A discussion was held in the art room with each grade 6 student Melissa and Linda. A question was posed.

**What is evoked for you by the idea of lanterns / light that Linda has chosen for the grade 6 artwork?**

Individual reflections and conversations on the light within each student, what will carry them forward, always have with them if it feels dark at times?

Responses were as follows.

It resembles the brightness of our futures. It is about ‘us’, independence, you are on your own, keep moving forward, don’t look back, life is open, letting the light shine out of us. It connects to the song Lanterns that we are learning as our grade 6 song, to brighten our future.

Reassuring – if you’re in the dark, shows where you are going, Peace, hope, helps you through the darkness.

Halloween, church, happiness, good wishes, brightness, hope, freedom

Personality, new life, more opportunities, happiness, life, forward movement, strong support and a moving guide, lantern – feelings, strong, trying your hardest, hope, it shows you the way, it has a warm glow, is reassuring.

Grade six’s looked as samples of Middle Eastern lanterns and thought about the metaphor of light. “What lights you up? What is your passion, your strength? What do you notice about yourselves and what do others notice about you. What is your metaphorical inner lantern? What lights your way forward? What do you have inside you that will help shine out ahead of you to support your move to
secondary collage? Students were encouraged to give their own opinions and also invited the opinion of their classmates as reflected in the following notes.

They then designed a lantern and decorated it to represent these themes. Here are their insights ……

5/6V

**Jack**
Humour
Cheerful – not too uptight, not too worried
Has a fire inside
Inner calmness, not stressed
Can see the funny side,
Loyalty, passion
Creativity
My lantern represents me because I am usually calm and funny. The smiley faces shows this. My energetic personality will lift me up and shine through my lantern to wherever I go.

**Ethan**
Can see others’ points of view
Empathic
Notices details and makes connections
Academic strengths
Helpful sometimes when someone needs it
Fits in quickly like the last piece of a jigsaw puzzle
I have smiley faces because I am a humorous person. The smile on both sides shows my various ways of seeing things. I made cubes because I am geometric when I draw. I think in straight lines. This describes my personality it is my strength to see things logically.
Stelios
Contrasts
Open to ideas and creativity
Noticing, tuning in to others
Good friend – tolerant, sticks by you for a long time
Respectful, aware of others’ feelings
Unique way of seeing things, sees things in picture, colour, pattern
My lantern shows off my different personalities it’s more than meets the eye though because on
the inside is shows my happiness and comedy and optimism.

Lamnhi
Adaptable, not fixed ideas
Independent
Caring, has trust in and for others
Optimism
Helpful and kind
My swirls show I can change, they are not sharp or pointy or stopping they are ongoing. I don’t give
up easily I am adaptable and open to more than one idea.

Roohee
Kindness
Deep connection and understanding
Never seems to be alone, makes friends easily
Empathy
Optimistic, cheerful
Lots of energy
Looks out for others
Brave in giving compliments

Kristine
Considerate for others
Appreciates and accepts differences
Caring and respectful
EMPATHY
A friend you can trust to be kind and not hurtful
Funny, witty
Will have a try, is open to new things
Honest with herself and others
Connections – intellectually, integrates different parts
On my lantern I chose to make circles because I am considerate of others, there is more than one
circle showing I think about lots of different people. I chose to colour using three colours because I
accept differences and appreciate people for who they are. My design shows my funny side of life.
**Annie**

You can trust Annie with your feelings and secrets
Feel supported and listened too, comforted by Annie
Caring and calm
Self-assured, doesn’t need lots of people, broad group of friends
Thinks broadly about herself and others
Independent but works really well with others, cooperates
Open-minded
My lantern is not open, it’s closed in because people said they cold trust me with their feelings and secrets so that why my shape is closed in. It contains things. It is pointy and at the top and the bottom because I am open to new ideas I can go either way.

**Kelly**

Empathic
Doesn’t’ exclude, is very inclusive
Positive about things, doesn’t get upset
Even tempered
Creative
Kind-hearted, generous
Tolerant
Courteous, doesn’t hurt people
The hearts on my lantern represent kindness. The bubbles represent happiness like the joy of small children playing with bubbles. The windows show mu creativity and open-mindedness.

**Billy**

Patient, can deal with long waits
Has trust in the future
Lots of self-control and calmness
Helpful without over doing it, doesn’t do it for someone but supports their efforts
Respects other people’s abilities
Not too fussy, takes things as they come
Gets there the easy way, doesn’t over complicate things
Tolerant
Doesn’t give up
The overlapping pillars represent how I can support myself without working too hard. When there is something holding something up, it is working together to help other people. The cone represents freedom because the light can come out of the top. The cone also limits the freedom of the light because you have choices and these choices lead to different paths. The cone is one choice leading to one pathway.
**Aboubaker**
Concentrates, puts in effort, works to the best of his ability
Someone who picks you up when you are angry or sad
Appreciates humour
Very respectful
Very careful with other people’s feelings
Persistent
The swirls represent that they are taking me somewhere where I don’t know what’s going to happen. The smiles and laughter is being happy with my new friends in high school the rainbows represent joyfulness and colour for my future.

