“We’re not in Kansas anymore!”

This week staff and students have been practising hard for our Christmas Show, which promises to be a morning of song and dance and loads of energy!! Don’t forget, the show is on next Tuesday morning, December 3rd at 11:30 in the hall. I can’t reveal too much but I can honestly say some of our students may have a future career in drama 😊 So come along on Tuesday morning and see the Wairoa version of “The Wizard of Oz”. The costumes are looking great and I must give a special thank you to Stephanie’s mum (S2) for her wonderful creativity and assistance with costumes.

Westfield Eastgardens

As you know, many of our fabulous resources at the school come about through donations from such generous community partners as Westfield at Eastgardens. Last term they presented us with a cheque for $13,000!

Coming up on December 7th is Give Ability Day at Eastgardens and once again, any money raised on the day from this charity drive will be donated directly to Wairoa School. Even more exciting is the fact that Westfield encourage a little healthy competition between their centres, meaning that there are great incentives for the centres that raise the most money. Currently, Eastgardens is running about 5th. If Eastgardens manages to raise enough money
to come 3rd, then Westfield will donate a further $10,000 to the Eastgardens charity partner – Wairoa School!!

So, it is really important that we support Eastgardens in their fundraising efforts on December 7th. Please try to get down to the centre on that day in particular. There will be lots of fun activities.

**Eastgardens Christmas Present Drive**

Eastgardens have been doing a special voting competition on their Facebook page where people need to vote which presents they would like Eastgardens to donate to Wairoa School…

Here is the link to follow so that you can vote!
https://www.facebook.com/WestfieldEastgardens/app_153839431317646

**National Disability Insurance Scheme**

The NSW Government is involved in supporting people across the state to learn how NSW is transitioning to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and develop skills to participate in individualised funding arrangements. There are several projects funded by ADHC to assist carers and consumers:

- EXPLANATION Getting Prepared – information about projects being run across NSW. You can contact the organisations, find out what they are doing and get on their mailing list for updates. Contact ADHC on 1800 605 489
- Physical Disability Council of NSW – free workshop information. Ph: 9552 1606
- Family Advocacy – low cost workshop. Ph: 9869 0866

And don’t forget My Choice Matters, the NSW Consumer Development Fund, which has workshops going on all the time: http://www.mychoicematters.org.au/

**Christmas Goodies:**

Christmas is only 4 weeks away so I hope you are organised and have started your Christmas shopping! Many people often get stuck for ideas on what to buy children with autism spectrum condition. So in this E-zine I have put together a few ideas.

**For that special child**

For the child you find so difficult to buy for - buy them something they already have and LOVE. It doesn't matter if they already have it - no surprise is a good thing and they really do love to have more than one of their favourite things. Below are some great stocking stuffer and gift ideas
Give the gift of understanding!!
For extended family, next year’s teachers and teacher assistants, give the gift of understanding. I have many books that help families, professionals and even people with autism spectrum to better understand autism. Below are some lovely resources that are enjoyable to read or watch.

For many more ideas and resources go to my website www.suelarkey.com. New Zealand pricing and ordering available on my NZ website www.suelarkey.co.nz
Sailing Day for carers

Sailors with disABILITIES would like to again invite groups of Carers to join us for a relaxing day on board Kayle, our 52 foot Yacht. These days are crewed by volunteers and aimed at giving hard working carers, including brothers and sisters, some time out and a chance to relax for a few hours on beautiful Sydney Harbour.

Where groups are able to organise respite care, we welcome carers and their immediate family on board for an enjoyable leisure sail of Sydney Harbour. Siblings of children requiring special care are of course welcome.

Carers Day sails are held on Sundays, they depart from the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia at Rushcutters Bay at 12noon and return at approx. 4pm. These sessions must be booked as a group; we can accommodate a maximum of 15 people per session and a minimum of 10.

Limited Carers Days are now available from November through to March. Hurry as these sessions are very popular and will book out fast.

**How to book a Carers Day for your group**

Visit our website [www.sailorswithdisabilities.com](http://www.sailorswithdisabilities.com) login using your username and password or Sign Up then login and use the interactive calendar to book your Carers Day. If you need help email us info@sailorswithdisabilities.com or contact (02) 8079 5997.

We look forward to welcoming you on board and sharing our passion for sailing...

**Dates for the Diary:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday December 3</td>
<td>Christmas Show</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday December 12</td>
<td>Christmas Fun Day: 10 – 1pm. Note next week</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday December 16</td>
<td>Leavers Party: Note home this week</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon-Wed 16-18th</td>
<td>Swim School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday December 18</td>
<td>Christmas Assembly</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Last day of school 2013</td>
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Have a great weekend everyone. 😊

Regards,

Sara Swift, Principal