



# Chronicle



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## Co-Founders' Message

### Good Decision-Making = Responsible Thinking

The lack of personal responsibility in today's society is one of my greatest concerns and I'm certainly not sure how to solve it on the larger scale. But in my decades running our organization I have developed strong beliefs about how to teach responsibility on an individual level, as a coach and as a parent. And the thinking really is fairly logical, albeit, difficult, because of our human emotions.

Most parents agree that energy spent coaxing, cajoling (begging?), intimidating or dictating to a child in order to achieve a certain behavior is counter productive. The results vary but are inevitably not healthy. So why do we see it so often and what is a better alternative?

The answers to both, the responsibility question and the behavior question is, we parents and teachers must teach our kids how to be good *decision-makers*. To me, the definition of a responsible person is a person who makes good decisions — decisions which bring benefit and joy to their life *measured over the long run*.

And—as in any endeavor in life—the only way to learn how to make *good* decisions is to *practice* making decisions. In other words, as a child, to be permitted the privilege of making decisions and experiencing the pleasures *and* the pains of those decisions without I told you so's from parents or coaches.

That all makes perfect sense, but here is where the logic often breaks down in practice: Because of the indescribable love we have for our kids, as parents, we make the illogical choice of running interference and interrupting the natural consequences of a poor decision and then—to compound the problem— we sum up their poor decision with a blatant or a subtle "I told you so."

*Here is an example I recently witnessed in a public restroom:* Dad, to his 3 year old son standing on a stool reaching up while dad was washing his hands: "Don't put your hands in the water, it's too hot." The 3 year old then immediately reaches into the water and burns his hands and cries. Dad angrily, sums up, "See, I told you not to put your hands in the water, that it was too hot". Son cries harder. *What transpired?:* Dad is now angry, son feels ashamed and dressed down. Relationship is degraded to some extent. Plus, son's hand hurt, too.

Alternative: Dad: "Son, stop! Let me show you something. Here, very quickly brush your hands through this water. Like this. Go ahead, very quickly". Son: "ouch, that hurts". *What transpired:* Dad gave son the benefit of his perspective about hot things. Son received the covert 'message' that dad respects his intelligence and trusts him to make a good (responsible) decision. Son feels intelligent, respected and has learned a whole lot about hot water and even more about making good (responsible) decisions. Why oh why would a dad choose to become the 'heavy'—the guy 'punishing' to achieve a behavior—when it could have been the hot water and the natural consequences of putting one's hand into it? Illogical love, but it happens all the time.

Is this a silly, inconsequential example? Maybe, but not to me. Multiply this happening by dozens or hundreds of similar little child rearing/teaching opportunities that occur every day and let's see which approach fosters a responsible decision-maker.

Love means allowing our kids to learn real life lessons by living by their own decisions. Little, affordable ones, at first so hopefully when they are out on their own they know how to avoid the unaffordable kind.

-Jeff Metzger, CoFounder

## News, Events & Reminders



### KICK-OFF the SCHOOL YEAR! with Kona Ice!

**When:** Friday, Aug 30th 11:30-12:30

**What:** a LUAU!

All of our Campus Kids will take part in the Kick-off to the School Year Luau outside on the playground!

Teachers and kids are encouraged to dress in their best Hawaiian gear as the **KONA ICE TRUCK** serves up a Hawaiian Ice treat!



### TRANSITION WEEK

August 19th-23rd

It's back to school and for some of us that means new teachers and a few new faces!

If your child will be transitioning to a new classroom for the school year you should have received a transition letter informing you of his or her new teacher, classroom and tuition.



### What is Transition Week?

- A FUN time to meet new friends & teachers and discover a whole new environment
- Children will transition with some of their classmates to help make their new surroundings more familiar



# AUGUST



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 	2 <b>DRESS UP DAY!</b> Decades- 60's, 70's, 80's	3 
			<b>Time Travel Week</b>			Scarlett turns 1!
4  Zach turns 1!	5	6	7	8	9 <b>DRESS UP DAY!</b> Rock Star!	10 
<b>Rock Star Week</b>						
Ms. Samantha's birthday!						
11 <b>Last Week of Summer Camp...</b>	12 <b>DRESS UP DAY!</b> Sports Gear 	13 <b>DRESS UP DAY!</b> Super Hero 	14 <b>DRESS UP DAY!</b> Pirate or Princess	15 <b>DRESS UP DAY!</b> Cowboy or Cowgirl 	16 <b>DRESS UP DAY!</b> Backwards and Inside Out!	17
18	19	20 Hendrix turns 4! 	21	22	23 	24 Adelle turns 4! 
<b>CLASSROOM TRANSITION WEEK!</b>						
25	26 	27	28	29	30 <b>Kick-Off to the School Year</b> Hawaiian Luau and Kona Ice Truck! 	31 The Campus is closed Monday, September, 2.... Have a Great Labor Day Weekend! 