

MĀTAURANGA: STARS ON STAGE



Throughout 2021, the Inquiry Learning topic for Dunedin's Macandrew Bay School had been "We are all voyagers". Years 4-6 shared their learnings with the rest of the school in a performance dance. Initially choreographed for the Stars On Stage at the Regent Theatre, Covid cancellations meant the celebration of the arts was performed on the school playing field.





The dance was based on the whakatauki:

Ko ngā tahu ā ō tapuwae inanahi hei taurira mō āpōpō.

"The footsteps laid down by our ancestors centuries ago, create the paving stones upon which we stand today."

The performance tells the story of two children living in a new colony on Mars, asking their parents to tell them about the voyages of their ancestors. It incorporates Pacific navigators voyaging across the ocean, their arrival in Aotearoa, and looking to the stars to guide us in future explorations.





According to Teacher Chris Ward, the performance was "incredible learning, and we found the website matauranga.co.nz an amazing resource, both for teachers and also engaging for the children."

The specific learning outcomes for the class were:

LEVELS 3&4

Knowledge:

- Discuss what it means to be an explorer, using examples.
- Identify and explain character traits of an explorer.
- Describe the role that explorers have played in making the world what it is today, using examples.
- Describe techniques that have been used for navigation in the past.
- Identify five items that Polynesian and European explorers brought with them to Aotearoa, and explain why.

Skills:

- Research and present their whakapapa and mihi.
- Use graphic organisers to understand more about early Polynesian and other migrations.
- Persuasive writing about the reasons why people may move to Aotearoa.

Attitude and Values

- We need to respect our ancestors who led the voyage to Aotearoa and discover their story.