Hello Staff, Parents, Carers and friends

The first two weeks of Term 4 have been very hectic with several exciting events taking place, however before I explain them in this newsletter I want to firstly, provide a short report on the AASE conference held on 30th September and the 1st October.

Reflections on the AASE conference – ‘The Door is Open’: Repertoires of Practice

The weather was wild and windy in Adelaide when our small contingent of staff members, Joanne Corvinus, Michelle Williams, Bronwyn West and I attended the 2 day AASE conference. Approximately 320 conference delegates met together from overseas as well as all states of Australia.

I must congratulate Jo on her confident delivery of a very well planned presentation on ‘4 Blocks: The Next Step Planning Collaboratively to integrate Literacy Learning through the Curriculum for Students with Diverse Needs and Literacy Levels’. Jo’s presentation was very authentic for every member of the audience because she was able to relate her teaching practice directly to the individual students she teaches on a day to day basis. She explained how the teaching staff this year is responsible for planning and delivering the literacy teaching and learning segments into other areas of the curriculum, including Numeracy, Life Skills, Science and The Arts, by utilising a common theme across the whole school. Jo provided details of learner’s achievements including their reactions to the texts that are focused on during self-directed and guided reading. Her workshop included a collection of video clips depicting classroom practices and teacher collaboration and reflection about this new initiative.

Two keynote speakers at the conference, Professor Barry Carpenter from Worcester University UK and Mr Barry Coughlan, University of Limerick, Ireland discussed the newly emerging landscapes in childhood disability. In today’s 21st century, there are many societal factors that require teachers to identify a new group of children with complex learning needs – Fragile X Syndrome, Foetal Alcohol Syndrome (which affects 30% of our indigenous population), survivors of accidents, children born prematurely who survive at 22 weeks + and a growing number of children diagnosed with mental health needs.
Visitor from Singapore

It was a great pleasure to welcome Ms Fauziah Ahmad, Principal of the Rainbow Centre and two family members Ramuna Abdul Rahman and Rahimah Abdul Rahman to both campuses of SOSE NW during the first week of Term 4. This was a reciprocal visit after I visited the Rainbow Centre in July this year.

Fauziah wished to gain an understanding of the 4 Blocks Literacy program and she also wanted to observe our safe lifting practices for assisting students with physical disabilities when toileting and using the spa. Ramuna was responsible for observing and videoing teaching practices in several classrooms whilst Fauziah wrote notes and later asked teachers questions. Rahimah, who has a working background in engineering observed and photographed the layouts of the disabled toilet facilities at both campuses with a particular focus on the overhead tracking, hoisting and use of slings to support students from a wheelchair to height adjustable change table.

Mr Bruce Cameron, General Manager of the LSNW, officially welcomed the visitors on behalf of Mr Colin Pettit, Secretary, Department of Education along with Mrs Sandra French, President of the Burnie Campus School Association on Tuesday, 15th October.

Our visitors also fitted in some sightseeing – Cataract Gorge, Launceston and Cradle Mountain. They were particularly impressed with the scenery along the highway between Devonport and Burnie.

This visit was one of friendship, goodwill and a respectful exchange of best practice centred on support of students and their families. SOSE NW has initiated an Asian educational connection!
• Memory – long and short term
• Working memory – mental ability to hold and manipulate information 'in mind'
• Flexibility and adjusting to change
• Devising and modifying strategies for problem-solving
• Motivation
• Self-regulation – prioritising and modifying priorities

The conference also provided opportunities for us to share ideas, reflect and discuss our own experiences with fellow delegates particularly in relation to the current impacts on special education and classroom practices.

RBF Principal of the Year Awards

It was with great pride that I represented SOSE NW as a finalist at a ceremony at Wrest Point Casino on Friday evening, 18th October. I was nominated by Mr Bruce Cameron and I felt most honoured to receive accolades for the vision to establish our school as a support to other schools in the Learning Service NW through sharing specialist knowledge, professional learning and technology support. This is a 'shared' award through the ongoing commitment by all staff members and therapy professionals who positively support our team approach to develop and share expertise to implement high quality programming to all students with severe disabilities. Congratulations to everyone!
CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL our students who received awards for their artwork at the recent Burnie Show. These are on display in the foyer of the main campus, feel free to come and have a look.

1st  Tim, Jacob, Claire.
2nd  Hamish, Jonty, Shanika.
3rd  Tom A, Chelsea, Montana.

There were also many “Highly Commended” places.