



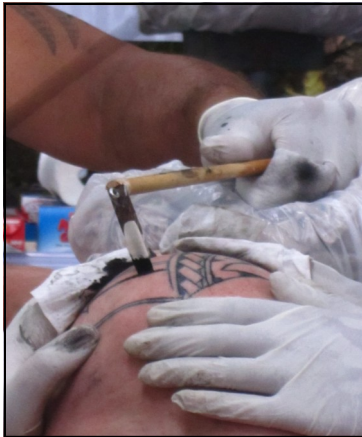
Drawing by Jared Scott

# Fai'a'oga's in AmSam

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Peter, Lauren, and Kasey looking ever-so-American for Patriotic Day at Tafuna High School.



Getting tapped at Tisa's Tattoo Festival. No, this isn't Quinn.

Picture by Quinn Bolander

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## Only in AmSam

It's been almost three months since Melinda and I officially donned our teaching hats and began the attempt to educate the young, curious, and often wildly inappropriate minds of the American Samoa youth.

In this time, while we're fairly confident our students have retained at least *some* of their WONDERFUL science and English lessons, Melinda and I can certainly say, without a doubt, we have learned quite a few things ourselves along the way.

Here are some of the countless gems of insight our stud-

dents have taught us:

- 1) "Whybecause" is a word. [Concision at its best!]
- 2) Free topic? You can never run out of things to say about football.
- 3) Samoans are born hairdressers. Bad hair day? Sophomore girls + bobby pin = *teine au lelei!*
- 4) They are also born magicians when it comes to broken things. Broken broom? Splints aren't just for fingers!
- 5) Need a body guard? Your juniors and seniors will handle it.
- 6) Dirty room? Heavy bags? Hungry? Why wait—call 1-800-STUDENT!
- 7) "Miss, 'prep' means sub, right?"
- 8) Being super white or super short never ceases to be a source of fascination.
- 9) ...Neither does chalk on a chalkboard, expo-marker on a dry-erase board, or permanent maker on skin.
- 10) "Jokes!"

By Heidi Trapp, Nu'uuli VocTech

## Notes from the AmSam FD

By Drew Ross, Field Director

Greetings and Talofa!

Congratulations to all of the WorldTeachers for making it through the first quarter of the school year. 1 down and 3 more to go! Throughout my school visits over the past 2 months, I have been amazed and encouraged by all of the exciting things that are happening in your class-

rooms. Everyone has great and inspiring ideas to help motivate their students. It was a pleasure to see. As you continue on with your year, it may now be time to think of other ways to reach other students in your school or community. As this month newsletter addresses, some of you have already begun finding other ways to become involved at your

school. Remember the day during orientation when we talked about our mission statement. We talked about being more than just teachers inside the classroom. We are here to be cultural ambassadors in so many different ways. Challenge yourself to think outside the box to inspire the minds, hearts, bodies and souls of the children of Amerika Samoa.

## Lauren and Quinn on the run (and/or walk)

By Quinn Bolander, Leone High School

As we sat at the Tifaimoana Indian Restaurant in Apia, gorging ourselves on Naan and delicious curry dishes, Lauren and I spoke of different ways to get our high schools involved in exercise outside of the traditional school sports.

We wanted to find ways to get students active and to want to be active instead of feeling like they're being forced to do something they don't find fun. While we fully support the school sports, for the students that aren't involved in these,

the only real exercise they get is in PE class, which not all students are even in.

By the time of our trip to Apia, I had already decided on starting an after-school running club and was waiting for my proposal to go through with the Leone HS Leadership Team. Lauren too, wanted to start a running and walking club. While we knew that the involvement could either be high or low, we both wanted to at least try it out.

We have both been running (literally) our clubs for over a month now. I think we have realized how important it is to get students involved in any way that we can, and in this case, physically. Being so far away from the rest of the world, the youth of American Samoa need every bit of help, guidance, and support that they can get. Even running or walking for a few minutes after school will motivate them to be so much more and to try harder in every walk or run of their life!

## The Tafuna Runner's Club

By Lauren Seagraves, Tafuna High School

I've started a Runner's Club at my school and about eight kids showed up and for an hour, we ran/walked in the hot sun. It was nice getting to meet some new kids. A few of my students showed up as well.

I'm trying to get the ASVAB students I tutor in the mornings to lose weight so they can meet the height/weight requirements. My hope is that the number of kids will multiply each week and that teachers will even

come. Obesity here is out of control. I am in no means fit or a "runner" but I want to encourage these kids to exercise and I know my body needs it too!



Photos by Peter Thoma, Tafuna High School

Lauren and some of her Runner's Club students. Tafuna High School is located right near the OMV, a paved and clean walking and running track and also a perfect place for a running club to meet!

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# The Lion's Running Club

By Quinn Bolander, Leone High School

16 students showed up, ready to run on the first official day of the Lion's Running Club. A few showed up wearing slippers, others in JROTC shoes, and the rest in some sort of sport/athletic shoe. "Alright, I can work with this," I said to myself, as I tried to explain to the students the importance of being physically active, and how when we go running, nothing is more important than sticking with a buddy, staying on the sidewalk, and keeping out of the way of

cars and the speedy 'aiga buses.

