Kupa’a Ke Kanaka
In honor of the world voyage of Hōkūle’a

By: Kaimana Manzano

Gathered in the Ellison Onizuka gymnasium were the students, parents and staff of Konawaena High eagerly anticipating the arrival of the mo‘i wahine Wailana Medeiros and mo‘i kane Bronson Leslie. Adorned in black and yellow skirts were the men and women of the court ready to take the stage for the 2018 May Day. “It means a lot being the May Day queen because it’s something I have always wanted ever since I was in elementary school” says Wailana Medeiros. “Ever since I can remember, and it’s important to my family as well.” Accompanied with Queen Wailana Medeiros and King Bronson Leslie were the representatives of the eight Hawaiian Islands; Kiana Ho’opi‘i in red for the Big Island, Malaea Tolentino in pink for Maui, Kayla Ha‘allio in green for Moloka‘i, Chelsea Sedumiano in violet for Kaho‘olawe, Tatia Denise-Mcright in orange for Lana‘i, Anaselita Taetuna in yellow for Oahu, Destiny de Leon in purple for Kaua‘i, and Trinity Klawansky in blue for the forbidden isle of Ni‘ihau. Throughout the event, there were many Kahiko and Auana dances performed by the court. But the main attraction of the show was Wailana Medeiros’ performance of He Aloha Moku o Keawe where the queen enchanted the crowd with her elegance and grace. She was dressed in a white gown, and wore a crown made of Hawaiian flowers. Right beside her was Bronson Leslie, dressed in military attire representative of King Kalakaua or the “Merrie Monarch.” Together, the King and Queen truly embodied the pride of the Hawaiian culture alongside the representatives of the court. The colors of the court were eye catching and beautiful, entertaining the audience of students, parents, and staff to no end. During outfit changes, entertainers from Oahu, including a young girl on the steel guitar, played music while her brother danced hula. Also inclusive during the waiting time was a free stage for anyone who wanted to dance to the music. Grammy award winner Mark Yamanaka also performed, soothing the crowd with his falsetto and excellent guitar playing. Collectively, the court, the audience, the music, the

Story continued on page 3...
Hawaii Supreme Court pays a visit to West Hawaii schools

Above: Everett Bettencourt asking the justices a question.

By Eloisa de Farias
West Hawaii schools gathered in the Kealakehe gym on Thursday April 26th to hear the courts in community case, state v. Kanaeiakala. During the hearing Konawaena students were able to hear a real court case put on by real attorneys and the supreme court of Hawaii as a mock trial. The hearing was regarding a witness that personally viewed Kanaeiakala enter the house in which he robbed from. The witness was under investigation regarding if she was reliable or not as she gave two different descriptions of the subject. Behind the scenes Associate Justice Richard Pollack revealed what it is like to be a Justice and the purpose of the community court event. “The purpose of the event is to bring the supreme court to the community, for us to restrict arguments to only Oahu isn’t fair” Pollack states. The Hawaii supreme court uses the community court case event to expose the students of The Big Island to law and bring awareness to the West side of Hawaii. “By bringing the court case to different high schools we hope to alert the students and inform the student that the supreme court is our court and we’re responsive to arguments and cases” Pollack mentions.

At the end of the court hearing students were given an opportunity to ask the justices questions. Various Konawaena students stood at the mic to ask questions regarding the justices lives and the case itself. Overall this was a very beneficial and educational event that allowed students to understand first hand how the Hawaii supreme court functions.

Modern Hawaiian History Gallery Walk
An interactive exhibit of the plantation life in Hawaii

By Eloisa de Farias
On April 19th and 20th during periods 1, 2, and 7, a modern Hawaiian history gallery walk was put on by students and teachers. Borromeo’s mission was to collaborate with other teachers, Ms. Sivilli and Mr. Hartford, to bring awareness to the difficulties and hardships of plantation life during the 1900’s in Hawaii. The exhibit was open to everyone including all department heads and administration. ELL, Special Education, and general education students contributed informational trifolds and other creative projects to showcase during the exhibit. “We want to use different methods such as visual arts to cater to different types of learners”, stated Borromeo. Borromeo, Sivilli, and Hartford are all Teach for America educators and are all social justice advocates seeking to close the inequality gap in education. The purpose of creating such an elaborate exhibit showcasing plantation life is to expose the school community to the implications of the illegal overthrow of Hawaii and its effects on modern day Hawaiians. Groups of students are responsible for either an ethnic group or commodity that was influential during plantation times. Students will also brought in dishes according to each culture they studied. The exhibit ultimately showcased the racism and segregation during plantation times and how this history affects modern life in Hawaii. Borromeo wants to educate the community about how the kingdom of Hawaii being ripped from their people caused the suffering from colonization that is still present in modern day Hawaiians.

