



## Imua Inclusion Preschool Newsletter

May 9-13

### Dates to Remember

#### May 18

Walking trip to the park. Dress in Imua shirt

#### May 26

Uncle Wayne sing along

#### May 27

End of the year celebration  
Garden Party~info coming soon

530pm-700pm

#### RSVP by May 20

#### May 30 Memorial day

**NO SCHOOL**

**May 31-June 3 Teacher work days/family visits**

**NO SCHOOL**

#### June 6

First Day of Summer Session

### Glorious Mud!

This week, we experimented with clean mud and dirty mud. Inside, the children grated ivory soap and toilet paper mixing it with warm water to create clean mud. Outside, with all the rain, our soil outside turned into a mud pile that was too hard to resist.

Mud play is good for children on many levels. It engages all the sense and provokes rich vocabulary as we squelch and squish and ooze. Children use this open ended medium to express their creativity, enhance their fine motor skills and practice science and mathematical concepts.

Mud play encourages the development of positive dispositions: independence, cooperation,

communication, curiosity, and responsibility. Children learn to work cooperatively in small groups, complete tasks, develop independence, enhance communication and social skills, and experience pride in completed creations.

Connecting with nature is an important part of childhood and being in the mud

gives children that direct connection. It can also promote healthy immune systems and is calming. Soon, our mud pile will be gone but our garden gives us lots of opportunities to stay connected to nature and play in the mud. We were excited to discover our first tomato growing and our kale is getting bigger. The sunflowers are getting taller. The children are noticing these changes and checking on the progress each day. Next week, we have to spend some time pulling up weeds and adding worm castings from our vermicompost bin. The children will help to separate the worms and eggs from the castings and add this nutrient rich resource to the garden.



## Mochi Making

Mochi was on the menu this week as a residual from last week's children's day celebration. The children worked with Ms. Jen to follow the simple recipe measuring and adding ingredients. The end result was delicious. Also left over from children's day was a fish kite project that some children continued to work on with Ms. Lyn. Next week in the kitchen, the children will make trail mix snacks to eat at our campsite. We will include protein, fruit and carbohydrates and will discuss the bodies need for various nutrients.



## Bird Watching

The children made binoculars this week to add to our dramatic play camping theme. We decided to leverage an ongoing interest in birds and use this as an opportunity to learn about some of our native and non-native species. Laminated birds were placed all around the playground and the children used their binoculars as they searched for them. When they discovered a bird, they called out it's name to their friends. We included the familiar Nene, Mynah and Cardinal but also added birds like the l'iwi and Apapane. We connected discussions back to our endangered species discussions in April. Many of the children were sad to learn how many of our native birds are becoming endangered. The Hawaiian Crow is particularly sad as there are none left in the wild! At circle time, we talked about similarities and differences of the birds. Ms. Gemma asked the older group why they thought the l'iwi had a curved beak. They thought for a moment and then Monty piped up with excitement, "Oh, I know! Just like th hummingbird has a long beak to drink nectar I bet it drinks nectar too!" Next week, we will continue our bird discussions and include a bird watching check list to take with us to the park on Wednesday. The children noticed last time that our friend, the Kolea bird, was not there. Kolea is a migratory bird that leaves each summer for cooler climates and returns in the winter with the whales. We will add Kolea to the check list just to reignite that conversation. Please remember to dress your child in comfortable footwear and their Imua shirt on Wednesday. Also, apply sunscreen and maybe a hat. We were very hot last time!

