EMMS’s Vanessa Ching to represent Hawai‘i

Ewa Makai Middle School teacher Vanessa Ching received the state’s top teaching award from Gov. David Ige and Supt. Christina Kishimoto during a ceremony at Washington Place Oct. 27.

“Developing a culture of environmentally conscious students, community members and parents, Vanessa worked to designate Ewa Makai Middle as a plastic-free school and won a refillable water station in a national contest with a powerful PSA,” said Principal Kim Sanders. “Vanessa and her students wrote grants to develop an organic garden, aquaponics and a composting program towards becoming a waste-free school. Her dedicated work has been an incredible learning opportunity for our students and our entire campus and community have been improved as a whole.”

‘ŌLELO PROGRAM

Watch ‘Designing Schools for Hawai‘i’s Future’

‘Ōlelo Community Media hosted a panel discussion on Oct. 3 on the status of public education and the Superintendent’s Implementation Plan for the Strategic Plan, focused on School Design.

“Designing Schools for Hawai‘i’s Future” featured Gov. David Ige, Board of Education Chairperson Lance Mizumoto, Supt. Christina Kishimoto, Waipahu High Principal Keith Hayashi, and Kapunahala Elementary teacher and Hawai‘i State Teacher of the Year (2016) Stephanie Mew. It was moderated by Oceanit’s Ian Kitajima, who has facilitated Design Thinking training and exercises at schools. The program can be watched on demand or streamed online (see box).

ONLINE

Watch on demand: bit.ly/Olelo-DSHF

The discussion ranges from student-directed learning to innovations in the schools, with Hayashi and Mew providing valuable insight into how they’ve seen that evolve in Hawai‘i’s classrooms and schools over the last few years. “When you talk about being entrepreneurial within an industry — the DOE is an industry,” said Mew. “And when you support teachers to be entrepreneurial and innovative... the wealth of expertise and passion in the teaching field, the teachers here in Hawai‘i — it’s golden.”

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Leadership matters

The Hawai‘i State Board of Education approved the appointment of the following leaders as recommended by Supt. Christina Kishimoto.

**PHYLLIS UNEBASAMI, DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT**

Prior to rejoining the department as the acting assistant superintendent for the Office of Strategy, Innovation and Planning (OSIP), Unebasami was an independent educational consultant, managing director at Kamehameha Schools for Ho‘olaukoa Educational Systems and Strategies, as well as a division director for Literacy Instruction and Support. During her time with HIDOE, she served in school-level, district and state positions including an administrator for the Professional Development and Educational Research Institute, deputy supt. for the Windward District Office, principal and vice principal.

**RODNEY LUKE, ASST. SUPERINTENDENT, OSIP**

Rodney Luke will serve as Interim Assistant Superintendent for the Office of Strategy, Innovation and Performance, effective Oct. 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018. Luke has been the Pearl City-Waipahu Complex Area Supt. since 2012. He started with the department in 1991 and has worked as a principal, vice principal and teacher.

**CLAYTON KANINAU, CAS, PEARL CITY-WAIPAHU**

Clayton Kaninau will serve as Acting Complex Area Supt. for the Pearl City-Waipahu Complex Area during the period of Luke’s interim appointment. Kaninau was previously the Complex Area Academic Officer. He is a former principal of Kauluwela Elementary and has worked in a variety of education roles in the department since 1985.

**KATHLEEN DIMINO, CAS, BALDWIN-KEKAULIKE-MAUI**

Dimino has been with the department since 1991 and is presently the principal at Pukalani Elementary School. She has also served as a vice principal at King Kekaulike High and Lahaina Intermediate, district education specialist, state resource teacher, student services coordinator, English teacher and special education teacher.

‘Inspirational’ leaders honored as Principal, VP of the Year

The Hawaii Association of Secondary School Administrators (HASSA) honored Stacey Oshio from Olomana School as the state’s National Distinguished Principal of the Year and Geri Martin from Ewa Makai Middle as the Vice Principal of the Year during a luncheon at the Hale Koa Hotel on Oct. 8.

“Stacey and Geri are inspirational leaders who have done an excellent job serving their team, students and school communities,” said Penelope Tom of HASSA.

Oshio practices a shared leadership style and has been working towards making Olomana a true alternative learning center. Students participate in project-based learning classes that engage students.

Martin promotes distributive teacher leadership and recognizes the value of teachers in continuing the academic growth at school. She has spearheaded the STEM movement and leads with her heart, doing whatever it takes to take care of people.

Full story and media online: bit.ly/HIDOE-NDP17

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VIDEO PROFILE: WAIMEA HIGH SCHOOL

Learn how pride and leadership fuel the academic and community achievement of this challenged westside Kaua‘i school. Watch the inspirational video: vimeo.com/238819279
Stevenson computer lab updated with assist from the Clippers Foundation

Stevenson Middle School and the L.A. Clippers Foundation dedicated a newly refurbished computer lab before students, teachers and special guests, along with members of the L.A. Clippers Foundation and the Hawai’i Tourism Authority. The Los Angeles Clippers’ Blake Griffin and DeAndre Jordan also joined the dedication ceremony with a special appearance by the team’s mascot, Chuck the Condor.

