



Tāmaki College

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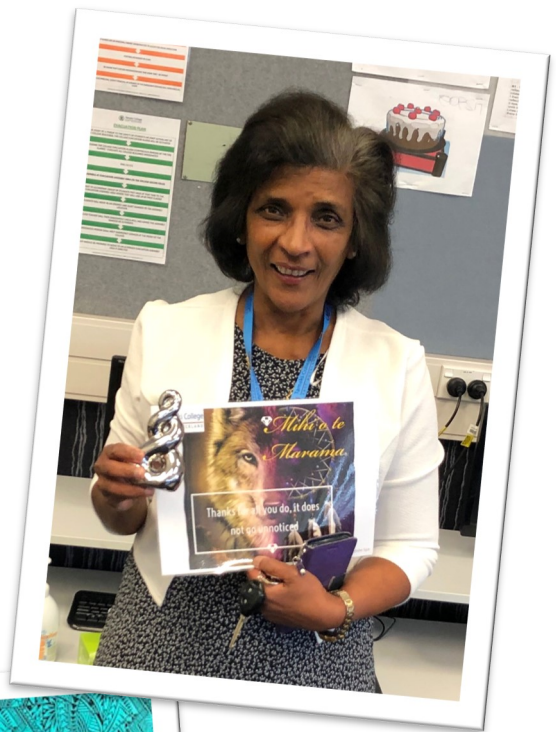
We are the Ocean—Navigators of the Pacific



Rugby International Filippo Levi spoke at the recent Year 12 and Year 13 NCEA Badge presentation on the theme, 'We are the Ocean—Navigators of the Pacific', drawing on the themes of adventure, discovery, navigation, and migration, as he discussed the amazing feats of Māori and Pacific exploration and that students draw upon 3000 years of history as they undertake life's journey. Filippo spent his early years in Glen Innes before his family moved to Dunedin for his Father to pursue theological study. However he has maintained a strong connection to the college with his younger sister Agnes who studied here, and who was both Head Girl and Dux, and his sister-in-law Pinprapa Lohajinda-Levi, who worked as an Administrator at the school. During his rugby career Filippo captained Manu Samoa and played for the Highlanders, and now works in the field of transformational leadership. Filippo is pictured with members of the Tāmaki College Boys 1st XV Rugby team, from left Talia'uli Fosita, Toni Kava and Fetu'utaki Tukuafu following the Year 12 NCEA Badge presentations. See pictures from the boys' first game of the season in this edition of the Tamaki College Newsletter, together with Staff Acknowledgments and speeches from Samoan Language Week.



Right: English Teacher of the Month, Christine Williams.



Right Middle: Joint Winner of Tutor Teacher of the Month, Janish Kumar, who has a Year 11 Tutor Class.



Above: Dean of the Month, Geraldine Corray, who looks after Year 9.



Below: Joint Winner of Tutor Teacher of the Month, Alejandro Cunard, who has a Year 12 Tutor class.

Staff Acknowledgements



Above: Director of Pastoral Care, Nepote Hingano and Social Worker, Ozee Kupu (right below) are commended for their support of both staff and students.





Samoa Language Week 2020

Sunday 24 May – Saturday 30 May

Prepare yourself a gift for your travels



For more information visit www.mpp.govt.nz

Boys 1st XV Rugby Season Opener Against Howick College



Above left: Seth Makea makes a play supported by Senetenari Filemoni, Judah Penu and Taki Tukuafu.
Above: Taki Tukuafu heads for the try line with support from Lanzie Tu'ata'ane and Wesley Sioneuesile.
Middle: Judah Penu feeds into the scrum which is held by Popi Vivili and Joseph Leona. Below: Tevita Po'oi.



Samoan Language Week Speeches.

Supported by teachers Dorothy Apelu, Josie Apelu, Makerita Lote-Fepuleai, Taua Matavao, Sonya Robertson and Alby Tu'uga Stevenson, four students presented speeches, via google hangout as part of the school's Samoan Language Week Celebrations during Level 2.

The first speech was presented by Makerita Lote-Fepuleai to open our celebration.

