



## Muagagana:

*la ufiufi a manu gase.*

“Provide cover for the fallen bird.” Birds that flock together like the lupe (pacific imperial pigeon) will help a fellow fallen bird by carrying it to a safe place like a tree therefore providing cover.

To provide cover for a fallen friend or members of the family to help bear their misfortune or used at the end of speeches, to ask for forgiveness if there was injury caused or misspoken words.

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**Mission:** *To expand public appreciation and stewardship of the environment, Samoan culture, and self through place-based education and collaborative partnerships.*

**Vision:** *To be a prominent science place-based educational support organization in American Samoa.*

## Toe Fo'i i le Lau'ele'ele Program



Summer Class, Lions Park

Nature's Educational Laboratory of American Samoa (NELAS) is place-based education program (PBE), engaging participants in a rich tapestry of local culture, landscapes, and unique experiences through subjects such as science, mathematics, and social studies. The Toe Fo'i i le Lau'ele'ele (TFIL) "Return to the Land," integrates these elements with self-development. The 2023 summer program, focused on the birds and sea turtles of American Samoa for 4th to 8th graders. The bird class, at Lions Park, provided students with insights into bird species and their habitats. This was followed by a field trip to Olovalu crater, guided by Mr. Ailao Tualualelei from the Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources (DMWR) to enhance their understanding. The bird species observed include fuiu (Samoan starling), iao (wattle-honeyeater), lupe (pacific imperial pigeon), manusina (white tern), manutagi (crimson-crowned fruit dove), moa vao (red junglefowl), tava'esina (whit-tailed tropic bird), along with sightings of fruit bats. For the sea turtle class in Vaitogi, students learned about lifecycle that included elder-led storytelling session, sharing cultural story and songs passed down through generations. This was followed by a fieldtrip to the "Turtle and the Shark" historical site.

## Parent of Children with Special Needs Network (PCSNN):



Above Photo: Lions Park

## ASCC Teacher Workshop

As part of the Teacher Science Education class, at American Samoa Community College (ASCC), NELAS was asked to present their PBE program to teachers. Teachers were given the opportunity to observe the different modules to see how it may help enhance their class. Special thanks to Brandy Shimasaki Barber and KJ Ameperosa for allowing us to share our program with the class.

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NELAS was invited by the PCSNN to present the sea turtle module to the participants at Lions Park. Each participant made a sea turtle life cycle bracelets and heard the legend of the "Turtle and the Shark" and practiced singing the song that has been passed down from generation to generation. For self-development, the participants practiced breathing and learned to do the butterfly hug.



Lions Park