

# La Pietra *Days*

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Volume 6

[lapietra.edu](http://lapietra.edu)

# H O ' O M A U

LA PIETRA







# Welcoming New Horizons

➤ **Aloha kākou!** Welcome to the 2021 edition of *La Pietra Days*, the magazine of La Pietra - Hawai'i School for Girls. It is my pleasure to introduce you to this issue, which highlights our students, alumnae, faculty, families, and friends, giving you a sense of what has been happening in their lives and in the life of the school. Given the extraordinary events of the past year, it will not surprise you that our unifying theme for this issue is *ho'omau*, the Hawaiian value signifying perseverance and persistence.

As you can imagine, everyone's "La Pietra days" were like none other in the 2020-2021 school year. After finishing last year with two months of distance learning, our students were excited to come back to campus in early August. Unfortunately, that only lasted for two days due to a sudden, sharp rise in COVID-19 cases

due to community spread. Some may have found this frustrating. Admittedly, I was one of them. But nevertheless, we all got to work, doing what needed to be done amid the circumstances. We worked hard to ensure that teaching and learning would continue in accordance with our usual high standards. That is, we engaged in *ho'omau*.

As we learn from the Hawaiian culture, *ho'omau* is not merely to persist or persevere, but to do so in a way that makes one more resilient over time and, by extension, more courageous. Friends, as you know, it would be uncommon to describe an LP-HSG student as one who lacks courage, yet the setbacks and obstacles they encountered this year seemed to strengthen and even further their resolve, their resilience, and their singular purpose to improve themselves and the world. For example, when we had to do our co-curricular school assemblies (today's version of "Morning X") via videoconference, our students carried our traditions on from their homes and segregated classrooms with their usual cheerful and good-natured attitude, as if very little had changed.

The willingness to take on a challenge was still there, whether in schoolwork or in simply getting organized for school each day (books - check; ID - check; water bottle - check; mask - check; temperature check - check!). The willingness to reach out to others to make them feel valued and cared for was still there, whether in a structured Big & Little Sister event or in countless daily interactions. The willingness to take a calculated risk was still there, whether in designing a class project or in adapting one's Halloween costume to a virtual environment (yes, we still had costumes for Halloween).

In fact, in a way, one could say that very little *had* changed. We were all still the same people: students who applied themselves to their learning, teachers who adapted their instruction to the needs of those students, and families who worked in partnership with the school to enable the next generation to succeed. Our community strengthened its resilience and its courage together. Together, we adapted and we overcame - *ho'omau*. This is how I know

... *ho'omau* is not merely to persist or persevere, but to do so in a way that makes one more resilient over time and, by extension, more courageous.

that if, by some awful stroke of luck, we find ourselves in another pandemic or some other disruptive situation, we will be able to face it with the confidence that comes from having weathered a storm and witnessed the ensuing calm.

Yet there is another element to *ho'omau*: creating long-lasting good for others. This idea strikes me as an elegant way to describe the purpose of education, as well. What greater purpose could any school have than to do good in such a way that is long-lasting? Friends, I know you will join me in recognizing exactly that in our students, faculty, and alums. I see it everywhere here at school and I know you will see it too, as you peruse this issue of *La Pietra Days*. We have much to be proud of and even more to be grateful for, chief among those is this special community to which we all belong. We are glad to have you with us.

Aloha,



Josh Watson, Ed.D.  
Head of School



## About La Pietra

### OUR HISTORY

Established in 1964, La Pietra – Hawai'i School for Girls was the vision of a small group of forward-thinking women. They believed that girls in Hawaii would thrive in a school built just for them.

More than 50 years later, La Pietra continues to be a place where young women flourish in a supportive community valuing each girl's journey toward purpose, passion, confidence, and success that they themselves define.

Housed in the former Tuscan-villa-inspired family home of Walter Dillingham, we at La Pietra treasure the balance of old-world Classicism and the natural, vibrant beauty of our island that coalesce on our campus. La Pietra, the original name of the villa our campus was designed after, translates to "the stone." Our mission is to be the foundation of a girl's journey.

Lorraine Day Cooke, Barbara Cox Anthony, and the tireless board of trustees opened the Hawai'i School for Girls in 1964 at Central Union Church. It consisted of nine founding teachers, 210 girls, and Head of School Joseph Pynchon. After purchasing the Dillingham Estate in 1969, HSG relocated to its current location. Mrs. Anthony joined the school's board of trustees, where she served many years as Board Chair. Under the strong leadership of Mrs. Anthony and Mr. Pynchon, La Pietra flourished. It remains the island's only secular independent girls' school.

Today, La Pietra – Hawai'i School for Girls is an independent, college preparatory school for girls Grades 6 through 12. The student-teacher ratio is 7 to 1, assuring full attention to every girl. The school is fully accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). The school is a charter member of the *Hawaii Association of Independent Schools* (HAIS) and a member of the *National Association of Independent Schools* (NAIS).

### OUR VISION

We educate young women to lead a life of purpose.

### OUR VALUES

#### *Confidence*

Passion and self-confidence are as important as ability.

#### *Identity*

Character is as important as success.

#### *Curiosity*

Creativity is as important as critical thinking.

#### *Kahiau*

The Hawaiian concept of selfless giving, without the expectation of return or reward.

EDITOR'S NOTE

# Ho'omau + Remembering Our Community

No community was untouched by the COVID-19 pandemic. You have likely heard the sentiments dozens of times: "an unprecedented year," "unprecedented times," "unprecedented circumstances." However, no words can describe the endless definitions of loss this pandemic has caused. We know members of the La Pietra - Hawai'i School for Girls community faced losses over the past year and a half. We also know that this magazine, full of words, will not offer the complete closure of such losses. However, we hope the stories gathered here, along with the images of our students learning in a time unlike any other, and a look at our community's future, unwritten and unbound, offer, if anything, a spark of happiness and a spark of purpose.

As a member of our 'ohana, we forever value who you are and what you do in your individual lives. The theme of this issue of *La Pietra Days* is *ho'omau*. Meaning *resilience* in Hawaiian, we believe *resilience* is at the core of every La Pietra graduate, regardless of the circumstances in the world as they take their final walk across the Great Lawn. In this issue, we highlight those who have demonstrated *resilience* before, during, and after the pandemic.

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# Faculty Spotlight

Athletic Director Ross Kinsler Acts as Backbone of La Pietra Sports

BY SIERRA ACKLIN

PHOTOS BY PAUL STROUSE

➤ **The spring and summer 2020** athletic seasons at La Pietra were unlike any other. The arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic signaled new challenges, but it also exemplified the dedication, adaptability, and resiliency of Athletic Director Ross Kinsler, the athletics department, and the intrepid students of La Pietra. Through communication, passion, and vigilance, the athletics department and students were able to stand together through an unprecedented time and represent their school proudly.

## A Dedicated Director

Kinsler led the way through uncharted times with grace. He first came to La Pietra after his time as a tenured coach and teacher at St. Andrew's Priory School for Girls and Assets School. As a coach and father, his passion for sports made him jump at the opportunity to work in athletics full-time. His experience allows him to make great use of La Pietra's expansive facilities for sports such as the Great Lawn, gym, pool, and surrounding areas like Kapiolani Park, Kaimana Beach, and Diamond Head. With these spaces, La Pietra is able to maintain a thriving sports program that provides students with multiple sports to experiment with and discover their passion for athletics.

Kinsler's arrival at La Pietra coincided with the departure of former director Beth McLachlin. Their





Kinsler's hard-working personality encourages athletes at every grade level.

shared philosophy of physical education guaranteed La Pietra's ongoing commitment to a sports program that will allow students to flourish. Kinsler's philosophy of athletics is that physical education should be about enjoying yourself, having fun, and always giving your best effort. He believes that the school's athletics program teaches students how to prosper by having an active lifestyle, or as he put it, "encourages fitness for a lifetime." Through athletics at La Pietra, students not only learn about being part of a team but the coping skills and the character traits that will make them successful in the bigger picture of life, not just on the court.

### A Growing Program

Before the pandemic, recent La Pietra athletes achieved major successes in sports. Two Lady Panthers represented the school as top swimmers in the state, the 2019 volleyball team participated in the 2019 Hawaii High School Athletic Association (HHSAA) tournament, and students involved in paddling received scholarships to college based on their athletic merit. The program was also growing. La Pietra began to offer 17 sports in conjunction with Interscholastic League of Honolulu (ILH) and Pac-Five, such as swimming, soccer, beach volleyball, tennis, and more. Pac-Five is a community of smaller schools, which sometimes combines student players to meet team guidelines and participate in tournaments. Kinsler says one of the most rewarding experiences is watching a young student who may be shy find a passion for sports and eventually grow into a confident and successful player through the support of the connections they make on the court.

### Reimagining Ways to Play

The first weeks of the pandemic brought the spring sports season to a national halt. Hawaii's first wave of pandemic shutdowns aligned with La Pietra's spring break. The entire school and athletics department had a few weeks to plan, but the virus was so new and mysterious, it made the future of sports seem murky. Even with that, the sports program continued to work diligently (and with other schools in the Pac-Five) to adapt. The most important task was to maintain the experiences that sports and athletics provide for students. Kinsler and his team focused on collaboration, school pride, physical activity, and wellness as they designed the new curriculum. Creating a balance between new safety guidelines and the joy of participating in sports was key.

Despite the limited availability of sports that could be conducted in a socially distanced reality, the students of La Pietra took the new safety guidelines in stride, going as far as bringing their own balls to tennis matches and continuously sanitizing equipment in other sports when they were touched by multiple players. Students were diligent in participating even with the use of masks and no contact was required. Kinsler emphasized that the students were able to find silver linings in the situation, trying sports they

may have never considered before. When the school began live streaming sports events, since families were no longer allowed to attend, the community rejoiced instead of grumbling. They realized that live streaming opened opportunities for mainland family, friends, and alumnae to participate in watching games. School pride and athletic support suddenly transcended time zones.

Kinsler’s philosophy of athletics is that physical education should be about enjoying yourself, having fun, and always giving your best effort. He believes that the school’s athletics program teaches students how to prosper by having an active lifestyle, or as he put it, “encourages fitness for a lifetime.”

At print time, high contact sports, such as basketball, are still suspended. However, Kinsler and his team continue to provide innovative opportunities for students to participate and show school spirit. Basketball is now a “Skills Clinic” rather than scrimmage so that players can continue to hone their abilities. Cheerleading is being altered to a dance format so that students can still promote physical expression while maintaining social distance. Swimming has been modified to limit the number of students allowed in the pool.

Through all of this, the young women of La Pietra have remained passionate about maintaining active lifestyles. They, like their respective sports, are adapting, growing, and persevering. ♦

## Athletic Details

Athletics at La Pietra supports the well-rounded development of every student. Each year, approximately 70% of students in Grades 6-12 participate in sports.



