Issue No. 11: 14 August 2015

Principal’s Message

Hello Staff, Parents, Carers and friends,

The snowy weather on Monday 3rd August was a thrilling experience for staff as well as students at both campuses. The regular timetable was interrupted by students having a wonderful time outside with the tiny snowflakes falling around them. Some beautiful photos were taken of this unusual happening in our playground.

Visit by Kial Hingston,
Manager of the Burnie branch of the Commonwealth Bank
Smiling faces and excitement was in the air at the Acton campus during the literacy session on Tuesday morning, 4th August. Kial was very interested in observing the students during their literacy session with their teacher Jaime Bradley. SOSE NW is very grateful to be the receiver of $10,000. Felicity Lovatt, the school’s Speech & Language Pathologist prepared the submission for the grant. Well done Felicity!

Our school has been fortunate to recently receive two funding grants for which we had applied. The Tasmanian Community Fund and the Commonwealth Bank Staff Fund have both awarded us $10,000 each and, along with a donation from the Davis family, we will be using these funds to purchase three electronic communication devices. These will enable our students to have more extensive trial periods with speech generating devices to see if such devices will assist them to be able to say what they want to say, when they want to say it and to whom.
Change of bus arrival times at SOSE Devonport
The trial that commenced on Monday, 10th August which involved the two large Merseylink buses picking up students from home to school 10 minutes earlier is working well. Both buses are arriving at 9:00am along with Hubert’s smaller bus. We really appreciate the adjustments that all parents and carers have needed to make to ensure that their child is ready to board the bus when it arrives at the various pick up points.
Now that the 3 buses are arriving at 9:00am, all students are ready to commence their planned learning tasks at 9:15am and teachers are commenting on the extra time now available for further teaching and learning opportunities.
Our school hours are now in line with the daily start and finish times at the SOSE Burnie campuses, the Southern Support School in Hobart and the Northern Support School in Launceston.
Thanks to everyone, including the bus drivers and bus aides for your co-operation on this important initiative.

Whole School Disco
This annual event which is a highlight of our school’s calendar will be held during Book Week. The theme is ‘Books Light Up Our World’. Every student and staff member loves dressing up for this event so now is the time to think about a possible costume depicting a favourite character from a special book.
This year, there will be an early childhood and junior disco to be held on Monday 24th August at the Mooreville Road campus in Burnie. The upper primary and senior students will hold their disco on Wednesday, 26th August at the Acton campus in Burnie.

Blue, Red, Orange classes Monday 24th August
Yellow, Purple, Green classes Wednesday 26th August

Emergency Contact Numbers
A reminder that the people you nominate as an emergency contact for your child MUST be someone who is able to come and collect them if necessary. With all the illnesses we have had lately we have had several instances of emergency contacts being people who don’t have transport or live on the mainland.
If we decide that your child is too sick to stay here at school it is YOUR responsibility to arrange their collection.

Second-Hand Goods
We have been given some second-hand bed pads to find good homes for. If you are interested please come into the office and have a look.

Involvement in the Strengthening Communities Project
This is a new project to gain further information at the ‘grassroots’ level to investigate a new model within the Shorewell community whereby purposeful and intentional insights from families can develop sustainability to identify and manage long term issues. Trish Thorpe, has been engaged to interview family members and also agencies within the Shorewell community. Already I have been interviewed and will shortly complete a survey involving our school’s relationship with Mission Australia.
Who is Mission Australia?
Many families with students at SOSE NW already have completed a referral to gain particular support that Mission Australia offers.

‘Mission Australia helps people regain their independence by standing together with Australians in need until they can stand for themselves.’

Strengthening Communities Project will run for 12 months with the findings being collated and released in mid-2016.

Kind regards,
Grace

Our new stove has been installed and we are offering our old stove “as is, where is”. Make an offer if you are interested.
**Green and Purple Rooms Cupcakes**

Green Room and Purple room students have been practicing decorating cupcakes in readiness for next week's fundraiser for the RSPCA. Students will be decorating and selling cupcakes to the staff at SOSE next Thursday and Friday and all money raised will be donated to the local RSPCA centre.

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**Snow!!**

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**Award Winner July 2015**

Sarah Nickiberger

Sarah is becoming more skilled at using all the parts of a sentence to share detailed, specific information with others. This month, she used her complex POOD communication book to express a whole sentence: “I go tomorrow until afternoon/ time 2.30/ after swimming”. The photo below also shows Sarah proudly showing her weekend news expressed through the POOD software on the classroom smartboard. It says: “I went to Dad park. I play Nintendo ds with Jasey and Emily”. This is such clear and independent communication, Sarah. Well done!

Felicity Lovatt
Speech Pathologist

Grace Brown
Principal

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**Award Winner August 2015**

Chloe Osborne

Chloe has been working hard on the enunciator computer to develop the speed and accuracy of her visual tracking and visual targeting. This has had a noticeable impact on looking at yes and no pictures in conjunction with a scanning POOD communication book. Chloe showed us just how much progress she has made when she trials a comprehensive new POOD book for the first time. She was asked whether she would like to share any weekend news with her peers. In typical 13 year old style, this is the message she conveyed (taking 20 minutes of persistence to scan and select the desired words within the POOD book):

“I have an idea/d0 something/want/food/people/school/people/boys/Brady, Tom, Alex, Christopher, Jake, Bryan, Logan, Alex, Damon, Jack. Go to school/beach/Grant, Randal”. Chloe agreed she had been thinking about the boys at school over the weekend!

Felicity Lovatt
Speech Pathologist

Grace Brown
Principal
Birthdays
Happy Birthday to the following students who are celebrating their birthday this month:
August: Kobi, Lachlan

Head Lice
There are head lice out and about in the community again at the moment. Parents / carers are reminded to please check their child’s hair on a regular basis.

Mobile Phones at School
Parents/carers are reminded that students should not be bringing mobile phones to school unless they have permission from their class teacher. Students are to be reminded that they MUST NOT take photos of other students or staff without asking permission first.

Outstanding Accounts
A reminder to parents who have outstanding accounts that we are happy to accept part payments. If you would like to discuss payment arrangements please contact Lindy at the school office.

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.

If your child is away from school / or sent home because of vomiting or diarrhoea we ask that you keep them home for 48 hours after the last episode.

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 MerseyLink on 6427 7626. You must also let MerseyLink know if the bus does not need to pick up your child for any reason.
- You must also contact the school office before 9:30am to inform us. It is NOT the responsibility of the bus aide to pass the message along.
- If your child is arriving late (after 9:00) or leaving early (before 2:30) then you must sign them in/out at the school office.

School Hats
A reminder that we have school hats available at the school office for $10. During terms 1 and 4 students must wear hats when outside.

Uniform Items
The school office has a few spare uniform items still for sale if anyone is interested. Please see Lindy at the office if you would like to look at what we have.

Also please remember to name all items of school uniform.

CONTACT DETAILS
113 Middle Road, DEVONPORT, TAS 7310
Phone: 03 6424 5554  Fax: 03 6424 2992
Email: school.of.special.education.devonport@education.tas.gov.au
Web: education.tas.edu.au/schoolofspecialed