Sailors with disAbilities

This Tuesday a group of intrepid sailors hit the high seas for the first excursion of 2015. Despite the ominous clouds, the excursion went ahead as planned and it was smooth sailing for all. Captain Callum was at the helm and the enjoyment on the faces of our students says more than you can put into words. Thank you to the wonderful group, Sailors with disAbilities, which every year provides opportunities for our students to build confidence and enjoy the open water.
New School Plan Update:

You may remember that last year I sent home some parent surveys in order to gain an insight into how our school is perceived by parents and in the wider community and to pose the question: what directions would you like us to take into the future? Over the holidays I had the chance to collate the information and have a closer look at the data that was gathered.

We had approximately a 37% return rate of surveys, which is above the suggested ‘average’ return rate of parent satisfaction surveys. 21/22 parents indicated that they ‘strongly agreed’ with all of the 15 areas surveyed, meaning that 95% of our parent group has expressed that they consider Wairoa School to be doing an excellent job! 😊 Of the ‘School Bag’ data collected, it was pleasing to note the large overlap between what our parents and families wanted for their children and what our staff wanted for their students. The vast majority of parents, staff and community members surveyed indicated that there were three areas which should form the basis of our school directions over the next three years. They are: Independent living skills; communication skills and social and emotional wellbeing.

As a follow up from this, I asked the staff to work with the information and together we have devised a draft Mission Statement for Wairoa School which we feel reflects the goals and aspirations of our whole school community. It was an interesting exercise for us all to take the time to really put into words what it is we do, why we do it and why it is important. I would be very interested to receive your feedback on the following draft statement:

- At Wairoa School we will support each student’s individual journey towards developing effective communication skills, excellent living skills and social and emotional wellbeing.

Thank you all for being such committed and supportive parents, families and friends of Wairoa School. This Mission statement will provide us with the focus for developing our three strategic directions. I will continue to communicate with you on this matter and at all times value your input.

Thanks Rob!

We would like to thank Rob, one of our wonderful neighbours and a regular volunteer at the school, for his recent work on the school fish tank. He has single-handedly transformed a fairly woebegone watery wasteland into a home fit for – well – fish! Rob pops in and cleans the tank and has recently replenished stock and accessories, so that it is now attracting attention for all the right reasons. Students are mesmerised by the little hidden treasures, the bubble blowing hippopotamus and they particularly like counting all the fish.
Assisted School Travel Program

Well, so far it’s been a relatively smooth start to the school year and I would like to acknowledge the great work of our Assisted School Travel team who ensure our families’ needs are met in a timely manner. Many of our families access this wonderful scheme and it makes the often difficult process of getting to and from school so much more manageable. At Wairoa we are lucky to work with some fabulous operators, drivers and travel support officers, who often go out of their way to make sure that each student in their care is delivered safely and on time every day.

Just a couple of reminders so that we can keep this arrangement running smoothly:

- Parents/carers must ensure a responsible adult is present at agreed departure/arrival times – a 15 minute period either side of the agreed time must be anticipated.
- Drivers are only able to wait a maximum of three minutes.
- Parents/carers must escort the student to/from the vehicle (including students in wheelchairs) and assist with the transfer into and out of the vehicle.
- Parents/carers must inform the contractor if the student will not be travelling due to short term illness or other reasons.

Dates for the Diary:

Thursday February 19th
Variety/Kimberly Clark Renovation Rescue

Wednesday March 4th
Friends of Wairoa Meeting – 7pm

Wednesday March 11th
Parent Coffee and Chat – 10am

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 😊