Borromeo also teaches two advanced guidance classes which prepare students for the real world by learning valuable life skills as well as how to manage time and making the most out of a high school education. During these advanced guidance classes, students were given the opportunity to bring to life the exhibit and learn how to manage projects and what it takes to create a large and advanced project such as a gallery walk. “It also allows them to use their creative juices to help assemble the exhibit” Mrs. Borromeo stated.

Above: Tiana Yeaman looking through picture bride closet exhibit.

Peeps not just for eating!
Gerald Galiza’s super peep saves the day in his epic peep diorama.
May Day 2018

Students dance, chant, and sway to the rhythms of Hawaii

hula, personified the immortal culture of the Hawaiian people and made the audience reflective of their own culture, and why they should have every reason to be proud of who they are and where they come from. The theme of Kupa’a Ke Kanaka means to be steadfast, loyal, faithful, determined, and constant as one entity, this was clearly shown through this years colorful and alluring May Day performance. Mahalolo to our guest performers Mark Yamanaka & His Band, Hula Halau E Hulali Mai i Ka La, Pomaika’i Lyman, Mālie Lyman, Charles Recaido, Keola Grace, and a huge mahalo to Kuma Kahalepuna and John Naki!

Above: May Day queen Wailana Medeiros

Above: Molok‘ai princess Kayla Ha’alilio

Below: May day male and female hula performance

Above left to right: JROTC drill team and May Day king Bronson Leslie

Below: May Day Kaua‘i princess Destiny De leon

Above: May Day king and queen Bronson Leslie and Wailana Medeiros
Spring Sports: Individual Athletes Shine

Spring was the season of the individual athlete at Konawaena High, while our team sport athletes were successful and represented “Wildcat Nation” well, judo, tennis, and track athletes lead the way in bringing home BIIF gold. The Judo team produced four individual BIIF champions in Dana Sugai, Kapoina Bailey, Mark Inouye, and Hailama Anakela, while Kai Pai, Talen & Kitana Heinicke captured silver medals, and Kaanoi Yglesias took home a bronze. The tennis team saw Tayvia Yamagata take gold with the doubles teams of Ryan Ogi and Jayse Takimoto, and Courtney Kikugawa and Jaymie Kunitomo were silver medalists.

Judo Hit the Mats

Throughout high school, I was never dead set on having to win a title in judo until the opportunity presented itself to me. Once I knew that I had a good chance of taking BIIFs, I immediately started to take my training seriously; I practiced with intent rather than going through the motions and I spent hours after practice training by myself. On several occasions I threw up as a result of pushing myself too hard. This all led up to entering the doors of Waikea; I only told myself one thing, “I am going to win this.” I waited a long time to get to my matches and got through my preliminaries with ease. Going into the finals, I was very anxious as I had not beaten my opponent all season. However, I took to heart the advice of my coaches (Rodney Branco, Justin Raymond, and Chad Fujiyoshi) and followed the strategy we discussed which led to my victory. I saw the hand of the referee shoot up which signified I had won and immediately was in disbelief. Being a senior, I was beyond happy that I was able to end BIIFs in a strong way. I can humbly and proudly say that I am the boy’s 178 BIIF Judo champion.

Lacrosse Founders Cup

The boys played 4 games in Oahu of lacrosse over the course of 2 days, and there were only 4 teams because HPA dropped out of the tournament. We were the only school representing the Big Island and we are the only public school in the entire league. We beat St.Louis high school 6-0, tied the Sharks 2-2, and then beat Punahou 3-1 to advance to the championship game. It’s the first time in tournament history that a Big Island team has played in the championship game and I wanted nothing more than to be able to tell everyone that we came home with the trophy, unfortunately we did not. It was a hard fought game and our kids played with class and pride but the Sharks came through in the end winning the game 3-2. Proud to represent this school and beyond inspired by these kids of South Kona.

