

Dear Marilyn, Ann, Karen, and Shelley,

April 7, 2013

Hello, from Waihe`e School! We hope these letters find you all very busy, very happy, and very healthy. The school year is winding down for us, but just before Spring Vacation a couple of weeks ago, we excitedly began Read Well 2 Unit 14. And, as you all know, at the beginning of the Teacher's Guide, there is an invitation for the students to write to you. I showed your note to the students, gave them the stationery and some brief directions, and sent it home with them over the vacation as an optional assignment. Well, they were so excited; an overwhelming majority of them brought their letters the first day back, eager to send them to you. I promised I would and said, maybe we may get a reply, though it's pretty close to the end of the school year, so we'd understand if a reply doesn't fit into our "timeline". (We're currently discussing timelines in Unit 15.) ☺

We have been on a gentle roller coaster ride this year, as Ann, you may recall from my emails back in September. This is the group that did not earn "**Strong** Passes" for Read Well 1 Unit 38 back in August, and was recommended to move into Fluency Foundations beginning in Unit A, for the next few weeks. Finally, in October, we were ready to begin Read Well 2 and we were determined to meet the end of Quarter 2 goal, Unit 7 to "meet proficiency". Hooray! We did it. We just barely met the Quarter 3 goal, Unit 14.... and we are now working very hard to meet the end of year goal for "Proficiency" - Unit 19. If all goes well, we should make it with the amount of Walk to Read Days left and the pacing I checked out for the units to 19.

The students and I thoroughly enjoy the stories, the content, the lessons, and the program in general. After teaching for 17 years, I cannot remember a time I enjoyed teaching reading more than I do now. This program is by far the most comprehensive and complete (covering the 5 Big Ideas in reading) so seamlessly and thoroughly. The Teacher's Guide makes it easy for anyone to pick up and begin teaching. Questions are answered right there in the guides or Start-Up Guide and those reminders along the way from "the birds" holding their signs, keep you on track. There's so much more to learn, I'm sure, (tricks of the trade, things I should be going deeper into...) but for now, the children are "moving", meeting the goals, and if they keep on track are expected to meet or exceed the end of year goals as well.

Thank you again, Marilyn for your kind note to my daughter Taylie, earlier this school year as well, she has finally written back, too. We were excited to imagine her spelling notebook's "travels".

Karen, we hope those "illegal" words (from your visit last school year to train our teachers with Ann) was of some help to teachers elsewhere. I'm back in the classroom, 2nd grade, and it's a lot less stressful than my one year in the Reading Intervention position last school year. We hope to see you again soon.

Marilyn and Shelley, maybe one day soon at a training or conference we'll be able to meet in person. Perhaps, you'd like to visit Maui to get more story ideas to incorporate into your next project, or another story about Miss Tam's travels. If so, Ann will know where to find me. Hopefully, still teaching and not out fishing, trying to catch "the big ulua" with her son Jason!

Until then, take care. Thank you all, for the gift of *Read Well*.

Warmest regards,
Melanie Teraoka