Now that we've been running almost every day after school, the numbers have dwindled down, but I still have a group of dedicated, motivated, and eager to get out there and go students. As fun as it is to explore the streets and villages surrounding Leone, it's rough to spend an hour in the scorching sun. It's even rougher when none of the students come with any water. Even though I stress the importance of bringing a bottle,

it doesn't seem to click with them that water will actually make them feel better.

The annual Leone HS Turkey Run is quickly approaching and I have convinced several of my running buddies to run it. The few that have come almost every day have improved and are able to run longer and faster than they were a month ago. I am convinced that the club might take charge of the Turkey Run race and bring home all the frozen turkey's!

# Ofu's Eats

By Erin Shirey, Olosega Elementary School

Join Erin and Jessica as they fearlessly (and meatlessly!) navigate the culinary wilderness of Manu'a!

*A local delicacy, Cheese Whales are a rare and elusive creature that are usually only seen on weekends, and even then, only after weeks during which the school has served rolls for lunch.*

## **Cheese Whales** (serves two)

### Ingredients:

- 2 large rolls (we use "nothing" rolls left over from the school lunch. They don't taste like anything, but they're free.)
- 1 tablespoon of butter

- 1 tablespoon of flour
- 3/4 cup of milk
- 2 slices American cheese
- 1 tablespoon of Parmesan cheese
- Garlic salt

Preheat the oven to 300 degrees. In a skillet on medium heat, melt the butter. Don't burn it — burnt butter is gross. Add the flour and mix it around until it forms a paste, then stir in the milk, a quarter cup at a time, until it looks good to you. Add the American and Parme-

san cheeses and the garlic salt: mix well.

Cutting diagonally, remove a two inch cone of bread from the top of your roll. Scoop out some of the insides to make room for your sauce — think bread bowl. Fill each roll with cheese sauce and replace the tops. Bake for ten minutes or until cheese whales are bubbly and hot.

Cheese Whales are great on their own but would be delicious with some hot sauce, or soup. Or soup with hot sauce.

# FBLAS at Tafuna High School

By Kasey Dorcas, Tafuna High School

Future business Leaders of America, rather the Future Business Leaders of American Samoa, is a nonprofit education association with a quarter million students that prepares for careers in business and business-related fields. It is also the largest student business organization in the world. With the resignation of a teacher in the vocational department last month, I now have the opportunity to be the advisor. As Tafuna's accounting and financial record keeping teacher, I am excited to further instill the importance of leadership and business to these students.



A few goals of this program that I would like to achieve include:

- Strengthen the confidence of students in themselves and their work.
- Encourage members in the development of individual projects that contribute to the improvement of home, business, and community.
- Encourage and practice efficient money management.
- Assist students in the establishment of occupational goals.

To reach these goals, I am planning one event a month that will prepare students for the business world. The events include:

- November 17-18: Career Day, local business workers will speak about their professions and demonstrate how students can use the skills learned in the classroom in the real world
- December: Professional Dress, workshops will discuss proper attire and appearance
- January: Interview, resume, and cover letter workshop
- February: National Career and Technical Month, students will participate in an entrepreneur competition
- March: FBLA has partnered with March of Dimes and we will fundraise for the cause
- April: National Community Service Month, students will choose and participate in a community service project

As of now, the approximately 40 student members are in the works of getting together their uniform which will be

worn on Wednesdays starting mid-November. For the girls, the uniform comprises of a white blouse, maroon vest, black skirt/slacks, and black, close-toed heels or flats. For the boys, a white button-up shirt, maroon tie, black slacks, and black dress shoes. These kids refer to FBLAS as 'fabulous' and so they shall look!

This is a great opportunity for these students, as the local economy is about 90% dependent on the government. Education can and will change the course of these student's lives. They will have the ability to change their country for the better, create more jobs, stimulate their economy, create better schools, and become active and responsible global citizens.



FBLAS members at Tafuna High School.

Photo by Kasey Dorcas

## Spirit at Samoana

Spirit Week at Samoana High School entailed a different theme to dress up to each day. It even included Janitory Day on Wednesday, which we found a bit odd, but the students seemed to enjoy it. The students loved being able to wear something other than their uniform for a change.

However, the highlight of the week by far was the dance competitions that took place at lunch between the freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

Each day, the students performed dances from a different decade. Monday was 1960s, Tuesday was 1970's, and so on. Fortunately for us, Katherine, Lisa, and I were asked to be the judges for the week, which meant we got front row seats. We were amazed at how creative and well put together each classes dances were. The students worked for hours and hours before school, at lunch, and after school to get each decade down pat. With their matching costumes and perfect song

By Jillian Vance, Samoana High School

choices, it was hard to believe that these kids didn't grow up in each decade, let alone a different country.

The competition culminated Friday at lunch with a modern day Jam War. Some of the routines looked like they were straight out of America's Best Dance Crew. The seniors clearly took the cake with their face paint, back flips, and human helicopter. It was such an amazing week and just another reminder of how happy we are to be here.