**Declan**
Open-minded
Strong
Good friend
My lantern shows joyfulness and brightness I have left an open top to show open mindedness towards high school and new ideas.

**Ava**
Enthusiastic
Brings lots of different things together
The shapes that we first learn in primary school show that something can be simple and complex.
Some people might see a fun happy girl which is true but I am more complex, there is more to me. I am very enthusiastic about everything and I always give everything a go.

**Annabel**
Open to new things
Thinking about strengths needed for secondary school
Forward thinking
My lantern swirls represent me being creative and open to new opportunities. The windows represent believing in yourself and taking up the chances you get.
Grade 6 K

Phoenix:

- Crazy at times – unique
- Independent
- Inclusive, stand up for what she believes
- Confidence
- Courageous
- Warm

My lantern is open so that shows I am open to ideas.

Alex:

- Intelligence
- Thinks originally and makes connections
- Deep thinking

I am bit of a perfectionist. I like things all the same. Everything on my lantern is repeated. I like things neat and tidy and organised. I like to plan. These will be my strengths for me as I go to high school.

Thomas:

- Thinks about others and their strengths
- Concentrates, has focus
- FAIR
- Funny, with unique ideas and interesting ways of seeing things

The stars represent my bright future. Each of the stars represents my choices and the paths I could take. I feel like I have a lot of options.
Darcy:
- Known for uniqueness and difference
- Great thinker
- Generous in himself

The swirls represent an abstract personality the holes in my lantern represent all of my opportunities seeping through.

Leon:
- Strength – physical and character
- Takes charge of things to make them turn out well
- Confident in himself and what he can do

The stars that start small and go bigger show how my success at primary school has grown. My confidence form these experiences will help me grow my personality stronger.

Bianca:
- Courage
- Friendship skills
- Able to take skills forward into the future
- Lantern opens a brighter future for me with more options.

The smaller dots are the opportunities I have had in primary school. The bigger dots show that I have greater opportunities at high school. I am ready to step up to a more complex scene.

Hussein:
- Supportive
- Generous
- Stand up for himself
- Strong guard
- Humour
- Empathy
- Generous – outs himself before others
- Involves everyone

The holes around the inside of the square lantern shows that my life will be good. My life will be good if I look at life differently.

Lola:
- Self-belief
- Keeping sight of positives
- Happy, intrigued
- Belief in learning, making friends
The texture I created is intriguing. Even though I am leaving Primary School, I will find my friends. We will always have a way of finding each other again. I am letting a lot of light shine through my lantern to show that I have a bright future and a lot of opportunities and paths that I can take.

**Zara:** (grade five student also leaving)

- Achievements
- Belief in self
- Effervescence

The holes in my lantern show the paths I have taken and the amount of friendships I have made over the years.

**Nathan**

- Not weighed down by life’s worries
- Puts himself out for others
- Thinks outside the box
- Not hurt by small things

The swirls represent starting from the outside and reaching my goal as I get to the centre. The sun with the leaf in the middle shows my life shining brightly. The shapes represent all the different people that I have met.

**Stephanie**

- Wants her light to shine out more, opening up to more people and experiences.

My shape represents the friendships I have made and me moving on.
6 S

**Charles**
Persistence
Creative – new ideas, creative in life
All the dots represent my different ideas. I have many ideas for how to do things. I can do things fast but well. All my sides are symmetrical because I keep things in balance and make things even.

**Jett**
Responsible
Cares about doing the right thing
Strong character
Good at cheering people up
Tunes in to others
Makes a joke out of anything
The holes show my many ideas. I have my ups and downs shown by the peace sign which are sometimes the right way up and other times upside down. My life comes in many different shapes. I’d like to make a group of friends represented by the circle shape. Sometimes I feel trapped in the box.

**Bridgette**
Persistent
Bright personality
Warm, comfortable
Cheerful, kind, caring of other people even though she doesn’t know them
Accepting of what others bring
My lantern is about love. I will always care for people no matter who they are. My smile shows I am mostly happy.

**Jack**
Caring for others, has a big heart
Notices how you feel
Wants to make you feel better
Strength of character
Happy to be himself
My lantern is fragile and small. The swirls and lines from the bottom means I am rising up in my life. The strong blue lines show my independence. I have gone through school six years I am my own person.

**Ruby**
Kindness, cares for other people
Cheerful,
Focuses on the good things in others
Optimistic
The stars and the sun represent the light that shines out of me which will help guide me. The light in my lantern is the light of joyfulness.
Ishani
Compassionate
Understanding and empathic
Caring, supportive
Friendly, happy, works well with others
Cooperative
The little holes show calmness and caring. They are small and discrete, not showing off but effective in letting the light through. The zig zag lines represent a bumpy road but it straightens out in the end.

Kadin
Loyal and protective of friends
Caring, has empathy, wants to help people
Respectful
Bubbly, effervescent, smiley
Positive inside
My Lantern has all different moons half-moon, full moon. It shows that every day is a new day for me to be happy and get on with my life. It has triangles not touching so light gets through these shows my brightness and happiness.

