February 2012
“I ka nana no a ‘ike.” “By observing, one learns.”
Kākau Mea Nui (Writing Matters) is a grant-funded project that has been working with the teachers here at WEIS to improve students’ writing skills. The project’s main goals are to increase the amount of time that students spend writing every day and to improve the quality of students’ writing. To achieve these goals, the Kākau Mea Nui team shares different writing strategies and tools that can help students organize their thoughts and ideas. If you have visited your child’s classroom in the past few months, then you may have noticed a writing time chart posted on the wall. These time charts are helpful for students, teachers, and parents because they show how much time teachers provide for students to write and the types of writing opportunities that teachers offer. To help students organize their ideas, Kākau Mea Nui has introduced two writing strategies across the grade levels: bubble maps and the “What-Why-How” strategy. Let’s work together to find ways to make writing fun and important for everyone in the ‘Ohana. Let’s build a voice in our Waimanalo Community. Mahalo Nui Loa! Check out our website at: http://www.cdshawaii.edu/writingmatters for more information.

September 2012
“E Ho’omau ka ‘ike” Continue to Learn
Aloha family, friends, and staff of Waimanalo Elementary and Intermediate School. Last school year, Kākau Mea Nui (Writing Matters) kicked off the first year of its partnership with WEIS. The goals of this joint effort are to increase the amount of writing that happens in classrooms every day and to improve the quality of student writing. Last year, the Kākau Mea Nui team shared different writing strategies and tools with the teachers to assist students in organizing their thoughts and ideas as they began to write. This year we will continue to work towards our goals. Students will continue to use prewriting strategies, like Bubble Maps and the What-Why-How, to organize their ideas. In Language Arts classes students will continue on their journey through the writing process to compose paragraphs and essays. To develop opportunities for student to write in other subject areas, the Kākau Mea Nui team will provide teachers with many fun strategies to develop and support a school wide initiative to have students summarize regularly. The Kākau Mea Nui team will continue to work, share, and encourage teachers to utilize these techniques to increase student-writing opportunities. More writing opportunities will lead to greater learning and retention in all content areas. We encourage you to ask your children to share their work. Ask them about writing strategies used daily. Perhaps you may even ask them to write at home by posing a question about an issue, a change, or an event in our Waimanalo Community! We appreciate your continued support of your child’s learning.
October 2012
Kākau Mea Nui (Writing Matters)
Aloha Waimanalo Ohana. It’s been a great start to a new school year for the Kākau Mea Nui project. Teachers are using writing strategies daily to promote writing opportunities. Through these daily writing activities, students are learning to organize their thoughts and ideas, improve the quantity of their writing, and to enjoy the act of writing.

One of the strategies your child has learned is the 3-2-1 Summarizing Strategy. This strategy promotes critical thinking about any concept or lesson. Students use the 3-2-1 strategy to demonstrate their understanding of the information they have learned by summarizing key ideas and identifying interesting information. With this strategy, students are asked to identify 3 things, then 2 things, and then a single thing about the lesson. For example, “explain three new things you learned from the lesson,” “identify two things you are confused about,” and “describe one way you can apply what you’ve learned.” This strategy is versatile, and can be used across content areas with any lesson or concept either verbally or in written form. We encourage parents to be familiar with these strategies so that you may assist your child/children at home in becoming not only a better writer, but a better learner as well. Curious about what your child did at school today. Ask them to give you a 3-2-1 of their day.

Mahalo for supporting your child’s learning. Check out our website at: [http://www.cdshawaii.edu/writingmatters](http://www.cdshawaii.edu/writingmatters) for more information.

March 2013
”E kuhikuhi pono i na au iki a me na au nui o ka ‘ike” Instruct well in the little and the large currents of knowledge.
Aloha Waimanalo Ohana.
The Kākau Mea Nui (Writing Matters) Project has continued to aid in the development of a writing program that provides WEIS students with the appropriate tools and opportunities to becoming successful writers. As teachers continue to implement different writing strategies, your child is writing frequently. The teachers are learning too, from their fellow teachers. Teachers are sharing their ideas and experiences with one another so that all students are getting to participate in exciting writing opportunities. Students have grown a willingness to write and have become comfortable with writing and summarizing strategies that have been introduced.

Summarizing strategies, such as the 3-2-1, the Gist, and the Frayer Model are being used in class regularly to allow students to use writing to help them learn about the different subjects. The use of the writing process and prewriting organizers like the What-Why-How and bubble maps are helping students learn to improve their writing. We will continue to support teachers and students in their efforts to learn how to write and using writing as a tool for learning. I invite everyone to come see our KMN bulletin board located in the front office. You can see some excellent examples of writing that the students have done. We congratulate Mrs. Ho’s 4th grade class who had won our “Slogan Contest” last semester. “Start Writing Today, Reach Your Goals Tomorrow” serves as the heading on the board. The writing bulletin board is a great school wide
initiative that has created a “buzz” and a sense of pride and accomplishment. Being familiar with these strategies may assist you in helping your child/children at home. Working together, we can help students become not only better writers, but better learners as well. Be curious about what your child did at school today. Ask them to tell you about the writing they did at school.
Mahalo for supporting your child’s learning.

