

Tuesday 31 October, 2017

Passion for creative arts earns Maungaturoto educator regional award

An outstanding teacher from Maungaturoto who has connected with her school community will be honoured with an ASG National Excellence in Teaching Award (ASG NEiTA).

Fiona 'Ofamo'oni from Otamatea High School is one of 18 regional recipients to be awarded, selected from almost 200 community nominations throughout New Zealand.

Now in its 21st year, ASG NEiTA gives parents, grandparents, school boards and councils and committees of management the opportunity to formally thank and recognise outstanding and dedicated teachers, who are passionate about driving a world class education system and encouraging students to reach their full potential.

Prior to teaching, Ms Ofamo'oni was employed in the creative arts profession. Her most enjoyable task involves teaching and mentoring teens who don't find school the easiest place. Her students' achievements include merits and excellences at all three levels in the senior drama productions, as well as students on the autism spectrum engaging in theatre. Fiona hopes to undertake further training to give better technical support to her production students, and find and connect with other likeminded professionals who can assist, support and critique.

ASG NEiTA Chief Executive Officer, John Velegrinis says educators like Ms 'Ofamo'oni recognise that 'it takes a village to raise a child,' which is testament to their dedication and the impact they have on the lives of those they serve in local communities.

"In many respects, teaching is about giving, not only to children and students but to their families and the community networks around them. Some of the ASG NEiTA recipients come from very small towns and do represent the heartbeat of these communities.

"These teachers have an enormous responsibility in shaping and guiding these young people as well as supporting the educational aspirations families have for their children. Their teaching stretches beyond the core curriculum and standardised testing, and they also help children develop the social skills they need to develop into successful adults. Ensuring children have a well-rounded education is something our ASG NEiTA recipients are absolutely passionate about. This passion is welcomed by families as they want teachers to play a greater role in developing their children's life skills, which was one of the key findings in the latest [ASG Parents Report Card](#)."

The awards are classed into early childhood, primary and secondary categories.



Media Release

ASG NEiTA chairman, Allen Blewitt says the awards highlight a long history of positive relationships being built between teachers and their communities.

“These teachers are also mentors and the influence they have on young people is remarkable as they learn to appreciate the value of lifelong learning as they navigate their life journeys. So, ASG NEiTA is one of the only channels where the community gets to express their sincere gratitude through nominating an inspirational teacher, educator, principal or centre director.”

Auckland had seven ASG NEiTA recipients, followed by five in Christchurch and one each for Hawke’s Bay, Palmerston North, Invercargill and Timaru.

Maungaturoto			
Teacher	School	Postcode	Category
Fiona Ofamo'oni	Otamatea High School	0547	Secondary

After further assessment, six national NEiTA recipients will be selected from the 18 regional recipients. The national award recipients will be announced in February 2018.

ENDS.

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Editor’s notes:

ASG is a member owned organisation, helping to create educational opportunities for children. ASG has been helping families and their children for more than 40 years. During this time, more than 530,000 children have been enrolled with ASG and more than \$2.5 billion in education benefits and scholarship payments returned to members.

The ASG National Excellence in Teaching Awards (ASG NEiTA) started in 1994 in Australia and 1996 in New Zealand. Since inception, more than 34,000 teachers have been nominated by the community in the two countries.

For more information visit: www.asg.co.nz