Girls Softball: Home Stretch

Wrapping up the softball season of 2018, I can’t help but feel proud of the progress made by my team throughout this year. We’ve conquered many valleys and peaks together, but in the end, we came together to make it to the HHSAA state tournament in Oahu. This year was about maturity, and handling difficult situations with persistence and perseverance. As a senior captain of this squad, I am overflowing with pride.
Boys Volleyball

Girls Water Polo Makes a Splash
Coach Godden encourages the girls during a break in the action.


Track and Field Running Strong
Above: Jayda Flenory captured a silver medal in the 300M and a gold in the 4x400M relay at the BIIFs. Below: Seau Amor and Paka Caucolidis celebrate their performance in the shot put at the BIIF Championships Paka took gold with a throw of 47'8".

Girls Water Polo Makes a Splash

Boys Volleyball


Baseball: Wildcats Hit a HomeRun!

Above left to right: Osaiasi Muti and Alan Cancino Magana


Above left to right: Osaiasi Muti and Alan Cancino Magana

Boys Volleyball


Baseball: Wildcats Hit a HomeRun!

Above: Osaiasi Muti and Alan Cancino Magana
COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS

Career Fair

Job opportunities for Konawaena students
By Eloisa de Farias

On Thursday, April 5th the annual career fair was held in the Konawaena gym. This was a great way for Konawaena students to get involved with the job opportunities that are available in the community. The freshmen attended during third period, the sophomores first, and juniors and seniors fifth. Approximately 35 booths were set up such as Mcdonalds, Umekes, the Army, Four Season’s, Paul Mitchell’s beauty school, HUIANNA, KTA market and many others. Students walked around and were able to listen to the visitors about job opportunities and career paths. The goal of the fair according to Ms. Serina was to provide students with job opportunities during the summer, after school, and after college. “The Konawaena High school career fair was most exciting because it was an opportunity to see the Kona community members investing in our students and our local community. We really appreciate the vendors for demonstrating their care for the Konawaena community” stated Ms. Serina. Freshman Jared Armes stated, “I liked how real the virtual reality felt at the Army booth”. A big mahalo to Bobbie Awa for helping with the event!

Where are Konawaena Seniors Going After High School?

Shanessa: I am going to Palamanui to major in business because I want to start my own makeup business.
Tara: I am going to Eastern Arizona community college to major in cosmetology because I’ve always liked it.
Corey: I’m going to Yayapai community college in Arizona to major in business because I want to create my own company in the future.
Kaiya: I will pursue nursing at Peninsula University because I want to help people like my grandma who are going through tough times.
Adriana: I am not going to college because I cannot afford it, I’m taking a gap year.

Brianne: I’m going to BYU Hawaii studying Biomedical sciences because I have a love for learning about the human body and I want to pursue a career in health care.
Rachel: I’m going to Kapiolani community college and I am unsure of my major. I am going there for two years and then transferring to UH Manoa.
Hannah: I will attend Palamanui College for two years and then transfer to UH manoa to pursue digital media arts because I love being part of a tech team and communicating with others.
Zared: I am going to MMI to get a certificate in mechanics for Honda because it’s my passion and my father is a mechanic.
Tehani: I am going to Western Washington university to major in anthropology because I love culture.

Huiana Mentorship Program

The evening of May 10th was spent with mentors, teachers and students celebrating 4 years of the Huiana program. “The most valuable thing that I was able to experience was definitely the opportunity of just seeing teachers and parents point of view on children”, China Chanthavong Xavier Chung said. “I really enjoyed learning practical skills and necessary information through the internship”. Stated Ms. Serina. Freshman Jared Armes stated, “I liked how real the virtual reality felt at the Army booth”. A big mahalo to Bobbie Awa for helping with the event!

Kona Chocolate Festival

Gives culinary students an opportunity to work with Chefs
Pictured below: Students at Hapuna Beach Hotel Kitchen Lily Frazier, Trinity Shields, Kaliko Pajimoma, Georgia Losalio-Watson
By Kaimana Manzano

The evening of the Junior and Senior prom was certainly one to remember. Cherry blossoms were centered on each table with pink orbeez and a classily typed list of each person sitting there. Gathered in the ballroom of the Sheraton Keauhou, girls and boys of mostly 17 and 18 abandoned casual dress for a night of formality which in turn blossomed them into men and women. The colors of the night were maroon and red, while the style that remained consistent was sequins. Wildcat ladies were dolled up with beautiful dresses and makeup styles, while the gentlemen were dressed to the 9's in tuxedos and adorning lei. But the students who stood out the most were the ones who were on the Royal Court. Representing the juniors were Andi Uemura and her escort Kanai Rivera, and Nanea Wall with her escort Boaz Ayers. Combatting for the crown were seniors Paka Cacoulidis and Tia Ubando against Jayden Busque and Amara Ascuncion who later won the voting for Prom King and Queen. For three hours, there were excited teenagers, eager to leave all thoughts of homework, stress, and drama behind. Senior Hannah Dumon stated, “The court dance was incredible and my squad looked fly”.

