



Pasifika Strategy 2017–2019

Objectives/goals, plans and targets to foster the achievement of Pasifika students

(To be read in conjunction with the BHS Strategic Plan 2017-2019, the Annual Plan and Student Achievement Target(s), pages 6-14 of the New Zealand Curriculum (2007) and the Pasifika Education Plan 2013-2017)

Introduction

The Pasifika Education Plan 2013-2017 aims to create the conditions for strong, vibrant and successful Pasifika communities - Pasifika learners, parents and families. In particular, enhanced school experiences; improve Pasifika learners participation, engagement and achievement and to improve/lift educational outcomes - achieving NCEA Level 2 or equivalent.

We need Pasifika learners to be achieving at all levels at least on par with other learners. In particular, all Pasifika students to progress and achieve at an appropriate level with the expectation of gaining NCEA Level 2 or equivalent qualifications - to ensure they are prepared for successful entry into further studies or work and equipped with a solid learning foundation to be successful.

Pasifika success – will be characterised by demanding, vibrant, dynamic, successful learners, secure and confident in their identities, languages and cultures, navigating through all curriculum areas. Pasifika school leavers are academically and socially equipped to achieve their goals.

*“Tu’u le upega I le loloto”
Cast the net to deeper waters*

Rationale

Burnside High School is committed to supporting the aspirations of Pasifika students and their families. This strategy presents a coordinated approach with the purpose of meeting **three key objectives and related goals**. It represents a formalised commitment by Burnside High School to act in partnership with Pasifika by addressing Pasifika issues in teaching and learning as they present at Burnside High School. It is designed to create positive opportunities for individual and collective Pasifika achievement to ensure that all Pasifika students are able to experience success as Pasifika. This involves teaching and learning programmes and a school environment that reflect Pacifica cultures and aspirations¹.

Background

- Burnside High School has a relatively small number (71) of Pasifika students in a school roll which draws from an ethnically and culturally diverse local and international community-This represents 3% of our school roll and the main origin countries include Samoa, Fiji Tonga and the Cook Islands.
- Our recent NCEA statistics (2012-2016) show overall achievement of Pasifika students is consistently above that of Pasifika students nationally and was close to but slightly below that of the general school population. Due to the relatively small numbers of Pasifika students across the senior school this variation tends to exist between cohorts rather than a consistent trend. We can do better though.

School developments to date include:

- The employment of a Pasifika Student Support worker (part-time position).
- Deputy Principal with responsibility to oversee Pasifika achievement and well-being.
- Pasifika Coordinator established in 2016
- A Guidance Counsellor with a designated role as Pasifika Liaison .
- Year 13 Pasifika leaders.
- University of Canterbury Excel programme (UCXL) established
- Production of, and tracking of Student Assessment timetables
- Development of language, performance and speech NCEA standards offered by the school and University of Canterbury
- Targeting of pastoral resources to support identified Pasifika students
- Pasifika coordinators liaise with deans over students with attendance issues
- Development of interdepartmental extra-curricular activities - Performing Arts (Dance and Music)
- Induction Programme for Year 9 Pasifika students since 2016
- An NCEA workshop held every year for senior Pasifika students.
- Literacy programme (Term 4) for selected Year 10 students.
- Annual fono meeting to communicate and consult with our Pasifika community.
- Professional development sessions for staff on strategies to engage Pasifika students in learning.
- Established links with local advisers.
- Celebrating Pasifika Language Weeks.
- Purchase of Cultural Group uniforms.
- Participation in the annual Polyfest celebrations.
- Introducing a service award for Cultural Group presented at Senior Arts Awards.
- A number of notable Pasifika successes in Academic Awards.
- Developing our own 'Tracking/Profile System' to monitor the progress and achievements of senior Pasifika students.

Key Objectives/Goals

To develop an inclusive community where Pasifika students can achieve success as Pasifika:

1. To foster the language, culture and identity of Pasifika students.

Pasifika values – inclusion, service, spirituality, respect, family, love, belonging, reciprocal relationships, leadership.

Pasifika identities – diverse cultures, intergenerational, multiple world views, location, connectedness, Talanoa Ako.

Take into account of processes, methodologies, theories and knowledges that are: fa’asamoa (the Samoan Way); faka-Tonga (The Tongan Way); faka-Tokelau (the Tokelau Way); faka-Niue (the Niue way); akano’anga kuki Airani (the Cook Islands Way) and vaka-viti (the Fijian Way) for the major Pasifika populations.

To achieve this we will:

- 1.1 Encourage and support a Pasifika cultural group - develop the school’s Cultural group so that it has a prominent place in school activities and regularly competes at regional competitions.
- 1.2 Support students to participate in the Pasifika Speech competitions and other events in the Pasifika community.
- 1.3 Encourage and support staff in the correct pronunciation of student names, place names and use of common Pasifika phrases.
- 1.4 Include Pasifika perspectives and content in school programmes and practices, at assemblies, and in the school’s environment.
- 1.5 Promote and support Pasifika Language Weeks.
- 1.6 Encourage and support Pasifika students to take leadership roles in the school.

2. To develop partnerships with parents so they can contribute to the promotion of well-being and ongoing learning for all Pasifika students.

Pasifika parents, families and communities support and champion their children’s learning and achievements.

To achieve this we will:

- 2.1 Hold a welcome (fiafia) for new students/families/extended family members to the school.
- 2.2 Hold annual parent meetings (fono) to communicate with and seek feedback from Pasifika parents and encourage their involvement in the school.
- 2.3 Increase links with Pasifika support services and community leaders.
- 2.4 Include Pasifika successes in school newsletters.
- 2.5 Employ a Pasifika Liaison person to support students and form links with parents and community groups; home visits.
- 2.6 Encourage Pasifika representation on the Board of Trustees.

3. To foster high academic achievement levels among Pasifika students.

To achieve this we will:

- 3.1 Monitor progress and achievement of individual Pasifika students and analyse and use aggregated achievement data for groups and cohorts.
- 3.2 Monitor attendance information of Pasifika students (on KAMAR) and follow up as necessary.
- 3.3 Survey students/fono to identify key factors which enhance/hinder their learning.
- 3.4 Maintain a designated Pasifika Coordinator and a Pasifika Student Support person responsible for mentoring/supporting all Pasifika students - including helping them to set and monitor academic and personal goals.
- 3.5 Provide specific literacy and numeracy support programmes to individuals and groups.
- 3.6 Provide professional development opportunities for staff to increase their knowledge of Pacific cultures and develop teaching and learning strategies to engage Pasifika students.
- 3.7 Organise career education, advice and workplace experiences that target Pasifika students, using Pasifika Liaison staff where appropriate.
- 3.8 Introduce an annual award for the Pasifika student with the highest academic achievement.
- 3.9 Hold end of year celebration (Fiafia Evening) family invited to celebrate student success.

