

Kindy welcomes Art Deco costumes

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Wharerangi Kindergarten in Tamatea has celebrated Art Deco in style.

Last week they showcased new costumes — flapper dresses for the girls and waistcoats for the boys — all made specifically for the kindergarten by the parents.

The "Summer Soiree" was a fun event for the children and also a thank you to the parents who sewed the costumes.

Organiser and teacher at the kindergarten, Marg Bunce, says Art Deco is an "important part of their heritage".

The kindergarten celebrates Art Deco every year because it is something the children need to know about, says Marg.

"This is where they live, it's their history. It belongs to Napier," she says.

Every February the kindergarten gets involved with the community celebrations, but also has some of their own.

Children are taught the culture in terms of clothes and cars, usually with an Art Deco car brought into the grounds for them to see.

This year they decided to invest money in getting costumes made that would stay at the kindergarten.

"Because it is a strength in our kindergarten we decided to embrace it," Marg says.

The community has done the same. Marg says everyone loves it, so they have carried it on.

"It is a connection between the kindergarten and the community they live in."

She says it gives the 40 children, aged between three and five, at the kindergarten a sense of belonging to their city "which is very important."

Marg says the day also showcased early childhood education where the children are learning skills for life.



STYLE AND CLASS: Children from Wharerangi Kindergarten, from left: Emily Johnston (4), Grace Johnston (3), Cayden Johnson-Ellmers (4) and John Dalton (4), are dressed to impress in their new 1920s costumes that were made for the kindergarten as part of their Art Deco Celebrations.

PICTURE: GLENN TAYLOR

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