April 2013
”A’ohe pau ka ‘ike I ka halau ho’okahi” “Not all is learned in one school.”
Aloha Waimanalo Ohana. We’d like to say, Mahalo for your continued support of Kākau Mea Nui (Writing Matters Project) as this school year is nearing its end. We will continue to provide and support teachers with different writing strategies and tools that they are able implement in their classrooms daily. These appropriate tools and strategies helps a student not only understand the importance of Writing to Learn and Learning to Write, but creates opportunities in their success into becoming great writers. Students are continuing to build more interest in writing as they better adapt themselves to strategies such as, the 3-2-1, Frayer Model, WWH, Bubble Maps, and the use of Summarizing. These strategies have proven successful in organizing their thoughts and ideas in which increases not only the amount that they write, but the quality of their writing. We invite everyone to come and see our KMN Chart board located in the front office on the right side wall. You can see the progress of writing that the students have done. We do encourage parents to be familiar with these strategies so you can better assist your child/children at home in becoming a better writer. Start by asking your child/children to give you a strategy they used in school today. With summer approaching think of topics that your child/children could write about such as, a family vacation, a special event, or issues of Waimanalo, etc. Mahalo nui for your continued support and encouragement in your child’s learning. Check out our website at: http://www.cdshawaii.edu/writingmatters for more information.
November 2013

Kākau Mea Nui (Writing Matters)
Aloha Mai Kakou! On October 23rd, Kākau Mea Nui joined in on the fun at Literacy Night along with our Waimanalo ‘ohana. Special guests, and book donations from ALU LIKE Native Hawaiian Library were part of the fun. Families and students enjoyed Hawaiian Story Telling, along with a descriptive writing activity about memories that matter entitled “I Am From.” It was nice to see children and their parents and grandparents participate in writing and reading too. We would like to share a sample template with you, hope you can do it with your family! Have fun!!!

I am from ___________ and from ___________. (Describe things in your house)
I am from ___________ and from ___________. (Describe things in your yard)
I am from ___________ and from ___________. (Describe things in your neighborhood.)
I am from ___________ and from ___________. (Names of people in your ‘ohana)
I am from ___________ and from ___________. (Sayings heard around your home)
I am from ___________ and from ___________. (Food / dishes)
I collect my memories __________________________. (Describe how you keep these memories.)

It’s fun to read and fun to write, especially when it matters!

February 2014

Writing to Success With Kākau Mea Nui Aloha ‘Ohana

The Kākau Mea Nui (Writing Matters) Project continues to work with teachers in improving students’ writing here at WEIS. Students have increased their quality and quantity of writing, and have shown great progress and confidence in learning to write, and writing to learn. The Kākau Mea Nui project is now assisting teachers to help students in Self-Assessing their own writings. This gives the students the opportunity to develop the habit of Self-Reflection, learning the qualities of good work, how to judge their work against these qualities, how to assess their own efforts and feelings of accomplishment, and how to set personal goals. We anticipate great opportunities and exciting new challenges as their writing success continues. We encourage you to ask your child/children about something they wrote, or a strategy they used, or a reflection that they may have done in class. Have you been able to visit our Kākau Mea Nui Chart Board located in the Front Office? If you haven’t yet, please stop by and see the progress in writing that the students have made. You can also visit your child’s classroom. You may notice posters on the wall that exhibit different writing strategies that teachers provide in their respective class. Encourage your child/children to write, and to write about what really matters to them. Check out our website at: http://www.cdshawaii.edu/writingmatters for more information.
March 2014
“Kokua aku, Kokua mai” Help and Be Helped
Aloha Waimanalo ‘Ohana. The Kākau Mea Nui (Writing Matters) team continues to work in collaboration with teachers here at WEIS. Our goal is to increase the quantity and quality of student writing daily. This will assist and provide students with the necessary tools and strategies in which will continue to help and prepare them in becoming successful writers. We encourage you to continue to work with your child/children at home. Ask your child/children about writing strategies that they’ve learned. Ask them which strategies they like to use, and why. Give them something to write about. Suggestions would be, a special event, something new they experienced, a recent family trip, a community issue, something that matters to them, etc. Mahalo for your continued support in your child/children’s learning.

April 2014
Kākau Mea Nui (Writing Matters)
As our KĀKAU MEA NUI team continues to work with teachers, and students, with different ways of becoming an effective writer, how can `ohana help in developing a voice for youth, family, and community. An old Hawaiian proverb goes… E waikāhi ka pono i mānalo. (It is well to be united in thought that all may have peace.) This ‘olelo no`eau encourages all of us that in order to have peace we need to communicate, and work together. Here’s a fun suggestion for writing about what matters to you, and your family. Start with a photo of family, a place, or an event, share stories around that photo. Have your kamali`i caption, and write something special that he/she would want to remember to share with their future families someday. Combine the photos, and writing in your `ohana scrapbook, or even a digital scrapbook. For example: March 17th 2014 Kaiona Beach Baby Party Leslie-ann Kaiwimoku Grant made a year old today. My tutu “Kaiwi” gave her special name to my baby sister. My tutu said that she was named Kaiwimoku because she was born on a boat crossing on the Kaiwi Channel from Moloka`i to Oahu. Have fun writing!

May 2014
Kākau Mea Nui (Writing Matters)
Aloha Waimanalo `Ohana! We are coming to the end of this year and the completion of our training to teachers on Writing Strategies, Kākau Mea Nui. We are happy to say that your kamali`i are growing and improving in their writing skills. Thanks to your teachers, staff, administration and you!!! Mai poina, don’t forget, ‘A`ohe hana nui ke alu `ia, No task is too big when done together by all. Let us continue to strive in building the foundation of our children, so they can be the builders of a Pono future for our Waimanalo. Start writing today, reach your goals tomorrow! Our website at: http://www.cdshawaii.edu/writingmatters will remain open for you.