



# Rongomai School

Empowered to Take Risks; Determined to Succeed

## Newsletter

Rātū 28 o Haratua

Tuesday 28th May

# 2019

*This newsletter is dedicated to the memory of Matua Roger Davis, - father of Whaea Claudia Ursaliko. Matua Roger was a very humble and diligent servant of Rongomai School. Much Aroha to the Davis Whanau*

### Happy Samoan Language Week

Talofa lava to our Rongomai aiga this week as we embrace and celebrate the richness of Samoan language and culture. The theme for the week is **“Lalaga le si’osi’omaga mo se lumana’i manuia - Weave an environment for a better future.”**

Matua Vae explained that *Lalaga* means “weave” which is a long-time tradition in pasifika life. In the context of the theme, “weaving” represents the holistic being of a person so our teachers are encouraged to provide a classroom where student wellbeing is valued and the environment is set up for their success. We follow a saying *“Don’t teach me my culture but use my culture to teach me”*. Thank you to those embracing the Samoan culture this week. If you have a spare moment, come and check out the staffroom this week where Miss Faifua, Matua Vae, Miss Afemata, and a few other staff and their families have put on a magnificent display. The display is a reflection of what a typical Samoan home might look like. All are welcome!



TL hoists the flag during the Samoan National anthem before sharing details about himself in the Samoan Language.



Miss Faifua, Matua Vae, and Miss Afemata - the masterminds behind Rongomai’s Samoan Language Week



A visual timeline of Past Samoan Language Weeks. Just a small sample of the beautiful display in the staffroom. Watch out for 2019!!!

***la manuia le vaiaso o le gagana Samoa***

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## **School Uniforms**

Rongomai School uniforms have now been phased out from the Warehouse in Manukau. However, we have purchased the remaining uniform from the manufacturers and will be selling them at the school office. We have a limited stock of the school sweatshirt (\$20) and our polar fleece jackets (\$35); all of which can be purchased from the school office. EFTPOS is now available. We do apologise that we don't have any polo shirts or shorts as we are transitioning to a new uniform that won't confuse us with other schools. In the meantime, if you are requiring new uniform, please purchase any navy blue short/skort and navy blue polo shirt from a store of your choosing. Postie Plus is one vendor where items are reasonably priced at the moment. The new uniforms will be available for purchase towards the end of this term or beginning of Term 3.



## **Netball**

3 teams and 3 semi finals was the outcome for our 2 girls' and 1 boys' netball squad. A pleasing result despite the high injury rate - Thank you St Johns! Whaea Trina commented that it was a good day, well

organised and the children represented our school well with great sportsmanship. Her star player was Mai Liem (R4) who stood out with her solid defence and "dogged" attitude. Whaea Paeariki had 2 players of the day in her boys team - Ibanez and Thompson. Ibanez (R4) was fantastic on both attack and defence while Thompson was a defensive juggernaut who helped to turnover a lot of the opposition's ball. For Matua Lui, his pick of the team was Talita (R7) who never gave up especially when playing against girls who were much taller. Well done to all coaches and players involved. Keep active and see you next season!



Ottorose puts up a shot as Jalyn looks in support



2019 Rongomai Netball Squad

## **Community SUPERHEROES**

This term a focus for our Senior Syndicate is superheroes - yes, the Avengers are talked about but closer to home we have real-life people in our homes and communities that

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Aspire to the greatest heights, should you bow, be it to a lofty mountain.

we look up to and get inspired by because of their good character and good deeds.  
The seniors met 2 groups of superheroes....



Kingzton (R7) was fortunate enough to meet Constables Tonga and Matini and learnt some very valuable lessons from the visit. About the police he said, *“It’s not only about arresting people. It’s about saving lives too. We can look at them as protectors, guards and friends....they help prevent bad stuff from happening”*. Both Constables Tonga and Matini were very open about sharing their experiences and were encouraging to our children to do well. Thanks NZ Police!



The senior syndicate have a Q & A session with the police



Constables Tonga (left) and Matini interact with students



Melani & Eileen show Johnny-Mac (R6) and Grace (R6) how to put on their uniform - you’ve got to be quick!

Matua Vae’s brother Melani was kind enough to come with his friend Aileen to talk about what it is like to be a firefighting volunteer. Although, they both are employed by the NZ Police in the call despatch centre, they generously give of their time to support the Fire Brigade in helping to keep the community safe. Irene (R7) said *“They were telling us how to put on the uniform fast and that they train at Te Wananga O Aotearoa”*. She also added that when there is a fire you need to *“get down, get low, and get out fast”*. Thank you Matua Melani and Whaea Eileen!



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## Year 6 Tech Workshop

On the 23rd of May at Sir Edmund Hillary Collegiate, Matua Vae and some Y6 students attended a workshop as part of Techweek NZ. We try to expose our children to a myriad of learning experiences and this tech opportunity was definitely a hit!



Y6 students taking control of their robots

Savanah (R4) was one student who relished the experience. “We learnt about robots and virtual reality (VR) and how that works. We got to play with lots of things. With the VR we put on goggles and it shows stuff that is 3D. You can look up and down and if you get dizzy you need to take off your goggles. It was really fun and good to see some ex-students there too from Ferguson Intermediate like Tala and Sifa”. Glad to see her connect with old Rongomaites. Perhaps Technology may be a career path she pursues one day - awesome stuff Savanah!



Students go to another world with Virtual Reality (VR)

## Our Support Staff Make a Difference!!!

While the national news is covering the teacher strike this week, we acknowledge what our Office Staff, Learning Assistants, and Property people do daily to help run our school smoothly. They make a positive difference and we love them - we expressed this on 16/5/19 on “*International Support Staff Day*”.



Some of our lovely Support Staff with cards and gifts from the students and teachers.

## Upcoming Events

- **Samoan Language Week** - 27th - 31st May
- **Teacher Strike** - 29th May  
**School will be closed**
- **QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY - NO SCHOOL** 3rd June (Monday)
- **Equippers Students visiting Rongomai** - 4th - 6th June
- **OSC Rugby League Tournament** - 6th June
- **BOT Elections** - 7th June

I'll end with this Samoan proverb....

**“E pala le ma'a ae le pala upu”**

Rocks decay but words endure.

Let's uplift each other with kind, positive words. Have a fantastic week everyone!

Kia manuia,  
Paeरिक Johnson - Principal

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