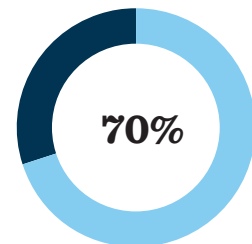
**17**

Interscholastic League of Honolulu (ILH) sports offered



**40**

Number of competitive teams from 6th-12th grade each year



Percentage of student-athletes





# Of Purpose, On Purpose

Why an All-Girls Education Matters

BY JAMES CHARISMA

PHOTOS BY JAMES EDENS

➤ In 2019, La Pietra - Hawai'i School for Girls' Purpose Learning Coordinator and English teacher Dr. Alia Pan was puzzled.

On any given day, Pan might be reviewing her curriculum or grading papers—or even be in the middle of teaching a class—and other students would suddenly walk into her classroom to ask questions, eat lunch, or just hang out. Pan wasn't sure if the students were trying to deliberately be disruptive. It wasn't until Pan later spoke with some visiting alumnae that she discovered the truth: The girls had simply gained enough confidence and became so comfortable on the campus that they didn't think twice about going to see Dr. Pan, or any teacher, and asking them for help.

"La Pietra created this space where girls feel comfortable learning and just being in their own skin," says Pan. "When you're in a place where you're accepted for who you are, you're able to let go of your concerns about your identity. You have more emotional energy to spend on running for student council, revising a paper, or just spending time with friends." (Or teachers, as Pan learned.) "La Pietra students can try new things and, even if they mess up, they're not anxious about how they look or worried they'll get made fun of. Girls can just focus on being the full expression of who they are."

"We hear from students who graduate and, a lot of times, they talk about how they gained the confidence to succeed in the outside world. One student who went to University of California, Berkeley came back one summer to visit and said that, in her big lecture courses,



“La Pietra created this space where girls feel comfortable learning and just being in their own skin. Girls can just focus on being the full expression of who they are.” – *Dr. Alia Pan, Purpose Learning Coordinator and English Teacher*

she was the only girl who would raise her hand to ask questions,” explains Dean of Students Gay Chinen. “Girls can leave here and not be afraid to speak up or just be themselves.”

Chinen has taught at La Pietra for more than 20 years. For the first decade, she was an art teacher, then the upper school dean, and later, the dean of students. She remembers how, even in the late '90s, there was an emphasis on female artists in the curriculum when discussing art history. She has seen the continual shift of La Pietra's health class over the years—“Women's Bodies, Women's Minds”—from a typical high school health course to one that teaches girls about the specific issues that women face, including puberty, consent, and knowing one's rights when going to the doctor as an adult. Chinen served as dean when the La Pietra Board of Directors and faculty officially launched a multidisciplinary Women's and Gender Studies program as a graduation requirement in 2015, with classes that explore topics ranging from gender identity and women in the modern workplace, to perspectives in women's history.

“You really see the girls grow here. The classes are small so they all get to know each other and they can feel comfortable. Even those who may be a little apprehensive about attending an all-girls school for the first time, that feeling goes away by the first week and they tell me they're having a great experience,” Chinen says.

**La Pietra - Hawai'i School for Girls'** founding vision lies in its name. It was a school created for girls in Hawaii during a time where four out of five seats in the islands' private schools belonged to boys. In 1964, when the school was first established, this vision was focused on the future. The school's founders, first board members, first families and first students understood that an all-girls education would have an impact for decades on individuals and the community. For over fifty years now, the school has offered all-girls education to girls across the state.

The question of whether or not all-girls schools offer tangible benefits compared to co-ed schools has long been a subject of debate in the United States. Unfortunately, it's difficult to conduct research on gender-specific education because randomized studies would require students to be assigned to either a single-sex or co-ed school, which is both unethical and legally impossible.

Meanwhile, there have been multiple accredited findings that support the value of single-sex education. According to the U.S. Department of Education's comprehensive review of single-sex education research in 2005, “Single-sex schooling can be helpful, especially for certain outcomes related to academic achievement and more positive academic aspirations.” In 2008, a German study found that eighth-grade girls in female-only physics classes developed more interest in the subject than girls in co-ed physics classes. A 2012 article in the leading peer-reviewed academic journal *Demography* indicated that both high school boys and girls benefit remarkably from a single-sex education model in regard to college entrance exams and producing a higher percentage of graduates who go on to attend four-year colleges. In 2013, a 10-year study conducted by researchers at Stetson University comparing single-sex and co-ed classes in a Florida elementary







In an all-girls educational environment, lessons expand on issues, policy, and history that impact their lives.

historical precedent, but La Pietra was always focused on empowering women,” Dolan says. “By the time I’m counseling our girls in senior year, they know what college they want to go to, they know what they want out of their careers, and they know what they’re capable of. They have a really strong grasp on who they are because they don’t have to worry about what is necessarily expected of them or how they ‘should’ act.”

**“I remember being a senior** in my high school English honors class and a male classmate made some comment about my body that was inappropriate and annoying. Then I went to Wellesley [College] and I realized that I didn’t have to deal with that anymore,” says Pan, who teaches 8th and 10th grade English at La Pietra. Pan’s experiences attending the prestigious all-women’s Wellesley College in Massachusetts as an undergraduate not only helped broaden her horizons but it also helped shape Pan into the thoughtful educator she is today.

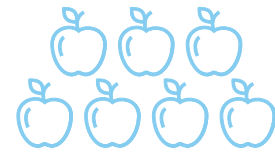
“Both my English classes at La Pietra are competency based, which means we use content from literature and the classroom to help students develop skills. For example, critical thinking—What’s the difference between observation and inference? Can students support their hypotheses through the text? How can students organize and communicate their ideas simply and efficiently?” Pan says. “We also look at embracing challenges. If a student doesn’t get something right the first time, what do they do differently next time?”

Recently, La Pietra’s English department underwent an overhaul after one of Pan’s 10th-grade students conducted a survey of race and gender representation in their assigned reading. The student discovered that the bulk of the novels they were reading were written by white men and featured white male protagonists. “Because of this student’s presentation, where she explained the importance of having books that feature characters which are more authentic representations of people that look and

“...a La Pietra education goes beyond just the absence of boys. It’s about a community of women who are understanding their power and capability and supporting each other. These girls are setting their own expectations in a way I don’t think you’ll find anywhere else.”  
 – Angie Dolan, Academic Dean and College Counselor

sound like her, we’re changing our books,” Pan says. “For example, I used to teach *The Odyssey* but now I’m shifting to *Circe*, which is still Greek mythology but told from the point of view of the sea witch Circe.”  
 “When we first speak to prospective parents, they sometimes assume that all-girls schools are cliquey or competitive but those are just stereotypes; we haven’t seen any of those types of behaviors here,” Dolan says. “Then we have the other parents who want to ‘cut out the distraction of boys,’ but a La Pietra education goes beyond just the absence of boys. It’s about a community of women who are understanding their power and capability and supporting each other. These girls are setting their own expectations in a way I don’t think you’ll find anywhere else.” ◆

## Student to Teacher Ratio



**7:1**

Student to teacher ratio



**10-15**

Average class size



**135**

Number of courses offered during the 2020-2021 school year





# Student Spotlight

Vianca Mae Dacumos,  
Greatness is Everywhere

BY TZANA SALDANIA

PHOTOS BY PAUL STROUSE

➤ **It is 3:30 p.m. on a Tuesday afternoon.** The senior lounge stands still and the sun across the Great Lawn creates longer shadows with each passing minute. Senior Vianca Mae Dacumos sits in her corner of the lounge. She's at her spot on the table, snug between the lockers and chairs that are still warm from where her friends sat just before leaving campus. You'd miss her if you didn't know she was there. She belongs here, focused on her assignments for the next day.

There, with her powder blue La Pietra uniform on and her water bottle plastered in Pokémon stickers by local artists, you're embraced by the colorful and peaceful diligence she offers. Vianca will graduate from La Pietra - Hawai'i School for Girls in May 2021. In middle school, she took her first steps as a student through the Fountain Courtyard. Her teachers remember her silent kindness. They share stories about how she would spend most of her early days at La Pietra sheltered in the kitchen with grounds woman, Merlyn Hopkins. They shared stories of the Philippines and connected in a place away from home. Here, Vianca understood that La Pietra would become a home that she could define.

Vianca recalls her first moments on campus with fondness. "When I commuted to LP for my very first day of school (back in seventh grade), I sat on the seat of TheBus with my stomach filled with butterflies. It was a mix of excitement and anxiety. But when I finally got to school, I was greeted by a handful of teachers welcoming everyone. It was calming to see everyone with bright smiles on their faces. I felt wel-

“Every single person I met taught me something, whether it was small or huge. My friends keep me grounded and I’m reminded every day of how lucky I am to have them in my life. My teachers and the staff showed me that there are people outside of my family that believe in me and my goals. I greatly treasure the relationships I have with them all.”

comed. La Pietra is like my mother’s arms, they both welcome me with their arms wide open.”

Over her years attending classes in Bromley Hall and walking with friends down the Junior Breezeway, she grew as a student, a friend, and a person. Perpetually humble, she credits her connections at school for stewarding this growth. “Every single person I met taught me something, whether it was small or huge. My friends keep me grounded and I’m reminded every day of how lucky I am to have them in my life. My teachers and the staff showed me that there are people outside of my family that believe in me and my goals. I greatly treasure the relationships I have with them all.”

While she values the opportunities provided by friendships and faculty bonds, her self-starter personality comes from within. Vianca is the ultimate dichotomy of empathy and perseverance. And, that ability, talent, and strength are only just beginning. In the fall of 2021, Vianca will be attending the University of Hawai’i at Manoa (UHM) with a full ride thanks to her attainment of The Provost Achievement Scholarship, awarded to high-achieving Hawaii high school students. She will be studying animal sciences. A long-standing love for animals took full hold of her in her junior year when she completed her Independent Project.

The Independent Project at La Pietra is designed to immerse students in their passion. They take the

driver’s seat and start the ignition on their aspirations. For her project, Vianca worked with a veterinary clinic. She learned the balance of medicine and business skills that are involved in the profession. With reinforced confidence, she committed herself to the study and plans to continue her veterinary path at UHM and beyond.

When asked to reflect on her achievements, it struck an emotional chord; one we so often overlook when we only focus on the highlights in students’ lives. “There were moments in my life where I believed that I was nothing more than a brown, Asian, low-income girl. I always looked at it from a negative perspective, but recently I’ve realized that I must embrace it.” As a school, La Pietra has worked each decade to build a robust socioeconomic student body, but it’s students like Vianca that remind us why we are here, what the value of education truly represents, and how it is our responsibility to keep opportunity equitable for all.

