

'Opio Newsletter



THE ESSENCE OF
THE HOLIDAYS
December 2021 Edition

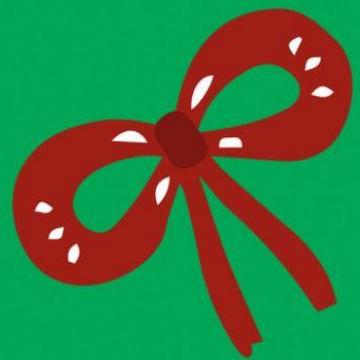
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A MESSAGE FROM:

Bransen Hatakenaka

Member - Student Achievement Committee



Hello everyone and Happy Holidays!

The end of Quarter 2 is fast approaching and with it the valuable reprieve that holidays bring. While it is a great joy to be able to rest after an especially busy semester, it is also critical to take a moment to stop and show your gratitude towards the people that have given us so much love and support. This is of even greater significance given the way COVID-19 has shaken up our worlds and placed many newfound challenges with our return to in-person learning. Everyone has been affected in some significant way, including our family and teachers, and yet they have been there every step of the way to ensure that we are able to excel in this new environment. It's easy to overlook the things that people do for us and the importance of them in our lives, but COVID has made it painfully clear that there are so many things we take for granted that we desperately need.

So over this break, make sure to spend time with family and friends to show that you appreciate them and make the most of the time you have with them. Life is too short, and it is through times like these that we remember to be grateful for what we have and give back to those that have supported us to the very end. So make the most of the holiday break and be sure to show your love by spending time with significant others while abiding by covid protocols to protect yourself and those dear to you. Mahalo Nui Loa, and Mele Kalikimaka!

Member Holiday Favorites!

"Christmas shopping! I love the process of finding a gift perfect for who I am shopping for." - Mele Kaneali'i *Molokai High*



"Right after Thanksgiving my family always buys a tree and listens to Christmas music and decorates." - Sophia Burgess *Konawaena High*

"Spending time with my family and doing fun activities with my baby siblings."
- Elolia Tuvaifale-Sheck *Radford High*



"The Christmas spirit! Seeing everyone's generosity, kindness, and excited reminds me what the holidays are really about."
- Ellie Nakasone-Amaguin *Roosevelt High*



Member Holiday Favorites!

"My favorite thing is being together with family, watching Christmas movies all day, and decorating the house!"

- Janaya Izumi Aiea High



"I love how everyone is happy! Loved ones return from the military and college, making families whole again."

- Wendell Soriano Kapa'a High



How to Make Peppermint Bark

INGREDIENTS

12 OZ. SEMISWEET CHOCOLATE, CHOPPED
12 OZ. WHITE CHOCOLATE, CHOPPED
1/2 TSP. PEPPERMINT EXTRACT
8 CANDY CANES, CRUSHED

PREP TIME

10 MINS

TOTAL TIME

50 MINS

YIELDS

12 SERVINGS

STEPS:

- 1) LINE A BAKING SHEET WITH PARCHMENT PAPER
- 2) FILL THE BOTTOM OF A LARGE POT WITH 3" WATER AND BRING TO SIMMER OVER MEDIUM HEAT. REDUCE HEAT TO LOW, THEN PLACE A LARGE HEATPROOF BOWL ON TOP
- 3) ADD SEMI-SWEET CHOCOLATE AND STIR OCCASIONALLY UNTIL CHOCOLATE HAS MELTED
- 4) STIR IN EXTRACT
- 5) POUR INTO PREPARED BAKING SHEET AND SPREAD INTO AN EVEN LAYER WITH AN OFFSET SPATULA
- 6) REFRIGERATE UNTIL SET, ABOUT 20 MINUTES.
- 7) OVER THE SAME POT OF BARELY SIMMERING WATER, PLACE ANOTHER LARGE HEATPROOF BOWL
- 8) ADD WHITE CHOCOLATE AND STIR UNTIL MELTED
- 9) POUR OVER SET SEMI-SWEET CHOCOLATE THEN TOP IMMEDIATELY WITH CANDY CANES
- 10) REFRIGERATE UNTIL SET, ABOUT 20 MINUTES.



12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS!

From December 13-24, the Hawai'i State Student Council will feature a series of posts from our members showing off their Holiday Spirit. Tune in on Instagram @hawaiistuco to be in the loop!

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