Hello Staff, Parents, Carers and friends

On Wednesday, 7th May, staff and students felt very privileged to welcome Mr Eric Hutchinson, the Federal member of Lyons and Mr Brett Whitely, the Federal member of Braddon to the SOSE Devonport campus. The purpose of the visit was to familiarise themselves with our school. Discussions centred on the specific programming offered to students. Both politicians circulated across all the class groupings where they introduced themselves to staff members and students. Brett and Eric asked questions and observed the literacy block in operation across all classes. A little Prep student – Chyanne Tunks attracted the attention of Brett by addressing him by name and they both exchanged some delightful banter and fun!!

Transition Programming for Grade 6/7 students

As mentioned in last fortnight’s newsletter, Mrs Chevy O’Callaghan and teacher assistants have commenced at Devonport High by accompanying Christopher Wallis and Laurence House who were included in a practical cookery session led by DHS teacher Kerryn Chilcott. Other students in the Primary class will gradually join this initiative throughout this term.

This week, Zali Stott and Jake Langer will be supported by Chevy and a teacher assistant during a practical cookery session undertaken by Jenny Trimper at Reece High. Other students will also join in throughout this term.

The students will be attending the transition program on a fortnightly basis throughout 2014. The purpose of this program is to provide students with a familiarisation of a high school setting. It is our intention that in 2015, several students will access specific programs at either high school on a regular basis. Familiar staff members from SOSE will continually support the students whilst attending either high school. It is hoped that accessing practically based programs will encourage a strong social network by supporting new friendships to be developed with new peers along with the chance to build on personal and life skilling within a different setting other than SOSE. Widening our students’ horizons builds their resilience.

Dates to Remember

11th June
SOSE has talent at Acton

18th June
School Association Meeting (1:30-2:30pm)

Public Holidays

Monday 9th June

Term Dates

Term 2 – 5th May to 4th July
Term 3 – 22nd July to 26th September
Term 4 – 13th October to 18th December

Student Free Days

Monday 21st July
Friday 24th October

Department of Education
**Further work experience options underway**

Since the commencement of Term 2, Bronwyn West has become particularly busy with the responsibility of offering a range of work experience options to several senior students. As the transition co-ordinator for both campuses, Bronwyn is particularly committed to locating and negotiating differing work experience options which will match the students’ personal interests, strengths and skill levels. I look forward to sharing photos in the next newsletters where we can collectively share and celebrate the success of the individual students who have been involved in transition programming and work experience.

**Reduced Funding and Staffing**

This week we farewelled Ms Andrea Taylor, a Paediatric physiotherapist employed by DHHS whose role focused on supporting several students referred by teachers across both campuses. Andrea has undertaken this role over the last two years. The SENGCS funding arrangement between DoE and DHHS has been severely cut for 2014. This funding supports Paediatric physios and Occupational therapists to service students enrolled at SOSE NW, ECIS and regular schools across the LSNW. The decision to reduce the funding is very regrettable and as a result all teachers are now required to fill out referrals whenever a specific concern arises for an individual student. Physios and Occupational therapists will generally only visit the school when a referral has been made. The exception will be when a student’s wheelchair requires an urgent repair.

**Other Farewells**

Ms Stacey Flight who has undertaken a teacher assistant role at both SOSE campuses over the last two years has secured a new position at East Devonport Primary. We thank her sincerely for the contribution she made to supporting students and also her personal initiatives as a team member. Stacey will continue with her university studies to become a teacher.

Kind regards,

Grace

**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 or leaving early 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.
Photos from cooking classes

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