In conversation, Vianca often refers to the hard work of her siblings and parents. She uses humor to connect with others but can quickly switch to speaking with authority, clarity, and confidence. She jokes about her relationship with her older brother, their musical tastes, and fashion in one sentence. In the next sentence, she explains how it is her and her siblings’ goal to never have their parents pay for their education. “It is our responsibility,” she states, “our parents already gave us so much.”



Resilience is often silent. It does not ask for attention. We only see it when we look for the stories, ask deeper questions, or need inspiration. But it happens daily. For Vianca, resilience is not overcoming obstacles, it is finding belonging and self-love in them. She has achieved this. She remembers a moment when her inner resilience was tested. “This one time, someone told me that I was not grateful for the scholarship I had received to attend La Pietra, and without it, my parents would not have been able to afford it... I could have easily let these words affect me negatively, but one of the things that my parents taught me is that I have to continue pushing through no matter how hard it gets. I took that moment and used it as motivation. And I have proven to myself that I am capable of overcoming anything, as long as I am determined to do so.”

Vianca transcends determination. It is her self-confidence that allows her to stand as a role model. Now, she may continue her stride. Her next chapter, like many, will have new challenges. But, through what she has demonstrated at La Pietra, we are confident that no matter where she goes in life, her community, her family, and her spirit will be something we all look up to in the future. ◆

In her accompanying portraits for this story, Vianca chose to wear a traditional Filipino outfit. She chose to wear this to convey her cultural pride. But, more than that, she wanted to be visualized as not just an exemplary student, but a representative of her community. “I am proud to be a Filipino and I wanted to show that to everyone... I am proud of where I came from... my background of growing up in low-income housing does not hold me back from achieving my dreams. Instead of my background tying me down... it has pushed me to do even better. I want people to see that Filipinos are more than capable of achieving greatness. I want people to see that anyone is capable of achieving greatness no matter where they come from.”







# Igniting the Journey

Alumna and 2020 Hawaii State Teacher of  
the Year Addresses Graduates

BY CECILIA CHUNG

INTRODUCTION BY TZANA SALDANIA

➤ **Cecilia Chung, or “CC”**, graduated from La Pietra in 2009. During her time as a student, she enjoyed the assemblies and Mothers and Daughters Lunch, was on the yearbook team, and hung out with friends at the picnic benches under the trees. She loved her teachers and when she sat around the junior tables or in the senior lounge, she really did feel “at home.” She graduated from the University of Southern California and received her master’s degree in educational studies from Johns Hopkins University. She currently works as an educator for the Hawaii State Department of Education and was named Hawaii State Teacher of the Year in 2020. CC is doing the one thing she loves every day - teaching and growing alongside students and educators.

This year, CC spoke to La Pietra’s graduating class of 2021 at their in-person graduation. Her words helped light the path for the twenty-four graduates and their families. The following is CC’s inspiring graduation speech modified for publication. We hope that by sharing her address, current students, alumnae, and future families will feel emboldened to continue pursuing a future shaped by La Pietra.





Chung addresses the class of 2021 during their graduation ceremony.

### CC's Class of 2021 Graduation Speech

La Pietra holds so many memories for me as it will for you. In the back picnic tables under the trees, I ate lunch pretty much every day with a group of friends that I still talk to and love. In the courtyard beyond the senior lounge, I made some of my very first announcements (very nervously) for clubs that I led. Walking through the Student Learning Center now, I think back to when we congregated for costume changes for the school play we did that year. It was called *On Dragonfly Wings*.

I graduated in 2009. No, Instagram wasn't around yet. I was still trying to get the right selfie angle down for my Facebook photo. It was the year we had to vote on whether we'd be the La Pietra Panthers or the La Pietra Diamonds. Two of my closest friends were being celebrated for their last senior game on the Varsity Basketball team and I was still freaking out about what to wear for my senior photos.

It all seems like a blur. If you were to have met me as an 8th-grader in my first few weeks at La Pietra, you would never guess we were the same person today. I had very low self-esteem, difficulty opening up to

others and forming relationships, and would never be able to stand up in front of all of you today to share a few words. Then, I met my teachers, the faculty, and the staff. All of them were full of passion, love, and strength. They helped me see myself. They helped me to embrace who I was and challenged me to see things in new ways.

I flourished.

Some of the teachers who taught me then are still here at La Pietra. They continue to foster empowered, passionate people like you. There are also new teachers. I see their faces beaming with pride as you graduate today.

Let's acknowledge the other units in your life that build you up: the moms, the dads, the aunties, uncles, grandparents, guardians, and all of you special people who have made an impact on the lives of these amazing graduates. You've known them since they were little - and maybe they're sick of hearing it but... how did they grow up so quickly?

That's what my own dad says to me often, "How are you this old already?"

My dad immigrated to the United States from

“Lastly, class of 2021, bring light and love to those around you. This world needs a lot of love and you’re the ones that can do that, I can feel it. Each of you has a spark, a light. It will be an honor to watch that light expand and guide so many of us into the future.”

Korea. He met my mom in Virginia and started a life in Hawaii where days were hard but you weren’t supposed to look like they were hard. He drove me to my sports events and volunteer commitments when he could. When I was up for Hawaii Teacher of the Year, he took off work and made sure to be there for the awards ceremony. Twelve years ago, he took me to college and I was so excited to start, that I just gave him a quick hug and said he could leave. I took a lot of moments like that for granted.

Families, hug your graduates a little tighter during the summer days following this graduation night.

Remember to support them, believe in them, and love them. Loving them may look different as they begin their own journeys - whether it is college, a career, or a path that is hard to define at the moment. Loving them may look like taking a step back. It may look like listening, *really* listening. It may look like watching them try new things and get a little heartbroken when things don’t go the way they plan. But don’t ever leave them. Don’t ever stop believing in them.

Look at the incredibly smart, resilient, and amazing individuals who are graduating this year. They radiate with potential and strength. They have been through things we may never really understand.

To this class of amazing individuals, I want to share a few things with you that I’ve learned along my journey:

### 1. Explore what you love. Light your passion!

When I first went into teaching, many people discouraged me. Eight years later, there’s nowhere else I want to be. I love it. I love it so much! If you don’t know right now what it is that you love, it’s ok. Everyone has their own timeline. The important thing is, don’t lose sight of the search - you deserve to do what you love.

### 2. Always remember your roots.

Remember the people who helped make you, you. Look deep into your family history; have conversations with your grandparents. Remember that you are not just you. It took a village to make you who you are today, so have grace and gratitude. Explore your values and strengthen them by listening and learning.

Explore life with an open heart but also be true to what you believe in and use all of the wonderful things you learned here at La Pietra to make an impact. Give back to the community that gave so much to you.

### 3. Elevate and bring out the best in each other.

There will be people you meet in life, or maybe you already have, who want to push you down. They want to dominate and control the situation because they themselves feel insecure. Rise above that, choose to see the best in people, and build up a strong community of people who support you and each other.

Lastly, class of 2021, bring light and love to those around you. This world needs a lot of love and you’re the ones that can do that, I can feel it. Each of you has a spark, a light. It will be an honor to watch that light expand and guide so many of us into the future.

Congratulations and thank you. ♦





## WHY I GIVE:

# A Lasting Impact

Parent Spotlight: Barry Brice

BY JAMES CHARISMA

➤ **Whether you're stepping into** La Pietra's newly renovated faculty lounge; attending the annual Special Guest Day for special-needs students from across the island; or even riding along with one of the school buses on an excursion in the community, you'll likely experience part of the impact that parent Barry Brice has left at La Pietra. A real estate executive by day, Brice is a local parent who goes above and beyond to give back to La Pietra however he can—which means everything from helping prepare meals from scratch as part of the school's Lunch by Moms and Dads initiative, to driving students and teachers on field trips as an alternate school bus driver.

## La Pietra Days

“I have a flexible work schedule so when I can make time to help at La Pietra, that’s what I want to do if it gives the girls a better experience,” says Brice. “By volunteering, I’m also able to spend more time with my daughter and get to better know her teachers, friends, and other parents.”

Brice appreciates La Pietra’s sense of community and the foundation of a good education; two of his sisters previously attended the school and have since become teachers themselves. Meanwhile, Brice’s daughter, Ashlynn, will be starting high school at La Pietra in the fall of 2021. (She’s excited about algebra and joining the chorus.) “I didn’t want my daughter to be in a school where she was just one of a hundred kids in her class. Here, she can become her own person and I know the friendships she will make here will stay with her,” Brice says.

Brice has been able to watch Ashlynn flourish since she began as a sixth-grader at La Pietra three years ago. He saw his daughter’s interest in academia improve thanks to classes with fewer students and more engaging teaching styles compared to Ashlynn’s previous school. He was impressed to see each student take charge with rotating leadership roles for the different events hosted at La Pietra throughout the year, including each grade fundraising for their respective future class proms. He remembers when the girls rose up and volunteered to support the Honolulu Fire Department and local law enforcement after the fires near Diamond Head in early 2020.

“When the girls want to do something, they all step up right away and, because of La Pietra’s smaller size, they can all come together as one. It’s not limited to just the senior class or the student council or an extracurricular club, as it might be at other schools,” says Brice. “As a parent, you see your child’s passion grow and you know she’ll want to contribute to society and give back in this way for the rest of her life.”