Oute faatalofa atu ile Paia ma le mamalu o ole aofia ua faatasi mai i lenei taeao matagofie. Faapito ona faatalofa atu ile susuga ile tama'itai Pule aoga ia Soana Pamaka ma ona soa pule fesoasoani, ae maise le vasega o alii ma tamaita'i faiaoga o le Kolisi i Tamaki nei. E muamua pea ona sii e viiaga male faafetai ile Atua ua mafai ai ona tatou aulia mai lenei taeao fou, le taeao ua faapitoa lea mo le gagana Samoa i Aotearoa nei.

Talofa and greetings to you all in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Welcome to the opening of our Samoan Language week. Greetings to our Principal Soana Pamaka and the Senior Leadership Team, the professional staff and all the academic staff and students of Tamaki College. Talofa talofa lava.

Ole autu ole vaiaso ole gagana samoa 2020 i Aotearoa nei ua faapea "Tapena sou oso mo lau malaga" Our theme for this year's Samoan Language week is "Prepare yourself a gift for your travels". In the Samoan culture it is very important that when you plan or prepare to travel abroad to visit family or to attend a special occasion, you have to make sure you also prepare a gift to take with you on that journey. You can never go anywhere empty handed and I believe this is common in many of our cultures represented here today. Whether you are traveling from Savaii to Upolu, the two main islands in Samoa, or from Auckland to Sydney, you can never go to visit your families without taking a oso or gift for those awaiting your arrival. Whether it be a bag of taro, breadfruit, 10 dollars or a 1000\$ whitakers chocolates, anchor butter, a 75 inch smart TV, your oso or gift will always be received with grateful hearts.

In our culture, ceremonies like marriage proposals, exchanges between villages, schools, churches, sports teams, the travelling party or visitors will always take with them a oso or gifts that usually consist of mats, tapa, pigs, taro, fish, chickens and various types of food depending on the occasion and also souvenirs from where they are visiting from. This is considered very important. But when they leave the host group, family, or village who received the visitors gifts will also prepare a oso to give as a parting gift for them to take back to where they came from and their families who are waiting for their return. So you see, both parties in this situation will benefit from the giving and receiving of gifts throughout their journeys.



There are so many cultural aspects of this theme that I can go into but the one aspect that I want to connect our theme to and focus on this morning and throughout this week is our Educational journey. As educators, and learners what gifts are we preparing for our educational journeys? An easy explanation is that Education itself is a gift.

Education was the reason why as an 8 year old I left the village that raised me and journeyed across the Pacific Ocean to New Zealand to live with my aunty and uncle so I could receive this gift and live a better life. Before I left my parents, grandparents and aiga, I was blessed with the gift of language, knowledge about my heritage, family history, cultural traditions and values. These all played a major role in my identity, and knowing who I am as a Samoan woman. The journey wasn't easy. The struggles I had to overcome to get to where I am today I believe are all part of the many gifts I received and I have prepared to take with me throughout my journey in Education.

When we were training to become educators and professional staff members, we worked, studied and prepared ourselves with gifts of knowledge passed down to us from our parents, elders, lecturers, mentors, knowing that one day we will share and impart these gifts of knowledge to our very own students and even children. Whether it be teaching them how to read, write, draw, sing, cook, teaching them about science and society, how to build, play rugby, and the list goes on. As educators we each contribute to the lives of these young people by the gifting of all these specialised skills that will help nurture them and prepare them individually for this journey that we call life.

Education as a gift, will open up opportunities for them to grow and be strengthened so they too can help their communities, families, churches to excel and prosper in Aotearoa New Zealand. Education can provide them with courage, resilience to withstand and cope with challenges that they will face in a society where they are a minority. As Samoans in Aotearoa and in our very own Tāmaki Family, our language is something that as teachers and students we can offer to you all as a gift throughout this week. Our language which sets us apart from other cultures is something that is unique and precious to us all.

We hope that throughout this week each and everyone of you will be blessed through the sharing of our culture and language and that the new words and knowledge you will gain, will be added to your basket of knowledge or gifts that can be shared with others throughout your own personal and educational journey. Ia manuia, Faafetai lava.



