

THE DAILY NEWS

Pupils spurn fireworks in favour of Parihaka.

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By **ALANA WEIR**



ALL SMILES: Danielle Miller-Kareko (8) smiles at visitors during St Joseph School's re-enactment of events which took place at Parihaka 123 years ago. ADRIAN MALLOCH -The Daily News

A troop of New Plymouth St Joseph's school children wore white feathers in their hair and marched up a grass bank in a re-enactment of the story of Parihaka yesterday.

The school chose to honour the anniversary of Parihaka rather than celebrate Guy Fawke's Day. The 150 children were split into groups of Parihaka children, women and men and troops.

Four children with ties to Parihaka performed the lead parts of the performance, with Kara Butler reading out a poem by JC Sturm, her brother Tane Butler acting as Tohu and Olivia Rae-Hosking doing a karanga. The whole school also sang I'll Sing For You a Song of Parihaka, by Tim Finn.

The event commemorated the day when colonial troops invaded the settlement on November 5, 1881, during a land dispute and Parihaka became a symbol of passive resistance.

Deputy principal Sandy Taylor, who came up with the concept, said the children loved the re-enactment and had been working on it for a week. She said they had been studying Parihaka for several weeks and had visited the Parihaka exhibition at Puke Ariki.

Next year the school hoped to take its students to the coastal Parihaka settlement, said Mrs Taylor. She said they would continue holding the event instead of celebrating Guy Fawke's Day.

The children also made headbands with white feathers for the re-enactment.

The senior school has also contributed a Parihaka painting for the St Joseph's School art auction, which is being held on November 15.