

## CHAPEL MESSAGES FOR THE WEEK ENDING 20<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2017

### MONDAY, 16<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2017

Fakalofa lahi atu/Bula All

WELCOME BACK to all our Staff and students for the final term of the academic year. A sort term but a busy one.

THANK YOU to Senior Prefect Tupou Vaai who presented his NZ Secondary School's team jersey to the School this morning.

Tupou over the holidays represented NZ and is being touted as a possible member of the NZ U20's national squad. Given Tupou's young age this is quite a feat. CONGRATULATIONS!

Psalm 137:4 How can we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land?

This week we are celebrating Fijian and Niue Language Week.

Nationally NZ celebrated Fijian Language Week last week but given we were on holiday and our Fijian community here at Wesley, we will acknowledge Fiji this week along with celebrating Niue Language Week. Fakalofa lahi atu!

The national recognition throughout the year acknowledging the many Pacific Island languages and their people here in New Zealand, is a way of singing the Lord's song in a foreign land. The increasing diversity of our population calls for more occasions where we can celebrate diversity in all its different forms – faith, language, culture, song, dance, values and traditions. When we are surrounded by a dominant culture which determines by and large our social and political framework and the only way to access and be successful within that framework, is to become ensconced in that world. The danger for others, is the gradual loss of their identity and language. Every opportunity to remind the ever increasing Pacific Island population born in NZ of their identity and languages as well as their cultural traditions, can only add to the celebration of diversity in this country. Someone famous said, 'We cannot know where we are going, if we do not know where we have come from.'

THANK YOU to Hostel Parent Mr David Qaranivalu who led chapel this morning to begin Fiji and Niue Language Week.

Please find attached the service for this morning.

Have a blessed day

### TUESDAY, 17<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2017

There was no Chapel message today.

## **WEDNESDAY, 18<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2017**

Bula Vinaka

CONGRATULATIONS to the Junior Touch Team who had their first outing yesterday a draw and a win.

We ended celebrating Fijian Language Week today.

THANK YOU to our Fijian family who this morning again led chapel.

The Bible reading was from Psalm 137:1-4 on pages 639 and 760 in the Wesley Bibles.

THANK YOU to Graciela Qaranivalu and Jone Seniceva who shared their experience of travelling to the Holy Land in the last holidays. The experience of visiting a culture and it's people you have grown up with through reading the Bible, attending Sunday School and Church was for these two young people unbelievable. It brought home to them the importance of holding on to one's culture, language and traditions especially as the Psalmist says 'when in a foreign land.'

This is the challenge 'How do we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land?'

Have a blessed day

## **THURSDAY, 19<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2017**

Fakalofa lahi atu - Greetings All

Oue tulou to Mr David Faitala, Head Boy Prefect Xavier Faitala and Beaux Dene Tolomaki - Tanaki for leading chapel this morning as we celebrate Niue Language Week for this latter part of the week.

The Bible reading was the song 'By the rivers of Babylon' based on Psalm 23: 4  
'How can we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land?'

The reminder that if we don't use something we lose it, is a reality for the language and people of Niue. The language and its speakers are very few in number and the threat of total extinction.

Please find attached the order of service for this morning's chapel which ended with our learning a takolo.

This morning the Principal announced to the School that he is resigning to take up the position of Principal at McLean's College. The opportunity will be made to farewell Steve before the term ends but in the interim, we wish him well.

Hope we have all had a blessed day

## **FRIDAY, 20<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2017**

Fakalofa lahi atu - Greetings All!

TGIF and it's only the end of the first week. God is good!

We wake to a new day and a new government for our country. We look forward in hope to what lies ahead.

Oue tulou to our Niuean family who have led chapel during the latter part of this week as we have celebrated Niuean Language Week.

Fakaue lahi to Mr Faitala, Gabrielle Togatama, Rhys Gabriel and Mr Graeme Jackson for leading chapel this morning and for sharing their stories.

The Bible Reading was from Matthew 25:14-30 The well-known Parable of the Talents.

We each have been given talents God has blessed us with.

Some of us need a life time to realise those gifts we have been blessed with, others not so long.

If we don't use the talents we have been given, then we will lose them like everything else in life if we don't take care of, look after and safeguard them.

A way of realising what talents we have, is to use every opportunity given to learn more about ourselves, to challenge ourselves, to test ourselves, to take ourselves out beyond our comfort zones and in the discovery and challenge, learn what we are capable of and the talents we have.

Education is one such opportunity not to be wasted. While we are at school we should be making the most of the opportunity to learn about the world and about ourselves.

Our faith, our culture, our language, values and traditions are the foundation and platform from which to launch into this journey of discovery and can only serve to enhance our lives and bring a fresh and new perspective to who we are, where we come from and where it is in the future we want to be going.

Have a blessed long weekend.

