

Dear Lanakila Alumni,

It's only December, and I am already excited about our wonderful upcoming Lanakila 100<sup>th</sup> Reunion. It's been a long time coming and I have been waiting for this moment since I became director. I look forward to celebrating the past, enjoy the present with friends old and new, and to dream about a future in which Lanakila continues to support and nourish future generations. You are each part of that tradition. I hope you will join us for what promises to be a memorable event.

What will make the weekend great is strong attendance by members of all generations. If you need an email address of a long-lost tent mate or friend, please feel free to e-mail me at [reunion@alohafoundation.org](mailto:reunion@alohafoundation.org) and I will do my best to get you contact information. Please contact your friends and make plans to meet in Fairlee on August 11<sup>th</sup>.

Rides on the Viking Ship, trips down the Connecticut, Council Fire, "Lanakila Presents Talent Night" on Saturday night, camp movies made since our last Reunion, Chapel in the pines, an early morning hike and canoe breakfast, Archery, Boating, Arts, Riflery, Ropes Course, fireworks, evening campfires with s'mores. Sounds like fun, doesn't it? How about singing in the barn or a trip up Mt. Cube? Of course there will also be plenty of time to meet, greet, laugh, share and reminisce with old friends and new ones, and we will offer daycare and evening babysitters so there will be time with your children and time without. If you have ideas of special events you would like to see, be they big or small, please let me know.

The weekend will begin after lunch on Friday afternoon (August 11<sup>th</sup>) and go through Sunday lunch (August 13<sup>th</sup>). We will be housing people in cabins, tents, and Hulbert cabins. We are asking you to bring your own bedding if at all possible. Let us know if there is a situation that makes this impossible, but we simply will not have nearly enough bedding for everyone.

So what's next!

- 1) Call or e-mail all your camp friends and invite them to come. Start the energy today!
- 2) Be on the look out for an email about registration. Because our property can only hold so many people, we will have to cap the number at 400.
- 3) If you have ideas for events or "special moments" you would like to see at the Reunion, please write or e-mail me ([reunion@alohafoundation.org](mailto:reunion@alohafoundation.org)).

Below you will find a document created during pre-camp with the 2022 Lanakila staff as we prepared for our work with campers—In our planning, we asked ourselves "What would be the guiding principles for an institution where the primary goal was the development of character in their participants?" I think you will enjoy the answers; they have a timelessness which we can all relate to whether we were at Lanakila in this century or the last.

I hope you will be here to celebrate 100 years of Lanakila! I know you will enjoy it, but remember also that your presence is a gift to those who want to see you - a chance to share memories and catch up on all that you have become in our time apart. I don't know about you, but I already feel like a 10-year-old counting the days on my calendar!

Skol,  
Bryan

**What would be the guiding principles for an institution where the primary goal was the development of character in their participants? Lanakila strives to create an environment where campers can have significant transformational growth in their lives. While we know and want each camper's experience to be unique, we apply these guiding principles to ensure the development of character for all our participants.**

### **Path to Discovery**

We believe that people can flourish when given opportunities to lead, to choose their path, to work out problems, to develop their own strengths. At every step along the way – choosing activities, cleaning the tent, working through disagreements, taking on new projects – we endeavor to give both campers and counselors more opportunities to lead and to develop their own capabilities. Throughout the summer, we hope that we have given members of this community – from the very youngest to the most experienced – many opportunities to surprise themselves with what they can do and how they feel in these moments.

### **Modeling Vulnerability**

At Lanakila, we hope that children will learn how to open themselves up to others, primarily from watching adults in the community demonstrate moments of vulnerability and expressions of emotion to one another. When we show every member of our Lanakila community that it is okay to ask for help, to admit that we aren't perfect, and to embrace making mistakes, we actually demonstrate strength, wisdom, and maturity. Showing that we care about each other is one of the defining qualities of a Lanakilan.

### **Reaching Beyond**

We hope to create a program and environment that inspires campers to push themselves, by providing structured choices about what they do and how they do it. Campers are encouraged to “reach beyond” by trying new activities and strengthening their skills in familiar ones. Through close mentoring, we hope campers redefine failure as a vital component of growth, and learn to value process as much as product. Mistakes and shortcomings breed creativity and allow us to face life's greatest obstacle: our own fears. Campers learn that Lanakila means “victory over oneself”: measuring success through our own goals rather than through comparisons with others.

### **Intentional Relationships**

At Lanakila, we invest an incredible amount of time and energy into developing close, honest, relationships with each other. But we know it is worth it and is one of the most important things that we do. We understand that relationships based on love and trust are the foundation of a happy and balanced life, and many of the benchmarks of camp – removing technology, living in small(ish) tents and cabins, spending long stretches of time together – are designed to help campers and counselors be present together and develop lifelong friendships.

### **Creating a Community Built on Kindness**

Kindness is the foundation of the Lanakila community. We believe that when people feel loved and seen, they are inspired to be the best versions of themselves. Campers learn that Lanakila is a safe and accepting place where they can thrive simply by being themselves, and where value is placed on any and all of the many ways they choose to engage at camp. We strive to create a community where our differences are not just accepted, but are celebrated and supported. At Lanakila, campers can trust that we will make camp a place where kindness, integrity, and humor overcome negativity and fear.