By Kathy Fong

Summer is an ideal time to “Aloha ‘Āina”! Ka Pa’alana keiki have engaged in more profound learning of ‘āina topics they have shown interest in.

The Mā‘ili Valley families are involved in a study of pineapples. In contrast, the Hope Shelter families are engaged in technology and engineering as they studied ancient Hawaiian and modern tools and created and tested their own.

The Virtual Class families studied fish and how the ‘āina’s health can affect what lives in the wai and kai. At the Boat Harbor, keiki and caregivers have been investigating kalo and canoe plants. On Hawai‘i Island, families have also been studying kalo and developing a connection to this plant and its history. The Mā‘ili Land and Hale Ola Ho‘opakolea families are enjoying their study of farms and the role of farmers. At Ke ‘Aka Ho’onā keiki have been studying various plants and discovering ways plants are used. New sprouts of knowledge and ideas have grown from all of these studies!

This month keiki will express their knowledge through various projects and share their ways to Aloha ‘Āina. We look forward to what they have to show us.

By Nessa Banas

For the past few months, our keiki have been exploring and studying the theme of Aloha ‘Āina. After months of exploration and study, keiki learned different ways they could Aloha ‘Āina from Mauka to Makai.

Our keiki studied a variety of Hawaiian tools used to aloha and take care of the ‘āina in the past and present. For their final project, keiki created tools of their own and demonstrated how to use them. Some created fishing tools while others created farming and harvesting tools.

The practice of Aloha ‘Āina can be passed from generation to generation. So, the next time you fish or harvest fruits and vegetables with your ‘ohana, remember to Aloha ‘Āina: Take only what you need and not everything you see.
Welina mai kākou!
“Kūlia i ka nuʻu” means “Strive for the highest.” This was the motto of Queen Kapiʻolani. She was an amazing woman with many accomplishments in her life. In 1890, Queen Kapiʻolani established the Kapiʻolani Maternity Home which is now known as the Kapiʻolani Medical Center for Women and Children. She never had children of her own but had a deep love for children and mothers. In 1884, after visiting those diagnosed with leprosy in Kalaupapa, she raised enough funds to build the Kapiʻolani Home for Girls. This was a home for girls whose parents had leprosy.

During her seventeen-year reign, Queen Kapiʻolani traveled to many parts of the world, including San Francisco, Washington D.C., Boston, and New York. She even attended a formal dinner at the White House, hosted by President Grover Cleveland, en route to visit Queen Victoria in England.

The accomplishments of Queen Kapiʻolani are impressive and definitely embody someone who strived for the highest. What are some of your proudest accomplishments in life? How will you show and teach your keiki to always strive for the highest, or “kūlia i ka nuʻu?”

Helping Our Keiki Get Ready for the School Year

By Denise Mazepa

It's time to get our keiki ready to start their school year and set them up for success! Do you remember the first days of school? Do you remember hoping to make friends, hoping your teacher likes you and you like your teacher, wondering what you’re going to wear or where your class is? The list goes on and on.

We can help relieve some of our keiki’s anxieties by starting early (BEFORE the first day of school). Ask them how they are feeling about starting a new school year. Take the time to visit their school and meet their teacher before school starts. Create a routine: set an early bedtime, pick out their clothes and footwear the night before, and have their backpack ready to go. Be deliberate about having a good morning so that both you and your keiki can start the day on a positive note. Finally, be patient with your keiki and with yourself: it can take time for your keiki to adjust to a new school or a new school year.