



Mr. Ekiguchi demonstrated how to wrap and carry a bottle of sake, a soccer ball, and school books; students followed along using their own furoshiki which they had prepared by hemming the edges.



Special Visitors at PBA Experiencing Course Content

The Japanese language classes were treated to a lesson by Kunio Ekiguchi who was visiting from Japan. Mr. Ekiguchi is a popular teacher of traditional Japanese paper crafts and gift wrapping and author of several books. He taught the students to wrap objects with a furoshiki, a single square piece of fabric. Mr. Ekiguchi told stories and gave instructions in Japanese while Japanese language teacher, Hiroko Kobayashi translated.

Asian Theatre instructor, Hui-Mei Chang, invited ten students from her alma mater, National Taiwan Junior College of Performing Arts, to visit PBA. The mission of the college is to “develop creative talent, with the hope that students can bear the burden of passing down cultural heritage to the next generation.” The Taiwanese students, who were the same age as our ninth and tenth graders, performed rigorous morning physical drills and demonstrated Chinese opera make-up, stylized speech and singing, and costumes. They soundly impressed the PBA students when they explained that they study theatre from 6AM until noon, and study standard academics from 1 to 7PM!



Asian Theatre instructor Hui-Mei Chang explains the symbolism of different aspects of Chinese theatre.

The Taiwanese students teach a PBA student to use a spear.



PBA teachers believe that in addition to learning from conventional sources such as lectures, books, and the internet, students benefit tremendously from *direct*, guided experiences with course content. In these two examples PBA students had the opportunity to experience other cultures, languages, and traditions first hand.



Message from Mr. Toyama

Rather than cultivating his individual reputation and authority, the historical Buddha instructed his students to listen to his teachings, to test those teachings in their own lives, and if they discovered his teachings led to freedom and peace only then, to follow his teachings. Buddha counseled, “Be lamps unto yourselves.”

At the Pacific Buddhist Academy we take this instruction to heart and expect each student to construct her/his own understanding of what is true and real through hands on explorations, dialogue with teachers and peers in small classes, and personal reflection. The Native Hawaiian saying, “Ma ka hana ka ‘ike,” conveys a similar approach—“knowledge is gained through doing.”

“Ma ka hana ka ‘ike” —knowledge is gained through doing.

This year, PBA core classes comprise of Buddhist Living, Language Arts, Japanese Language, Algebra and Geometry, Biology and Anatomy/Physiology, Social Studies, and Asian Theatre. After school, students choose to participate in cross country, kyudo, kendo, robotics, yearbook, yoga, and slack key guitar. The 18 freshmen and 19 sophomores attending PBA this year have come from the Hongwanji Mission School, private, public, and home school situations. Their families travel from as far as Mililani and Haleiwa so that they can study at PBA.

In this fall issue of *The Wheel*, you’ll meet the PBA faculty and read about two examples of how they exercise the secular and academic relevance of Buddha’s teachings and translate a 2,500 year old approach into innovative, exciting learning experiences that fully engage and challenge each student.

Thank you for supporting our efforts to bring college preparatory academics and Buddhism together to create a school community committed to peace. We can’t do it without you.

*“Be a lamp
unto yourself”*

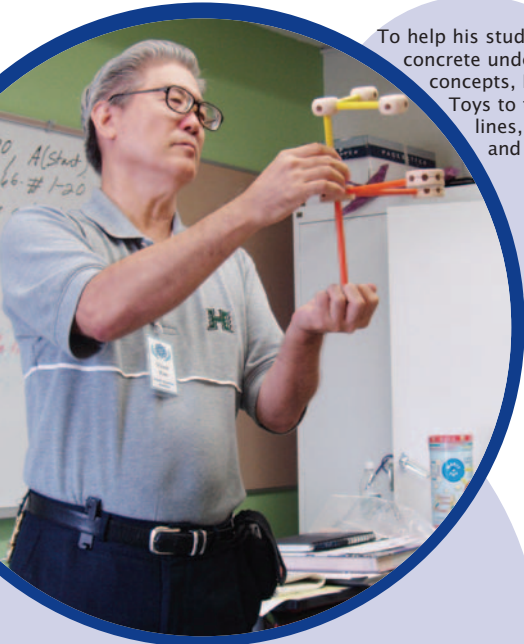
-Sakyamuni Buddha

In September, PBA Trustees Dr. Fujio Matsuda (far left) and Dr. Albert Miyasato (far right), along with Ms. Joanne Ninomiya and Mr. Ryozo Sakai, were honored with Lifetime Achievement awards from the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai’i. Congratulations, Dr. Matsuda and Dr. Miyasato! (Photo: JCCH)



Introducing the PBA Faculty

PBA students are fortunate to have teachers with a diversity of training and experience. This year our full time faculty include:



To help his students develop a concrete understanding of geometry concepts, Mr. Kim used Tinker Toys to teach a lesson about lines, line segments, rays and angles.

Victor Kim, Jr. is teaching math and Kyudo (traditional Japanese archery). He has a BS in math from Oregon State University and served in the Peace Corps. Mr. Kim is a retired D.O.E. math teacher and also teaches Tai Chi and Chi Gung in the Hawai'i Department of Education's Adult Education program. He is a life-long student of the Budo and Chinese Arts.



