

Samoan Bi-lingual Option at Kowhai

In response to a request from the parents of Samoan-speaking students, Kowhai began a bi-lingual (Samoan/English) option in 2009. The class continued in 2010 with increased numbers of students. This group of students is withdrawn from their mainstream classes for a few hours per week to study in Samoan. A new teacher,



Faimai Tuimauga*, a native speaker of Samoan and a NZ trained and registered teacher, works with these children to build their Samoan literacy. Some of the children in this Samoan bi-lingual have come from bi-lingual programmes in their primary school and others have some Samoan language from their home and family settings.

If you would like your child to be considered for the Samoan bi-lingual option in 2011, please either record this on the Kowhai enrolment form, or advise our secretaries at the school office, or email the school admin@kowhai.school.nz .

Faimai Tuimauga*

Faimai is a highly qualified educator with many years of bi-lingual Samoan/English teaching experience. She holds an MA in Linguistics from the University of Waikato. Faimai has been community languages coordinator and programme manager at the Pasifika Education Centre and, more recently, education advisor for early childhood education through to secondary level at PEC. She brings with her experience in many educational initiatives for families and students at all levels. She has produced literacy resources, including a Ministry of Education resource for teaching Samoan as a second language to Year 7 and 8 students in mainstream schools. Faimai is on the National Pacific Islands Advisory Group of the Ministry of Education and is president of the Auckland branch of Fagasa (the association for teaching Samoan language and culture in Aotearoa).