Talofa lava, O lou igoa o Maletina Niko. Ole Autu/Theme o lenei vaiaso ua faapea Tapena sou oso mo lau malaga - Prepare a gift for your travels.

This morning I am going to discuss and look at the word Tapena or Prepare. Whenever we talk about a journey or trip somewhere, we always need to prepare ourselves and our families for that trip. The preparation part of anything that we do is probably the most important part of any process. Whether it is preparing for a trip, or preparing to bake a cake, or to build a house we need to make sure we are prepared with the right resources and equipment to fulfil and complete a certain task. As students we need to prepare ourselves for each day, before we leave our homes and journey to school ready to acquire the gifts of knowledge that our teachers will share and teach us each day.

The teachings that we receive from our teachers, and parents are gifts and skills that will help us prepare for our life's journey or our malaga. Whatever path we choose to take, what we learn and take away from our schooling here at Tāmaki College will help prepare us for our future endeavours, and travels. The skills that we learn from our teachers, coaches, leaders, parents and elders are gifts that we will collect along our life's journey and it will be added to our basket of knowledge, our kete or ato. These teachings will remain with us for the rest of our lives. These gifts will enable us to enter the universities, the workforce and prepare us to live life to our full potential. These gifts will help us face the challenges that life will throw at us and overcome adversities and struggles.

Young people, value the gift of education, prepare yourselves well each day by bringing the correct equipment, wearing the correct uniform, and have the right frame of mind so you can utilise the opportunities that we have here at Tāmaki College. Make the most of the teachers that we are gifted with here at our College. Tapena sou oso mo lau malaga.

A student that is not prepared, is a student who will miss out, a student who will struggle and eventually fail because they did not tapena or prepare for their malaga. Remember the saying “You reap what you sow”. What you put into your journey is what you will get out from that journey. If you are lazy and never turn up to school, you will struggle at the end of the year and will fail your tests and exams. If you have attended everyday and listen actively, you will achieve what we set out to achieve and will gain the gift of passing your levels 1, 2 or 3.

Remember to prepare yourself today, use the gifts that we have been given so we can gift it to someone else in the future. la manuia ma faafetai.

Right: Maletina Niko, with her parents, Mr Asovalu Niko and Mrs Aunofu Niko and Angela Moala, from Pt England School at the launch of the Tereora Academy.



Talofa lava o lo'u igoa Olever o a'u ole tama Samoa mai le vasega 11. Ole autu ole vaiaso gagana Samoa "Tapena sou oso mo lau malaga." "Prepare a gift for your travels." Today I will speak to you about the word OSO or GIFT.

Many of us including some Samoans will see the word gift and think of the word present. For example I got a birthday present or a gift from my parents last night. However the meaning of the word gift in this context is different from that of a present. A present is something that you give to someone and they are required to keep it for themselves. However an oso is something that travellers take with them and will gift it to the people, family, village or gathering of people who are all waiting for his/her arrival. It is also a gift that if they give away it will not be considered as rude or deemed inconsiderate. This is why I say that present is not the correct word to use to describe the word oso.

An oso is something that is shared among the whole family, even extended family. You cannot take an oso with you to Samoa and expect to give it to just one or two people. A oso is something that is shared in a communal type of gathering or way. If you take an oso and it is for your own immediate family then that will be ok too. However in our Samoan culture it is considered rude or an embarrassment, almost a disgrace when you receive gifts from you family members that travelled from overseas and not give it out to your neighbouring families or tuaoi. Sometimes the family who the gift was intended for will go without because they have given most of the oso away to others in the village.

As students we come to school to receive the gift of knowledge and education. In return we will be equipped to continue with our studies or use this knowledge to find a job to help our families and our communities. That is our oso to our aiga, our extended families or our communities. Our parents migrated to NZ so that we can have the opportunities that they never got. They have sent us to school to educate ourselves so that we can live a better life, so that we can be better than them and provide better opportunities for ourselves and our future generations. This was their gift for us. So in return our oso to our aiga, our families is having the ability to provide and help them financially, physically, and mentally. This is an oso that our parents will gladly receive. Knowing that we will be able to stand on our own and provide for ourselves and the aiga is a gift that will make them the happiest and proudest parents in the world. So today I challenge you all to consider and think about the types of gifts that you have been preparing for your life's journey. I heard one elderly man say that gifts are not meant to be kept, they are meant to be shared and given away. Not only will you be blessed by sharing your gift, but you will also be a blessing to those who receive it.