Returning faculty **Joshua E. Morse** is teaching Language Arts and coaching the PBA cross country team. Mr. Morse grew up in Oregon and received a BA in Anthropology and a MFA in Creative Writing from the University of Oregon. He's taught English and Creative Writing at Parker School on Hawai'i Island and has also tutored and taught Creative Writing at his college alma mater.

When asked why he's a teacher at PBA, Mr. Josh expressed the commitment to peace that all PBA faculty share, "Helping young people develop skills in communication and the means of understanding themselves and others couldn't be more important than it is now."

In a lesson about promoting homeostasis Ms. C listed conventional factors such as a healthy diet, exercise, and sleep; she also asked the students to consider ways of keeping their mental and spiritual selves in balance, i.e. positive thoughts and meditation. Ms. C explained, "To infuse the (Buddhist) philosophy into traditional subjects brings a new dimension to teaching science."



Michelle Carbonneau is teaching science, math, yoga, and advising the yearbook staff. Ms. C, as her students call her, has taught in a variety of educational settings including traditional classrooms, one-on-one tutoring, and on-line classrooms. She has a B.A. in chemistry with a minor in business administration from University of New Hampshire and also received massage therapy training Trinity College in Connecticut.

Rev. Joel strives to create a classroom environment that is, "a place to practice stepping away from the countless, noisy, troublesome distractions of the world, to study quietly, listen to each other talk about what's important in their lives, explore what we have in common...a safe place."

Buddhist Living and Social Studies instructor **Rev. Joel Merchant** has received degrees in Sociology, Political Science, Asian Studies, and Financial Services. In addition teaching at the Mid Pacific Institute, he also worked as a counselor and served as Assistant Headmaster of the school. Rev. Joel became a Shin Buddhist priest in 2003 and this fall was appointed PBA chaplain.

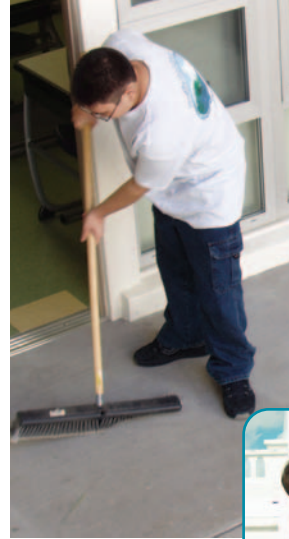


Sweeping Lessons After School Cleaning Routine

At 3PM the PBA students burst out of their classrooms and take up brooms, dustpans, and wet rags and clean their building.

The teachers created these cleaning tasks so that PBA students would have regular, structured opportunities to experience some of Buddha's most basic teachings such as the interdependence of all things, know yourself, and every choice results in a consequence.

Through experiences like this, teachers guide students through cyclic and self-reliant approach to learning: do something, think about what happens, talk about it, based on your reflection, modify your action, and begin then again.



In pairs, students sweep the four classrooms, two offices, stairs, and landings of their school building. They wipe down their desks and the banisters, and empty the trash baskets.



The teachers and Mr. Toyama all come out of the classrooms and join in by talking to the students about what they're doing.



LITTLE BUDDHA A Treasure for Students of All Ages

By Eric Matsumoto/Dharma Pleasure (Horaku)

I would like to introduce a book entitled "Little Buddha" (Kosei Shuppan, Tokyo, Japan, 1996) by Japanese author, painter, illustrator Shomei Yoh who studied oil painting at the Art Student League of New York in 1970. He has written several children's books which have gained international recognition.

"Little Buddha", written in both English and Japanese, is a wonderful book, charmingly illustrated with paintings and contains Buddhist messages throughout it. Because the reading is simple it can be understood by any age. The reading may be simple, but the attitudes and perspectives suggested by the book challenge, the predominant western view of ourselves, our world and our relationship with it. It encourages reflection and gratitude, emphasizes interdependency, harmony and oneness, and speaks of an all-inclusive compassion. Although, the word "peace" does not appear in it, the book speaks of peace of self, with others, and in the world which all begins with our attitude and perspective because that is what determines our subsequent course of behaviors and actions. Perhaps idealized, but it does present an alternative perspective giving direction and hope for a bright future.

A highly recommended reading for especially young readers, but even for older high school students and teachers the perspectives suggested can be a topic for deep discussion including comparison with other views and the possible outcome of these Buddhist perspectives when successfully embodied.

CORRECTIONS

In the Summer 2004 issue, we reported that we had converted ministers' dorms into classroom. We apologize for failing to mention that the Honpa Hongwanji Hawai'i Betsuin Buddhist Women's Association had been housed in the bottom floor of the building. We would like to thank the BWA for generously contributing their space to PBA.

Thank you for all our support! We couldn't do it without you!

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"I just wanted
to help."

2004 Annual
Campaign Update

In August we launched our first Annual Campaign, "Seeds of Peace" and over the last few months we've received many generous contributions to PBA from parents, grandparents, faculty, friends, and supporters. Though many donors apologize, "I wish I could help more," and humbly offer, "I hope it was enough," no gift is insignificant and every gift is deeply appreciated.

Gifts to the Annual Campaign support small class sizes, financial aid, special visiting instructors and excursions, excellent teaching, classroom materials and supplies, and all that falls under the school's operating budget. Thank you to everyone who has made a contribution thus far. Your gift helps PBA meet its financial goals and keeps our school healthy and strong!

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