Welcome back everybody!

I hope everyone enjoyed their Easter break – we were so lucky with the beautiful weather! The staff and students have settled quickly back into the school routine and it's great to see that everyone is happy to be back at school.

This term we welcome two new members of staff; Louise Budd, who will be teaching Secondary 1 and Aimee Garcia-Tice, who will be sharing the teaching of Secondary 3. Both teachers are trained special education teachers and are full of enthusiasm and great ideas. Parents of students in those classes will shortly receive letters of introduction and contact details for both new staff members. Please make the time to say hello and help our newbies feel welcome at Wairoa 😊

At the end of last term we said a temporary farewell to Eleanor Box who was a teacher on Secondary 3, as she is now preparing for the imminent arrival of a new baby. In the next few weeks we will also bid adieu to Imp Gierdien, also a teacher on Secondary 3, as she will be taking maternity leave in preparation for her second baby. Hmmm! I might need to check the water supply in Secondary 3! We wish both Eleanor and Imp all the very best and can’t wait to meet the new additions to the Wairoa family.

Although this is a relatively short term, it is also shaping up to be an extremely busy term. Our teachers will be working hard on the half yearly reports; as a school community we will be pulling out all the stops to prepare for our major fundraiser, the Trivia Night; we have another fantastic curriculum day planned which will focus on Maths; we will be welcoming some interns who will be starting placements with us from as far afield as Singapore, the United States and New Zealand; and we will be hosting a one day parent workshop on ProLoquo2Go – details will follow.
**Friends of Wairoa**

This is it folks! Preparations for the upcoming Trivia Night are in full swing this term – Saturday July $19^{th}$ will soon be upon us. At the moment we really need to concentrate on gathering as many donations as we can for prizes and auction goods for the night. Last term we received some lovely goods as donations and we would really like to keep them flowing in this term. Donations can be dropped in to the school office. I will send home an order form for tickets to the Trivia Night with this newsletter.

We will be asking for further assistance with various tasks throughout the term and we really hope that everyone gets behind this major fundraiser for the year.

In the upcoming weeks we will be holding the Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Wairoa and it would be fantastic to see as many parents there as possible. The work this group does is fundamental to the successful programs we offer to our students here at Wairoa. Notice of the AGM will be sent home shortly.

**City 2 Surf**

This year Wairoa has a team of staff participating in the upcoming Fun Run. If you follow the link below it will take you to Wairoa’s fundraising page. Please encourage friends and family to donate – we really should support these super keen and frighteningly fit staff for their commitment to Wairoa 😊


**Sandpit fun!**

During the holidays our Primary sandpit received a much-needed facelift, with sand removed and replaced, lids made and blackboard surface added. The Primary students are loving it and are busy creating castles and artworks. Sorry if the shoes are coming home with a bit of extra sand in them😊
**The Lion King - autism friendly performance**

Saturday 14 June 2014 at 1:30pm

Capitol Theatre, Sydney

This specially adapted performance will be suitable for people on the autism spectrum and their families, to see the award-winning production in a friendly and supportive environment. Trained staff will be on hand, and dedicated quiet and activity areas set up, should anyone need to leave their seats.

Slight adjustments to the production include removal of strobe lighting, reduction of any jarring sounds and lights focused into the audience, house lights being dimmed and flexibility to bring your own snacks.

Set against the majesty of the Serengeti Plains to the evocative rhythms of Africa, THE LION KING uses breathtaking theatrical magic to tell the story of Simba's epic journey to fulfil his destiny as King of the Pridelands.

A range of family friendly pricing will be offered for this performance, starting from $50 per ticket.

**TICKETS ON SALE NOW!** Seats are limited so be quick to avoid missing out!

For full details and how to book your tickets visit www.lionkingautismfriendly.com.au or call Ticketmaster on 1300 889 278 Mon – Fri 9am – 5pm

**IT news:**

Pen recommends these great, Autism friendly free apps.

- Month Sequence - Autism Series - https://appsto.re/i66W8yq
- Alpha Sequence - Autism Series - https://appsto.re/i66W8yH
- Spell 2 - Autism Series - https://appsto.re/i66W589
- Add Me - Autism Series - https://appsto.re/i6649t3
- Face Read 1 - Autism Series - https://appsto.re/i66W8yx
- Flowers - Autism Series - https://appsto.re/i66W8yB
- 123 Order - Autism Series - https://appsto.re/i66W8yL
- Color Find - Autism Series - https://appsto.re/i66Q6JK
- Install AnyFont - https://appsto.re/i66W58x
- Face Read 2 - Autism Series - https://appsto.re/i66W5T
- Signs - Autism Series - https://appsto.re/i66W8ZG
- Shapes - Autism Series - https://appsto.re/i66Q6Fw
- My Words - Autism Series - https://appsto.re/i6649wd
- Number Find - Autism Series - https://appsto.re/i66W8Zt

There is also this helpful link to follow if you are after some useful tips to help balance the family financials!


**Abbox of Fun Camp**

Abbox of Fun is a Sony Foundation residential holiday camp for children with disabilities. The camp is free! Each year the camp accepts 28 children with a range of disabilities, between the ages of 5 – 14. The camp runs for 4 days and 3 nights and includes all accommodation,
meals, activities and specialist care. I will attach the parent information letter to this newsletter.

**THE FAMILY ENERGY REBATE**

The Family Energy Rebate helps to cover the costs of energy bills for NSW households with dependent children. In 2013 - 2014 the rebate gives:

- A $125 credit against electricity bills for eligible applicants who receive electricity from an electricity retailer.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION & ASSISTANCE**

PHONE Service NSW 13 77 88  
EMAIL fer.program@trade.nsw.gov.au  

**AM I ELIGIBLE FOR THE FAMILY ENERGY REBATE?**

To be eligible you MUST:

- Be eligible for Family Tax Benefit A or B during 2012-2013 and have received a relevant payment; and
- Be the primary account holder of an electricity retailer, OR a long-term resident of a caravan or mobile park home, whose name appears on the electricity bills supplied by the park operator.

**YOU CHOOSE HOW YOU WANT TO APPLY FOR THE FAMILY ENERGY REBATE**

- ONLINE - it takes a few minutes to submit and processing starts immediately.
- PAPER - download a form from the website, Complete and submit by email, fax or post.

**Dates for the Diary:**

- **Tuesday May 6**  Sailing Day (note to be sent home)
- **Wednesday June 4**  Maths Day
- **Monday June 9**  No School – Queen’s Birthday Public Holiday
- **Wednesday June 11**  Parent Coffee and Chat (ProLoquo2Go) – note will be sent home soon
- **Thursday June 12**  Athletics Carnival, Homebush

Regards,
Sara Swift, Principal 😊