



Aina Haina Elementary School  
**Home-School Partnership Tip**

**November 2015**

## **Inquiry and Wonder: It's 24/7**

Inquiry, wonder and questioning are skills and habits that can be practiced, nurtured and encouraged. Developmental research shows that a sense of wonder works hand in hand with the development of a child's imagination, sense of worth and a feeling of empowerment. It takes will and purpose to allow our children the opportunities to ask, wonder and connect. The time we put in together at school and home, to maximize these opportunities, can form the foundation of our children's ability to connect concrete and abstract; imagined and real; vision and execution; dreams and accomplishment.

We invite our families at home to:

- **Model question asking behavior** i.e., After seeing an event on TV or driving home from school, ask yourself aloud or ask your child, "Why do you think they did that?"
- **Avoid accepting "I don't know" as a response** by asking your child to make something up as to a reason or explanation. This allows the words to come out and the initial thought process to begin.
- **Encourage the use of open ended questions** by your child i.e., "How do you suppose they created that?" Instead of "What did they make?"
- Encourage other examples of open ended questions or **inquiry starters** that include: how, why, how come etc.
- Team up with you child to start and work on a **Wonder or Inquiry Log/ Journal/Blog** etc.
- Set aside a spot on the refrigerator or wall where your **family puts up examples of wonderings or questions** or other interesting things your family can view/discuss/talk about.
- Understand that **inquiry does not always need to take the form of a question**. It can take the form of higher level action verbs like..... explain, describe, predict, i.e., Describe the ways that building shines in the car; instead of, "Look at the building's light shining in the car."
- **Believe that opportunities for wonder, whimsy and inquiry occur all the time and can be found in the best of situations and the most challenging of situations.**