One of Brice’s fondest experiences at La Pietra didn’t even take place at the school, but in the community: In 2019, he helped drive one of Dr. Alia Pan’s high school classes to a Hawaiian charter school to learn more about Native Hawaiian culture. “I had the privilege of listening to the conversation between Dr. Pan and the girls as they discussed different aspects of ancient Hawaiian society and I was in awe,” Brice recalls, “because their dialogue was thoughtful and I knew that my daughter was going to be able to

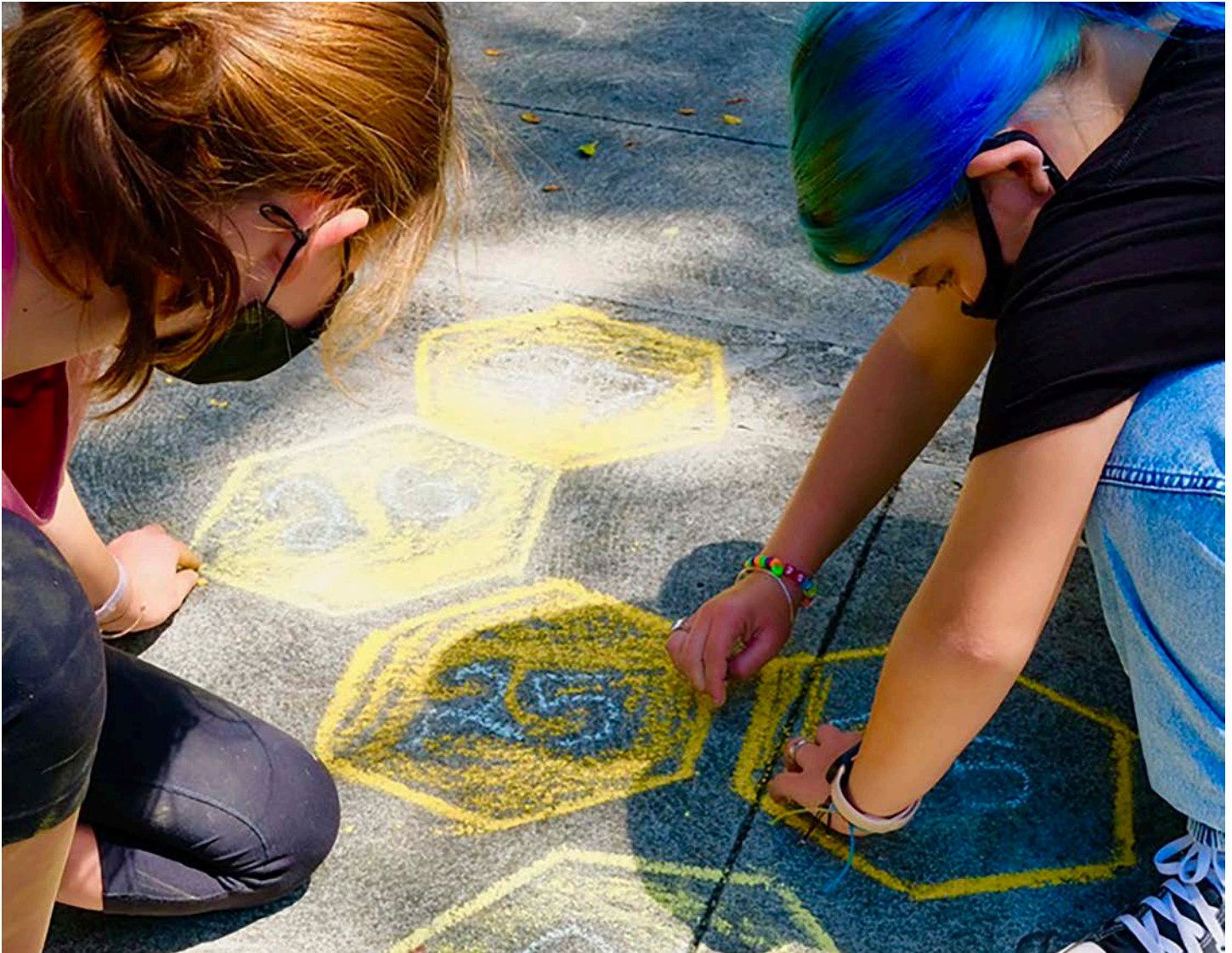


experience this in the next few years. She’ll have classes like Women’s and Gender Studies, go on field trips, and gain this type of knowledge.”

“It’s great that La Pietra has smaller class sizes, which allows for the girls to be more engaged. But it also means that our alumnae base isn’t as large compared to some other private schools, so every little donation helps,” says Brice. “Whether someone’s making a financial donation or donating their time to help out, it’s all going to the same important cause: to ensure that the girls’ education keeps getting better and better.”



Use this QR code to make a gift to La Pietra and help our mission of educating young women to lead a life of purpose.



# Purposeful Partnerships

La Pietra Partners with Global Online Academy

BY ANGIE DOLAN

➤ **La Pietra is excited to announce** a new academic and professional learning partnership with *Global Online Academy* (GOA), a non-profit organization that provides a modern online learning experience for students and faculty alike.

La Pietra and GOA are natural partners with a common mission: to be purpose-driven leaders in education who strive to prepare students for a global society. GOA aims to reimagine learning to empower students and educators to thrive in a globally networked society. They offer a variety of online asynchronous courses for both students and faculty. Students will be able to register and take courses as soon as spring 2022.

While La Pietra will still offer traditional standard and AP classes through One Schoolhouse, a supplemental educational organization, GOA's offerings are structured in competency-based learning to cover

## La Pietra Days



Dolan (right) guides students to choose courses that empower their purpose.

“Our partnership with GOA enhances our current purpose-driven curriculum and offers the opportunity for our students to connect with other students from different cultures, providing a more global perspective.” –*Dr. Josh Watson, Head of School*

unique topics such as bioethics, app design, and medical problem solving.

GOA believes education needs to adapt to fit our modern world and uses cutting-edge technology and pedagogy to provide unparalleled courses. “We have been hoping to partner with GOA since we were introduced to them in 2018,” said Dr. Angie Dolan, academic dean and college counselor. “GOA offers unparalleled learning experiences focused on expanding global consciousness with skills, content, and competencies that really matter in education to prepare students for college and career.”

“La Pietra has been offering a highly personalized and purpose-driven educational experience to our students, but we are still a small school on an island,” continued Dolan. “GOA [will] expand our curriculum, make connections with other forward-thinking independent schools

and offer our faculty innovative and modern professional development.”

The faculty has already begun taking courses with GOA over this past summer. For students, GOA classes are recognized credit-bearing courses and will appear on their transcripts.

“Our partnership with GOA enhances our current purpose-driven curriculum and offers the opportunity for our students to connect with other students from different cultures, providing a more global perspective,” said Dr. Josh Watson, head of school.

As we continue to raise women of purpose, on purpose, we are confident that this strategic partnership with GOA offers the foundation our students and faculty need to define their trajectory no matter their interest.







## Retention Rewards Program

➤ **Recognizing the profound hardship** the COVID-19 pandemic caused for families across Hawaii, and in cooperation with its board of trustees, La Pietra launched the Retention Rewards Program in 2020 with a goal to help as many La Pietra students, new and returning, access an all-girls education.

Functioning as a recurring scholarship, the Retention Rewards Program allowed all newly accepted students in Grades 6 - 11 enrolling in the 2021-2022 academic year to receive a \$3,000 tuition credit each year they continue to re-enroll with the school. All tuition credit will be made applicable in the student's senior year. For example, **the sixth grade class of 2021-2022 will accumulate a tuition credit that serves as a full scholarship for their senior year.**

All current families continuing in 2021-2022 also received Retention Rewards tuition credits for the full academic year. Over 130 students and their families benefited from this Retention Rewards

Program. As a whole, the program represents La Pietra's long-standing commitment to making an all-girls education equitable and accessible. Earlier in the pandemic, the school created the La Pietra Family Support Fund. This fund helped support families during the height of the pandemic's first lockdowns and through unforeseen changes in income.

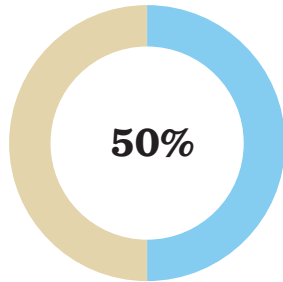
La Pietra's ability to stand as a pillar for women's education and provide much-needed assistance to the families that call the campus home comes from the immeasurable support of its donors. For some, it is the memories of family, sisterhood, and place that encourages them to give. For others, it is the commitment to raising women of purpose on purpose at a campus like no other for years to come.

The Retention Rewards Program was a nimble and effective effort to aid not only students' present lives but their futures, too. We deeply thank all those who made the program possible and will continue to support its application into the coming years.

# Financial Aid and Diversity Statistics

2020-2021

We are committed to keeping a La Pietra education affordable and accessible. The following data from recent academic years demonstrates our continued efforts to create an inclusive, equitable, and diverse socioeconomic student body.



50 percent of LP students receive financial aid

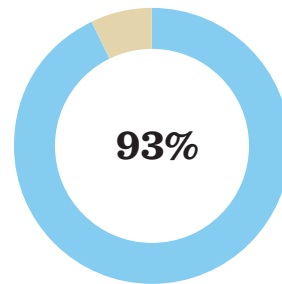


**\$500,000+**

Over half-a-million in financial aid awarded to LP students in Grades 6-12



100 percent of LP's faculty, staff and board of trustees give to our Annual Fund



Percentage of financial aid applicants who receive need-based awards



**La Pietra - Hawai'i School for Girls reflects the diversity of the larger community.**

La Pietra's student body has represented more than 20 different zip code regions.



# The Future is Wahine

La Pietra works with community partners to create free summer program

BY TODD WILSON, CURRICULUM COORDINATOR

➤ **La Pietra** has long stood at the center of women's education in Hawaii. With a guiding mission to raise women to lead a life of purpose, the school has spent nearly sixty years developing a curriculum that empowers young women to utilize their voice, engage critically, and define their journey.

During the summer of 2020, the school sought to expand their educational impact. In partnership with Education Incubator, Ceeds of Peace, Women's Fund of Hawai'i, and Hawai'i Women in Filmmaking, La Pietra hosted The Future is Wahine Summer Workshops. With no tuition costs, this program was designed for all girls from Grades 5 - 9 across the island to develop their sense of purpose. The demand for female-centered summer experiences was unprecedented. In under a week from the opening of registration, over 200 students from across Oahu applied for The Future is Wahine.

Consisting of three one-week workshops held between June and July, La Pietra and its partners engaged students in numerous activities to teach young women how to build their future. From developing a personal mission statement, creating film projects, and exploring the challenges faced by women across the world and here in the islands, students grew their skills and gained place-based perspective.

Education Incubator and Ceeds of Peace led the workshops held in June. The curriculum was adapted from workshops the two partners also offer independently. Nurturing and inspiring young women to explore the cultural fabric of Hawaii, specifically the art of wayfinding, was a key focus during the sessions at La Pietra. Participants

met with the apprentice navigator from the *Hōkūle'a*, Austin Kino, and cultural historian, Tom Penna, to discover how to find their way using the Hawaiian star compass and historical geography. Participants then collaborated to discuss the current situations impacting the lives of young women and identified projects that connected with their personal purpose. They developed action planning and presentation skills to pitch solutions to the problems they uncovered.

The July workshops were led by Hawai'i Women in Filmmaking. Students developed media and storytelling skills to communicate with larger audiences. While learning video editing software, students collaborated on vision, storyboarding, and interviewing. The workshop culminated in a celebration of film and a female-focused future. Participants, families, supporters, and staff gathered to view films created by the students and hear from keynote speakers.

At the end of each workshop, students were asked to share their thoughts about the experience. A ninth-grader noted, "I gained strength learning what it means to be wahine and why we are important to this world. I now am determined to do more action about issues rather than sitting and waiting for something to be done." A middle-schooler stated simply but powerfully, "The workshops have helped me understand who I am and what my purpose is."

