Hello staff, parents, carers and friends,

Last Friday, a SOSE staff member, Lynne Ryan and I visited the Warringa School which is situated in Hopper’s Crossing about 40 minutes by train from the centre of Melbourne. Warringa School is a special school with a population of over 300 students aged between 6 years to 18 years students that live in the Werribee area.

This school has invested in and utilises new technologies across all curriculum areas to improve the learning outcomes of all students enrolled at the school. Each student and staff member is equipped with an iPad as their major teaching and learning tool. Every learning space is set up with a range of technology for students to access either individually or in small groups throughout the school day.

All students regardless of the severity of their disability were catered for to ensure that engagement in learning was fully promoted. Open learning spaces easily accessed from classrooms were set up with ongoing projects and displays that celebrated the learning that was in progress. Students gravitated to these areas during informal breaks and were motivated to work on the projects on offer.

Warringa has an ongoing connection with the Melbourne Zoo which initiates learning via visits, discussions and enquiries about animal species, their life cycles and their habits.

The Assistant Principal, Marie Hayes welcomed us and we were given a complete tour of the school which included attending an assembly in their Performing Arts Room and visits to classrooms where we were able to chat with teachers, teacher aides and students as they worked through their daily timetable.

The school’s enterprise centred on the canteen which was operated by a teacher and senior students who were given one week’s placement to plan and undertake instructional tasks related to planning menus, purchasing food items, cooking, waiting on tables, operating the cash register,
cleaning up and packing away. Placements were on a rotational basis to ensure that practical acquisition of skills could be sequentially layered over time.

Senior staff members were released to discuss the operational details of Warringa and we shared information about our school. Many questions were asked by staff members who were interested in the 4 Blocks Literacy Program with enquiries aimed at the assessment measures undertaken with students, the training of staff and the implementation of the program across our campuses.

Our day was a most productive experience and I hope to be able to send individual staff members to visit Warringa over the next year.

**PODD Supporters Group NW**
I wish to remind families and friends that the SOSE NW’s Speech & Language Pathologist, Felicity Lovatt will be offering a workshop for participants to practice using PODD books and other comprehensive AAC systems (e.g. Tap Speak Choice page sets on the iPad) as a means of promoting real communication in a group situation. This workshop will be held on **Wednesday, 19th June** at the East Ulverstone Primary School Hall, Crawford Street Ulverstone from **12.30 to 2.30pm**. If you require further information please contact and RSVP if you are attending to felicity.lovatt@education.tas.gov.au. Don’t forget to bring your child’s PODD book along with you to enable practice and discussion.

**Latest news – Matthew House**
Matthew is now in Palliative Care at the NW Regional Hospital, Latrobe. Our thoughts remain with Pam, Laurence and Arnold during this difficult time.

**Latest news - Chloe Osborne**
Chloe underwent major surgery last week and will be absent from school for up to 8 weeks. She is back home from Hobart and recovering well in her own bed with her family. We all wish her a speedy recovery.

Kind regards,

Grace

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Warringa School Canteen  
Warringa School work stations
Woolworths Earn and Learn

This campaign has now finished so please send your stickers to school before the end of term, Friday 5th July.

Anglicare Tasmania’s KIDS Program needs VOLUNTEER parents...

Right now there is a high demand for volunteer mentors to support our families on the North West Coast, particularly in the Burnie and Ulverstone areas. Volunteers are trained by Anglicare to offer assistance and encouragement to parents with children under 5 years. So, if you have a spare couple of hours per week or fortnight please give this program some thought. Training starts in July 😊

KIDS Coordinator - Claire Williams at Anglicare’s Devonport office on 6421 3100

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 contact the school office before 10.00am 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.

Companion Card

If anyone would like a Companion Card Package, please contact the school.

PODD Activity Display

Attached is sample of a weatherproof PODD Activity Display that we will be trialling outside over the next few weeks. This is able to be moved around the playground to the different swing areas to encourage communication between students and adults about a shared activity.