



WELCOME TO OUR PACIFICA NUSIPEPA



SAMOAN LANGUAGE WEEK

On the Thursday of Samoan Language Week, the sounds of laughter and friendly competition filled the air as Thomas and I introduced and led a beloved Samoan game: Lape!

Lape is a hugely popular game in the Samoan community and it's incredibly easy to learn. Imagine softball, but with a unique twist: instead of using a bat, you use your bare hand to strike the ball. The pitcher throws the ball at you and you powerfully swing with your arm or fist towards the ball.

At first, not many people came down to play. But it didn't take long for the contagious energy of Lape to draw them in! Soon, our lunchtime session was busy as people started to join. By the end of lunch, we had teams full of many players, because they saw how fun it was.

Lape is all about bringing people together and having a fun time and we enjoyed seeing everyone celebrate this vibrant Samoan game.



Samoan Language Week was a vibrant celebration of culture, and among the many wonderful activities, making lolly leis was definitely a highlight!

The room buzzed with energy as we gathered in a fun and creative way to celebrate and connect with Samoan traditions. It was a fantastic opportunity to connect and share laughs while having conversations about our Samoan culture. There was such a sense of joy as we bonded and talked about what Samoan culture means to us.

This entire week truly filled us with pride, joy, and a deeper connection to our identity as a community.



UNAPOLOGETICALLY POLYNESIAN

UNAPOLOGETICALLY POLYNESIAN: EMBRACING IDENTITY IN THE CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

Earlier this term, our students had the unique opportunity to hear from a panel of inspiring guest speakers from the music and acting industries here in Aotearoa, New Zealand. The panel consisting of musician Kings, actor Beulah Koale and producer Vince Harder, shared their personal journeys, highlighting the power and beauty of being unapologetically Polynesian in spaces that often encourage conformity. Vince Harder reflected on the pressure to "fit in" and the misconception that success meant having to act or be "white." It was only after years of self-discovery that he realised his true superpower was his authentic self—his Polynesian identity. This resonated deeply with our students, many of whom have felt the tension between cultural pride and societal expectations. Beulah Koale emphasised the importance of knowing and appreciating each other's cultures, and never letting anyone diminish your heritage. "Never let anyone tell you—you are not brown," he declared, reminding our Rangitoto students that their identity is a privilege and a source of strength. Kings shared stories of navigating life with confidence, even when feeling disconnected from his roots. The panel members looked at school as a place to rediscover passions—like music—and to build character through hard work and perseverance. Teachers who recognised and nurtured their talents played a pivotal role in their journeys. The speakers encouraged students to form supportive networks, lean on friends, and never be afraid to ask for help. "If you want to go far—go together," Beulah said, underlining the importance of community and collaboration. Above all, the panelists urged our students to let their natural light shine and to use their culture, faith, and individuality as guiding forces.

"Us sharing who we are as a people—that is our power," they concluded, leaving our students inspired to embrace their heritage and pursue their dreams unapologetically.



TUTOR CLASS

In preparation for Samoan Language Week, our Pacific tutor class embraced the beautiful hymn called “Ua fa’afetai”.

Though the week has already passed, learning this song beforehand was an enriching journey. Our Samoan classmates led the way, teaching us not only the melody but also the deeper meanings woven into its lyrics.

Each rehearsal brought us closer, harmonising in both voice and understanding.

Ua fa’afetai

Ua fa’afetai

Ua malie mata e va’ai

Ua tasi lava oe

Ua tasi lava oe

I lo’u nei fa’amoemoe

'Eiki ko e 'Ofa 'a 'Au Himi SUTT 114

1. 'Eiki ko e 'ofa 'a 'Au
Ko e moana loloto
Pea ngalo hifo ki ai
'Eku ngaahi anga hia
Pea kuo 'ufi'ufi
'Eku kovi kotoa pe
Pea kuo 'ufi'ufi
'Eku kovi kotoa pe

In order to prepare for Tongan Language Week, our Pacific tutor class has started singing the beautiful Tongan Himi 114, Eiki Koe. It has been a special experience. Our Tongan students have become teachers, guiding the class through the melody and meaning of this significant himi. We have found that singing together as a class isn't just about learning the words, it is a powerful way to connect with each other and deepen our understanding of Tongan culture. As our voices blend, so too does our sense of unity in the class. Each day, we are getting better and better. We are looking forward to performing this for Tongan language week to our guest speakers as we honour the rich heritage of Tonga.

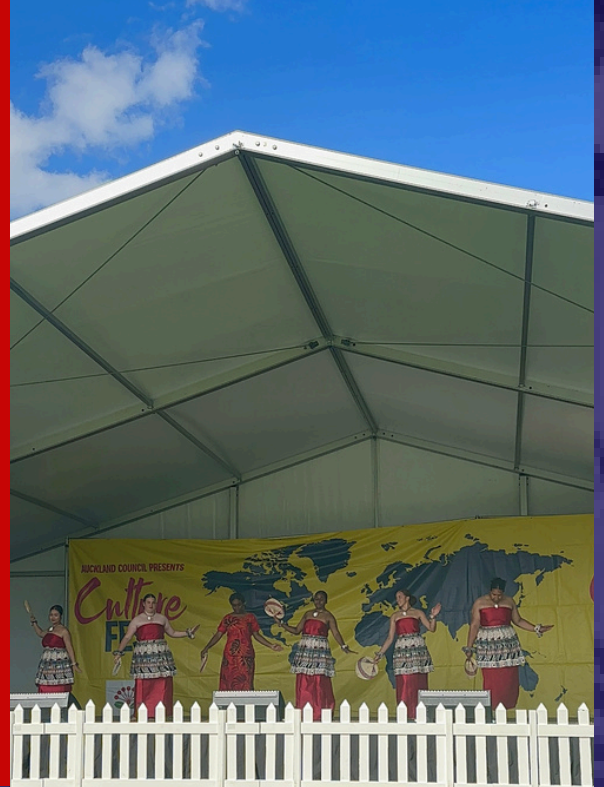
DANCE GROUPS

Our vibrant Fiji group has been making fantastic progress this term, and we are excited to share that we are currently focused on learning a brand new meke!

