Hello Staff, Parents, Carers and friends,

We’re now into the month of March and of course the season of Autumn brings slightly cooler weather and dark mornings! There are just a few more weeks left to enjoy daylight savings!

Welcome to another new teacher at SOSE Devonport

With Grant Maloney on leave for an indefinite time, Randall Hardy has stepped into the two day per week physical education role whilst Grant is away. Randall is a new graduate who undertook his last teaching practicum at SOSE Burnie in Term 4 last year. The SOSE Burnie physical education teacher, Kathy Milne-Viney worked successfully in partnership with Randall and I feel sure that this previous teaching experience will assist Randall to creatively offer small class group physical education along with intensive therapy for individual students who have an updated physio program.

A new ‘addition’!

Congratulations to Brooke Ansell, Brad and Lila who are excited to welcome the safe arrival of Frankie Elizabeth who was born on Sunday, 8th March. Brooke is expected to return to her teaching position at the beginning of Term 4.

Exploration of the theme of Geology – Literacy focus for all classes

It has been very exciting to note the increasing interest in the above theme by all students in every grade grouping across the whole school during this first term. As you are aware, teachers plan their literacy on a weekly basis to incorporate writing, working with words, shared and guided reading according to the 4 Blocks Literacy format. The theme based approach requires every teacher to reflect on the interests and skill development of every student in their class group to ensure that active and practical learning is continually generated.

This term students across the school have been exploring the topic of Geology across the curriculum. Dinosaurs, fossils, minerals, crystals, land forms and soils have been
viewed, felt, grown, built and discussed through books, science experiments, art projects, community access excursions and archaeological digs. This topic has proven to be a big hit with our students as shown through the pictures and work samples included below.

**Combined Campus Athletics Carnival**
Students and staff will be taking part in this school calendar event on Monday, 23rd March at the Latrobe Primary school oval. We will also be welcoming a class group from the Northern Support School who will travel down from Launceston to participate in the event. Kathy Milne-Viney and Randall Hardy will organise a program of varied activities set out as stations with small groups of students revolving from one station to another commencing at approximately 11.00am. Latrobe High Sports Leaders are expected to attend as extra support to assist with setting up the equipment and also supporting individual students with specific physical tasks at each station. The carnival is expected to conclude at 12.30pm.

I would like to thank Mrs Julie Argent, Acting Principal of Latrobe Primary and also Mr Brent Armitstead, Principal of Latrobe High for offering a venue and extra support to ensure that our carnival runs smoothly. Fingers crossed that the 23rd March is a fine day for us! A separate notice outlining further information about the carnival will be circulated to parents/carers by Friday, 20th March.

**Harmony Day – Celebrating Australia’s cultural diversity**
Plans are already being made to celebrate inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone at the SOSE Devonport campus on Friday, 20th March. Staff and students will gather for an assembly with musical items highlighting different cultures. Lunch will follow with each class choosing a dish from a particular country which will be shared and eaten.

**In Conclusion**

*Parents flock to free online course on Autism* was featured in The Age newspaper recently. If you are interested, the link is [http://www.theage.com.au/national/-13vcc9.html](http://www.theage.com.au/national/-13vcc9.html)

Kind regards,

_Grace_

**Uniform Orders**
The uniforms have now arrived and are being sent home with the students. Invoices will be created and posted out when ready.

**Birthdays**
Happy Birthday to the following students who are celebrating their birthday this month: March: Damien, Sarah, Laurence

**Mobile Phones at School**
Parents/carers are reminded that students should not be bringing mobile phones to school unless they have permission from their class teacher. Students are to be reminded that they MUST NOT take photos of other students or staff without asking permission first.

**Head Lice**
There are head lice out and about in the community again at the moment. Parents / carers are reminded to please check their child’s hair on a regular basis.
**Sick Children**
A reminder that if your child is unwell it is your responsibility to keep them at home to stop the spread of germs. If your child arrives at school unwell you will be asked to come and collect them.

**Student Absences / Late Arrivals / Early Departures**
- If your child will not be at school for any reason, it is the parent/carer responsibility to phone the bus company Phoenix on 6427 7626. You must also let Phoenix know if the bus does not need to pick up your child for any reason.
- You must also contact the school office before 10am to inform us. It is NOT the responsibility of the bus aide to pass the message along.
- If your child is arriving late (after 9:30) or leaving early (before 2:30) then you must sign them in/out at the school office.

**Old Uniform Items**
We are looking for some second-hand uniform items. If you have any items at home that your child has grown out of we would appreciate them.

**School Hats**
A reminder that we have school hats available at the school office for $10. During terms 1 and 4 students must wear hats when outside.

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**Forms Due Back to School:**
- Work Experience forms
The Purple Room have been doing some gardening as part of our Science activities. Each student has planted a seed into a small pot to grow their very own climbing bean. This week the seedlings were big enough to be transplanted into our class's garden where students also had the opportunity to plant broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage and lettuce seedlings.