Lauren
Bubbly, when something good happens, feels happy
Energetic and crazy and sees the positive when something tricky happens
Make people laugh
Happy go lucky
Finds the brightness
My Lantern design is showing that I am bubbly. The rainbows represent happiness and joy, these things are shining out from inside me.

Archie
Courageous, inner strength,
Likes standing up for friends
Helpful and kind, thinks about others
The small holes show persistence because it’s hard for the light to get through but it does get through. The spirals are my ideas getting better and better.

Rahma
Kind, doesn’t judge other people on how they look but looks to the person they are
Positive, enjoys life, laughs
I drew the sun because it is always bright. I am a bright person. The lines show I am not sure where I am going in my future.

Kenneth
Funny and skilful, can dodge a ball
Calm and serene
Energetic and peaceful
My lantern shows peace because I included the Southern Cross and yin and yang. Peace is important. I’ll keep thinking of the positive instead of the negative. When I lose focus on who I am I will remember where I am and what I am.

Ibsa
Strength is fairness and justice for himself and others
My Lantern design is even and equal on all sides, it’s balanced because I think things should be fair

Eric
Positive – looks at the positives rather than the negatives
Jokes, is creative
Cheerful and smiley
My design has equal circles on each side because I like equality they are bright and colourful because I am mostly happy I can shine out my happiness.

Wesley
Just
Believes in fairness
Is calm
I can find the light in the darkness I see good things in people. My lantern shows I have great determination it shows I can take on a challenge.

6 F
Nasib:
- Stay with what I know
- Be myself
- Independent, not needy
- Kind, selfless, supportive
- Friendly and a good friend
My lantern reflects opening up to a new school. I am taking a fresh mind to my future.

Eli:

• Friendly
• Adventurous
• Striving to go forward
• Sporty
• Leader

The multiple lines represent the unpredictability of the future. The single blue line represents that there will always be something good ahead because if you have the right mind then anything is possible.

Ben:

• Good friend – loyal and true
• Good conversationalist, good listener
• Confident
• Self-controlled
• Leader
• Gives everything a go
• Honest, truthful
• Shares himself
• Speaks his mind – you know where you stand

The Marks show the complication of high school and the colours surrounding the marks show that I am happy and looking forward to my new school.

Yasin:

• Humorous, makes you laugh
• Confident, courageous, able to try new things
• Spirit, pride, want to win for others
• Determination, stamina
• Not angry

My lantern is going to shine, it represents me in my happiness and excitement the strong marks show my determination.

Yas:

• Free
• Energetic
• Welcoming
• Friendly
• Funny, kind
• Not afraid to speak up
My lantern represents who I am because there are a lot of textures and patterns in it. That’s a bit like me. My brightness shines out through my quirkiness.

Hafso

- Confidence
- Welcoming
- Generous
- Difference / unique
- Humour, great laugh
- Strong, not afraid

The lines that look like roots show that I stay close to my family. The circles represent the brightness of my personality.

Jasmine:

- Independent
- Friendly
- Smart
- Kind and respects others space, decisions etc
- Generosity
- Concentrates, work ethic
- Waits till she’s sure
- Thinker
- Polite, respect.

My lantern is closed up that shows I am a quiet person. The dots show that I am polite and I contribute. The colour shows I am an artist and I like making my life interesting.

Zoe:

- Smart – intelligence
- Friendliness
- Self-sufficient, independent
- Chooses the right way
- Strong character
- Creative – artistic

Ermias:

- Optimism
- Happy
- Friendly
- Confident
- Determination
- Can make what he wants happen
Holly:

- Confident, carefree
- Athletic
- Funny
- Will give things a go
- Never gives up
- Resilient
- Happy for everyone to be themselves
- Inclusive
- Kind

The little star shapes represent that I am following my future. The spaces between the solid bits are the streams of light shining out to show the ups and downs of the future.

Josh:

- Learning from experiences
- Being himself
- Creative
- Loyal
- Independent
- Has particular interests and passions that define him

My lantern is plain showing how I will be able to be myself to make new friends. There is space for new things.

Yusra

- Creative
- Not afraid to say what she needs to say
- Unique
- Honest, supportive
- Stand up for people

My lantern shows nature because I feel I am a supportive person. My spirit is caring and the house shape shows my future it will be fun.

Rozie

- Intelligence
- Confidence
- Talented across areas
- Gives things a go
- Optimistic, hopeful, effervescent
- Can handle things herself
- Lets people in
• Quick to pick up on things
• Forgiving

The shape represents me making a difference and that I am unique. The two speech bubbles shapes show me at Kensington shown in the school colours. The indented mark shows the opportunities I have had from Kensington and the pathway forward. The rectangle in the middle shows I am going to take my high school opportunities seriously. The embossed green marks shows my new pathways from Uni high in it’s school colours green.

We would like to wish each and every grade six student all the very best for your future, be sure to come back to your roots and visit us one day.
Warm regards
Linda and Melissa.