Despite the busy demands of schoolwork and extra curricular activities, our dedication has not wavered. We're incredibly proud of how much the group has grown and developed together. You can find us practicing every Thursday during lunchtime in E11 or E12.

Keep an eye out for our upcoming performances! We're hoping to showcase our hard work and new meke at either the Pacific hui or Fijian language week.

We can't wait to share our culture with you all!



Kia Orana,

Our dedicated Cook Islands group is made up of five enthusiastic members and we have been hard at work! We train every Monday and Wednesday at lunchtime in the English block.

While we've taken a short break over the past two weeks due to the hustle and bustle of schoolwork and trips, we're now back with renewed energy and excitement.

We are thrilled to announce that our next performance as a group will be during Cook Island language week. Mark your calendars for Monday lunchtime in the auditorium where we will be performing three vibrant dances. We'd love for everyone to come along, show your support, and watch our group share their passion for Cook Island culture through dance.

Meitaki Maata

DANCE GROUPS

Malo e lelei,

As this year's Punake, I'm incredibly proud of our Tongan group. Considering we're a fairly large group without outside support, we're doing remarkably well, learning and growing together every step of the way. Our journey so far has been pretty chill and laid back, but that's about to change as we're getting ready for a busy Term 3!

We're gearing up for a very busy and exciting Tongan Language Week in term 3. We're hoping to learn and perform three new items: a new and dynamic boys dance, a beautiful girls dance, and our combined group performance.

I am excited to share our vibrant culture and make this Tongan Language Week truly special.

Malo Aupito, Ofa lahi atu and Mate Ma'a Tongaaaa cheehooo!



Our talented Siva group has been busy, recently taking our cultural performances to two very special events!

We were incredibly proud to participate in Samoan Language Week, where we had a wonderful opportunity to showcase our culture through dance. This event also marked the exciting debut of our new set which we have been working hard on. Performing for Samoan Language Week was not only a great honor but also an unforgettable experience, allowing us to express our pride in our heritage and share in a truly meaningful way with our Rangitoto college community.

In addition to that, our group also had the privilege of performing at a wedding. This performance required weeks of preparation, dedication, and countless hours of practice to ensure we would perform with confidence and represent ourselves and our culture with pride. Being part of such a special occasion was both a rewarding and unforgettable experience.

We are so grateful for these opportunities to share the beauty of our culture!

SIR EDMUND HILLARY TRIP

Talofa lava everyone, my name is Bell Misipati and I was one of the selected students who went to Sir Edmund Hillary Collegiate during Samaon language week. In week 6 term 2, we celebrated Samaon language week at Rangitoto college. One of the ways we celebrated was by witnessing how Samaon culture is celebrated in school. On the Friday of week 6, Mrs. Swindells drove 11 of our Pacifica students down to "The heart of Auckland," Otara!

When we arrived at Sir Ed, we were walked into the school and were introduced by one of the staff members. They then guided us to the staffroom where we met with most of their student leadership team and the head teacher of Samoan Language week. He then talked to us about the students having an assembly at 11am which we had the privilege of attending. Afterwards, their student leadership team took us on a tour around the school and played a few games to wait for their morning tea to finish. At 11am, we excitedly waited in their hall for their assembly to begin.

Once it began, the school then started with their student leadership team walking to a traditional Samoan song. Their assembly was very cool to watch because it was mainly led by their students and was in full Samoan which was very nice to experience. They also had multiple performances by their Year 12 & 13 Samoan students. Something that was really fun to watch was the Taua Lunga dance which was performed by one of their head teachers. It was amazing to watch how the students were very hyped while watching their teacher perform and I loved watching the students dance around their teacher to show their love and appreciation for what he does for them.

After the assembly, we headed over to their gym where we played a traditional sport game called Lape. I had fun playing this with the very competitive students of Sir Ed. My team got a massive hiding and I don't even want to share the score! So I'm keen to go back and beat them next year. After their game, our final stop was their staffroom where we had a massive feast of Samoan food provided by the school. There was so much food and everybody, including myself, had 2 to 3 plates. We then had to leave because it was getting late but what was funny was how Sione left with 3 to 4 plates of food. We then made our way back to the school and that was the end of our Cultural trip. I had so much fun and hope to do something with the Sir Edmund students in the future.

Fa'afetai lava Sir Edmund Hillary Collegiate for this unforgettable trip.



NEW UNIFORM

Talofa Lava, my name is Reuben Misipati and I'm thrilled to introduce an exciting new uniform item that was brought in for our Pacific students.

This special item is called the Ie Faitaga in Samoan, the Taulava in Tongan or a Sulu in Fijian. This traditional clothing item is worn by both males and females in each culture. However, there are noticeable differences for each gender. The Ie Faitaga for males is short at about knee length and has 4 ties and 1 hole to make the Ie secured when tying. Meanwhile, for females, the Ie ends by the ankles and has 2 long ribbons for secured tying. Many of our Pacifica students, including myself, now have this Ie as part of our uniform and we can wear it daily.

I personally enjoy wearing my ie faitaga to school everyday, because it looks cool and gives me a chance to wear and celebrate my culture at school.

Thank you to Mrs Newman and our student leaders for organising this for our Pacifica students.

Fa'afetai Lava,
By Rueben Misipati

