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 school 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.
Nationally Consistent Collection of Data – School Students with Disability…continued

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.

The whole school Disco was held on Tuesday, 20\textsuperscript{th} 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. A fine effort from everyone. Thanks so much.

ASTHMA Training

An Asthma Community Educator will be visiting our school on Tuesday 10\textsuperscript{th} September at 2.45.

Please notify the office if you wish to attend - 64333870

The Educator can help you manage any member of your family's asthma effectively so that it is ideally symptom free. She will also discuss exercise and asthma, and how to prevent this occurring in physical activity.

Information that can be discussed is:

- reliever and preventer medications and the different types that are available and what they do:-
  - asthma action plans
  - seasonal asthma
  - allergy testing
  - asthma triggers
  - asthma first aid
  - preventing asthma symptoms from occurring

This is a free service from The Asthma Foundation of Tas
NDIS
National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)

If your son/daughter has attained the age where a NDIS rep has contacted you to discuss support options for 2014 and beyond, please remember that Bronwyn West, the SOSE Transition Coordinator is very willing to be present at a proposed meeting to discuss your child’s options. Bronwyn can be contacted by email or phone...........0407 873 709 bronwyn.west@education.tas.gov.au

Kind regards,

Grace

Educational Performance Services –

Student and Parent School Satisfaction Surveys 2013

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 Online Access Centre or at the LINC.
Parents are asked to contact the school office if they wish to use a school computer to access the satisfaction survey.

Please read the attached information with this newsletter.
REMINDER

WE WILL have our stall at the BURNIE FARMERS MARKET THIS SATURDAY 7TH September 8 a.m. - mid-day.

Please send in your items for our stall to school on Friday or bring them along to the stall Saturday morning.

Donation idea

Relish
Sauces
Jam
Pot plants
Bulbs
Any preserves
Fresh vegetables
Eggs
New products
Non-perishable food (to place in hampers)

If you can help by providing items or helping on the day ..........please let me know or contact the school office..........64 333870.

........Sue-ann (teacher-in-charge)