Increasing the accessibility of all-girls education is a core goal of La Pietra. This Future is Wahine Summer Workshop represented the first of its kind for the school. Plans are underway to create additional free and low cost opportunities that will be open to students from any school.

Guest speaker Austin Kino, an apprentice navigator for the *Hōkūle'a*, teaches students about traditional voyaging practices and how to use these lessons of a navigator in their daily lives.



# Alumna Spotlight

A Purpose for Healing: Diana Carty ('77)'s story of resilience and dedication

BY TZANA SALDANIA

➤ Our doctors, nurses, and medical staff act as silent protectors. They never ask for a spotlight. The pandemic marked an awakened appreciation for healthcare workers across the world. Yet, regardless of crisis, it is vital that we acknowledge the individuals who work to serve us at every stage in life.

This year, our Alumna Spotlight highlights a woman whose life purpose is centered on serving others. She embodies the courage, confidence, and *kahiau* all La Pietra graduates possess, while making an individual impact on every person she meets.

Diana Carty graduated from Hawai'i School for Girls (HSG) in 1977 and currently resides in Washington state. She has worked in the healthcare industry for over 40 years. You could say she was an apple that didn't fall far from the tree. Her father, Fugate "Don" Carty, worked at Straub Hospital in

downtown Honolulu where he delivered over ten thousand babies. She was steeped in a sense of purpose from a young age. Carty remembers wanting to be a nurse as early as three or four years old.

At HSG, Carty took the first steps toward living her purpose. She remembers learning French from Mrs. Brinkman, and being encouraged to follow her passion over anything else. Noting her experiences in high school, Carty proclaimed, "HSG was your place to train, learn, and expose yourself to as many things as you can... and it still is that place today." She remembers an indescribable sense of self and freedom that came from learning in an environment where people knew her story, mission, and greatest interests. Due to these fundamental years of support, Carty notes that, "HSG will always be a part of my life."

“HSG was your place to train, learn, and expose yourself to as many things as you can... and it still is that place today.” –*Diana Carty ('77)*

Her education at HSG didn't just prepare Carty to become a nurse in her own community. She developed an astounding and deep sense of *kahiau* that took her beyond the horizon of the Pacific Ocean. In Haiti, she worked in healthcare servicing hundreds of women on the island. Like her father, her impact was large but the goal was never quantifying patients, it was learning their stories and being there in any time of need.

Fast-forwarding through a career and life of service, Carty found herself, like many others, facing an unprecedented time of need in the spring of 2020. In her current home state of Washington, she witnessed COVID-19 spread like invisible fire through her community just outside of Seattle, one of the United State's first epicenters of the pandemic. With no hesitation, Carty answered the call of those in need.

For two months, she worked from home as a nurse case manager. At that time, her town of Wenatchee, Washington (whose hospital also served as a referring center between Spokane), had lost around 400 people to the virus. The intensive care units were filling up. In this case manager role, Carty served the entire community by answering a COVID-19 hotline and sharing critical information about the virus. Over the phone, she worked with patients who had been recently discharged or were sick at home. She was their guide as they healed. When reflecting on this work, she remembers the challenge of learning new computer programs and telecommunication skills. She viewed these hurdles, not as barriers, but as opportunities to strengthen her impact. This resilience to learn something new to further her purpose is something she credits to watching her father's work and her days at HSG.

As we all know now, COVID-19 is not a virus that was a flash in the pan. It endures and continues to ask healthcare workers to dive deeper into sacrifice and dedication. For the first time

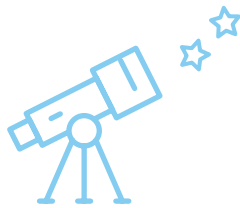
in 35 years, Carty rejoined the healthcare floor and came to those who needed care. She worked with hospice patients, cleaned in the ICU, and assisted the prone teams (nurses working to help COVID-19 patients get more air into their lungs). She worked to keep areas sanitized and to protect the teams entering isolation rooms. During some shifts, she logged upwards of 25,000 steps on her pedometer.

Carty shared that this in-person work reminded her of Haiti and the time she spent caring for struggling communities there. “I have something to offer, they need help, and this is my community,” Carty noted as she shared having no doubts when first making the decision to return to the floor.

As Carty looks toward retirement, she hopes to continue to give and serve in hospices. Even in retirement, she will not abandon those in need. Before the pandemic, Carty made it a point to visit connections and friends back in Hawaii as often as she could. Like many graduates of HSG, Carty noted that the students she shared art classes with, laughed on the Great Lawn with, and who called this piece of Hawaii home, are a community of women that will always be special to one another.

Carty's story as a woman of purpose is one of many who saved lives during this pandemic, but we see through the details of her devotion how truly remarkable she is. Healthcare is not everyone's purpose. Each of us contributes to our global progress. But, in this time like no other, we hope the story of Carty's resilience inspires a new generation of healthcare workers to see the unending value they provide to our society.

To every La Pietra community member who serves as caregiver, nurse, doctor, medical staff, or first responder, we thank you, today and every day. We acknowledge the intersection of sacrifices women in the healthcare industry endure, master, and overcome.



# Year in Review

When History Becomes Present

➤ In 2020, history was lived on campuses around the world. Students fell between the intersection of technology and an unparalleled health crisis. As doctors and nurses became the heroes of hospitals, educators became the heroes of classrooms. At La Pietra, our heroes shared the hallways with students. They shared spaces of emotional vulnerability in small classes. They shared the gratitude of open-air gatherings on the Great Lawn. Here, the process of enduring and innovating was intimate and human. As COVID-19 continues, we see the future play out before us. Young women will define their next steps through this momentous pendulum of uncertainty. But, that uncertainty is their ignition to create new, uncharted foundations. As we review 2020 in pictures, we look back at the extraordinary efforts that catapulted our year. We also look forward to what this pandemic will bring forth in change, growth, and purpose.







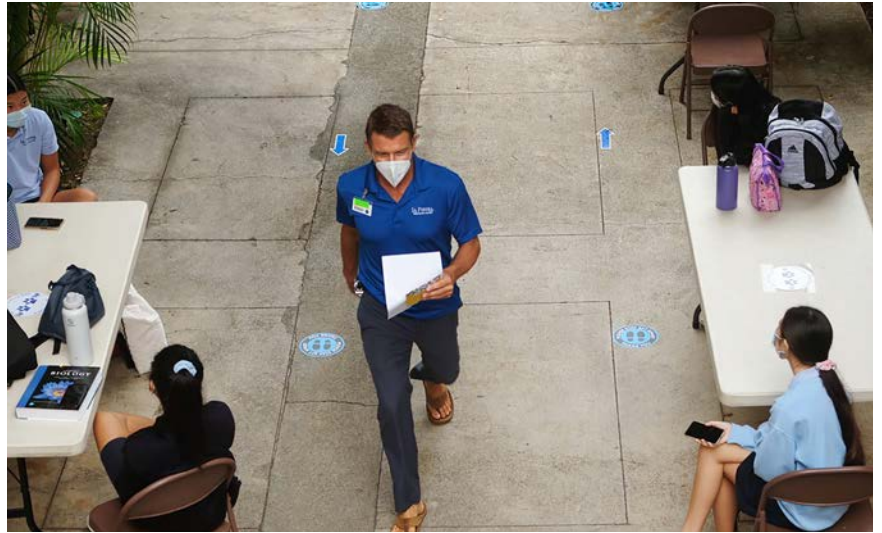
During the 2020-2021 school year, a revamp of morning drop-off procedures was crucial to the health and safety of the La Pietra community. Faculty and staff entered the front lines to temperature-and-symptom-check each student who entered the campus.



### Learning Beyond the Screen

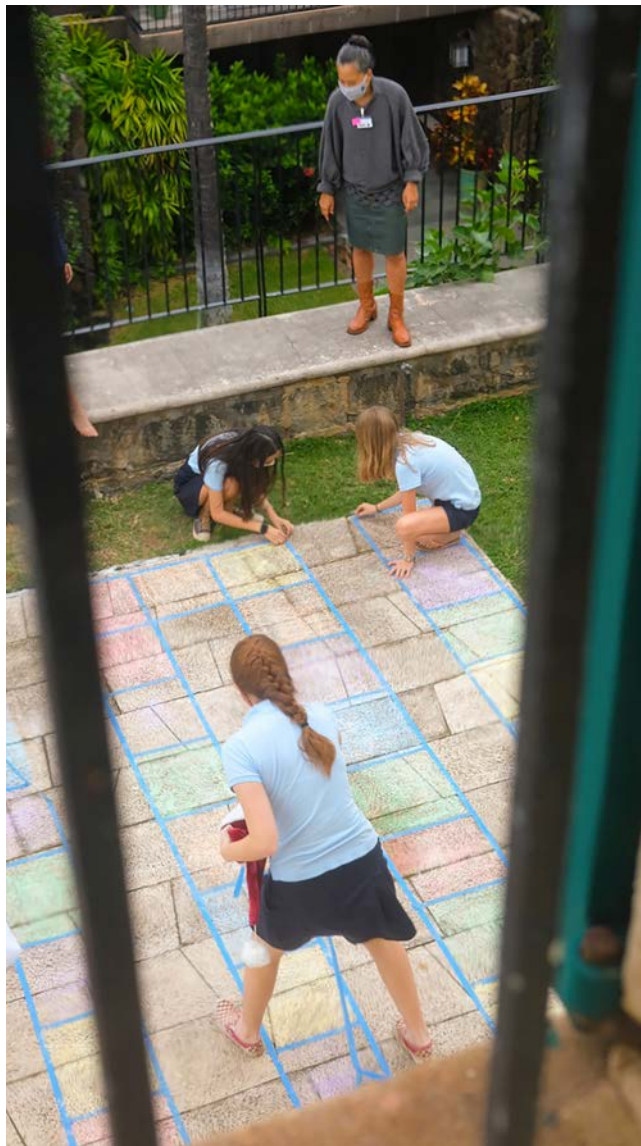
March 2020 is synonymous with the halt of “normal” life. Students and educators flocked to platforms such as Zoom to continue the day-to-day educational experience. However, when in-person instruction returned in August of 2020, it still didn’t look the same -- and that wasn’t necessarily a bad thing. The wheel of educational innovation has long been turning, and the pandemic served as a catalyst for new classroom approaches. For instance, English lessons were conducted outside and math students thrived in smaller cohorts, allowing them to share responsibilities to solve larger problems. And all-school activities leveraged technology to present information while maintaining safe distances.



