Hello Staff, Parents, Carers and friends
I have lots to share in this fortnight’s newsletter!

Disabilitycare Australia – One big difference to lots of lives!
You’ve heard about it in the media and during the lead up to the Federal election. Bronwyn West, SOSE NW Transition and Work Experience Co-ordinator and I attended a meeting on Tuesday, 10th September at the new Disabilitycare Australian office in Stewart St, Devonport where senior personnel carefully explained the structure and answered our questions. It will be a big change to the current system. Tasmania has already commenced determining eligibility for support of young people with a significant permanent disability who are aged from 15 – 24 years. We are aware that several parents and carers have already been contacted. Bronwyn is willing to assist you in the discussion about your son/daughter’s individual goals and support needs during the development of an individual plan. Please read the attached pamphlet.

Congratulations!
Wednesday 11th September was a particularly special day for Janet Coxan, as she celebrated 30 years of employment with the Department of Education as a Utility Officer. Janet’s job descriptors over this length of service at the Devonport campus have been very varied and at present, Janet is mainly responsible for completing the PODD books for individual students. Felicity Lovatt, the Speech & Language Pathologist who services all the classes across both campuses, assesses each student who requires a PODD book and then customises the pages to match the student’s needs. Janet prepares the pages by cutting and sequencing them in order, next she binds and completes the book with a sturdy cover. Well Done Janet!

Dates to Remember
16th September – Parent Meeting
18th September – Junior Eisteddfods
13th – 15th November – Music Camp

Public Holidays
4th November – Recreation Day
29th November – Devonport Show

Term Dates
Term 3 – 23rd July to 27th Sept
Term 4 – 14th Oct to 19th Dec

Student Free Days
Friday 25th October

School Contact Details
113 Middle Road
Devonport 7310
Phone: 64 245554
Fax: 64 242992
**Zachary Parnell-Fitzgerald**

Zac is 15 years old and he joined the Senior class at the beginning of this year after experiencing two turbulent years where he rarely attended school due to his disability. Over the last few weeks, Zac has commenced work experience at the Childcare Centre in Dana Drive. He attends the centre on Wednesday mornings and is supported by Louise Davis. Zac naturally possesses a caring disposition where he instinctively gravitates to helping younger students who require support. Today, in a conversation with me he made the following comments about himself and his work experience –

‘I really like it’! ‘I enjoy playing with the kids, serving the food at break times, looking after them when they are hurt and reading to them’.

‘I have a sense of pride now because I’m meeting new people and doing new things that I thought I never would be able to do’.

‘I would like to keep doing this work. Maybe it will grow into a job for later’.

We are all so proud of you Zac! Congratulations!

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**Fundraising on Polling Day**

The Devonport Campus’s lamington drive was a tremendous success and on polling day several staff members manned the barbecue outside the school building to tempt voters with sausages, hamburgers and onions as members of the general public lined up to vote. The lamingtons and other goodies were sought after by the continuous stream of people coming in and out.

It was a great effort by many staff members who assisted with the preparation of the lamingtons earlier in the week: Leeanne Howe, Jill Peirce, Sandy Webb, Janet Coxan, Cassie Bonis, Janelle Pearce, Darlene Kumar, Kathryn Restall, Jacqui Astley, Jo Corvinus, and Tarnae Maibala.

Many thanks to Grant Maloney, Cassie Bonis, Leeanne Howe, Luke Dolbey, Darlene Kumar, Sandra Dyson, Jacqui Astley, Lynne Ryan and Jo Corvinus who assisted either on the stall or barbecue on election day, and a huge thank you to Vicki Artis who made a large quantity of delicious homemade kiss biscuits.

Jo Corvinus, Cassie Bonis and Ron Davey led the team to ensure that the preparation was well detailed and organised with the lamington drive and stall becoming a combined effort. The final amount raised from the sausage sizzle was $144. We do not have a final tally for the lamington drive yet.
Arts & Music Camp to be held 13th, 14th & 15th November at Camp Clayton

Many staff members are already in the planning phase to ensure that the 3rd camp will be another successful event for students, staff, parents and friends. You will note that this year we are extending the camp for a second night. This has been offered due to the increasing student numbers who wish to take part in this yearly event.

Due to the likely increase in student numbers who will participate in the camp, we have decided to offer the following arrangements:

- **Wednesday 13th November** – Prep, Early childhood and lower Primary students will combine with both campuses to participate in the day activities and may stay overnight with parent/carer permission. The option of students attending for the day only and going home at the usual time will also be available.

- **Thursday 14th November** – Upper Primary and Secondary students will combine with both campuses to participate in the day activities and may stay overnight with parent/carer permission. The option of students attending for the day only and going home at the usual time will also be available.

- **Friday 15th November** – all Prep to Senior Secondary students will combine together with both campuses completing art projects and practising items for a concert as a finale to the camp. Parents, carers, members of each campus School Association and friends will be invited to attend the concert and enjoy a barbecue lunch at Camp Clayton. Specific times will be scheduled closer to the event in November.

Cost per student for 1 night’s accommodation + evening meal, breakfast, morning tea, afternoon tea and barbecue lunch = $50

Cost per student to attend day only + afternoon tea, morning tea and barbecue lunch = $30

I am alerting parents/carers to these costs and I am suggesting that fortnightly payments of $10 per fortnight can begin to be paid now so that the overall cost does not become a burden to you.

Please fill out the following information if you wish to pay the amount per child in instalments and return the completed information to school as soon as possible.

More detailed information and permission forms will be sent home in the coming weeks.

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I would like my child to attend the 2013 music camp OVERNIGHT   YES / NO

I would like my child to attend the 2013 music camp DAY ONLY    YES / NO

I would like to take advantage of the payment option of $10 per fortnight   YES / NO

Childs Name: ..........................  Parent/Carer Signature ..........................
Reminder of Parent/Carer Meeting will be held on this Monday, 16th September commencing at 12:30 pm in the meeting room at the SOSE Devonport campus. Our guest speaker will by Victoria Hickman, Paediatric Occupational Therapist who will discuss ‘Sleep problems, Routines and Strategies’. Friends are most welcome to attend. Lunch will be available.

Devonport Eisteddfod Items
The Senior class performed in the Percussion Section on Tuesday receiving 90 points for their performance of the ‘Adams family’. What a great effort! The Early Childhood and Primary class will perform their item at the Devonport Entertainment Centre at approx. 1pm on Wednesday 18th September. All parents, carers and friends are most welcome to attend. Once again, Mrs Jacqui Astley has excelled with planning and supporting the students to perform successfully on stage in front of an audience.

Parent School Satisfaction Survey
A reminder to parents/carers that if you have been selected to complete this survey then the deadline is 27th September.

Kind regards,
Grace

The Escape Hatch Support Group Invite You:

To the next Social Support Group get together for family carer and friends

Where: Argosy Motor Inn
221 Tarleton Street
EAST DEVONPORT

When: FRIDAY 27th September 2013

From: 12.30 p.m.

If you know a carer who may be interested in attending, please feel free to invite them along

For further information please contact 1800 242 636