For our youngest keiki it may be difficult to grasp the idea of a time long ago. Children are all about the "now." Still, it is important for them to be exposed to the people, places, things, and ideas of the past. Who are their kupuna? Where did they come from? What did they do when they were kids and adults? Helping our keiki learn about these things, and providing opportunities to use all their senses to experience the past is what our Kōkua Kits have been focused on. As they begin to make connections to the past we hope it will help them to be grounded in the present, and ready for the future.

By: Kathy Fong

There is a Hawaiian saying: 
I ka wā ma mua, ka wā ma hope
To see the future we must look to the past.

In my younger days I may have looked at this saying without a second thought. But now that I’m older, I think I can appreciate these words of wisdom much more. Learning from the past (both the good and the bad) is important if we wish to proceed into the future successfully.

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By: Kelsey La Cuesta

In October we dove into our new Piko ‘Ī theme. We’ve explored with our keiki and families the connections to people and places that have come before us. Knowing who came before us and the places that we are all connected to are so important in understanding who we are today.

Some of the activities included a virtual tour of ‘Iolani Palace. ‘Iolani Palace is a special place to Hawaiians because it was the home of Hawai‘i’s king and queen. The virtual tour allowed our families to “walk” through the halls and visit the different rooms of the palace, all from the comfort of their own home. We were also able to have conversations about people from past generations and find out how certain places got their names.

This theme has allowed us to get to know more about who our families are and the beauty of their culture. We are excited to dive deeper into learning about Piko ‘Ī, exploring people and places of the past.
By: Pua Aquino
In order to hōʻihi, or respect, something, it should be properly taken care of. One thing we can do, wherever we are, is to show respect toward the ʻāina, or land, and the kai, or ocean. A simple way we can do this is by picking up our trash before leaving or even leaving the area nicer than it was when you first arrived.

Taking care of the spaces we are in not only improves those places but it makes it a safer place for those who visit. So the next time you are somewhere and see trash on the ground or in the ocean, if it is safe to pick up, please pick it up and throw it away. Just as it states in this ʻōlelo noʻeau - the land does not need us but we need it in order to survive.

ʻŌlelo noʻeau – “He aliʻi ka ʻāina, he kauwa ke kanaka.”
Land is chief, man is its servant.

By: Nida Otto
This year is quite different from other years, we haven’t been able to celebrate how we would normally celebrate with our friends and family. With the holidays quickly approaching here are some things you can do to keep your loved ones safe.

It’s not the same, but you can have a virtual party. There are many options when it comes to virtual meeting platforms, you can use Zoom, Google Hangout, FaceTime, or Skype. Ask family members to be festive and decorate their wall behind them, have a theme to dress up to, or send a recipe ahead of time and have them bring the dish to the meeting so everyone can eat the same thing. Please continue to be safe during these uncertain times, we hope to reunite soon.

Here’s a link to CDC’s recommendations for Holiday Celebrations: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-lifecoping/holidays.html