Far right: Olever-Brendon Ulale at the 2019 Junior Prizegiving, receiving the Year 10 Deans Award.



Talofa lava o lo'u igoa o Mua Leilua. Ole autu o lenei vaiaso ua faapea, Tapena sou oso mo lau malaga. Prepare a gift for your travels.

Over the past few days we have looked at the meaning of the words Tapena or Prepare, Oso or gift and so today we are going to look at the word Malaga or travels, journey or trip.

When you wake up every morning to get your family or just yourself ready for work or school, do you ever stop to think that when you step out of your front or back door, you will be embarking on a journey or going on a trip? Many of us have probably never thought and looked at coming to school as being on a journey or malaga. We always tend to think that a malaga consists of travelling outside of our community or taking a plane ride outside of Auckland to a city or country faraway. As students, did you ever think that walking down Taniwha St or Elstree Ave to attend school, you were on a journey or malaga? Never before in my 4 and half years of attending Tamaki College did I ever think that I was on a journey. However our focus this week in relation to the theme for Samoan language week of Preparing a gift for your travels, has us focusing on an important journey that we as students are traveling on right now and at this very moment.

You will never believe it but we have been on this journey since we were babies. Starting from the sounds and baby talk that we made to our very first words. We have been acquiring new languages, learning how to walk mimicking our parents, siblings, family members, copying what they say and do. Yes! We have been travelling this journey for as long as we have been living. Our home was our first classroom. Our parents, grandparents, and family members were our first teachers. Television is also included in the list of our many teachers who have taught and helped us to learn. Programs like Hi5, The Wiggles, Barney the Dinosaur, Sesame Street to name a few, have taught us one or two things that we can still remember like singing along to ABC and counting 1,2,3. Our journey in search of knowledge and wisdom, of skills that will assist us in life, is a journey that is continuous and ongoing. It is a journey that will continue even after we leave Tamaki College.

Vaiaso o le Gagana Samoa 2020

Aso Sa 24 Me - Aso To'onai 30 Me

Tapena sou ōso mo lau malaga



For more information visit www.mpp.govt.nz



Some of us have goals and plans to attend university, to pursue careers in the trades, tourism industry or to work doing something that they love. Whatever it is that we choose to pursue, whatever path we choose to travel this journey on, remember that you are not alone. You have trained professionals, teachers, academic mentors, advisors as well as our families who will be there to guide and support us through our journeys.

The gifts and skills that we have received throughout our journeys will enable us to achieve whatever goals we set out to achieve. Be mindful that there will be obstacles and barriers that can cause us to deviate from our paths and sometimes these barriers can stop us from wanting to continue on the Educational journey. However, the gifts, knowledge and skills that you have collected throughout your journey will remain with you always.

This is why education is important and it's a journey that we need to embrace, and to appreciate. It's an opportunity that if we don't value and make the most of, others will grab it and utilise it. It's a journey that is freely available to us all, and it is up to us to make sure that we remain focused and not waste the time and opportunity we get to learn and be educated. Remember if the journey gets too hard, don't Give Up! Gear UP!!

Nothing in life will come easily but if you put your mind and soul and prepare yourselves for what is ahead, your journey will be a lot easier. And when you reach the end you can reflect back on the many gifts that you have collected and be thankful for those who helped you on the way. So students, are you prepared for your journey? Make sure E tapena sou oso mo lau malaga. Faafetai ma ia manuia.

Right: Mua Leuila at the 2019 Student Leaders Handover Assembly, receiving her tie and badge as new Pūriri House Captain, from the outgoing Pūriri House Captain Frances Nimo.



Talofa lava ile susuga ile pule aoga faapea susuga o faiaoga ma fanau aoga i Tamaki nei. Faafetai i le Atua ua tatou aulia mai le fa'aiuga olenei vaiaso faapitoa mo le gagana Samoa i Aotearoa ae maise totonu ole tatou aiga ile Kolisi o Tamaki.

