



Imua Inclusion Preschool Newsletter

January 9-January 13

DATES TO REMEMBER

Monday January 16

NO SCHOOL

Wednesday January 18

Walking trip to the park

Friday January 19

POG meeting 330pm

Wednesday January 24

Walking trip to the library
& farmer's market

Thursday January 25

Uncle Wayne sing along
1030am



Jenna finds a friend in
Madelyn on day 1!

We had a wonderful first week back. Everyone was happy to be back together again and we welcomed our new friend, Jenna. The children explored our new room arrangement and discovered some different materials that appeared over the break.

We began our week by cleaning out the garden since we hadn't been here for such a long time there was some work to do! The children pulled out weeds and our dead sunflowers and we tried to replant a papaya tree that was growing in the wrong place. Some of the children noticed that our new blocks inside look like the same kind of blocks our garden is made of.



Kees created our "Imua Botanical Gardens" inside using the blocks. The bamboo blocks became the plants. We will continue to work in the garden as the weeks progress. We are planning on planting a native plant area and, later, a canoe plant area. Currently, we have a few native plants scattered about the playground. Our ilima is thriving and our naupaka is doing ok. Unfortunately, our Mamake died and our Hawaiian cotton plant looks a little sad. Any gardening advice is greatly appreciated!

What Makes an Island?



Our big question for the children this week was where did our islands come from. We got many creative answers some of which connected to the stories of Maui pulling the islands up out of the ocean, others mentioned Pele, some children thought they came from out of space and others suggested that God had made them. An element of truth exists in all of the children's theories. We used this discussion to connect to volcanoes and began our study. The children drew their



first pictures of volcanoes and explained what they were making. "Lava!" exclaimed Ethan while Jacob and Zoe gave us a detailed description including some rudimentary plate tectonics explanation. The topic of volcanoes is engaging for many of the children at different levels and offers a variety of exciting medium through which to learn.



After discussions and looking at books and pictures of volcanoes, we invited the children to make their own out of clay. We used real clay that can wither air dry or kiln dry. Offering children real tools and materials is respectful of their capabilities. They were each given a mason board platform and a lump of clay. As they began molding there was a constant hum of chatter. Mostly self-talk, as the children described aloud what they were doing. "If I spray the water here, then I can smooth the side." "I can make this the hole and then the lava will come out!" This self-talk is an important part of the learning process and eventually becomes internalized. The children are literally thinking out loud! Next week, we will invite the children to paint their creations and name them. Later, we may just find a way for their clay volcanoes to erupt with lava...but not yet.

