**Principal’s Message**

What great weather over the Easter and term holiday! We were also very fortunate to enjoy a warm and sunny Anzac Day! Many thanks to the SOSE staff members, parents and students who made an effort to attend a service to commemorate the 100th year since the landing of Australian and New Zealand troops on the shores of Gallipoli.

**SOSE Devonport** was represented at the 11am service held along Victoria Parade at the Cenotaph by Christopher Wallis, accompanied by his grandmother Lorraine and dad Peter, Bryce Gibson and his parents John, Louise and little brother Lachlan and staff member Rose Neisser and her children. It was certainly a very proud moment when Bryce, Christopher and I were called to lay the wreath.
**Light Box Activities**

Mrs Lynda Cameron who is now a member of the teaching team across both SOSE campuses is actively demonstrating her skills and knowledge on cortical vision impairment. Many of our students have a diagnosis of CVI and Lynda is working individually with those students to develop sustained visual attention, scanning, tracking, look and reach, grasp and manipulate a range of objects. All of these key skills will extend student's ability to use PODD resources, the eye gaze technology and learning in particular.

**Why use a light box?**

Students with a diagnosis of cortical vision impairment have difficulty with visual complexity. They will show a strong colour preference especially for red or yellow and will respond to movement. The use of coloured overlays on the light box assists individual students to work out colour preferences and the size and position of items e.g. shapes that are the same size or different. Lynda has made up 18 activity bags and each bag has a card explaining the contents of the bag, suggested activities and learning outcomes on it. Lynda plans to do light box activities on a weekly basis and will devise a feedback sheet for teachers outlining what each student worked at, their responses and further suggestions for follow up by a teacher aide during the week.

The students that are working with Lynda are really responding to the light box activities and over the next few weeks, Lynda will train teachers and members of the support team to undertake the light box activities with individual students on a daily basis.

**Eye Gaze Equipment and Technology has arrived!**

The Independent Living staff from Launceston will be undertaking training for SOSE staff and trialling the suite of equipment and technology with individual students and specific staff members at the Devonport campus on 5th and 6th May and at the Burnie campus on 1st and 2nd June. The students who were involved with the trial with Zytec staff at the June 2014 workshop will be included on these special trialling days. How exciting!! We look forward in sharing photos on the trialling days in the next fortnightly newsletter!

Kind regards,

*Grace*

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**Birthdays**

Happy Birthday to the following students who are celebrating their birthday this month:

April: Jonah, Mollie, Sophie-Ella, Tara

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**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.

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**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 Lindy at the school office.

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**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.

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**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.

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**Uniform Items**

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

Also please remember to name all items of school uniform.
Yellow Class Photos
The yellow class have been learning about seeds and plants as part of their science curriculum studies.
Purple Class Photos
The purple class have been working in the garden as part of their science curriculum studies.

North West Special Olympics

North West Special Olympics will commence Basketball training at East Devonport Recreation Centre on Wednesdays from 5.30pm to 6.30pm

Dates:
Wednesday 20th May
Wednesday 27th May
Wednesday 3rd June
Wednesday 10th June
Wednesday 17th June
Wednesday 24th June
Weekend of Championships Sat 27th June in Devonport

Come along and enjoy some Basketball fun.
Contact Kim Carey 0407 862 574

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