

# 2019 St Mary's College

## Matariki Celebration and promoting languages learning

This year St Mary's College languages department celebrate Matariki Festival and the International Languages Week together in one event.

Our college offer four foreign languages - Maori, Samoan, French and Japanese. Our languages department deliver our language programme across languages and other department for Junior students.

This term our department theme was "Any form of Art and Music". With the collaboration of The Food and Technology department, we organised a big Matariki Festival 3 hour event on 27 June. Each language presented their Matariki related video or presentation following a guest speaker from Victoria University in the Gym to promote second language learning. Then finally our art was show cased in front of guests and parents in the school hall (about 300 including junior students), for which our students had been working towards for nearly a month.

To prepare for the presentation, Y10 Japanese students studied about all Matariki. They then found a similar cultural event of Japan and created a video or a skit or presentation in groups. Many chose 'Tanabata star festival' and did the presentation in class. Then students picked the best one and presented it in the Gym. We also made the Tanabata decorations (see the photo attached) in class.

For the show case – all Y9 Japanese students (two classes) performed "Yosakoi Soran" dancing on the stage. They had been practising hard and their dedication paid off. The response of the audience was enthusiastic. After our performance, the ex-principal Sister de Porres commended us for our effort and performance. Our girls represented Japanese culture and languages really well.

Sasakawa Nippon foundation's generous donation has allowed us to enjoy the success of this celebration of languages and Matariki New Year. This event certainly contributed to create a positive language learning community at St Mary's College.

Nobuko Watanabe

St Mary's College Wellington