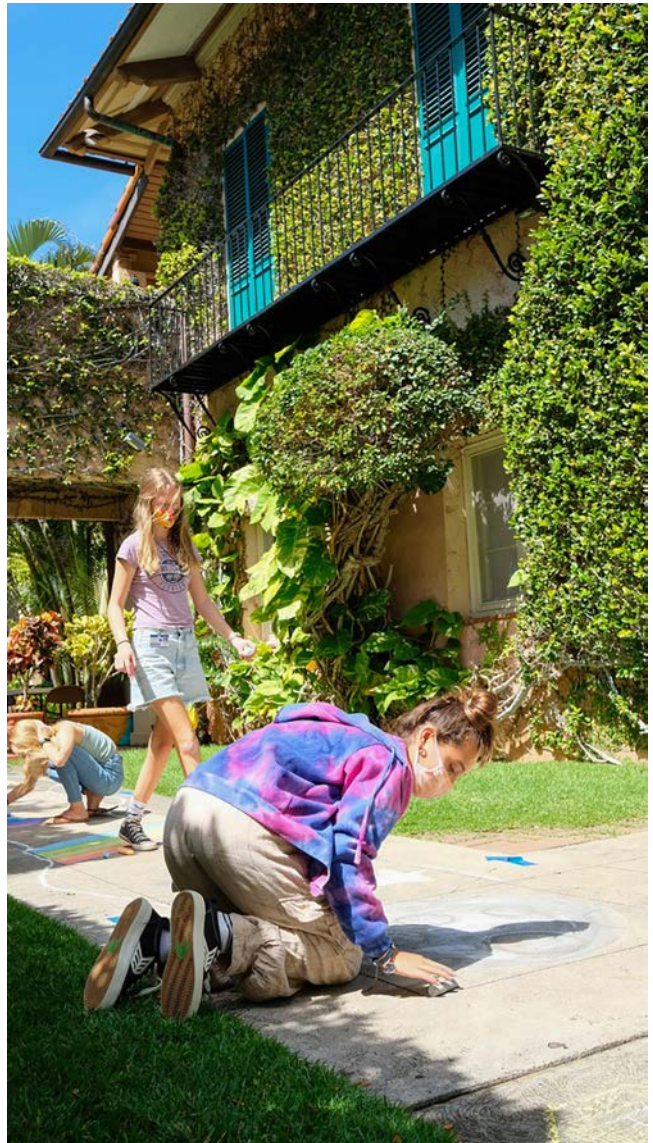


After returning to campus, students continued to use technology to come together for school events. Social distancing, both inside and outside the classroom, remained a priority to keep the community a safe space.

**La Pietra Days**



Teachers at La Pietra made use of the campus' beautiful outdoor spaces to bring the day's lessons to life.





### The Days Go On

Our La Pietra days can't be stopped, not even in the face of COVID-19. People often say the spirit of LP is hard to put into words. And, it is true. Even with expressions in masks, there was still something incomparable to the life each student and faculty member brought daily to the campus. The culture of our school continued through activities, connections, and the simple act of being together.

La Pietra Days

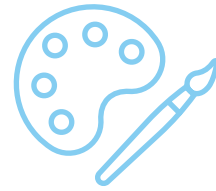


COVID-19 could not dampen the spirit of the La Pietra community! Students continued to experience hands-on learning, got back into the gym, and, of course, showed off their school spirit through some spectacular costumes during Spirit Week.



La Pietra's Student Council improvised throughout the year by hosting events, like prom, outdoors.

## Student Life



**27**

Number of fine arts courses offered in 2020-2021, including visual arts, music, and theatre



**26**

Number of student clubs, leadership, and service organizations to choose from



### Celebrating the Class of 2021

Congratulations to the La Pietra - Hawai'i School for Girls Class of 2021! We are deeply proud of our graduates' accomplishments. Their last years of high school were unlike any other. They experienced the first and final days of their senior year in masks, they served as role models to younger grades during an uncertain time, and they boldly faced a future that was changing before their eyes. Anyone who knows this class of 2021 will never forget them. With a wide range of talents, from creating their own wardrobes to horseback riding on a competitive stage, they represented exactly what an LP education aims to do: create purpose. Each graduate of this class has a purpose uniquely their own. They won't become job titles, they

will become what they were meant to be. They will show success, not in money earned, accolades gained, or fame achieved, but from their own reflection in the mirror and the happiness with who they have become. From here, we know that wherever La Pietra's Class of 2021 goes, they will bring forth strength, compassion, and an unrivaled sense of purpose.



Watch the full class of 2021 graduation ceremony on our Youtube channel ([YouTube.com/LaPietraSchool](https://www.youtube.com/LaPietraSchool)) or scan the QR code to watch now.



## College and Graduation

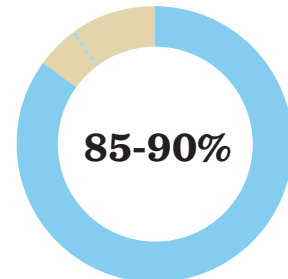


College acceptance rate for LP's graduates



**\$4 Million**

Recent graduating classes have earned approximately \$4M in merit scholarships for college



85-90% of seniors report that they were accepted into one of their top two choices for college/university

### Accepted Colleges for 2020–2021 grads

Amherst College  
 Arizona State University - Tempe  
 Baylor University  
 Biola University  
 Boston University  
 California State University - Chico  
 Chapman University  
 College of William and Mary  
 Colorado Mesa University  
 Concordia University - Irvine  
 Creighton University  
 Drexel University  
 Elmira College  
 Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University - Prescott  
 Evergreen State College  
 George Mason University  
 Hawaii Pacific University  
 James Madison University  
 Korea University - Seoul  
 Laguna College of Art and Design  
 Lawrence Technological University  
 Lewis & Clark College  
 Linfield University

Loyola Marymount University  
 Marist College  
 Northern Arizona University  
 Oregon State University  
 Pacific University  
 Pennsylvania State University - Main Campus  
 Point Loma Nazarene University  
 Portland State University  
 Reed College  
 San Diego State University  
 Santa Clara University  
 Savannah College of Art & Design - SCAD  
 Seattle Pacific University  
 Seattle University  
 Seton Hall University  
 Southern Oregon University  
 SUNY at Albany  
 The University of Arizona  
 Union College  
 University of British Columbia  
 University of California, Irvine  
 University of California, San Diego

University of California, San Francisco  
 University of California, Santa Cruz  
 University of Colorado Boulder  
 University of Colorado - Colorado Springs  
 University of Hawaii at Hilo  
 University of Hawaii at Manoa  
 University of Hawaii - West Oahu  
 University of Montana  
 University of Oregon  
 University of Pittsburgh - Pittsburgh Campus  
 University of Puget Sound  
 University of Redlands  
 University of San Francisco  
 University of Santa Barbara  
 Utica College  
 Vassar College  
 Wesleyan University  
 Whittier College  
 Willamette University  
 Woodbury University  
 Yonsei University



# Giving Report

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES GIVING 100% PARTICIPATION

Lauran Bromley '76  
David L. Callies  
Calvert G. Chipchase  
Wendy B. Crabb  
Sara Dudgeon  
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Dr. Anne Reilley Freese  
Russell M. Gifford  
Dr. Kent M. Keith  
Dawn MacNaughton  
Blair Parry-Okeden '68  
Lynne Toyofuku, Esq. '75  
Josh Watson, Ed.D.  
Debbie Weil-Manuma '75

## ALUMNAE CLASS GIVING

**Class of 1967**  
Laurie Groner Tillet

**Class of 1968**  
Anonymous  
Juliette M. Guard

**Class of 1969**  
Randi Silleck Conway  
Debby Wilson

**Class of 1970**  
Laurie Garrett Callies  
Lori Komer  
Anne Landrum  
Jane Sibalski

**Class of 1971**  
Evva-Margaret Conrad  
Kim Griffin Hanson  
Valerie Y. O. Kim

**Class of 1972**  
Anne Fairfax  
Karen Kirchhoff Litwin  
Lois Millbouer  
Susie Gaffney Morgan  
Naomi Hata Taube  
Yuri Sasaki Woo

**Class of 1974**  
Dianne Morgan Chapman  
Elizabeth Savage

**Class of 1975**  
Anonymous  
Sharri Belisle  
Jennifer Fairweather  
Marilyn Darling Kuppe  
Lynne Toyofuku  
Deborah Weil-Manuma

**Class of 1976**  
Anonymous  
Carolyn Morgan Bauer  
Lauran Bromley  
Pamela Bulkley  
Christina Denny  
Janet Johnson  
Sarah Weaver Kobara

**Class of 1977**  
Marjorie A. Bennett  
Sally Bond  
Diana Carty  
Carol Lee-Arnold

**Class of 1978**  
Susan Crandall  
Diane S. Guild  
Hilary S. Moody  
Vicki Parks-Cochrane  
Michelle Rene Beach  
Simmer



Diane Totaro-Beesley  
Freda Toves

**Class of 1979**  
Donne Dawson  
Becky Howard Fallon  
Laurie McCrary

**Class of 1980**  
Betsy Bond Deniston  
Tara Latou Trotter  
Alicia Lewis-Rikkonen  
Jodi Montgomery

**Class of 1981**  
Renee H. Kraft  
Monica Machado  
April Perreira Pluss

**Class of 1982**  
Tracy Pflueger Allen

**Class of 1983**  
Anonymous

**Class of 1985**  
Staci Larkin

**Class of 1986**  
Allison Fritts Mikuni  
Betsy Somerville-Purpura

**Class of 1987**  
Leanne Merritt-Gillespie  
Malia Watson

**Class of 1988**  
Julie Hotchkin Kraft

**Class of 1989**  
Carrie Loden Land

**Class of 1990**  
Anonymous  
Maile Zambuto

**Class of 1991**  
Anonymous

The 2019-2020 Annual Report reflects gifts made between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020. The Advancement Office has made every effort to ensure accurate reporting. If we have made an error or omission, we sincerely apologize and ask that you please notify us at (808) 922-2744 x119 so we may amend our records. Mahalo for your generosity!