Talofa and greetings to you all this morning. First and foremost I would like to give honour to our Heavenly Father for his covering over us, this week.

Throughout this week we have been blessed with various speakers who helped us to understand our autu or theme of "Tapena sou oso mo lau malaga. Prepare a gift for your travels." Before I proceed with my presentation, I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of our Samoan teachers and students to thank Senior Leadership Team and the teachers of our Tamaki Family or aiga for embracing our language and allowing us to share our language and our culture with you all. Thank you to those who participated in our videos, cooked our panikekes and shared what we prepared with your tutor classes. This week wouldn't have been possible without your love and support. Faafetai, faafetai lava.

I would also like to acknowledge our Samoan teachers who continue to keep the fire burning for our Samoan community and people here at Tāmaki College. Thank you for the preparations of gifts that you have all contributed towards our malaga this week. Your love for our culture and our language has resonated with many of our students, staff and family members here at Tamaki College.

Our theme this week is like a torch that has been ignited to reveal, direct and open our eyes to the realities of the journeys that we are individually travelling. It has informed us about the importance of preparing well for our journeys as students. It has reminded us that we need to appreciate and value the journeys that our ancestors made in the past to get us to where we are today. It has given us an awareness of the struggles that they had to face and overcome throughout their journeys so that we can sail through ours as smoothly as we can. Many of our parents, grandparents and ancestors sacrificed their lifestyles and life. They left behind the comfort of their beautiful islands, warm weather and the life that they were used to and ventured out into unknown territory in search of a better life. In search of the land that was flowing with milk and honey. They fought the blistering cold on winter mornings catching buses, trains and walked to work in factories so we can be gifted with a better life.

Sadly many of us take some of these things for granted, and never stop to realise or think about the struggles that our parents, grandparents went through and continue to go through every day so we can be happy. So we can be comfortable. So we have a roof over our heads, food on our tables and shoes on our feet. So many of us are so used to the way that we live our lives, we tend to forget that what we have are gifts, blessings from all the hard work that our parents had to endure so they could gift us brighter and better futures. Gifts that they have tapena so they could give us the life that they didn't have and provide us with the things that their parents couldn't give them.

Tapena sou oso mo lau malaga is reminding us students, young people who are the hands and feet of tomorrow, the torch bearers for our families regardless of what nationality you are, that one day we too will start our own journeys as parents and come across similar struggles. But remember, and never forget the sacrifices our parents made and what they struggled with so we won't have to go through and travelled the same journeys that they traveled on.

As the future generation for our peoples, for Aotearoa, we have to tapena and prepare well. Everyday we leave our homes to travel this journey of getting an education, in search of a better future, a better life so we can give back to our aiga, our families and communities. So we can look after our parents or grandparents who have looked after us for so many years. So we can buy them a house or a car. These are some of the dreams that we have that will inspire us to prepare well and to make sure we complete this journey. That we can make our parents proud, that we can stand on our own two feet and not rely on anyone else to provide for us, because our parents have already paved the way for us. Remember that the educational successes and achievements that we aimed to achieve are gifts that we will have to share with our aiga, our communities, our parents and those who we are connected with. When you become successful your aiga and community will be successful also. When we achieve, your parents will know that they have achieved. If we fail, it will make our parents feel that they have failed.

How is your journey today, this year? What gifts have you collected along your travels all packed into your basket or ato that you will carry with you throughout your life's journey? My journey here at Tāmaki College is coming to an end, but I know that my parents and teachers have given and blessed me with gifts that I have in my ato to prepare me for the next lap of my journey. I guess it is the same for many of you. So please remember to thank your parents, thank you teachers today and all those who have contributed to your journey, because if it weren't for their guidance, directions and help. We would never have made it this far.



Ia manuia la outou malaga, ia ta'ita'i le Atua i soo se mea tou te o iai, ma ia tapena lelei mo lou lumana'i. May the good Lord guide you and travel with you throughout your different journeys. Always remember to prepare well for the future and that your life is a gift that will help someone else in their journey throughout their life. Faafetai ma ia manuia.

Left: Head Boy Vaifoa Lam Sam welcomes at new Year 9 student.