

Te Korowai kakariki – The Scared Green cloak of Papatuanuku.

Waiheke Kindergarten tamariki have been invited to take part in a community project called *Te Korowai Kakariki Tapu o Papatuanuku – The Sacred Green Cloak of Papatuanuku*. We have been invited by the Forest and Bird Society to take part in an exhibition for Matariki. The exhibition will be a collaboration of artworks from local kura, schools and Early Childhood Centres. The theme encourages our whakaaro, thinking about Papatuanuku, earth mother.

Our story begins with reading..... "In the beginning", by Peter Gossage ..... when Tane Mahuta, atua of the forest separated his parents Ranginui and Papatuanuku to let the light in we were left pondering how Papatuanuku felt. Was she lonely? Was she happy without sky father? How would she stay warm? We learnt Earth Mother would be covered with trees, plants, birds and insects these the tamariki of Tane .....we visualize the korowai, cloak of kakariki, green. The provocation for our art project focussed on these conversations. We collected our voices which became the ideas for our artwork installation. Tamariki decided we needed to keep earth mother warm, "we will make her a blanket filled with love".....and so we began drawing our messages. If you look closely you will see many insects, trees, flowers, berries, butterflies, rainbows and love hearts. The pictures were collated by kaiako, teachers and carefully laid out to form a giant patchwork blanket! The pieces were lovingly attached by harekeke, the blanket hung from the tallest beam. Our "**Blanket of Love**" represents our connection to the natural world, and reminds us of our roles as tiaki, guardians, of the whenua, land.

This project hung in the exhibition admired by many. It has since hung in the kindergarten and is a loved piece of work as tamariki point to their message of love..." I will take care of mother earth because she looks after me"...Maia said.

**"Our blanket of love will keep earth mother warm."**

Mauriora ki te rangi

Mauriora ki te papa

Mauriora ki te kaiora

Mauriora ki te tangata

Taiki e!

(Enviroschools pg 109) a mihi for Living Landscapes.