Photo credit: James Edens

## La Pietra Days



### **Class of 1992**

Michelle Loden Slentz  
Dr. Kanani Titchen

### **Class of 1993**

Monique Lee Appleton

### **Class of 1994**

Danelle Landgraf-Dorman

### **Class of 1998**

Jennifer Corrales

### **Class of 1999**

Kristin Crabb

### **Class of 2000**

Teasha Katagiri Brunelle

### **Class of 2002**

Stephanie Starr

### **Class of 2003**

Ashley Fujii

### **Class of 2004**

Anonymous  
Chandra Shih

### **Class of 2007**

Sara Kaiser

### **Class of 2011**

Allia Alliata  
Sarah Aref  
Bianca McCluskey  
Brittany Mendoza  
Caitlin Thomas  
Brittany Ulmer

### **Class of 2013**

Nicole Morisugi

### **Class of 2018**

Kirsten Konishi

### **Class of 2019**

Sydney Sambueno

### **PLANT A SEED PARENT GIVING**

### **Class of 2020**

Anonymous (6)  
Roozbeh and Didar Dodhi  
Erik and Hayley Felten  
Grange 'Ohana  
Joe and Lana Gronwald  
Courtney Heimowitz  
Josh D. Heimowitz  
Kamaka  
Steven and Stella Kolinski  
Link Family

Harry and Vivian Lovell

Shauna Miyazono  
Peter Sanchez  
Mariko Ugajin

### **Class of 2021**

Anonymous (3)  
Jubee and Miyuki Aizawa  
Leslie and Leianne Andrade  
Haas Insulation, Inc.  
Ross and Maria Kinsler  
Heath Kobatake  
Shilpa Patel  
Farhad and Tanya Safi  
Tirsa Smith  
Soltis Family  
Jennifer Yang

### **Class of 2022**

Anonymous (4)  
Boucher's Family  
Steven and Therese Chee  
Graham and Marlo  
Cormack  
Graves Family  
Jessamy Hornor  
Victoria Hung '22  
Kaiu 'Ohana  
Lattanzi Family  
Megan and Charles  
Meyer, III

Steven and Kathleen  
Nakagawa  
Jane Onoye  
Boy and Mary Jean Pascua  
Philippe Rolland  
Maile Shepherd

### **Class of 2023**

Anonymous (7)  
Chris and Elaine Batacan  
Kevin Byrne and Catherine  
Tanaka  
Aaron and Cindy Forsgren  
William Gillespie and  
Leanne Merritt-Gillespie '87  
Kimberly and Garry Harsanyi  
Courtney Heimowitz  
Josh D. Heimowitz  
Koreen Nakahodo and  
Scott Schroeder  
Baccara Nix  
Nate and Kerry Piersall  
Maile Sayarath  
Brett Tobin and Kate Bliss  
Shannon and Trichia Yogi  
Jason and Maile '90  
Zambuto

### **Class of 2024**

Anonymous (3)  
Bryan Aguila  
Kristine Altwies and  
Dr. Bruce Chen  
Kory and Arielle Burnett  
Katie Caulfield '24  
Tim and Victoria Dagenais  
Graves Family  
Eleanor Hastings  
David Heard and Ivy Costa  
Heath Kobatake  
Tane Larrabee  
Dianne and Lawrence  
Wennick  
Jennifer Yang

### **Class of 2025**

Anonymous (1)  
Ashlynn Brice '25

Barry Brice  
 Tina Doyle  
 Teela and Samuel Garcia, Jr.  
 Katie and Hector Gonzalez  
 Kimberly and Garry Harsanyi  
 Lisa and Vincent Kimura  
 Kevin and Mihee Kondo  
 Troy Moe and Alaina  
 Cunningham  
 Anna and John Pang  
 Nate and Kerry Piersall  
 Ed and Cathy Schultz  
 David Smith and Winnie Law  
 Jenn Diesman Sullivan  
 Brett Tobin and Kate Bliss  
 Joe and Jessica Welch

**Class of 2026**

Anonymous (2)  
 Jeremy and Julie Alosa  
 Donn and Nina Arizumi  
 Blackstad 'Ohana  
 Jay and Lori Bloom  
 Jason and Darlyne Chinn  
 Kim Ebert  
 Eliza Garfield  
 Jessamy Hornor  
 Namiki Roberts 'Ohana  
 Sigmund Family for Kruez  
 Soltis Family  
 Jennifer Spengler

**Class of 2027**

Teela and Samuel Garcia, Jr.

**FACULTY & STAFF GIVING  
 100% PARTICIPATION**

Anonymous (10)  
 Roger Alcaria  
 Tamara Bailey  
 Helena Barreto  
 Elaine Batacan  
 Gay Chinen  
 Angie Dolan  
 Dante Duldulao  
 Kaitlin Futoma  
 Raina Grigg  
 Caroline Hobbs

Merlyn Hopkins  
 Dawn Ijiri  
 Kate Kane  
 Ross Kinsler  
 Liza Lee  
 Shari Lynn  
 Megan Meyer  
 Eden Lee Murray  
 Anne Nakakura  
 Dennys Salazar  
 Tzana Saldania  
 Aaron Sekulich  
 Cynthia Tesoro  
 Jenna Tuss  
 Gary Valentine  
 Josh Watson

**TRIBUTE GIFTS**

**In honor of all current and former students, and our founders**

Dr. Josh Watson

**In honor of all the wonderful teachers**

Carrie Loden Land '89

**In honor of teachers and staff**

Steven and Therese Chee

**In honor of healthcare workers and caregivers**

Russell M. Gifford

**In honor of strong women leaders**

William Gillespie and  
 Leanne Merritt-Gillespie '87

**In honor of women supporting women**

Bianca McCluskey '11

**In honor of the Class of 1970's Golden Anniversary**

Liza and Timothy Lee

**In honor of the Class of 1974**

Elizabeth Savage '74

**In honor of the Class of 1986**

Ms. Betsy Somerville-  
 Purpura '86

**In honor of the Class of 1991**

Anonymous

**In honor of the Class of 2022**

Megan and Charles Meyer, III

**In honor of the Class of 2024 and the Class of 2026**

Anonymous

**In honor of the Girls Varsity Volleyball Team 1998-1999**

Anonymous

**In honor of Anna Derby Blackwell**  
 Sally Bond '77

**In honor of Rodney Bliss**  
 Brett Tobin and Kate Bliss

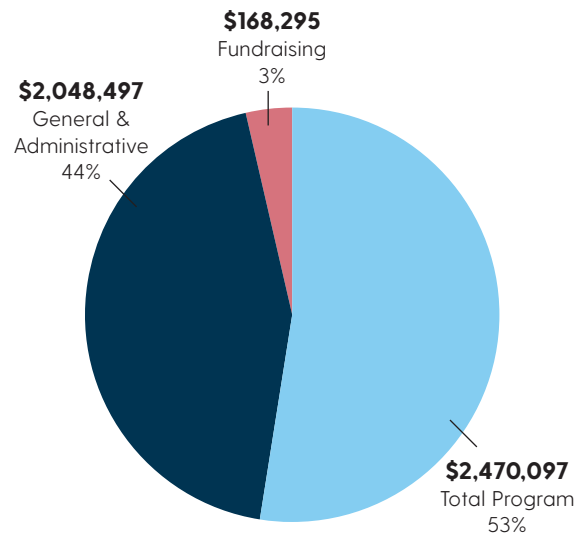
**In honor of Ashlynn Brice, Class of 2025**  
 Barry Brice

**In honor of Sibylle Brinkman**  
 Allison Fritts Mikuni '86

**In honor of Elle Foster**  
 Cyndi Foster

**In honor of Joe Grange**  
 Grange 'Ohana

**In honor of Diane Guild '78**  
 Evelyn Yuruki



**Where Your Money Goes**

La Pietra – Hawai'i School for Girls finished the 2020 fiscal year in good financial condition, with expenditures allocated as follows: 53% in programs, 44% in management and general services, and 3% in fundraising.



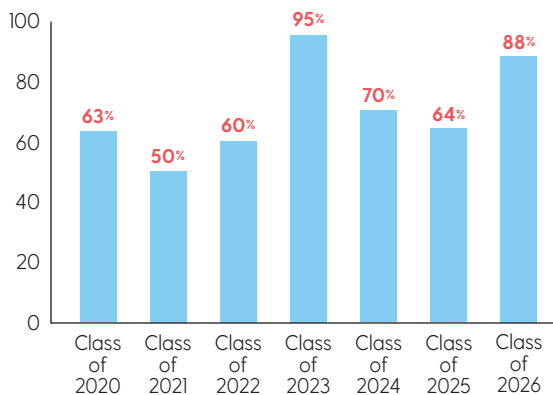
**Plant a Seed for Your Daughter's Future**

*The Plant a Seed for Your Daughter's Future Campaign is the parent giving component of the Annual Fund. The Annual Fund bridges the gap between tuition revenue and the actual cost of a La Pietra education.*

Mahalo to all families who supported the Annual Fund! Your generosity helps move our school forward and provide the best education, opportunities, and experience for all students.

Congratulations to the 9th grade class who closed out the campaign with **95% participation!**

**Overall parent participation: 68%**



***In honor of Melody Hamilton***  
Waltraud R. Hamilton

***In memory of Don Hunt***  
Carol and Gerald Erickson  
Minnie Ann and Ronald Lindwall  
Lavila K. VanBoening

***In honor of Ken Kobuke and Carole Kobuke***  
Anne Nakakura

***In honor of Jean Lee***  
Chris Lee  
Carol Lee-Arnold '77

***In honor of Liza Lee***  
Denise and Glenford Park

***In honor of Duncan MacNaughton***  
Scott Meiklejohn

***In honor of Elizabeth McLachlin***  
Anonymous  
Nancy Barry  
Karen and Peter Ehrman  
Mary and Dennis Eric Fern Johnson  
Wendy and William Melodee Metzger

***In honor of Scott Meiklejohn***  
Monique Lee Appleton '93

***In honor of Michele Mendoza***  
Sarah Aref '11  
Vivian and Hugh Fraser  
Brittany Ulmer '11

***In honor of Michele Mendoza and all strong female leaders***  
Brittany Mendoza '11

***In honor of Michele Mendoza, Sharon Ulmer, and Richard Ulmer***  
Brittany Ulmer '11

***In honor of Phyllis Nakasone Muraoka '75***  
Mark and Dawn Ijiri

***In memory of Noel Murchie***  
Tara Latou Trotter '80

***In memory of Virginia Vandling Odgaard***  
Anonymous  
Dawn Moroye

***In honor of Emil Offer***  
Pamela Bulkley '76

***In honor of Jodi Onoye, Class of 2022***  
Jane Onoye

***In honor of Marta Porta***  
Anonymous

***In honor of Joseph Pynchon***  
Marilyn Darling Kuppe '75  
Joanne Fahrenwald

***In honor of Emma Rolland, Class of 2022***  
Philippe Rolland

***In honor of Audrey Safi, Class of 2021***  
Farhad and Tanya Safi

**IN-KIND GIVING**

Anonymous  
Carolyn Arbuckle  
Franklin K. Gray Estate  
Marilyn Goggin  
Halms Enterprise  
Ronald Haranda

Courtney Heimowitz  
Cal and Terry Lui  
Geri Pedeski  
Safeway

**GIVING SOCIETIES**

**Leadership Gifts**

**\$100,000+**

Anonymous  
Lauran '76 and Myrna  
Bromley  
Trailsend Foundation

**\$10,000 - \$49,999**

Atherton Family Foundation  
Chonita and Jack  
Larsen Fund II of the  
Hawai'i Community  
Foundation  
Cooke Foundation Limited  
Wendy and Tony Crabb  
First Hawaiian Bank  
Foundation  
Alice F. Guild  
The Harry & Jeanette  
Weinberg Foundation  
Kevin and Mihee Kondo  
JN and Linda Musto  
TSK Charitable Foundation  
Deborah Weil-Manuma '75

