Out and About!

Todd’s class has started the year well and is already enjoying weekly community access outings. So far they have experienced the delights of the new supermarket at Double Bay, which has wide, well-planned aisles and some wonderful culinary delights to choose from – Matty knew exactly what he needed to purchase! Yesterday the team headed out to Watson’s Bay baths and soaked up the beautiful sights and sounds. These outings provide great opportunities for our older students to practise communication skills, social skills and everyday living skills such as shopping, safe road behaviour and positive, safe interactions.

Friends of Wairoa meeting:

Our first ‘Friends’ meeting for the year is scheduled for Wednesday March 4th and will commence at 7pm in the staff library at school. Please come along and join us for a cuppa and some nibbles as we discuss the vital topic of fundraising. There are so many ways parents and friends can assist with this and new faces and ideas are always welcome. We especially encourage new families to come along, as it’s a great way to meet people and contribute to your school community.
Mercer Volunteers:

Last Tuesday we hosted a fabulous group of corporate volunteers from Mercer Consulting who decided to take an afternoon out of their busy work schedules and give some time and energy to the beautiful students at Wairoa. We were delighted with the enthusiasm and caring attitudes of the group, who happily joined in with class and playground activities. I received some lovely feedback from the team members, who found that some time out to interact and support our students was a refreshing and invigorating change from their regular ‘office’ lives. Our students always enjoy the opportunity to socialise with others. Thanks guys – we loved having you. 😊

Harmony Day: Tuesday March 3rd – 10:15am start.

Each year the Department of Education and Communities celebrates Harmony Day and this year we will combine our Harmony Day celebrations with the first of our Curriculum Days, which for Term 1 is HSIE (History Society and Its Environment). Harmony Day celebrates Australia’s cultural diversity. It’s about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone. As usual we welcome our families and friends to come to the school and join us for some wonderful learning activities and some tasty treats from around the world.

We are being very spoiled this year, as one of our parents has offered to come in and cook some traditional Turkish foods for the whole school to sample at lunch time. Fatih is a cook by trade and will spend quite a few hours rustling up a variety of koftas to serve with salad to approximately 70 hungry mouths!

Our curriculum days provide a great opportunity for parents and families to get involved with the students as they explore and participate in many engaging, fun activities. Please RSVP as soon as you can so we can cater appropriately.
**Parent Coffee and Chat:**

On Wednesday March 11th we will hold our first Parent Coffee and Chat morning for this year. Our guest speaker will be Kaya Lyons, a Pediatric Occupational Therapist who has been working with our staff and school community to bring our multi-sensory room back to its former glory. Kaya has presented some staff professional learning for us which was very informative and has increased our understanding and knowledge of sensory processing difficulties and how we can help our students address these issues so as to improve their capacity to learn and engage with school more positively. Many of our students experience sensory processing difficulties and Rachel has a wealth of knowledge about how to assess what these needs are and how to work with our students so that they can achieve to their full potential.

**A reminder:**

A gentle reminder – the season of coughs and colds seems to have started early this year. 😶 We have already had a number of students unwell with streaming noses, temperatures and coughs. As you can imagine, viruses and infections can spread like wildfire in a school environment so please be aware that if your child is unwell, school is not the best place for them to be. Thank you to those parents and families who are remembering to let us know if your child is absent due to sickness.

**Kimberly Clark Professional/Variety the Children’s Charity Renovation Rescue:**

A big thank you to all those who took part in last week’s Renovation Rescue. We couldn’t have done it without the support of some wonderful local businesses, who donated their time and resources. A huge thank you also to the wonderful Mr. Michael Caton, our Friends of Wairoa patron, who donned his work gloves and came down to add some cheer and support to the afternoon! 😊

Please support these businesses:

- Eco Gardens – Bondi
- BC Sands
- Clever Patch
- Delaney’s Workstations
- Grassman, Grass Manufacturers P/L – Botany
How can School Age Years Inclusion Support help your child and family?

The SAY program supports children, young people, families and carers in all areas of their lives.

**Home**
- Routines
- Communication
- Life skills
- Homework
- Sibling support
- Safety
- Play skills
- Positive interactions
- Household activities

**Community**
- Sport
- Recreation/leisure
- Transport/road safety
- Shopping
- Personal safety
- Social groups
- Holidays
- Religious and cultural activities
- Positive interactions

**School**
- Transition to school and between schools
- Peer support and social skills
- Support for families to work positively with schools

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**Lifestart**

SCHOOL AGE YEARS (SAY) Inclusion Support Program

Support during the school years for children and young people living with disability and their families.

[www.lifestart.org.au](http://www.lifestart.org.au)

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**How do I contact SAY Inclusion Support?**

Lifestart SAY Inclusion Support Program

Postal Address: PO Box 3080

North Strathfield

NSW 2137

Phone: (02) 8780 0141

(02) 9364 0111

Fax: (02) 9743 4192

Email: say@lifestart.org.au

Website: [www.lifestart.org.au](http://www.lifestart.org.au)

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**Rugby Connect – Trytons 2015**

A specialised Rugby Union program designed to allow all boys and girls to be involved in our great game!

What is Rugby Connect?

Rugby Connect is a rugby union program developed for special needs boys and girls between the ages of 5 – 17 years. The season is run by Sydney Junior Rugby with the assistance of the Australian Rugby Union and NSW Rugby.

If you would like more information, please email mkellahan@nswrugby.com.au or call 9323 3407
Dates for the Diary:

Tuesday March 3rd

Wednesday March 4th
Wednesday March 11th
Weeks 7 & 8
Wednesday March 25th

Curriculum Day/Harmony Day (separate note sent home)

Friends of Wairoa Meeting – 7pm
Parent Coffee and Chat – 10am
DEC Swim School at Wairoa
Swimming Carnival, Cabarita Pool (separate note to be sent home)

Regards,
Sara Swift, Principal 😊