The Graduating class of 2014

On Monday we celebrated the graduation of our Yr 12 students with a ceremony and lunch. It was a beautiful occasion, well attended by family, friends and staff. Each student starred in their own video presentation, which was a “This is your life at Wairoa” snapshot. It was wonderful to look back – in some cases over 15 years – on memorable occasions and activities at school. Families, staff and students were extremely proud of the exceptional, mature and kind young men and women who graduated with their HSC and now prepare for a new journey in their post school settings.

The school really worked as a community to pull together an organised and enjoyable afternoon. Special thanks must go to: Julie Thomas, who made the graduation cake; Danielle Hamid, who decorated the hall and made beautiful table settings; Sue Brooks, who worked like a Trojan preparing and serving the luncheon and who was assisted by Wendy Homer, Bob, Hamish, Nicholas and Richard; Joe Earp, who made the videos; the executive team – Penelope, Todd, Vic and Vicky, who organised, coordinated and bought all the food and gifts and all the staff who have worked with these students over many years.

We wish the class of 2014 success, happiness and good luck for their future. 😊
This week we were delighted to receive a generous donation of beautifully wrapped Christmas gifts. The Friendship Circle, which is a not for profit group that supports people living with special needs, came to the school bearing several sacks of presents – one for each of the students! Our students couldn’t believe their eyes and we would like to extend our thanks and gratitude for the wonderful work of the Friendship Circle.

**AMEX group**

We were pleased to be able to once again host a group of energetic and generous corporate volunteers who helped us out with Christmas Fun Day celebrations and activities. The group assisted with face painting, water play, sensory activities, Santa photos and BBQ cooking. I’m sure they all finished their day covered in food colouring, face paint and water but they assured me they had a great time and we certainly couldn’t have run a day such as this without their fabulous support. We look forward to next year folks! 😊

**Westfield Eastgardens**

The Eastgardens team once again this year supported our Christmas Fun Day – allowing us to ‘borrow’ their very jolly Santa so that students and their families could have their Santa photos taken in a relaxed, familiar environment. I know our families really appreciate this opportunity, as heading to the shopping centre for photos in a crowded, noisy setting does not work well for many of our children with sensory processing difficulties. The team also provided a cheery Elf, who made some amazing balloon sculptures for the students as they waited for their turn with Santa. Thank you to the Eastgardens Team who have worked with us on a number of different fundraising activities this year – this was a very special way to finish the school year 😊
Season’s Greetings

I would like to take this opportunity to wish our wonderful students, families, volunteers and community partners all the very best for a peaceful and happy Christmas and New Year. Only 8 sleeps til Christmas! Aside from the excitement and activity of Christmas and the imminent arrival of Santa, I hope you all enjoy some quality time with those you love. Relax, re-charge and return to the new school year full of energy and enthusiasm!

Dates for the Diary:

- Tuesday January 27th: School Development Day – staff return
- Wednesday January 28th: School resumes for students – Term 1 2015

Regards,
Sara Swift, Principal 😊