Math’s Day:
Each term at Wairoa we devote a day to a particular curriculum area. This week we celebrated Math’s Day and it was a fun-filled day. Professor Maths joined us and explored various mathematical concepts with the students; from probability games through to hands-on construction activities. The students moved through different activity stations, with teachers providing lots of sensory based lessons linked to the strand of measurement. It was wonderful to see our parents and friends joining their children for the day and it was great to have some Rose Bay Secondary College students who came along to lend a hand. Thank you to Vic Thomas for her organisation of the day and to all our fabulous staff whose enthusiasm and flexibility help these events run like clockwork. 😊
Sensory Panel installation:
Over the last few months we have been working with a local group called The Men’s Shed, who have been creating some beautiful sensory panels which hang together to form a mural. The panels are the result of the vision of one of our wonderful teachers, Sarah Travis. Sarah took her ideas and concept to the Men’s Shed, whose members were then able to transform those ideas into reality. The panels have been installed in our Secondary playground and are already providing a great source of enjoyment for the students. It is fascinating to observe how the students are interacting with the different materials used in the construction and interesting to note how important the sense of touch is to so many of our students.
On Thursday we had a small presentation ceremony, at which we were able to recognise and thank the folks from The Men’s Shed, for their commitment and hard work and the Friends of Wairoa, for financing the project. We were honoured to host a number of guests such as the Member for Vaucluse, Gabrielle Upton, some firm supporters of the Men’s Shed representing Waverley Council, some parents and friends of the school, many of the men from the Men’s Shed and our local Director, Public Schools NSW, Sylvia Corish; all of whom recognised the tremendous benefits for our students of collaborative projects such as this. We are very excited at the success of this project and are looking forward to continuing our partnership with the Men’s Shed.
Friends of Wairoa – Annual General Meeting:
The AGM was held on Wednesday evening and involved the election of a new committee. Christine Symonds officially retired as President of the Friends of Wairoa and we would like to thank her for all her commitment and generosity. The group has raised thousands of dollars over the years under the leadership of Christine and has been involved in funding some remarkable projects, such as the school bus, the Sensory Garden and our soon-to-be-refurbished library to name just a few. We owe Christine a huge debt of gratitude and aren’t going to let her go all that easily. No sooner had she ‘retired’, than she was elected to be a ‘lifetime member’!

The new committee consists of: Rob Bowering (President), Joan Bowering (Vice President, 1), Danielle Hamid (Vice President, 2), Lesley Lemke (Secretary) and Bob Williamson (Treasurer). We would like to thank those members who are continuing in their previous positions on the committee and we would like to warmly welcome Joan and Danielle to the Friends committee.

Trivia Night
Keep those donations and gifts rolling in!! This week we’ve had donations from parents of money and prizes and from the local community we’ve had gift vouchers and a special signed bottle of wine! Donations can be dropped in to the school office and tickets for the night may be purchased through the school.

Donations to the School:
A school such as ours relies heavily on the generosity and support of the community in order for us to ensure that we have the best resources and experiences available for our students’ needs. It is therefore my pleasure to advise you all that this week I have received an extremely generous donation of $10,000 from one of our parents. What makes this even more exciting is the fact that the Macquarie Group Foundation has since contacted me and has offered to match that donation with a further $10,000!

This is what I would call a very successful week in the life of Wairoa!! 😊

Many, many thanks to these wonderful benefactors. We are looking at investing in a couple of defibrillators, which will add a further dimension to our students’ safety at school.

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 😊

**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.

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**Dates for the Diary:**

- **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

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Regards,

Sara Swift, Principal 😊