



POUPOU LE LOTOIFALE. OLA MANUIA LE ANOFALE.

STRENGTHEN THE POSTS OF YOUR HOUSE, FOR ALL TO THRIVE.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE THEME FOR SAMOA LANGUAGE WEEK 2021:

Poupou refers to the process of strengthening the lower supporting posts of a traditional Samoan fale to ensure that the fale stands strong and secure. Only the most prominent and sturdiest of trees are selected for these posts. The holes that are dug must be deep and secure. All posts must be grounded well so that the fale stands upright. The posts and the whole structure must withstand the impact of storms, earthquakes and changing weather conditions.

The Inner Person

Metaphorical 'posts' that strengthen a person are; identity, family, values, beliefs, language and traditions. If the appropriate posts are selected, established, developed and nurtured, then a person can experience success, security and prosperity in life.

Who are you?

Strengthening inner-self includes knowledge of ancestors, genealogy, language, culture, values and customs. A strong sense of identity is founded on the knowledge of these roots and connections. There is a need to develop and reinforce identity, affirm beliefs as critical people's wellbeing.

Family

Samoan genealogy, lineage and family are at the centre of wellbeing. It is critical that relational boundaries between within families and communities are understood to allow people to collaborate. These aspects are critical for overall wellness and prosperity.

Language and Culture

Language and culture are significant aspects of one's identity. Language is the vehicle that elicits emotions, expresses courage and conveys hope in times of uncertainty. Respectful language ensures that respectful boundaries between people are recognised, practised and maintained.

Harmony in Communities

A peaceful and supportive environment is most important for people. Respect, kindness, care, service, compassion, honesty and accepting of others, are some of the key values of Fa'asamoa. There is a great need for this to be revisited and strengthened. The question is, who will do the strengthening?

Alignment

The challenge of the theme this year is to re-evaluate the perspectives of families, schools, churches and the whole country to re-strengthen the inner-self. This requires reflecting on the values, beliefs, traditions and culture that people in the school or organisation.