Key Dates for 2016

Fri 25 to Tues 29 March
Easter Break

Wed 30 March
Return to school

Fri 8 April
Term 1 ends

Tues 26 April
Term 2 starts

Fri 1 July
Term 2 ends

Mon 18 July
Term 3 starts

Fri 23 Sept
Term 3 ends

Mon 10 Oct
Term 4 starts

Wed 21 Dec
Term 4 ends

Issue No. 4: 23 March 2016

Principal’s Message

Hello Staff, Parents, Carers and friends,

The Easter break is almost upon us and it will be a chance for teachers, support staff and students to ‘recharge their batteries’. With daylight savings continuing until the end of March, we’ve all noticed how dark it is in the mornings. I’m usually up around 6am to get ready to come to work and now that it’s colder at night, I’ll be glad when the clocks get turned back one hour!

Parent/Carer Meetings

It was pleasing to see so many parents and carers who attended these meetings at the Acton campus on Thursday, 17th March and also the Devonport campus on Monday, 21st March. Bronwyn West excelled with her organisation of guest speakers from Mission Australia, Carers Tasmania and ASD. Parents and carers mingled together over refreshments and we will offer another opportunity to meet together again in Term 2.

Release of the draft Education Bill 2016

At the Principal’s forum held on Friday, 18th March, Liz Banks, the Deputy Secretary, Department of Education discussed with Principals from the North and North-West the proposed changes which were drawn from the knowledge and experience of a stakeholder reference group and working groups that met across the broader Tasmanian community during 2015. The Review also examined the features of education systems in other states, current research and Tasmania’s social and economic contexts.

Attached is further information that may be of interest to you and your family. Your comments are welcomed and you can send feedback via comments@education.tas.gov.au
**Update of the SOSE D’port’s Transit Van**

Last week, the Red Room class, support staff and teacher, Debbie Hawkins made a visit to the Shearwater Mechanical workshop operated by Matthew & Vanessa Baxter and I’m very pleased to report that the newly fitted motor is almost complete and the transit will be returning to our school shortly. We are overwhelmed with gratitude to Matt and Vanessa and also to Repco who supplied new hoses and plugs free of charge.

With the vehicle being out of action for almost all of Term 1, teachers have planned community access trips with students and support staff utilising the MerseyLink timetabled bus services. Students have enjoyed the experience of waiting at the bus stop, boarding the bus and handing money to the driver to obtain a ticket. Finding a seat and sitting amongst members of the general public has also been a new experience for many of our students.

Perhaps, during the term holidays, you might like to think about repeating this experience with your child and with members of your own family by catching the MerseyLink bus to a destination such as Latrobe or Ulverstone.

**A new bus for Devonport Campus**

As many of you are aware, our student population is growing steadily and we require a new standard bus to ensure that all our students can travel together to a venue to participate in whole school activities. The members of Lions Club of Devonport and Ulverstone in particular, have been most willing to support this project with various fundraising initiatives.

Staff members volunteered to attend the Taste of the Harvest held on Sunday, 13th March on the Mersey foreshore. These staff members were rostered to work on the Lions drinks stall throughout the day. One of our parents, Louise Gibson committed to be the chief organiser on the drinks staff from 10am until after 6pm. This was a tremendous gesture by Louise and also her husband John, who stayed at home to care for Lachlan and Bryce. Many thanks Louise, John and all staff members who assisted. It was an amazing effort by you all.

The proceeds from the gate takings and the drinks stall will be banked towards the purchase of the new bus.

**Capital Works Project at Acton**

The tender process has been publicly advertised and is now closed. The selection of the successful tender has begun. Mr Todd Williams, the DoE Manager of Asset Planning has contacted me in relation to identifying all assets that will be relocated from the SOSE Mooreville building to the Acton building. Collectively, Mrs Sandra Cock, our school business manager, Mr Matt Bilsborough, the DoE project manager and all staff will be involved in determining the inventory of chattels, goods and specialised equipment that will be rehoused in the Acton building during or after the renovation.

**In Conclusion**

The Easter holiday is a Christian festival occasion when families and friends often come together.

Please take care if you are travelling on our roads. School resumes on **Wednesday, 30th March**.

