The Graduates

On Monday we celebrated with our Year 12 Leavers, wishing them every success for a bright and happy future. Although this marks the end of an era for some, it is also a time of excitement and new opportunities. It was a great time to bid a fond farewell to our Yr 12s and to recognise the achievements of each individual student’s journey in education. We know that each of our students will take away from Wairoa special memories, lifelong living skills and firm friendships. So, to Natalia, Craig, Helen, Joe, Christopher, Raishav, Dominic, Andrew, Michaela and Lucy we say Farewell! Congratulations! And we will miss you all!

I would like to thank all our families for their invaluable support and involvement over the years. In particular, a very special thanks must go to a very special parent. One whose association with Wairoa has spanned over 15 years. Christine Symonds has been the president of the Friends of Wairoa for many years and during that time has worked tirelessly to support and raise funds for our students. Christine has been instrumental in raising funds for such worthwhile projects as the Sensory Garden and the purchase of two school buses over the years. Every year she leads the Friends of Wairoa in organising the Wairoa Trivia Night and The Sportsman’s lunch. We owe Christine a huge debt of gratitude for her commitment, her tenacity and ability to squeeze donations from all and sundry and most of all for her generous spirit and her passion for providing positive opportunities for special education students.
We wish you a Merry Christmas!

Wishing everybody a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and restful New Year. I hope you all have the opportunity to unwind and spend time with loved ones. I would like to thank the wonderful staff at Wairoa for their commitment, energy and resilience and wish them all a well-deserved break.

Thank you to everybody who has supported Wairoa School throughout 2013. We are fortunate to have built strong community links with such companies as Raine and Horne (Bondi Beach), JHS Realty, the Matthew Jones Foundation, Westfield Charities, Di Jones Realty, Body Science International and Blue Illusion to name some of the many who have contributed financially to the school this year. We also have some amazing individuals and parents who have assisted us financially, including: Jacqui Bicanic, Anthony Seymour and his supporters, Kieren Speed, L White, Mr Abraham, Maria Corral and Dianne Ross.

As important as the financial support, is the voluntary service many have provided to us throughout the year. I would like to extend my thanks to such groups as Deloitte, AMEX, our international students undertaking internships at the school, students on placement from various Universities and our fabulous group of simply great citizens who volunteer willingly and enthusiastically every week.

This is not an exhaustive list and I apologise wholeheartedly if I have left out some names. Suffice to say, we depend very much on the voluntary generosity of our friends and supporters in order to provide the wonderful opportunities and learning experiences afforded to our students. Parents and community members often ask me how they can help out and I would encourage you to find a way that suits you: join the Friends of Wairoa; sign up for a Fun Run and raise some money; come in and volunteer; pay the voluntary school contribution. Whatever you do we will be most grateful for and you will get a warm and fuzzy feeling for free ☺️

Dates for the Diary:

- **Wednesday December 18**: Last day of school 2013
- **Tuesday January 28**: Staff Development Day
- **Wednesday January 29**: First day of school for students

Regards,
Sara Swift, Principal ☺️