Welcome to 2015!

To our returning students and their families – welcome back and to our new students and families – we would like to extend a very warm Wairoa welcome to you! I hope you have all enjoyed the Christmas and New Year break and have managed to spend at least some time relaxing with family and loved ones. Personally, I love my summer break and have relished the opportunity to cook family feasts, read fantastically escapist novels and have just a moment of still, quiet time where I can order my mind before the fun, excitement and chaos that is – the new school year!!

This year we welcome six new kindergarten students and one new secondary student to Wairoa. Starting a new school is a major transition for students and their families and we will all attempt to help and support our ‘newbies’. At this early stage students and staff seem to be taking to the new routines like ducks to water. Parents, don’t be surprised if your child is more tired and crotchety than usual over the next few weeks – the emotional and physical demands of a full school day take their toll on even the most active little people.

In the coming days, you will be inundated with a flurry of letters, notes and forms to fill out. All of them are important, so please take the time to read and complete everything as it is sent home. Initially, you will receive a letter of introduction from your new class teacher which will outline a few ‘housekeeping’ matters relating to each new class and will also give you contact details and procedures for your teacher. You will receive a visual class timetable for this term – this is very handy and can be laminated and put up on your fridge – a great way to help your child become used to the daily routine and structure. You will be sent a letter requesting your attendance at a meeting in which you and the class teacher, as well as any therapists, will plan together to decide on individual learning goals for your child. It is vital that parents and school work together to support each student, so that every individual can work towards personal, relevant school success. Aside from this, you will receive templates for individual Health Care Plans and ASCIA/Asthma plans which will need to be completed and sent back to school in a timely manner.

If at any time you are confused, unsure or require clarification on any school matter, please contact either the school office or your class teacher for information. Don’t forget, your student will have their own communication book, which is a daily and simple way of communicating with us.
At Wairoa we value our parents and families and work closely with you all to afford each student the best possible educational opportunities. There are many ways you can become involved as a parent: from helping out in the classroom; to joining us for our regular curriculum focus days; to becoming an active member of our Friends of Wairoa group. I look forward to working with you and your student over the coming year. 😊

Two of our new primary classes: into the morning routine already!

**Community Affairs References Committee Inquiry:** In December last year an inquiry was launched into the adequacy of existing residential care arrangements available for young people with severe physical, mental or intellectual disabilities in Australia. Currently, the committee is inviting individuals and organisations to send in their opinions and submissions about this matter. Submissions are invited by February 6th; however the committee has agreed to accept submissions past this date. If you are interested in contributing to discussions and findings about this very important issue, please follow the link below for further information. Your opinions matter.


**Dates for the Diary:**

- **Tuesday February 3rd** Sailors with Disabilities excursion (note to be sent home for those involved)
- **Thursday February 19th** Variety/Kimberly Clark Renovation Rescue
- **Wednesday March 4th** Friends of Wairoa Meeting – 7pm (TBC)
- **Wednesday March 11th** Parent Coffee and Chat – 10am (TBC)

We will also have Swim School, an inter-school swimming carnival, Harmony Day and an Easter Hat Parade – dates, times and details of which will be advised subsequently.

Regards,
Sara Swift, Principal 😊