Kind regards,

Grace
Harmony Day

Harmony Day is a day to remember and celebrate our diversity. At SOSE Devonport each class decorated a piece of a colourful jigsaw. As a whole we shared our creative pieces and joined them together to form one wonderful and diverse art work.

Green Room - Car Wash

Green room have begun their enterprising activity for 2016. They are washing cars – $10 for the inside and $10 for the outside. They have been spotted having very successful trial runs. Let’s hope they can get many cars to wash and warm, sunny days!!

Purple Room - trip to Ulverstone via public transport
Orange Room – Community Access

As part of the Term 1 “Travel Theme” Orange Room students have been learning about “How to catch a bus”. After reading a social story of How to catch a bus? Which included learning the rules and steps involved in catching the Mersey Link, Orange room have been out and about practicing and using their knowledge.

The students have learnt how to find the bus stops, to wave down the bus for it to stop, to pay and collect their bus tickets, to find an empty seat, to keep our hands to ourselves, to talk quietly, to get off the bus when directed and to thank the driver.

We have travelled out to the Latrobe Township and around the West and Southern parts of Devonport. On our next trip we are intending on going into Devonport CBD to have morning tea and catch a return bus back to school.
15 March 2016

Release of the draft Education Bill 2016

On 14 March 2016 the Tasmanian Government released the draft Education Bill 2016.

The draft Education Bill is the Government’s proposal for how education legislation should change to best support the education system and all learners. The draft Bill is informed by national and international research, a review of legislation in other states and territories and stakeholder and community consultation.

Major reforms under the draft Education Bill include:

- lowering the school starting age from 5 years to 4 years and 6 months, with a flow-on to a minimum Kindergarten eligibility age of 3 years and 6 months (this will apply to children born in 2016)
- lifting the education and training leaving requirements to completion of year 12 or equivalent (certificate III, apprenticeship) or until 18, whichever occurs first (this will apply to students who are in Year 7 in 2016).

Extending the compulsory years of education and training would ensure that more young Tasmanians would have access to high quality early learning sooner and more would complete year 12 or equivalent before they turn 18.

The proposed change to the minimum starting age will bring Tasmania into line with other states and territories, as shown below:

The Government is seeking feedback from the Tasmanian community on the draft Education Bill. Consultation on the draft bill commenced on 14 March 2016 and will close on 13 May 2016.

Further information on the draft Education Bill and how to give feedback is at the Education Act Review website [http://tased-education-act.blogspot.com.au].
Birthdays
Happy Birthday to the following students who are celebrating their birthday this month:
March: Damien, Sarah
April: Jonah, Mollie, Sophie-Ella, Tara

Emailed Newsletters
If you would like to have a copy of the newsletter emailed to you please send an email to: cassandra.bonis@education.tas.gov.au and ask for your address to be placed on the list, or leave your email address at the office.

Emergency Contact Numbers
A reminder that the people you nominate as an emergency contact for your child MUST be someone who is able to come and collect them if necessary. People living on the mainland are not acceptable emergency contacts.

Head Lice
There are head lice out and about in the community all the time. Parents / carers are reminded to please check their child’s hair on a regular basis.

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.

Old Uniform Items
If you have any items of uniforms at home that your child has grown out of, and are still in good condition we would appreciate them for our spare clothes cupboard.

Outstanding Accounts
A reminder to parents who have outstanding accounts that we are happy to accept part payments. If you would like to discuss payment arrangements please contact the school office.

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 and it will be YOUR responsibility to arrange their collection.

If your child is away from school / or sent home because of vomiting or diarrhoea we ask that you keep them home for 48 hours after the last episode.

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 MerseyLink on 6427 7626. You must also let MerseyLink know if the bus does not need to pick up your child for any reason.
• You must also contact the school office before 10:00am to inform us. Messages passed on by bus aides/drivers WILL NOT be accepted.
• If your child is arriving late (after 9:15) or leaving early (before 2:30) then you must sign them in/out at the school office.

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.

Uniform Items
The school office has a few spare uniform items still for sale if anyone is interested. Please see the office if you would like to look at what we have.

Also please remember to name all items of school uniform.

Ordered Uniform:- Invoices were sent home last week for items ordered recently. Uniform can be sent home with your child when your payment has been received.

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