“Our students are so thankful for the wonderful generosity of the L.A. Clippers Foundation. The new computers will provide technology access to more students,” said Principal Linell Dilwith. “We want to thank the Hawai’i Tourism Authority for connecting us with the L.A. Clippers Foundation and a big mahalo to the foundation and Denise Booth for their hard work in making this new computer lab a reality.”

Stevenson Middle received a donation of nearly $40,000 in computer equipment from the L.A. Clippers Foundation, including 30 HP ProDesk desktops, two Canon wireless printers and a 55-inch television for instruction. In addition to converting the classroom into a computer lab, the donation will also provide a new central air conditioning unit for the room.

“These are not just computers,” said Gillian Zucker, president of business operations for the L.A. Clippers, “they’re windows to the world that I hope make learning fun. That’s really what we want to do. We want to make coming to school a better experience for students.”

The computer lab will be accessible to all students for the school’s digital and online programs. Stevenson’s Media/Photography Club will be housed in the new lab and will use the equipment to produce the student newsletter and document school activities. Coincidentally, the computer lab happens to have a special room number — 213 — which corresponds to Chuck the Condor’s jersey number and LA’s area code.

KAISER HIGH SCHOOL WINS INTERNATIONAL FILM AWARD

Henry J. Kaiser High School’s Media Communications Learning Center (MCLC) became the first high school from Hawai’i to compete in and win an award at the All American High School Film Festival (AAHSFF) in New York City. The short film “The Last Check” won in the category for Best Film Invitational 3 Day Shoot and Edit out of more than 30 other school entries.

Two teams from Kaiser’s MCLC were selected to compete. Micah Mew, Rosario Joaquin, Anna Garcia and Dalya Yoo’s short film “Summer Solitude” was selected as one of nine films from Hawai’i to compete in the Drama category. The other group made up of Julia Bresnan, Lucy Chalekian, Makana Richter, Tyler Bender, Gearld Canaday IV, Hunter Dias, Albert Insisiengmay, Noah Matsumoto, Landon Shigeta and Riley-Jade Yee produced “The Last Check.” The group filmed in Central Park, Grand Central Terminal and Bryant Park, and worked with a professional actor and actress in the city.

Julia reflected on the life changing experience and shared that, “the process helped me grow so much as a filmmaker. And being able to film in such iconic areas of New York City was an honor that I will cherish and remember forever.”

“The approach we took to capture the sound and achieve the correct lighting was a process we had to learn on the go,” added Landon. “This was the first time in New York for all of us, and we need to find new practices and techniques to work in a busy city.”

KAPOLEI STUDENT POSTER CHOSEN FOR CAMPAIGN

As many schools across the nation observed National School Bus Safety Week (Oct. 16-20), this year’s event was extra special for former Kapolei Middle School student, Branden Pagurayan, whose drawing was featured on the 2017 National School Bus Safety Week poster.

In Branden’s artwork, the hashtag #STOPONRED is used to depict the importance of drivers stopping for a school bus when loading or unloading students.

This is the second consecutive year Kapolei Middle School has a national winner. Melia LaFleur’s drawing was featured on the 2016 National School Bus Safety Week poster.
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I was thrilled to celebrate some of our teaching exemplars recently at the ceremony honoring this year’s cohort of Teachers of the Year, state and district — they are creative, energetic and master educators whose impacts are felt individually and broadly.

Kaua‘i’s Amanda Fretto cultivates inclusion of special needs students with the Special Olympics and United Sound programs. She has “the heart of a lion,” a colleague noted.

To ensure more students have highly effective teachers, Francine Hughes uses her 20 years of teaching experience on Maui in crafting professional development that resonates with colleagues thanks to her reflective, solutions-oriented and collaborative style.

The importance of leading by example led longtime Central District educator Gregg Iha to create the “Six Pillars of Character” program for both keiki and adults that’s still in use today.

Students learn best when they feel engaged, feel they belong, and have opportunities — that’s Erika Kaneo’s creed and she’s making that happen in the Hilo-Waiakea Complex Area.

Del Onaga’s leadership of Olomana School’s Engineering Academy makes learning relevant for at-risk youths — their “whys” are being answered.

A parent described SEEQS teacher Cristin Priolo as “a milestone person,” someone unforgettable. She’s changing lives by connecting learning to real-world problems.

Naomi Salaveria’s passion is to help students with multiple disabilities at Liholiholii El learn to their full potential, and she continues her work as a Shriners Hospital volunteer.

And congratulations to State Teacher of the Year Vanessa Ching of Ewa Makai Middle, who has initiated and implemented programs — green recycling, bike safety, anti-bullying — that inspire students to elevate themselves and their community.

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