Hello Staff, Parents, Carers and friends,

This week’s newsletter highlights the music camp which was held at Camp Clayton on Monday, 11th and Tuesday, 12th November.

There were over 50 students who participated in this event, including students not only from the two campuses but students from regular schools who currently access specific programs or were invited to enjoy the experience.

As many readers are aware, the music camp was mooted after Mrs Jacqui Astley, the SOSE NW music teacher was nominated by the Devonport campus School Association in 2010 for a NEiTA award which recognized Jacqui’s exceptional talent as a music teacher working with students with severe disabilities. When Jacqui prepared an overview of her current role, she shared her desire to organize a music camp where our students could participate in arts activities to develop and share their own creative flair.

The music camp became a reality when Wendy Cumming, George’s mother was inspired to seek funding through Ability Employment for the first camp held in 2010. Once again, Ability Employment has assisted with financial backing for this event in 2012.

All successful events can be attributed to well-planned organization, a suitable venue with all amenities and a program packed with enthusiastic artists who inspire and lead the participants to become fully engaged in the activities. The sharing of achievements in the concert was a great conclusion to the two day program.

This year’s camp utilized a theme of ‘Friends’ capturing the following:

‘My Paper Friends’

Jan Marinos worked with individual students in small groups to mould small exploratory pieces related to facial expressions and small figures. Wet handmade recycled paper from Burnie’s Creative Paper Tasmania was the main material used by the students to mould relief sculptures of the face, figure and other decorative elements e.g. shells.
and butterflies. These were painted and sealed and are now in the process of being arranged as a large mural which will be presented at the end of year assembly. This project provided students with a sensory experience to wrap, press and pinch the wet paper into the natural and manmade moulds. Each piece of work is unique and spontaneous and will showcase our students’ creativity when the mural is complete and ready to be viewed in December.

‘Relaxing and Listening to the Harp’
Geoff Winder returned again this year to share his talents. This workshop allowed students to relax their bodies and enjoy the classic sound of the harp. Students were encouraged to listen attentively and to observe the plucking of the strings during the playing.

‘Taiko Drumming’
Guy Dean and his accompanying drummers Chippie and Shirley set up the drums in the gym allowing students to actively join in and rehearse various rhythms. Each student was expected to create their own rhythm on their drum and to introduce it by playing it repeatedly. Many students created more complex rhythms which challenged the others in learning it. This activity was particularly energetic and loud and a most enjoyable workshop for all the students.
‘Dance’
Sparkling sequined hats and pink boas were worn by the dancers who were led by Lyn Butler to perform a lively and jazzy dance routine.

‘The Tasmanian Performing Arts Centre’
Deb Morcom and her singing troupe provided a varied program of interactive songs as entertainment for staff and students on Monday evening.

‘Circle of Friends’ and ‘The Whole World’ were presented at the concert and were whole school singing and signing items adding variety and fun. Congratulations to Jordan Hendricks, a Grade 8 Reece High student who stood and led the signing for the entire singing of ‘The Whole World’. A great effort, Jordan.

Sincere Thanks
- Jacqui Astley, Jo Corvinus and Cathy Bester did an exceptional role with organizing the overall detail for the music camp.
- Geoff Winder, Guy Dean and his drummers, Lyn Butler, Jan Marinos, Deb Morcom and her troupe shared their talents and engaged with students and staff to provide valuable experiences.
- Teachers, teacher assistants and Optia staff did a great job working as a team to support students during the day and the night and worked hard to smoothly keep the timetable on track.
- Parents, carers and friends who attended the concert - we enjoyed your presence as an enthusiastic audience.
- Michelle Cooney and others who took photos to celebrate this event.
- Camp Clayton staff members were extremely obliging and contributed once again to make the camp a memorable occasion.
- All students tried hard to co-operate and actively participate throughout the two days. Well Done!

Going on camp is a tiring but valuable experience for everyone!

Best wishes to you all,

Grace

CONTACT DETAILS:
School of Special Education, Devonport Campus
113 Middle Road, Devonport 7310
Phone: (03) 6424 5554  Fax: (03) 6424 2992
Email: school.of.special.education.devonport@education.tas.gov.au