Hello Staff, Parents, Carers and friends,

The third term has commenced with classes being very settled. Teachers, support staff and students have returned to work with renewed energy after a pleasant break. A great start!!

This week Cerebral Palsy is being recognised throughout Australia, and I've included an information sheet in this newsletter detailing facts and statistics. Several of our students have been diagnosed with this physical impairment and it’s worth taking a minute to reflect on the current level of services and support that parents, carers and the children receive within our school.

SOSE NW receives ongoing funding from DoE which provides a comprehensive service for individual students who require specific assessment, program development, review and advice on specialised positioning and aids e.g. walkers, bikes, wheelchairs, seating, bathing and toileting supports, eating utensils, splints and AFO’s which are recommended by the Occupational Therapists and Physiotherapists that regularly visit students across all campuses of our school. $135,000 was allocated this year to support students with physical impairments across the whole of the NW coast that are enrolled in mainstream schools and our school. Whilst the funding has been reduced since 2012, the dedication and commitment by the therapists servicing the students is greatly appreciated by our families, teachers and support staff. We all work as a team with genuine intentions to improve the mobility and learning outcomes of every individual student.

Additional Support in Classrooms
Throughout this term, there will be several TasTAFE students who will be fulfilling practical placement commitments in relation to Cert 3 courses that they are currently studying. When on placement the individual students are required to gain further knowledge on specific disabilities, the process of developing IEP’s for all students and specific task selection to ensure that students are actively involved in sequential learning throughout each day. The placement students work alongside the school’s experienced teacher assistants and teachers in each classroom to acquire understanding of specific programming that is timetabled on a daily basis. I wish to assure parents and carers that confidentiality protocols are closely observed within the placement process.
**Whole School Art Project**

The school’s ICT consultant, Lynne Ryan and Lynda Cameron who is the vision support teacher have initiated a combined art project for both Devonport and Burnie campuses.

Already, a range of assorted and varied coloured plastic bottle and jar lids have been collected over many weeks at various venues and students are sorting and cleaning each lid in readiness for the next stage of colour coding and matching the lids to a design template. Lynda has been very proactive in seeking support from K & D Hardware in Devonport which has supplied the backing boards free of charge for each school’s design template. This has been a very generous response from K & D! If you visit the store please thank the K & D staff for their support and tell them about the project.

At the last meeting held on Tuesday, 21st July the following questions were considered with lengthy discussion:

How many general learning classrooms will be required now?
- How many general learning classrooms may be needed in 15 years?
- Does every general learning classroom require a quiet zone, wet zone (painting etc), IT zone, food prep zone, 2 exits (one external to playground or learning area), windows and clear vision from main passageways?

Kind regards,

Grace

**Woolworths Earn & Learn**

This year we will be participating once again in the Woolworths Earn & Learn program. Through this program we will receive educational resources for our school – all we need you to do is save your earn and learn stickers at Woolworths.

Either place the Woolworths Earn & Learn Sticker onto a Woolworths Earn & Learn Sticker Sheet and when it’s complete, the Sticker Sheet can be dropped into the Collection Box at Woolworths Upper Burnie OR send them in to school.

At the end of the promotion, we’ll be able to get some great new equipment. The range is extensive and offers lots of items ideal for our students.

**Acton Campus Capital Works Project**

The planning team involving GHD architects, DoE project managers, DoE Operations Manager and SOSE representatives will meet fortnightly throughout this term to collaborate on the master plan for the Acton overall design and refurbishment.

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