



# islander

MidWeek Islander | West Oahu's Community News |

NOVEMBER 11, 2009

## Veterans Awards

Saturday fun run will raise money for Kalaeloa U.S. VETS home

2

## Awards

Aiea's Amy Tsuneyoshi receives high praise for her community work

3

## Art BEAT

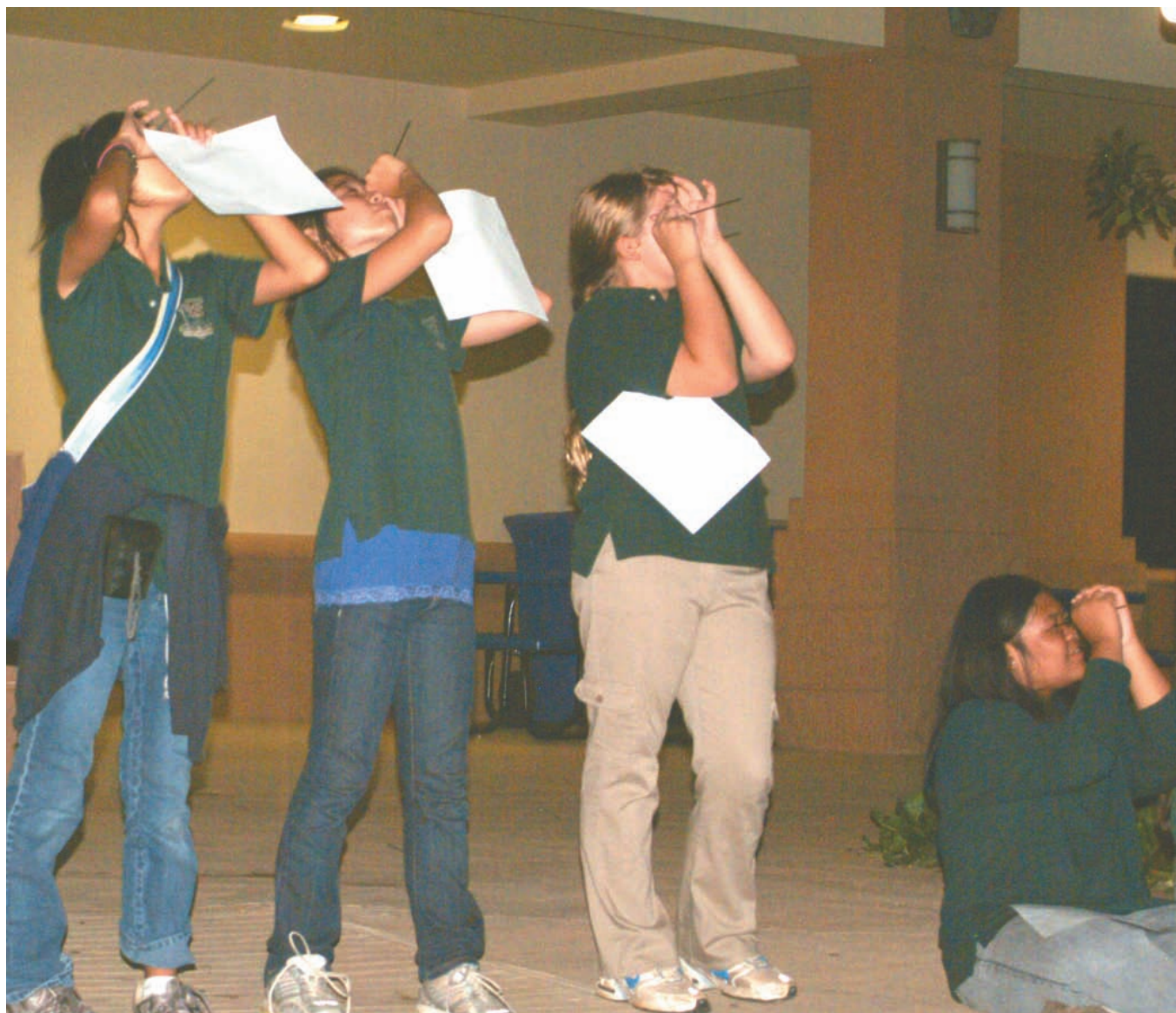
Budding West Oahu artists have work displayed at Kapolei Hale

11

## West Oahu Sports

Lady Hurricanes emerge victorious in two state bowling championships

9



Island Pacific Academy students Annika Pangelinan, Erika Ohki, Tara Norton and Chantal Robles look at the stars through coffee straws as part of a project in their Astronaut Academy. The exercises simulate the difficulty of sighting faraway celestial objects through a high-powered optical telescope. Photo courtesy of IPA.

## Students Plot New Course For Learning

By MELISSA MONIZ

Inquiry-based learning is the 21st century model that fuels Island Pacific Academy's new Astronaut Academy.

Math teacher Jennifer Higa and science teacher Jennifer Bradley collaborated on their courses to allow students a hands-on approach to learning. Instead of the traditional approach

***“In the world we're living in, life is coming so fast that it's become much less necessary to have a body of knowledge than it is to have the skills to gain knowledge.”***

of doing a project to show what was learned, for the seventh-graders at IPA, the project *is* the learning.

“The Astronaut Academy is a class, and what we have done is designated a time for science and math,” said Higa. “Michelle and I combined our lessons, so, for example, they will learn about math data analysis and then do

SEE PAGE 6

## IPA Helps Keiki Reach For Stars

FROM PAGE 1

a lab experiment, which involves collecting data.”

The Astronaut Academy, a pilot program that began in August, focuses on astronomy and physics as the vehicle to learning. As Higa explained, “It’s about how to design an experiment and figuring things out, because in the world we’re living in, life is coming so fast that it’s become much less necessary to have a body of knowledge than it is to have the skills to gain knowledge.”

The students’ next big project is Jupiter: Project 24. To celebrate Galileo’s discoveries Nov. 22, a worldwide antenna network supporting the exploration of the solar system will be used for 24 hours of continuous radio observation of the planet Jupiter. The goal is to search for possible non-thermal variability from causes such as fluctuations in solar activity and other possible changes.

“Our students are going to be involved in an antenna session, and they are so excited,” said Higa.

The public can learn more about the Astronaut Academy and other programs at its open house from 2 to 4 p.m Sunday.

IPA sits directly opposite of Kapolei Library and instructs about 650 students in grades pre-K to 12.

For more information, call 674-3563.

### DO YOU HAVE A PHOTO TO SHARE?

Do you enjoy taking pictures? We accept good-quality photographs from West Oahu residents. Photos should be in good taste, in sharp focus and depict life in West Oahu. Mail photos to MidWeek Zones, 45-525 Luluku, Road, Kaneohe, HI 96744. Remember to include a description of the photo, the names of all the people in it, your name and phone number. Digital photos are welcome by e-mail to [thefner@midweek.com](mailto:thefner@midweek.com).



Island Pacific Academy's Astronaut Academy students and teachers gather regularly for nighttime learning under the West Oahu skies. Photo courtesy of IPA.