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Kapono the Robot Visits Brightwood School
*Newest colleague at CSU LA's Charter College of Education is
winning friends*

Written By: Kyle Yiu, Brightwood School second-grade student

On Monday, December 10th, our teacher (Mrs. Kimberly Ng) gave us a surprise, but we had no idea what the surprise was. Everybody was super excited to see what the surprise was.

When the surprise came, it was a robot with a human shape that was white and blue. The blue was on his shoulders and on his hand. There was a small patch of blue on his knees. There was a patch of gray on his leg connecting to the robot's body. And the rest of the robot's arms, legs, and body were white. His name is Kapono.

He was frozen for right now, but it needed a minute to power up. Then his eyes lit up to a rainbow color. It turned super light blue. Kapono's head seemed to twist. He was hearing our sounds that we were making. Dr. Cheryl Ney (from Cal State University L.A.) said Kapono can do tai-chi. Kapono did tai-chi but in the middle of that, he fell down. Almost everyone said, "Are you okay?" All of us thought that Kapono was not going to get up. But he did! He slowly got up by the push of his arms. Everybody clapped.

He answered some questions, like “How are you?” and “Can you be friends with me?” And he even told ‘Twas the Night Before Christmas! Kaponono was an amazing robot that went to my classroom and he was awesome!

All the first and second graders really liked Kaponono. Here’s what other kids said about him: Derek Jimenez: “I liked when Kaponono told us the story ‘Twas the Night Before Christmas.” Mia Mateos: “I was excited to ask Kaponono questions.” Nicolas Kiamzon: “I liked when Kaponono was doing Tai Chi moves.”

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Kapono, the Humanoid Robot from CSU LA, also visited Mrs. Michelle Luong's first-grade class. Her student, Madelyn Poon, waits patiently for Kapono to answer her question, "How old are you?" Also pictured here is Nishkami Patel, the CSU LA CCOE graduate student who is affectionately referred to as "Kapono's Nanny," and, left, AUSD Board of Education President Bob Gin. (Photo Credit: Liezel Gutierrez)



Brightwood's Ms. Kimberly Ng's surprised her second class with a visit from Kapono, the charming humanoid robot from CSULA's Charter College of Education. Far right, is second grader Nicholas Ng, who says, "The most exciting thing was when Kapono was answering questions. It was funny when he got the wrong answers." Far left, is Dr. Cheryl Ney, Dean of CCOE. (Photo Credit: Liezel Gutierrez)