

Kindergarten Matariki Festival

June 2013 by Fabiana

"As the outer light of day diminishes, there is first a kind of afterglow of light given by the earth- the lanterns. Then there is the human spark of kindness we see in the paper lanterns...the light is gradually transformed from the outer light of the sun in summer to the internal spirit light." Freya Jaffke

Getting our lanterns ready was a loving and lengthy task! Firstly we drew the stars, then we painted with watercolours the blue background and this helped the stars to re-appear with all their splendour. After the paint was dry, we cut and shaped the lanterns. We glued the wooden base to be a good and safe support for the later added candle. One by one the lanterns had their handle on and they finally could be proudly hung up in a corner of the room while waiting for our Festival





Although it was sad that the Family Festival had to be cancelled due to the unreliable weather, the Friday morning celebration was incredibly touching... Every room started their own morning circle singing "I go with my little lantern". Children from the "Pohutukawa" and "Rimu" groups shortly arrived singing to the "Kowhai" room while we were as well singing and all our voices united in song while walking around our moving circle creating a glorious spiral. We then followed them up the stairs where the three groups joined again and sang around a central burning candle while holding our glowing lanterns. The mood was exceptionally reverent! Each child guarded their own lantern with such pride, care and respect, ensuring that their little candle flame will stay on, their voices were confident and angelical, spirits were lifted and the outside weather was forgotten... After singing all of our songs, the "Kowhai" group continued the procession back downstairs to our room where we sang "This little light of mine" while going round in a circle. At the end of the song we sat down and for few minutes contemplated silently the beauty of all our lanterns glowing together... Nobody wanted to say a word! We were all mesmerized by the moment and beauty of the light surrounding us, the warm radiance of the lanterns we made with our very own hands, and each other's company ...



Learning experiences offered:

The children are experiencing the joy of being part of a community celebration. They feel the inner connection with the festival happening and experience the theme of transformation in life from light to darkness.

Children are developing a relationship with their natural environment and knowledge of their own place in their world.

Children joined in with reverence, and increase their sense of responsibility and respect for the well-being of their environment.