Hello Staff, Parents, Carers and friends,

The last week of Term 2 has arrived!! Students from all SOSE campuses have attended the Slip Stream Circus ‘Where on Earth’ performance at the Civic Theatre on Wednesday. This event was an excellent way to celebrate the end of term.

Lynne Ryan and I will be visiting the Rainbow Centre School in Singapore from Monday, 30th to Thursday 3rd July. We will be meeting Ms Fauziah Ahmad and her team of senior staff. I will be sharing professional conversations with a focus on assessment processes and collection of data whilst Lynne will be sharing some information and video footage taken from the Zyteq Study Day and the demonstration day held on 18th & 19th July.

Zyteq Eye Gaze Demonstration Day

Several students from both campuses were selected to attend the Acton campus on Thursday, 19th July to trial a selection of this new and exciting technology which was managed by Tracey Bode who is the Managing Director of Zyteq and Karyn Muscat who undertakes the role of Assistive Technology Consultant. Both women are Speech Pathologists. The eye gaze technology is ideally suited to students who are multiply impaired and experience difficulties with accurately operating switches as a means of engaging and learning via software.

The 30 minute trial sessions were extremely beneficial and the sessions proved from a practical point of view that many students will greatly benefit from this new technology. Our greatest challenge will be raising funds to purchase the relevant equipment to set up a system.

Chris Bryg (Occupational Therapist) and Gail Bennell (Speech & Language Pathologist) who are employed at the Independent Living Centre in Launceston will continue liaise with Tracey and Karyn. In Term 3 Chris and Gail will visit both campuses and continue the trial of Eye gaze technology with the identified students who will require this system to become further engaged in learning. It is hoped that video footage can be shared with parents and carers of each student utilising the eye gaze technology.

It is certainly an exciting prospect to allow the trial to continue with the support of ILC.
New Students
Anthony Bryant who attends Hillcrest Primary is now accessing the yellow room program on Wednesdays and Michael Riley is accessing the SOSE D'port senior class program on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Michael lives at Kimberley and will continue to attend Sheffield District School on a part-time basis.

Tara Dodd
Latest information indicates that Tara is recovering slowly and her family hope to be returning home to Acacia Hills during this next week.

Parent – Teacher Interviews
Interviews will be taking place on 18th-29th August. We hope as many carers and parents as possible can attend to meet with their child’s teacher to discuss learning opportunities, recent successes and any issues that you may wish to discuss with the class teacher.

David Gray Retirement
An afternoon tea was held on Friday 20th June at SOSE Devonport to farewell David Gray. There were a number of past and present members of the vision team who attended to give David a surprise; including Jill Catlin, Kathryn Turnbull, Jacqui Astley and Ann-Maree Mott. Of special significance was the presence of Joan Jenkins who is the mother of Stacey Jenkins who continues to access SOSE D’port for a weekly music lesson with Jacqui. David has been the state’s DOE vision and mobility officer since 2003. Previous to this he was employed by Guide dogs and worked in NSW. David is originally from NZ. It was very nostalgic for many of us to recount the long transition which David managed as Stacey moved from WUPS to UHS. The whole process took 2 years.
David will be remembered for his intuitive understanding when supporting students with cortical vision issues. He was a practitioner who always assessed the needs of the whole child not just the vision issue and when he was working individually with a student he always made the tasks fun with the student ultimately really enjoying working with him. Two new rose bushes were presented to David and also some very personalised gifts carefully planned by Michelle Cooney - A beautiful collage designed by Charlotte Williams that David was very pleased to receive.

I wish to sincerely thank all teachers, support and service staff members for your commitment to planning and delivering individual student programming and your ability to maintain an excellent team approach throughout Term 2.

Kind regards,
Grace

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 or leaving early then you must sign them in/out at the school office.
Special Olympics

[Images of children and adults playing different sports]

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