

December 20, 2018

Dear Manoa School Ohana:

December's value of the month is **SHARING**, an important skill perfectly suited to address during this holiday season of giving and receiving. "Sharing is caring" may be a common phrase, but it has a big meaning. The implication is that when we share something with someone else, it is equal to caring for him or her. One of my favorite childhood stories on sharing comes from the classic book *Frog and Toad Are Friends* by Arnold Lobel. In the short story, "The Letter" Frog and Toad are sitting on Toad's porch waiting for the mail to arrive. Toad laments how sad he's feeling as he's never received a letter from anyone during his entire life.



Frog, in an effort to problem solve Toad's sadness, rushes home and writes a simple letter that says, "Dear Toad, I am glad that you are my best friend. Your best friend, Frog."



Frog addresses on the envelop "A LETTER FOR TOAD" and asks the snail mail carrier to deliver the message for him.



Frog rushes back to Toad's house only to find his friend depressed and hiding in bed. Toad has given up on the idea that he would ever receive a letter in the mail. The situation doesn't improve given the fact that the letter is being delivered by a snail! After a series of encouraging words and some advice on being optimistic, Frog verbally shares with Toad the contents of the letter. "Oh," said Toad, "that makes a very good letter." Frog and Toad happily end up waiting together on Toad's porch, and 4 days later, the letter finally arrives. Frog shared his feelings on friendship with Toad, epitomizing this notion of "sharing is caring."



During this busy holiday season, I encourage you to carve out some time and have your child **share** with someone a gesture of kindness in a form of a letter. This letter could be addressed to a family member, friend, teacher, or any person who might appreciate a personalized note from your child. This simple gesture helps to reinforce the message that the spirit of the season is to give rather than to receive.

Mahalo to all the Manoa families who attended last week's Festival of Arts program! I hope you enjoyed seeing great examples of creativity and expression with all the different pieces of student work and watching the pure joy found in the performances put on by our hula and hip-hop students. Thank you to all the teachers and students who helped make the Festival of Arts event such a worthwhile endeavor.

The last day for students prior to the winter break is Friday, December 21st with an early release time of 1:30 pm. School will resume on Wednesday, January 9, 2019.

Much Aloha and best wishes for a holiday season filled with love and joy!

Sincerely,

Mr. Kusuda