

January 30-February 3

DATES TO REMEMBER

February 13

Bring in items for bake/craft sale

February 14

Bake and craft sale~we need volunteers to man the booth!

February 15

Park visit

February 17

Teacher work day

SCHOOL CLOSED

February 20

HOLIDAY SCHOOL CLOSED

February 24

Uncle Wayne sing along

March 11

Preschool Spring Fling

More info coming soon!

PLEASE LET MS. GEMMA KNOW ABOUT SUMMER AND FALL ENROLLMENT A.S.A.P

How did plants and animals get to Hawai'i?



This week, we talked a bit more about how things came to Hawai'i by traveling in the wind. Following on from our pom-pom activity last week, we gave the children straws and encouraged them to use their "wind" to make a painting. They were delighted to notice that when the two colors mixed the painting changed color. Some

children couldn't resist using the straw as a paint brush! Resisting what you would prefer to do to follow a rule or direction is part of our executive functioning skills. Practicing these skills is important preparation for success in Kindergarten and beyond and are often imbedded into our activities. In addition to straw paintings, we added vegetation to our island model. We glued moss and ferns to the volcano as those were likely the first plants to arrive on the wind



We turned our attention to how else seeds may have reached the islands. We looked at the sprouted coconut and wondered how it came. Jacob said it would have to be a powerful wave to push it here and Patrick said it could float because there was so much water.

Sink or float?

Putting out learning into context is important for children's understanding. We used our inquiry on "How pants came to Hawai'i" as the basis for a sink or float activity. We gathered items from around the classroom. The children then participated in a simplified version of the scientific process. They made a prediction, tested their idea and recorded the results. Using graphs with children presents them with a visual way to collect data. They practice mathematical skills such as comparing and quantifying as we interpret the chart together. We were surprised when the kukui nut did not float and wondered how it made it to Hawai'i. Again, the children noted that maybe it could float in the ocean because it was bigger.



Maui Nui Botanical Gardens Reflections

Each child has a reflection journal in which they record their memories from classroom events or long weekends at home. This week, some children drew and dictated about the botanical gardens. We also used the Hala seeds that we collected as paintbrushes. The children guessed that the seeds floated here because they were light. When we tested them in the water table, they did indeed float. Next week we will continue to learn more about plants that may have floated here adding some to our island model and making sensory bottles with seeds we collect on our park visit.

