Wairoa Book Fair and Parade

On Thursday we held our annual Book Fair and Parade, which was a resounding success! It was wonderful to see everyone get involved and, as usual, the costumes were fabulous. Students and parents had a great time, with a sumptuous morning tea and then all the fun of the parade. Days like this would not be possible without the help and goodwill of all. I would particularly like to thank Vic Thomas for coordinating this year’s event; Sarah T and Henrietta for comp ering and organising the parade; Katharina and Sarah for ‘manning’ the book stall; Julie Thomas for her wonderful creation of the Very Hungry Caterpillar cake and for her help with the morning tea and also Suzanne and Fran for their assistance with the morning tea.

It is great to see that our families love coming to the school – I know our students get a real kick out of having their families here and the staff love it too😊
Farewell George:

This week we bid a fond farewell to the first of our Leavers group. George Maneas is leaving us now after many years to begin his transition to his Community Participation Program. We wish George and his family all the very best for the future – we'll miss you. Please keep in touch 😊

Student Reviews:

A reminder to parents/carers: please fill out and return the student review forms that were sent home. It is a DEC requirement that each student placed in a support class has his/her placement reviewed annually. It is important for us to receive feedback from parents/carers to ensure that we are all working towards the same goals. There is no need for you to attend a student review interview, unless there is a particular matter you would like to raise; simply filling out and returning the form is usually sufficient.
Anxiety and ASD:
For those of you who receive this newsletter electronically, there is an attachment this week about strategies that can be used at home and at school to help reduce anxiety. It is always useful to revisit the strategies we are using and also to try new ideas. One of the major issues facing people with ASD is the associated anxiety. If you would like a hard copy, please collect it from the front office.

Randwick City Council is planning to build a new inclusive playground at Chifley Sports Reserve in the southern suburbs of Randwick City. We are looking for parents who would like to be part of a working group to help develop the design and chose equipment for this new playground. **Randwick Council wants the new playground to cater for children of all abilities.**

For the working group we are specially looking for:
- Parents living in Matraville or La Perouse and surrounding suburbs
- And parents living in Randwick City who have a child with special needs.

The working group will have local parents, parents of children with special needs, disability support specialists and Council staff who are playground designers. It is anticipated that the working group will meet three to four times between October and December 2014.

Details of the project and how to nominate to be part of the working group go to: [http://yoursayrandwick.com.au/chifleyplayground](http://yoursayrandwick.com.au/chifleyplayground)

**My Say:**

Currently, the state governments of Victoria, NSW and Queensland are trying to collect information about parenting issues which face the parents, families and educators of children with disabilities. The aim of the research is to refine the extremely successful Stepping Stones Triple P project, which offers evidence based information and courses for parents.

Please take the time to go to their website and complete the parent survey, as this will ensure that future workshops and sessions remain parent/child focused and contain useful, relevant information.
TRANSITION FOR CARERS FORUM

Transition is the period when a child moves from adolescence to adulthood. It is a complicated process for children with chronic health conditions, but is far more complex for those who have additional issues such as an intellectual disability, cognitive impairment, autism or brain injury.

As a part of our Carers Week activities, The Carer Support Program at the Children’s Hospital at Westmead invites parents and carers to attend the Transition for Carers forum and expo.

REGISTRATION IS FREE. Morning Tea and lunch provided.

WHO: This forum is for parents & carers of young people aged 14 – 18 years who have a chronic health condition & who, because of a disability, will have difficulty managing their own care as adults.

WHEN: 15th October 2014, 9.15am – 2.30pm

WHERE: Lorimar Dods, Education Centre
The Children’s Hospital at Westmead
Cnr Hawkesbury Rd and Hainsworth St, Westmead.

Topics include:
• Navigating the adult Health system
• Consent and decision making
• Employment and post-school programs
• Panel discussion with carers who have transitioned
• Expo of services and organisations providing support after transitioning

REGISTRATION IS ESSENTIAL
To register call 9845 3590.
Email SCHN-CarerSupport@health.nsw.gov.au
Registrations close on 10/10/2014.
Places are limited.

NOTE: Professionals in this field may register, but will only be offered a place if all available places have not been filled by parents and carers at close of Registration. Registration is on first come basis.

Dates for the Diary:
Monday 1st September   Music therapy session (Variety Club volunteers)
Tuesday 2nd September  Circus Quirkus excursion (note to follow)
Thursday 4th September  Student Review parent interviews
Wednesday 10th September Wairoa School Leavers Expo (details will be sent home separately)
Wednesday 10th September Friends of Wairoa meeting – 7pm at school.

Regards,
Sara Swift, Principal ☺