



Sunshine Newsletter

October 2023

Upcoming Dates to Remember:

October 6, 2023,
No School
Professional
development/parent
conferences

October 27, 2023
School Photo Day

October 11-24, 2023
Kali on Vacation- Julie will cover
in the Sprouts classroom

October 28, 2023
Sunshine Family workday 8-3

Building community

Sunshine school values community! Our school community, classroom community, and our Kailua community! A few recent activities that support learning about communities:

Seedlings: Parents visiting sharing their jobs in our community

Sprouts: Led the drive for collecting items for Maui recovery

Shoots: Collection of postcards for across the county and around the world. Learning about our world

Sunshine plus: Good neighbor day, taking homemade goodies to our neighbors.

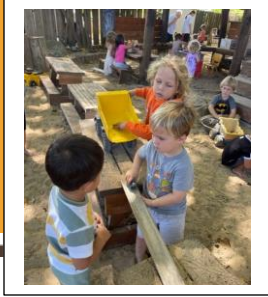
School wide: Walking trips in our community, parent nights, and family activities

More to come throughout the year! Thank you for making Sunshine School an amazing community!

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."

~Helen Keller

Problem Solving



A key part of our program is learning how to solve problems. Problem solving involves building communication skills, self-expression, negotiation, critical thinking, and empathy and so much more, this process takes time and support!

An important part of this process is to identify what the problem is and whose problem it is. We find that times children say, "so and so did... fill in the blank..." and look to the teachers to solve it for them, which does not teach this important skill. We are empowering the

children to stick up and speak up for themselves with support from the teachers. We support them by giving guidelines, support, and a script. Here is a simple example of how we build the skill of problem solving, first each person involved in the conflict gets a chance to talk and share their side of the story. The next step is to ask what the other person needs. For example: a child knocks down a building built by a friend. The child stops and expresses what happened, then either finds out it was an accident, or the child asks them to help rebuild it. Some

of the "problems" turn out to be accidents. We have now included encouraging children to say, "sorry that was an accident, how can I help fix it?" before it becomes a bigger problem. Our goal is to help the children learn how to solve problems and communicate their needs. Again, this takes tons of practice.

One critical point we are focusing on is teaching the children to say, "I need help to solve a problem." Especially when a friend may not be listening.

Problems are a part of everyday life. We feel are inspired to support learning this important life skill and empower children.

Upcoming family workday –Oct. 28

Evan Knight, a long-time friend of Sunshine School will be coming to lead our first family workday. Evan has done many projects around the school: the train, the stage on the front playground and many others! He has a nonprofit called AOK foundation, dedicated to community service and supporting communities.

Please visit his website to learn more about his organization and the cool things they do.

<https://www.iamevanknight.com/>

AOK FOUNDATION SUNSHINE SCHOOL



JOIN
US

October 28th, 8am - 3pm (BBQ from 3pm - sundown)

Building, Fixing, Creating, and much more!

Bring Close toed shoes, clothes you can get dirty, sunscreen, water bottle and tools if you want. Lunch and Dinner will be provided.

175 Kihapai St A, Kailua, HI 96734

iamevanknight.com