**Fountain Club Giving  
Society**

**\$5,000 - \$9,000**

G.N. Wilcox Trust  
Shilpa Patel

**Hau Arbor Giving Society**

**\$2,500 - \$4,999**

Anonymous  
Conley Family Foundation  
John and Randi Silleck '69  
Conway  
Sara and Peter Dudgeon  
Cyndi Foster  
Russell M. Gifford  
Drs. Elizabeth and Kent Keith  
Dawn MacNaughton

Duncan MacNaughton  
Dr. Josh Watson  
Dan and Judy White

**Courtyard Giving Society**

**\$1,000 - \$2,499**

Anonymous (2)  
Jubee and Miyuki Aizawa  
Jeremy and Julie Alosa  
Marjorie A. Bennett CFA '77  
Teasha Katagiri  
Brunelle '00  
David and Laurie Garrett  
'70 Callies  
Steven and Therese Chee  
Chonita and Jack Larsen  
Fund of the Hawai'i  
Community Foundation  
James and Penelope  
DeYoung  
Anne Fairfax '72  
William Gillespie and  
Leanne Merritt-Gillespie  
'87  
Jack and Janet Gillmar  
Jhamandas Watumull Fund  
Tane Larrabee  
Liza and Timothy Lee  
Joseph Lukas  
Ed and Cathy Schultz  
Michelle Loden Slentz '92  
Rebecca Taggart  
Lynne '75 and Robert  
Toyofuku  
Walter and Donna Wick

**Kaimana Giving Society**

**\$500 - \$999**

Anonymous (3)  
Bryan Aguila  
Tracy Pflueger Allen '82  
Monique Lee Appleton '93  
Benevity  
Jay and Lori Bloom  
Boucher's Family  
Deborah and Edward Chin  
Calvert G. Chipchase, IV  
Don Conover

Mike Curtis and Piia Aarma  
Jeff Deer  
Deena Dray  
Becky Howard Fallon '79  
Aaron and Cindy Forsgren  
Vivian and Hugh Fraser  
John Graham, Jr.  
Haas Insulation, Inc.  
Kim Griffin Hanson '71  
Jessamy Hornor  
Rondi Hume and  
Dwight D. Hill  
Janell A. Israel  
Kama'aina Kids  
Lori Komer '70  
Carrie Loden Land '89  
The MacNaughton Group  
Foundation  
Mrs. John H. Magoon, Jr.  
Scott Meiklejohn  
Troy Moe and Alaina  
Cunningham  
Hilary S. Moody '78  
Koreen Nakahodo and  
Scott Schroeder  
April Perreira Pluss '81  
Michelle Rene Beach  
Simmer '78  
Naomi Hata Taube '72  
Linda Taylor  
Jack Wade  
Robin and Wakefield Ward  
Dianne and Lawrence  
Wennick  
John White

**Banyan Circle Giving  
Society**

**\$250 - \$499**

Anonymous (3)  
Blackstad 'Ohana  
Barry Brice  
Dianne Morgan  
Chapman '74  
Conrad and Gay Chinen  
City Mill - Steven C. Ai  
Graham and Marlo  
Cormack

Kristin Crabb '99  
Donne Dawson '79  
Roosbeh and Didar Dodhi  
Mike and Margie Durant  
Katie and Hector Gonzalez  
Diane S. Guild '78  
Eleanor Hastings  
Courtney Heimowitz  
Victoria Hung '22  
Sarah Weaver Kobara '76  
Marilyn Darling Kuppe '75  
Brittany Mendoza '11  
Megan and Charles Meyer, III  
Lois Milbouer '72  
Jodi Montgomery '80  
Dawn Moroye  
Nate and Kerry Piersall  
Shaunagh Robbins  
Phillippe Rolland  
Clifton and Abby Royston  
Farhad and Tanya Safi  
Soltis Family  
Jenn Diesman Sullivan  
Dr. Kanani Titchen '92  
Floraine Van Orden  
Joe and Jessica Welch  
Yuri Sasaki Woo '72

**Leahi Giving Society**

**\$100 - \$249**

Anonymous (10)  
Allia Alliaata '11  
Kristine Altwies and  
Dr. Bruce Chen  
Donn and Nina Arizumi  
Nancy Barry  
Carolyn Morgan Bauer '76  
Sharri Belisle '75  
Felice Brault  
Ashlynn Brice '25  
Pamela Bulkley '76  
Kevin Byrne and Catherine  
Tanaka  
Diana Carty '77  
Katie Caulfield '24  
Evva-Margaret Conrad '71  
Jennifer Corrales '98  
Leslie and Aiko Crandall

## La Pietra Days

Susan Crandall '78  
Charles Crumpton  
Ginai and Edward Curti  
Tim and Victoria Dagenais  
Betsy Bond Deniston '80  
Christina Denny '76  
Marjorie DeSantis  
Angie and Patrick Dolan  
Tina Doyle  
Kim Ebert  
Karen and Peter Ehrman  
Eufelia Espinoza  
Joanne Fahrenwald  
Jennifer Fairweather '75  
Rick Fell  
Erik and Hayley Felten  
Foodland Super Market, Ltd.  
Ashley Fujii '03  
Gerry Fujii and Gail  
    Awaya-Fujii  
Kaitlin Futoma  
Patricia and Hoagy Gamble  
Teela and Samuel Garcia, Jr.  
Eliza Garfield  
Grange 'Ohana  
Graves Family  
Joe and Lana Gronwald  
Marjorie Grune  
Kimberly and Garry Harsanyi  
Hawaii Global Education  
    Foundation  
David Heard and Ivy Costa  
Josh D. Heimowitz  
George and Edith  
    Horimoto  
Jason Huckaby  
Mark and Dawn Ijiri  
Shirley Iwane  
Wendy and William  
    Johnson  
Janet Johnson '76  
Sara Kaiser '07  
Kaiu 'Ohana  
Valerie Y. O. Kim '71  
Ross and Maria Kinsler  
Kirsten Konishi '18  
Renee H. Kraft '81

Danelle Landgraf-Dorman  
    '94  
Anne Landrum '70  
Claire and Merton Lau  
Terri Lee and James  
    Campbell  
Carol Lee-Arnold '77  
Alicia Lewis-Rikkonen '80  
Karen Kirchhoff Litwin '72  
Gail Loden  
Bianca McCluskey '11  
Laurie '79 and Kevin  
    McCrary  
Robert and Sue Moore  
Susie Gaffney Morgan '72  
Anne Nakakura  
Network for Good  
Natalie Nimmer  
Jane Onoye  
Anna and John Pang  
Charles and Gerri Pedesky  
Eduardo and Marta Porta  
Dennis Randall and  
    Marilyn McCormick  
    Randall  
Keene Rees  
Jerry and Heather  
    Riverstone  
Sydnie Sambueno '19  
Barbara Saromines-Ganne  
Mark and Donna Schmidt  
Sigmund Family for Kruez  
Tirsa Smith  
David Smith and Winnie Law  
Betsy Somerville-Purpura '86  
Caitlin Thomas '11  
Laurie Groner Tillett '67  
Brett Tobin and Kate Bliss  
Lewis and Christine Trusty  
Debby Wilson '69  
Jennifer Yang  
Evelyn Yuruki

### ***Friends***

**\$1 - \$99**

Anonymous (24)  
Roger Alcaria  
Leslie and Leianne Andrade

Sarah Aref '11  
Tamara Bailey  
Helena Barreto  
Chris and Elaine Batacan  
Sally Bond '77  
Kory and Arielle Burnett  
Jason and Darlyne Chinn  
Rai Chu and Richard Turbin  
Elfie Corderory  
Howard Daniel and  
    Sandra Kelley  
Edward and Marjorie  
    Davenport  
Dante Duldulao  
Carol and Gerald Erickson  
Karen L. Feltz  
Mary and Dennis Eric Fern  
Foodland Super Market, Ltd.  
Bob Frost  
Patricia Godfrey  
Raina Grigg  
Juliette M. Guard '68  
Jeanette Hall, Ph.D.  
Waltraud R. Hamilton  
HawaiiUSA FCU  
    Foundation  
Caroline Hobbs  
Merlyn and William Hopkins  
Kamaka  
Kate Kane  
Elaine Kawazoe  
Lisa and Vincent Kimura  
Barbara Kirk  
Heath Kobatake  
Steven and Stella Kolinski  
Julie Hotchkin Kraft '88  
Staci Larkin '85  
Lattanzi Family  
Chris Lee  
Minnie Ann and Ronald  
    Lindwall  
Link Family  
Nobuko Loncar  
Harry and Vivian Lovell  
Shari Lynn  
Monica Machado '81  
Mihoko Maier  
Melodee Metzger

Allison Fritts Mikuni '86  
Shauna Miyazono  
Nicole Morisugi '13  
Eden Lee Murray  
Steven and Kathleen  
    Nakagawa  
Namiki Roberts 'Ohana  
Baccara Nix  
Cathy Ong  
Denise and Glenford Park  
Vicki Parks-Cochrane '78  
Boy and Mary Jean  
    Pascua  
Craig Questa  
Dennys Salazar  
Tzana Saldania  
Peter Sanchez  
Elizabeth Savage '74  
Maile Sayarath  
Aaron Sekulich  
Tom Sheeran and Michael  
    Cheang  
Maile Shepherd  
Rodney B. Shields  
Chandra Shih '04  
Jane Sibalski '70  
Randy Spangler  
Jennifer Spengler  
Stephanie Starr '02  
Christine and Keith  
    Takahashi  
Cynthia Tesoro  
Diane Totaro-Beesley  
Freda Toves '78  
Tara Latou Trotter '80  
Jenna Tuss  
Mariko Ugajin  
Brittany Ulmer '11  
Gary Valentine  
Lavila K. VanBoening  
Malia Watson '87  
Shannon and Trichia Yogi  
Jason and Maile '90  
    Zambuto









**La Pietra – Hawai'i School for Girls**  
2933 Poni Moi Road  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96815

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



## ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS NOW!

La Pietra offers an empowering and personalized education experience for young women in Grades 6-12.

Visit our website to learn how confidence, small class sizes, and supportive teachers work to inspire girls to lead a life of purpose.

**[www.LaPietra.edu/Admissions](http://www.LaPietra.edu/Admissions) | (808) 922-2744**

Instagram: @lapietraschool | Facebook: @lapietrahsg