



## No Planet B

The educators of Springlands School in New Zealand must have felt the weight of the world on their shoulders when they decided to initiate a schoolwide Deep Learning task for all 424 of their students.

No Planet B was an integrated, cross-grade collaborative performance addressing the world's environmental challenges and spanned over seven weeks.

The educators tapped parents and partners to support the learning. Cultural advisors, dance teachers, a professional theatre company, and the University of Norway all contributed to mounting the production. One parent exclaimed, "As a parent of children growing up on this planet, I valued the opportunity for them to not only learn about some of the issues facing this planet but to have a voice to demonstrate their learning through song and dance and to demonstrate what they can do to really make a difference."

A local school and members of the community constituted the enthusiastic audience. As the deputy principal says, "The community was stunned and entertained with the quality and calibre of the performances. . . . They could not believe that the children of the school were able to achieve a performance of such a professional standard."

One teacher reported that despite the extra effort involved, it was well worth it. She says, "It has been exciting to watch the children truly engaged in this experience. They have driven their learning throughout the process, had authentic opportunities to problem solve and reflect, and have been empowered in the difference that they have made to themselves as learners and the shift in thinking created across our school community."

This is one more good example of Deep Learning. We are reminded that when young students demonstrate their boundless potential, the world is in good hands. It's our shared interest, after all. With our support to foster innovative and thoughtful future leaders, our vulnerable planet may not need a Planet B.

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