The food served that night was a combination of Kalua pig, pasta salad, bread and butter, chicken, and of course the Chantilly Cake. The music was okay, but in my opinion could have been better with the addition of slow songs and non-remixes. Nonetheless, the evening was definitively memorable. Mahalo to Mrs. Takizawa for coordinating the prom and teacher chaperones for keeping us safe.
Jeanne Kapela: A story of survival

By Rachel Sato

Born and raised in Captain Cook, Jeanne Kapela is a 23-year-old Native Hawaiian. Growing up in poverty, Kapela didn’t have a perfect childhood. Born to a single mother and the oldest of four children, she lost most of her childhood to meth abuse and drugs. Her parents were incarcerated, and she was raised by her grandmother. Being a Konawaena alumnus from the Class of 2012, Kapela knows what it feels like to be sitting where Konawaena students are now. Kapela states that she struggled a lot in school and had a hard time paying attention. Every step of the way, she struggled, until her grandma came into her life. “I was ashamed from my past but I realized that mistakes don’t dictate my future.” Because she had a grandmother who cared for her, she became the first person in her family to graduate from college.

It wasn’t too long ago that Jeanne Kapela competed and won the title of Miss Hawaii in 2015. Kapela competed for Miss Hawaii because she needed the scholarship money for college. She also competed because she wanted to make difference for herself, her family, and her community. “I used the crown for Miss Hawaii as a voice for the vulnerable people of our community.” However, winning the crown wasn’t a piece of cake. It took her three tries. She recalls being confused her first year and focused too much on the unimportant things.

Jeanne Kapela has worked with the state capitol and is running for the Hawaii State House of Representatives in District 5. This district has never had a Native Hawaiian or a woman represent it. In addition to that, she is the founder of a non-profit organization called Unite Hawaii. United Hawaii is an organization that prevents sex trafficking through the power of education. The organization takes victims to safe houses and helps them find jobs and apartments. Kapela works with victims to see where they’re at physically and mentally. She started the organization because her own cousin was a victim. When Kapela’s cousin bursted in the kitchen crying, she confessed she was sold for four years. Kapela stated that she wanted to help her but she didn’t know how. Kapela then realized that by not educating them, how are we supposed to protect them? “I started United, because education is truly the way we end sex trafficking.”

Now, Kapela has overcome poverty, incarceration, and drug abuse, showing other Hawaii residents they can too. While being an inspiration to the public, Jeanne Kapela recalls what inspires her. Dance helped her through the dark times and kept her going. She states that no matter what chaos, she had her own thing to turn to that was hers, that she could control. “It’s my anti-drug that saved my life,” Kapela states. “It gave me stability and helped me to focus on life.”

Kapela remembers the community that gave her so much, she wanted to come back and return the favor. In this case, it means fighting for a stronger educational system and more school funding, making sure that Hawaii’s affordable so that local people aren’t being priced out of paradise, and making sure that we’re actually educating kids so that they can thrive.

Kapela emphasized with passion, “I want to prove to every single person that I’ve talked to, that we can make a difference in our home, if we just choose to try.”

Teachers Appreciation Day
KSG Students treat educators to a potluck lunch!

Softball wrap up continued...

for this program. Because we are like a little family. We see each other every day for 5 months during and after school; sweating, crying, and bleeding all for the sport we love. It’s like a moment in time where you put the team above all else, even yourself because you don’t win games, you don’t win championships, the team does. We’ve messed up badly at some points, but even then the team is there to pick you up when you fall even if you don’t want them to be. We laugh, smile, even cuss each other out for messing up sometimes but after all of that, they are still there for you which is what I love most about this team. I love the sport, I love the field, but most of all, I love my teammates. It was extremely disappointing to lose against Kamehameha in the BIIF championship game, but incredibly invigorating to win the semi-final against Kohala. But at the end of these four years I have found to look beyond myself. Because the team in and of itself, is the ultimate champion. Update: As this paper goes to print the softball team has won two games in the HHSAA State tournament and advanced beyond the first round for the first time since 2014.