



NEWSLETTER

7th Annual “Maile’s Dream”

A Celebration of Differences



Today was a very special day for a very special family who has gone through a lot of pain with their most precious daughter “Maile.” Today they will be celebrating her 7th Annual Maile’s Dream, a fundraiser for Easter Seal hosted by the Washington

Middle School students, family and staff. At this event, the goal is to educate kids on what it is like to be different with activities like blind bowling, wheelchair basketball, obstacle course, etc. The above photo left to right, Cindy, Maile and Ernest Ogata.

Apert’s Syndrome

Maile was born with Apert’s Syndrome, fused fingers/toes, cleft palate, midface, skull and bones in her feet fused. She underwent skull surgery when she was only nine months old. When she was released from the hospital, they had to teach her how to roll over and crawl again. By her third birthday, she had undergone six surgeries, five of them done in California. Maile has gone through a lot of pain over the years, but she has a very strong spirit, character, and determination that is a part of every child’s dream to just have fun. With Cindy’s leave of absence for two years without pay from Washington Middle School, and mounting medical bills, her coworkers stepped in and started a fund to raise money for their medical expenses. When Cindy returned to work, she asked to earmark the funds to some organization and came up with Easter Seals. Easter Seals was a blessing and a big help for Maile and was like family to me as I had no one else who could understand what it was like to have a “special child.”

-Cindy Ogata

PRINCIPAL - MICHAEL HARANO

Michael Harano, Principal at Washington Middle School, who received the 2010 National Distinguished Principal Award, related that “It’s a great event and I’m really proud of our student leaders who choose every year to support this event. It’s not something that we make them do, it’s something that the students themselves feel is important and



want to do. It’s about looking at diversity. One thing about our school is we have a very diverse population. What I try to tell the kids is that initially it’s the similarities that draw us together, but really it’s the differences in us that adds the spice to life and makes life worth living. Celebrating these differences in this event is important for our kids.”