Hello Staff, Parents, Carers and friends,

The first two weeks of Term 3 have proceeded smoothly with staff members and students settling down to daily routines and teaching and learning structures.

I have returned refreshed after spending time in Singapore visiting the Rainbow Centre and joining a tour group in Kathmandu and India. I was most fortunate to visit a small school in a remote Indian village called Tordi Garh. The village was built around a 16th century palace which is currently being restored by the local village tradesmen. The school was a double storey dwelling with no land attached for a playground. The students were very excited to welcome visitors from Australia. The Principal explained that the students attend school daily commencing at 7am. The daily intake of students is staggered with another group of students coming into school at 10am. The curriculum consisted of basic subjects e.g. Mathematics, Hindi, Science and English. All the students were able to converse in English and were very excited when I told them that I came from the same state as Ricky Ponting. Everyone in India is mad about cricket!

Some students sat on the floor and used small blackboards and chalk as their writing tools whilst others wrote in workbooks. There was no technology at this school, yet these students were extremely motivated to highly achieve at school.

Parent/Carer – Teacher Conferencing

Opportunities to meet with teachers to review progress and update the goals in every student’s Individual Learning Plan has been planned from 18th to the 29th August. Information will shortly be sent home for you to select a specific time and day for your teacher meeting. This year we are hoping that many parents/carers who have students in the senior classes will allow their older children to come and take part in the meeting. This initiative is to encourage senior students to contribute and comment on their progress and their participation in programs that are offered in the senior class context. As students mature, we wish to support students to make choices and to state their personal preferences which could influence the planning of their life pathways long term.
Whole School Disco
Just to give staff members, parents, carers and students an opportunity to create an imaginative costume for this yearly event – the theme for 2014 is ‘Puppet Characters’. The disco will be held at the Devonport Campus on 20th August.

Fundraising Initiatives
SOSE Devonport set up a barbecue outside Kmart on Saturday morning, 26th July supplying a steady stream of shoppers and children with hamburgers and sausages. I wish to thank Joanne Corvinus and Ron Davey for organising the barbecue and meat supplies on Friday afternoon. Joanne, Janele and Anne did a great job to make this fundraiser a successful event. Around $360 was raised. These funds will go towards the purchase of a Proxpad which is a newly released technology to support individual student’s communication. A Proxpad retails for $840.

Forthcoming Fundraiser
Dusty and Friends will be performing along with 20 other Country and Western singers and musicians on Sunday 10th August at the Penguin Sports & Golf Clubrooms from around 12 noon. Perhaps some families and staff members can keep this date free to attend. Budget meals are available at the venue from around $12 and there is a varied lunch menu to choose from. Please bring your friends and join us to make this fundraiser a great success.

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.