

As the year comes to its culmination, we have much to celebrate, many happy memories to cherish and much to envision over the quality of outcomes to draw a feasible plan to meet the needs of each child enrolled at Suva Grammar School.

It is an honour to present the Annual School Report for the second year as the Principal of Suva Grammar School, one of Fiji’s prominent secondary schools. 2018 proved to be another challenging year as we struggled to achieve our academic and extra-curricular objectives by overcoming various obstacles.

We had given the theme – “Year of Renewal” to this academic year aiming to do better in each and every activity of the 2018 academic year to restore school pride through sincere dedication and zeal.

While excellence in schools is typically identified by grades and test scores, Suva Grammar School has always been the trendsetter in promoting holistic education by participating in academic, extra-curricular and cultural programmes to develop talents and skills of students in every possible way. This ensures that apart from intellectual knowledge, our students are also developed in other areas to become worthy members of a contemporary society.

Despite many challenges (late arrival, early closure of school at 3.00 pm and involved in many extra-curricular activities) the School achieved improved results in all external exams in 2017. This resulted from the combined efforts and commitment of students, support of parents, dedication of teachers, encouragement and guidance from the Old Scholars and the PTA. The pass rate of external exams for the past five years is as follows:

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
YEAR 10	NO YEAR 10 EXTERNAL EXAMS		52%	45%	63%
YEAR 12	62%	58%	53%	38%	79%
YEAR 13	73%	84%	61%	52%	75%

It may not be correct to compare pass rates of two years to measure improvement as students of one year is different from another. The challenge is for this year’s teachers to prepare students who attained a 45% in Year 10 exams in 2016 for their Year 12 exams with a dream to achieve a pass rate higher than the previous year (79%). Despite all odds, good results are anticipated.

The school participated in almost all sporting events and achieved the following results at the national level:

- Coke Games – Winner of Junior Boys Grade and Best Junior Male Athlete
- Rugby (3 grades reached Deans Quarter Finals and U14 and U16 teams reached the semi-finals,
- Netball (won U15, U17 and U19 Grades at the National Finals.

Our achievements in academic and extra-curricular fields would not have been possible without the support and guidance of the Ministry of Education (Honourable Minister for Education, Madam Permanent Secretary, Head Quarters Staff and Suva Office Staff), PTA and old scholars who stood by in every event and scenario to provide support in delivering quality education to our students.

I wish to thank the Grammar Rise Up (old scholars) for the tremendous support in training, arranging funds and motivating our students in various school activities. The school would like to whole-heartedly thank the old scholars for the following:

- Coordinating and funding two days of leadership training for School Prefects,
- Coordinating, training and funding Athletics,
- Financially supporting and training all sports teams,
- Assisting in the major fund raising drive of the school –two nights of variety concert
- Providing lunch to teachers during Teachers Day
- Annual Awards Day Prizes
 - Laptops – Dux
 - Laptop – Top Year 13 Student
 - Student of the Year (All Rounder) - \$300 Cash
 - Top Maths Prize – Year 13 : Cash \$300 from Labasa Grammarians
 - Top Agriculture Prize – Year 13 : Cash \$300 and shield (worth \$250)– Mr and Mrs Mua
 - Top Agriculture Prize – Year 12 : Cash \$300 and shield (worth \$250)– Mr and Mrs Mua
- 8 trophies sponsored by class of 85 to encourage debate, quiz and other school programmes
- Repairs and upgrade of Home Economics Room – Group of 80s

I also wish to thank all parents and guardians for meeting the needs of their children and joining hands with teachers in our common goal to deliver quality education. You have all carried out your responsibilities splendidly. I take my hats off to all students who represented the school for their dedication and resilience on the field and as we competed against the best at national level and a sincere appreciation to those who represented our nation in rugby, athletics and robotic competitions and made the school proud. I wish to thank all student leaders for managing their classes and students both in the school and in the public. The actions and habits of individuals in the group characterizes the entire group. It is therefore very important that each member of the Lion's Den manage their actions when wearing the safari and coloured uniform, especially when all eyes are on you in the open.

I wish to record the enthusiasm, commitment and perseverance of my staff members, who have worked selflessly and very co-operatively throughout the year. I take my hats off to a very remarkable set of teachers who have been my pillar of strength in ensuring that the School goals and Ministry of Education's vision and initiatives are achieved and every child enrolled at Suva Grammar School is cared for. I thank my Vice Principal, Mr Rusiate Musudroka for his superb leadership. I am also thankful to Mr Koro Matadigo our Assistant Principal for being the man on the ground and committing a 100% in our pursuit to restore Suva Grammar School to its original prestige. I also thank the School Chaplain, Rev Jone Cagi, our outstanding team of Heads of Department, the ancillary staff, Prefects and Student Council for the wholehearted support.

The Ministry of Education has developed a parental engagement framework and the school will ensure that parental engagement strategies are better developed to keep all parents informed and engaged in providing quality education through regular forums and correspondence. Late arrival of students remains a major threat and parents should be mindful of the negative impacts of sending their children to Suva Grammar from out of zone. Hours are lost to travelling, doors are opened to unwarranted activities and students' academic performance deteriorates. Poor performance of students also result from lack of resources and poor attitude. I am pleading with parents to ensure that all children arrive to school well equipped for the next academic year with a vigor to learn and strive to make the school and the community a better place.

The school had repairs and maintenance carried out to most classrooms and ablution block during the 2017 Christmas break and more maintenance is needed to the roofs and structure of the school. The school had upgraded its library but there is a need of a bigger building to cater for the 1000 students. The school looks forward to improve its internet connectivity and upgrade hardware and software to roll out e learning and mobile learning. The school had installed closed circuit cameras across the school to manage property and protect our students. The school also had a full time officer at the main gate to monitor movement of students and visitors.

Suva Grammar School has the potential to develop into a school second to none in the country if only we walk together, hand in hand for the common good of all our students. Suva Grammar has presented to me new tests and trials and has made me contemplate deeply on issues affecting our students and teachers. It has also been a privilege to have served in such a prestigious and massive institution. While we did not achieve a 100% for all our targets, at times almost gave up to challenges and pressure and felt like quitting, Henry Ford's quote ***"failure is the opportunity to begin again more intelligently"*** encouraged me to begin again in a better way

The school is appreciative to the Magazine Committee for having this year's publication completed despite a very demanding and challenging year. The chairperson and editor, Mrs Makelesi Qareqare is highly commended for guiding a dedicated team of graphic designers, editors, photographers and typesetters to have the "Grammarians 58th Edition " completed despite the various constraints.

To the students who have spent their final year with us – I wish you the best for your future accomplishments. As you graduate from Suva Grammar, I hope that the skills and values that the school has imparted in you will enable you to make quality decisions in life and wherever you may be in the near future – continue to do all things diligently and righteously. You will always remain a part of Suva Grammar School and we look forward to seeing you grow to new heights and becoming worthy members of the contemporary society. We have always felt proud and content as we observed you grow to be men and women of character and ability and we know that each one of you will not just fit in but will move up to achieve higher goals and conquer every hurdle like other Grammarians in Fiji and around the world.

I wish all readers a joyous Christmas and a prosperous 2019.

"For me life is continuously being hungry. The meaning of life is not simply to exist, to survive, but to move ahead, to go up, to achieve, to conquer." – Arnold Schwarzenegger