Hello Staff, Parents, Carers and friends

I think we’ve all been thankful for some fine weather over the last week. We’ve had several students and staff members who have been absent due to illness over the last fortnight. Thank you for keeping your child at home to rest and recuperate as infections spread very easily from one person to another within the school.

In the last newsletter, I provided some brief information and an outline on the Better Schools Program and I also mentioned the NCCD training that I expected to attend on Tuesday, 20th and Wednesday 21st August. The following information is important reading for parents and carers because it applies particularly to all students accessing and enrolled at the School of Special Education NW.

Nationally Consistent Collection of Data – School Students with Disability

All Australian governments have agreed to work together to implement a new annual national data collection on school students with disability. This data collection process is being phased in over a three year period in 2013-2015. The first two years will be a transition period. This means that all schools will begin preparing for participating in the collection from 2013.

In 2015, the first full national collection of data on school students with disability will take place in all Australian schools. From then on, this data collection will occur in every school every year, along with other school data collections.

Why Introduce a National Collection of Data on School Students with Disability?

All Australian governments agree that every child in an Australian school, regardless of his or her circumstances, has the right to a high quality and inclusive education that meets his or her needs. Better information about school students with disability will assist teacher, principals and education authorities to support their participation in schooling on the same basis as students without disability.
How Will It Benefit My Child?
There are students with disability in every school in Australia at some point. This means that every school needs to be ready and able to support students with disability to ensure that any obstacles to participation and achievement in their school education are identified and minimised. This new national data collection will reinforce the actions required of schools under the national Disability Discrimination Act 1992 and the Disability Standards for Education 2005. These laws mean that schools and education systems are required to make, where needed, reasonable adjustments for students with disability. An adjustment is a measure or action taken to assist a student with disability to participate in education on the same basis as other students. Adjustments can be made across the whole school setting (like it is at SOSE NW), in the classroom and at the individual level. Determining the level and type of support needed for an individual student is not a new activity for Australian schools. Currently there is only limited and inconsistent information available at a national level about school students with disability, their educational needs and the support provided to them. The information provided by this new national data collection will enable all Australian governments to better target support and resources. This will assist students with disability in government and non-government schools across Australia to complete school and go on the further training and work options.

Teaching staff members at SOSE NW are currently meeting together and working through the 3 levels of adjustments and in particular are focusing on each individual student in their class groups to identify and record the particular adjustments already in place across the whole weekly programmed timetable. This action will equip teachers with further understanding in relation to working through this new process.

Educational Performance Services –
Student and Parent School Satisfaction Surveys 2013
It is a couple of years since parents/carers have been requested to participate, however all schools are required to conduct surveys as part of Tasmania’s obligations under the National Education Agreement. Surveys will be conducted in September, 2013. Please read the attached information.

Kind regards
Grace

Parent and Student School Satisfaction Survey

ACARA School Satisfaction Survey
In September, online school satisfaction surveys for students and parents will be conducted. These surveys contain questions on a range of matters about our school.

This survey provides an opportunity for parents and students to provide feedback. This feedback is valued by our school as a means of identifying what the school does well and opportunities for the school to make improvements. Random samples of students (from Year 5 and above) and parents will be invited to participate.

You will receive a letter in coming days if you have been randomly selected. Your responses will be secure and confidential. Schools will receive a summary report of responses. We encourage you to participate and complete the survey so that the school has a clear direction when planning for the provision of future programs and
services for students. Those students who are randomly selected to undertake the satisfaction survey will do so during school time.

Computer Access for Parents
You can access computers at the State Library’s Online Access Centre by phoning 6421 5200 or at the Devonport LINC Building at 21 Oldaker Street, phone 6424 9413.

Parents are asked to contact the office if they wish to use a school computer to access the satisfaction survey. School computers will be available on request for parents to access.

Eisteddfod Information
SOSE will be participating in the Eisteddfods in the next few weeks with the Senior Group on Tuesday 10th September from 11.00 – 12.00 and the Junior Group on Tuesday 17th September in the afternoon session. Parents please feel free to come and support our students.

Asthma Helpline info
Free helpline for students and parents who have asthma and need help to breathe easier. Would you like to be less breathless with sport and lifestyle in general? Please call 1800 asthma Mon – Fri. 9.00am to 5.00pm.

School Disco
The whole school Disco was held on Tuesday, 20th August in the gym at the SOSE Devonport campus. Students were delighted to dress up in costumes and disguises as a favourite TV or a movie character. The coin drive to support the Special Olympics Association raised almost $50.00. A fine effort from everyone! Thanks so much. Photos of Kobi Johnson and Pauline Mawer are attached.

Polling Day Stalls
SOSE will be holding a fund raiser for the Music Camp at school on Election Day, Saturday 7 September between 10.30am - 4.30pm. There will be a sausage sizzle, lamington and bric-a-brac sales. Thank you to people who have also donated items to sell on the stall. Any further items would be greatly appreciated.

Lamingtons Drive
Our lamington orders have exceeded last year’s sales, (we will be making 150 dozen), so thank you to all those people who bought/sold them. We will be making them on Wednesday afternoon along with some extras to sell at our Election Day stall.
The delivery dates for orders will be Thursday 6th and Friday 7th September.
SCHOOL OF SPECIAL EDUCATION

Election Day 🍞

Sat, 7th September (10.30am - 4.30pm)

Sausage sizzle, lamingtons & bric-a-brac

Please remember to bring your money to support this school fund raiser for our Music Camp

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