Hello Staff, Parents, Carers and friends

The 3rd Term has commenced well with staff and students returning to school with happy smiles after relaxing and having free time.

Staff movements – Devonport Campus

Ms Darlene Kumar has returned as the fulltime teacher on the Primary class and Mr Luke Dolbey will team teach with Mr Grant Maloney on the Senior class for the remainder of 2013.

My Visit to Special Schools in Singapore

During the term holiday, Lynne Ryan our school's ICT Adviser and I visited the Woodlands Gardens School, the Woodlands Employment Development Centre and the Rainbow Centre over 4 consecutive days. This visit was supported by a letter of introduction prepared by Mr Colin Pettit, Secretary of Tasmania’s Department of Education and circulated to the Leaders of the three educational centres that we chose to visit. I had met Mrs Dawn Tan Boon Shan who is the Vice-Principal of the Woodlands Gardens School last year whilst we were both on holiday in Malaysia. We've kept in contact via email since our meeting last year and she was responsible for planning the itinerary of school visits.

Woodlands Employment Development Centre

Students with severe disabilities exit the Woodlands Gardens School when they are 18 years old and many of them have been on long term transition programs to join industry based workplace employment options which are operated over 5 days from 9.00am – 4.30pm. This centre is beside the school so there are opportunities for past students to regularly visit classrooms to discuss and model employment roles to younger peers. The employment centre also prepares young adults by planning their skill development to gain a job in open employment. The philosophy within the Woodlands Gardens School is that all students can undertake some form of employment regardless of their disability. All the young disabled adults that we observed were earning a wage – there is no disability pension available from the government in
Singapore!

The young workers were organised at tables and were supervised by support personnel. The Manager who showed us around the centre was responsible for finding prospective businesses with ongoing jobs that could be guaranteed as viable. We were so impressed!

- Groups of workers dismantled, cleaned the inner components, reassembled the headsets and sealed each headset into a plastic bag for Qantas airlines.
- Groups of workers packed seasonal vegetables into plastic bags for the local supermarket. Several workers on each table were responsible for correctly weighing and sealing the bags.
- Groups of workers were responsible for folding official forms for the Singapore Immigration Dept. These forms needed to be in particular order and stacked neatly.
- One set of workers prepared onions for restaurants in the local area.
- Another set of workers prepared the food in the canteen which was directed by a chef who supervised the menu options, preparation of food and kitchen hygiene standards.
- Another set of workers worked on creative craft tasks – badge making, paper stacking, book binding, note pad making, screen print shopping bags and shopping bags made of newspaper were also being trialled.

These jobs were all meaningful and every worker exhibited pride in undertaking these roles. Photos are on the next page.

Next time when you’re on a Qantas flight and the hostess offers you a set of headphones, remember that they may have been recycled and the cleaning, reassembling and packing processes have been successfully completed by severely disabled young people!!!

**Date Reminders**

- **Learn to Swim**
  (check the note that has already gone out to parents/carers)
  - Early Childhood & Primary students 5\(^{th}\) – 9\(^{th}\) August
  - Seniors students 12\(^{th}\) – 16\(^{th}\) August

- **Whole School Disco – 20\(^{th}\) August.**
  - Students to dress up as a favourite TV or movie character

- **19\(^{th}\) – 30\(^{th}\) August - Mid Year Parent Teacher meetings**

Kind regards,

Grace
Woolworths Earn and Learn

This campaign has now finished and our final tally was 16,320. Many thanks to everyone who collected the stickers.

The Ashgrove Visit
On Thursday the 1st of August, the Green Room senior students along with our Blue Room junior students embarked on a fabulous educational excursion to the Ashgrove Cheese Farm. Sitting on the Bass Highway in Elizabeth Town, this visit coincides with the current unit of work being undertaken by the students, namely Healthy Eating and the Food Pyramid.

Our students were provided with an opportunity to see and develop links between animals and the production of dairy products which we can buy in the supermarket. Students were encouraged to sample different sorts of cheeses and view the processing area of the farm as well as examining parts of a cow from the many that were standing around.

This excursion also included a brief stop at the Elizabeth Town Café (ETC) for morning tea. Students embraced this café experience and the behaviour of all students was absolutely impeccable. A member of the public approached one of our staff and commented “your students are a credit to the school”. WELL DONE everybody!