



Lumina

A Glorious Advent Celebration at the Swiss School

On 15 December 2016, the students, parents, guests and staff of the SSiS gathered for an unforgettable evening of storytelling, song and music.

A STORY SET TO MUSIC

This year, the theme of the event was centred on Lumina, a German story by Brigitte Weninger and Julie Wintz, which was woven into the performances. The programme commenced with a beautiful choral rendition of 'Chum mir wei es Liecht azünde', sung by Kindergarten, Lower and Upper Primary students.

PLUNGED INTO DARKNESS

The journey of Lumina begins with Lumina playing cheerfully with her brother and cat. The preschool students took to the stage with a sweet performance of 'Better Place'. Our next reader, Mikaela from Primary 4, told us how Lumina had lost both her parents and is now alone in the world with nowhere to live. Her only possession is a small lantern that her mother had given to her. Next, the Primary 4 students gave a wonderful vocal rendition of 'Leise rieselt der Schnee', accompanied by musical instruments.

Elena, of Primary 2, narrated how poor Lumina wanders through the country all alone. No one is willing to give her shelter from the bitter cold or offer her food. Her only comfort is a lantern, which brings her light and a little warmth. Then, an icy wind blows out her lamp and she's left in darkness. At this point in the story, the Primary 2 students took to the stage and sang 'Wenn I jetzt ganz stille bi'.

As the story unfolds, Oliver from Primary 5 described the despair and terror that Lumina feels when she encounters wolves in the huge forest. This was the cue for the Primary 5 students' brilliant musical rendition of 'Stern Über Bethlehem'.



SHE FINDS A WINGED GUIDE

Johann of Kindergarten B blew us away with his perfectly articulated narration of the next scene, when Lumina meets an old owl and follows him. Kindergarten students breezed in with their colourful lanterns and angelically sang 'So this is Christmas'. Their parents joined in and completed the song in perfect harmony.

SEARCHING FOR THE LIGHT

Mackenzie of Primary 1 recounted how the old owl guided Lumina through the forest. Overcoming many obstacles, they eventually reach the edge of the wood and Lumina is confident that she can find her way on her own. The owl flies off. The Primary 1 students cheerfully chimed colourful bells to 'Joy to the World'. Huge applause followed and ushered in their second song, 'Feliz Navidad'.

A GLIMMER OF HOPE

Lily and Peer of Primary 3 recounted how Lumina glimpses the light of a horse-drawn sleigh. Despite Lumina's desperate efforts to flag it down, it disappears from



sight and her hope is dashed. Next, Primary 3 performed a beautiful vocal characterisation of 'Fröhliche Weihnacht Überall'.

Primary 6 sang 'O Tannenbaum' with instrumental accompaniment, while both Maya and Emily narrated the completion of Lumina's journey. Lumina finds a home, finds joy and a place where she belongs.

A HAPPY ENDING

For the final performance, the school gathered on the stage to sing the traditional Christmas carol 'Silent Night', both in English and in German.

We take this opportunity to thank students and staff for their hard work in staging this wonderful event, and thank all parents for their donations and contributions towards our school's charity Child's Dream.

Article courtesy of
 Reena Rai and Kristy Waddell
 Photos courtesy of Miriam Sengebusch