June is here! As a child, this was always an exciting month as it meant more time to play! The sun would take its time to set, so we could take more time to swim at the beach or play with friends in the neighborhood or just bask joyfully. Ahhhh, summer...

So, what does this have to do with our themes of Nā Pilina: Piko Ī, Piko Ō, and Piko Ā? As we wrap up the past nine months, we hope it has helped you see how play is the best way to expose your child to history, current happenings, and imagining what can be. The keiki have engaged in studies about some of Hawaiʻi’s great places and leaders, our own families, and how they can make a difference when they grow up by practicing good habits right now.

As we make our way through the summer, continue to engage with your child through play. Attend our Zoom classes, pick up a Kōkua Kit, and bask in the summer’s fun of learning together.

By Kathy Fong

By Naomi Patterson

Welina mai kākou!

The end of the school year is upon us; I can’t believe it has gone by so quickly! Graduation is here and we are honored that you chose to share your keiki with us, and did so during a pandemic. Give yourselves a pat on the back! As we prepare to honor our graduates, celebrate the end of one school year, and the beginning of another, I am humbled by your dedication. Virtual learning has not been the easiest experience for parents and your keiki, but look how far we have come!

How are we preparing our keiki these new changes? Some are going to new schools, some are going to join us for preschool in person, and some will connect virtually. Daily schedules and routines give children a predictable day which help children feel safe, secure, and in control of their environment. These are things that will help you and your keiki prepare for the big changes coming up in their lives. Transition is not always easy, but you and your keiki are brave, smart, and strong. I am forever grateful I have the honor to see this in all of you, every day.
Welina mai kākou!

"O ke aloha ke kuleana o kahi malihini" means, “Love is the host in strange lands.” Have you ever been to someone’s house and the first thing they want to do is feed you? This practice can be traced generations back into the Hawaiian culture.

In old Hawai‘i, every passerby was greeted and offered food, whether it was someone familiar or even a complete stranger. This ‘ōlelo no‘eau is very applicable for the things that are going in the world today. Too often we hear stories of hate and violence happening toward complete strangers. This mentality is the opposite of what the Hawaiian people stood for. So as Hawaiians and local residents of these islands, let’s pass on the kuleana, or responsibility, to be stewards of this land and take care of each other, even strangers.

CONSISTENCY AND PATIENCE ARE KEY

By: Dolly Naeole

Being a parent can be very rewarding. We develop an overwhelming amount of unconditional love and share a special bond with our children. As parents, we all want what is best for our children, to ensure they lead a happy, healthy and successful life. In addition, we want to instill in them the values of respect, humility and honesty so they can grow up to be good stewards in society. We can start by teaching them to say “please” and “thank you” from an early age so that it becomes something our children say without being asked to.

We must never forget that our behavior as parents goes a long way in setting an example for our children. When we demonstrate good manners to our children and partner, it reinforces the importance of good etiquette and respect. We may struggle with teaching manners but just remember that change does not happen overnight, so consistency and patience are key.

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