



Puanga 2023

Kia ora whānau, what a wonderful morning we had here at Manu celebrating Matariki, the Māori New Year with particular emphasis on acknowledging Puanga, the star we see here on the west coast in Taranaki. The weather wasn't meant to be as good as it was, but Tamanuiterā was smiling down on us that day and for that we are thankful. It is always a treasured occasion for us when we are able to bring everybody together to share kai, stories, laughter and strengthen our whanaungatanga ~ a shared sense of belonging. Thank you to everybody for all the delicious food provided, and we hope in return you enjoyed the pumpkin soup and other goodies on offer.



In preparation for our special whakanui we were kindly donated a couple of pumpkins, and along with some squash we collectively prepared the soup; chopping, roasting, peeling and cooking ~ such wonderful team work. We also prepared some feijoa chutney, made from the fruit of our feijoa trees in our Manu garden. This year the tamariki worked so hard on practicing our daily mihi ~ Whakataka te hau and the Matariki Macarena to perform for you on the morning. They all really enjoyed it and were so proud of themselves. We know how proud you were too.

Amongst all these preparations we were also collecting food for Food Bank and once again, you were all so generous. We really appreciate your contribution towards this valuable community resource. Thank you so much. Arohanui.



**Angela, Liz and Jennifer, July
2023**