



Newsletter

Rāpare 15 o Akuhata
Thursday 15th August
2024

Tēnā koutou, Kia orana, Malo ni,
Fakaalofa lahi atu, Talofa lava, Malo e lelei,
la orana and Greetings!



What a wonderful time we had last week celebrating Cook Islands Language Week. Together with the entire student roll (plus staff and parents) of Flatbush School (FBS), we kicked off with a bang on the Monday welcoming FBS with our Turou. The day was a tribute to our late great Kuki Airani Principal, Whaea Paeariki. The 2024 theme was:

***‘Ātui’ia au ki te vaka o tōku matakeinanga -
Connect me to the canoe of my tribe’***



Junior (Rm 6) Front and back view leading our Turou with high energy. FBS came with the same energy and vibes!

This connects nicely with our value of heritage. Honouring and sustaining our heritage is significant to one’s wellbeing.



FBS Principal, Mr Banapa Avatea together with noted Author David Riley lead FBS through the turou.

Whaea Paeariki’s quote ***“Don’t teach me my culture, use my culture to teach me”*** was brought up a few times amongst staff and it was lovely to have her parents join us - much aro’a to Papa Daniel and Mama Kairangi for their continued love and support. Her husband, Matua Phil (our Property Manager), daughter Gidienne (Receptionist) and sister-in-law Whaea Trina (Officer Manager) continue to soldier on daily at Rongomai. We treasure and appreciate you very much 🥰



Meitaki Ma’ata Rongomai!!!

Before FBS arrived, our Cook Islands group - ***Te Uki Au Rongomai*** - opened with Pure (prayer) and ‘Imene (song) and raised the national flag up high. Throughout the week, words were learnt, songs were sung and outfits were modelled as you will see in the photos / videos (scan QR codes) attached:



Miss Faifua addresses ‘Rongomai Bush’. ‘Flat Rongomai’ just doesn’t sound right huh??? 🤔🤔 IYKYK



Rongomai and FBS face each other in a gathering of friends. "Friends are family you choose with your heart" shared Mr Avatea (FBS Principal). True indeed!



Our sensational drumming team are available for hire for birthdays, weddings, and special events. See Matua Lee LOL



FBS perform admirably before a grateful Rongomai Crowd



He teaches drums, coaches sport and does opening speeches - the multi-talented Matua Lee (or Sensei)



Te Uki Au O Rongomai ends the week with a fantastic performance!!! Like Shakira, their hips don't lie! 🕺

MEITAKI MA'ATA to everyone who played a part in a fabulous 'Epetoma o te reo Māori Kūki 'Airani - Cook Islands Māori Language Week



Our children dressed in beautiful cultural attire.



The brilliant team that led our week (L-R) Maine Christina, Matua Lee, and Maine Terangi - thanks so much team!!!



CHECK OUT OUR COOL VIDEOS FROM THE WEEK!!!
 -Rongomai and FBS Kuki Airani Tribute Day Highlights
 -Rongomai CILW Fashion Show - Yeeyah!!!!

Community Notices

TONGAN LANGUAGE WEEK IS NEXT WEEK (Sunday 18th - 24th August)
 - Cultural attire all week

Important Dates to Remember

- *Otara Schools Soccer Tournament* - (Thursday 22nd August)
- **STAFF ONLY DAY**

NO SCHOOL FRIDAY-30TH AUGUST

Fa'afetai lava,
 Sarah Faifua
 (Acting Principal)