \$1,000 GRANT.

A documentary on teen ethics from a Buddhist perspective? According to Pacific Buddhist Academy Video Club advisor Paul Cassens, this is one of the project ideas Video Club members have considered producing to fulfill a \$1,000 Hawaii Schools Digital Media grant the club received last October. The grant was authored by Cassens (a PBA math and science teacher) and funded by the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools in partnership with 'Olelo Community TV and the Hawaii Educational Networking Consortium.

The students will produce 10 minutes of video programming, to air on 'Olelo Community TV in May 2006. Other project ideas include public service announcements directed at teens and an overview of what it means to be a Buddhist high school. "Video is a powerful media tool," said Cassens. "We would like to see every student at PBA to be able to effectively use video as a means of communicating their ideas."



Video Club member, Chris Date, learns how to use a new video camera. Club members will design and conduct a course to train any PBA student or faculty member to use the camera.

If you'd like to support the Video Club by donating a piece of equipment, please call Director of Development, Kathi Takakuwa at (808) 522-7395. Presently, the club needs the following items:

Azden wireless microphone system	\$243
Azden shotgun microphone	\$297
Tripod carrying case	\$60
Vegas editing software	\$150

Authentic Responsibility

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

really good experience," she said. "Now we know how other leaders feel." When asked what it means to be a leader, Academic Affairs Council chair, Justin Tanaka, replied, "I have to be able to get everyone to work together to do their part." He admitted that this is not always easy. "I just try to get everyone to pay attention to each other," he said.

According to Mr. Toyama, the councils are achieving the goal he'd intended: students experience authentic responsibility. "Our students know that what they are doing will directly affect their school," Toyama said. "And for that reason they participate in their councils with utmost seriousness."

When the students left for winter break, the lounge had been reopened for four months. Layne reported that the rules the Discipline Council had prescribed out were working out well. "It's good that students have a voice in how we run things," he said. "In most schools they don't have a say."



Layne Nakada facilitates a discussion about the problem of gossip at a Discipline Council meeting while Gavin Oki takes notes.



Karianne Kauleinamoku reviews a preliminary budget and schedule of activities for a student retreat.



Candace Tomasu asks for a clarification during a Student Council discussion about possible electives.



PBA in the News

LORI KIM IS NAMED "ETHICALLY GIFTED TEEN".

On Sunday, November 20th, 2005, the Honolulu Advertiser published an article about the conscience of teens, "What the Brain Tells Us About Teen Choices." The PBA junior class participated in an ethics survey of nearly 100 teens from four O'ahu high schools that was referenced in the article. PBA junior Lori Kim was interviewed for the article. Go to <http://the.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/2005/Nov/20/il/FP5I1200321.html> to read the article in its entirety.

'Ethically gifted' teens enjoy challenge of 'moral' path

Just as students can excel at academics and athletics, some will have a better developed moral sense. We asked Iolani, Maryknoll, McKinley and Pacific Buddhist Academy to identify "ethically gifted" teens and define what makes them stand out among their peers.

LORI KIM



Age: 16

School: Pacific Buddhist Academy

Grade: Junior

Family: Living at home with her parents, she's the younger of two daughters.

Why she's ethically gifted: Teachers know she's a responsible teen, someone you can trust with a chore. She's even known to 'shush' other students if they're getting out of line in class. "Half the time it goes well, but sometimes..." she said with a rueful

Correction

We'd like to apologize for printing this photo in the Fall '04 issue without giving proper credit to photographer and PBA sophomore Devin Ando!





PACIFIC BUDDHIST ACADEMY

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

Pacific Buddhist Academy is an independent, college preparatory high school, and part of a coordinated system of Buddhist education, pre-kindergarten through grade 12. Guided by the Buddhist principles of interdependence, awareness, and peace, PBA students and faculty engage in rigorous and meaningful academic learning in a community that treasures each person. Our primary concern is that our students fully develop their intellectual, physical, creative, and spiritual potential, becoming young adults who embody wisdom and compassion.

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"My late husband Tom was not officially a Buddhist, but he strongly believed people of different religions should work together. Tom enthusiastically supported PBA because he believed in the school's mission of a college prep program where universal human values are nurtured through Buddhist teachings."

— Mrs. Betty Higa
*Widow of the late Tom Higa
and PBA donor*

Golf Tournament

Mark your calendars!

On Thursday, May 11, 2006, the Pacific Buddhist Academy will host our second annual golf tournament at the Klipper Kaneohe Course. For more information or 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.



Admissions Announcement

The Pacific Buddhist Academy is presently accepting applications in grades 9 through 12 for the 2006-07 school year! Please call Colleen Kunishige at (808) 532-2649 to schedule a school tour or to request an application packet.