Hello Staff, Parents, Carers and friends,

The highlight over the last fortnight has been the combined campus athletics carnival which was held on Wednesday 11th November at the Latrobe Primary oval. The success of this event can be measured by the astute forward planning of the events that the students would participate in, along with the preparation of equipment that needed to be transported to the oval. The chief planner, Kathy Milne-Viney did a superb job at organising this event, whilst other members of staff took on various roles on the day.

Congratulations to the students who energetically took part in races, group favourites such as tunnel ball and sensory activities including the parachute and bubble blowing.

It was very gratifying to see parents, carers, grandparents and family friends who travelled to Latrobe to be spectators and we were grateful for the extra help with the younger students who required an extra hand to stay in their team.

The sports leaders from Latrobe High and extra teenage helpers were greatly appreciated for their caring support and enthusiasm.

The involvement of students and staff from the Northern Support School added further success to our event. Jeffrey Van Houten and Katherine Voss were really thrilled to meet up with some friends from their previous school.

Already, staff members from both campuses are discussing a range of sporting events which could be negotiated in 2016.
Fundraising Efforts
The Devon Country and Western Concert held at the RSL Railton + the barbeque outside Woollies Supermarket at Ulverstone raised $594.60. This amount will assist with the purchase of specialised equipment for SOSE Devonport. I would like to thank the seven staff members who gave up part of their Saturday to set up and man the barbeque.

Parent Satisfaction Survey 2015 – School of Special Education NW
Many parents participated in the DoE survey and I sincerely thank you all for taking time to express your opinions on how we can make improvements to the operations of our school.

I wish to share this most valuable comment that was written by one anonymous parent which we already have begun to act upon.

‘It would be terrific if this school could provide parents with some communication at the beginning of the school year, before commencement of classes.
I have never received a letter etc and each year I need to ring the school a day or so before school starts to confirm where my child’s classroom is located, who the teacher is, if we didn’t know from the year before etc. A simple letter welcoming us to the school year and confirming the relevant details would be terrific – overall, the teachers and TA’s at this school are terrific’.

Many thanks for this comment. Already, the office staff are working on the format of the letter, however I must state that very often staffing changes by the Learning Service can still be changing right up to the week that school resumes in the new year.

We will do our best to send out a letter with the relevant information in it the week before school commences in 2016.

Strengthening connections between SOSE NW and ASELCC
This week, I have met with Kathryn Fordyce to discuss the above. Over the last few years, both settings have been pre-occupied with coping with new enrolments and meeting new families with the result that joint meetings between personnel employed at both settings have been minimal.

We are aware that in 2016, there will be 5 students and their families that we will jointly be communicating with and nurturing the educational experiences of the 5 children across both centres. We have jointly acknowledged the importance of developing collaborative practices by sharing information and ensuring that educational strategies are accepted and practised to effectively support each student’s growth and development.

With staff changes at both SOSE and ASELCC over the last few years, Kathryn and I are determined to foster trust relationships with all staff and parents via regular meetings and casual exchanges so that IEP development can be shared. We also agree that it is imperative that staff members visit each setting on a regular basis to observe and share best practices and information on student’s successes.

Dates for your Diaries
Please take note of the many activities and special events that are currently being planned over the next few weeks.

Congratulations
We send our congratulations to Marta Reid, one of our regular relief teacher aides/volunteers who has recently completed her Education Support course. Well done Marta!

Kind regards,
Grace

All parents/carers/friends of students using Alternative and Augmentative Communication (AAC) are warmly invited to attend the monthly AAC support group held in local cafes across the North West coast. The group is run by families for families of AAC users.

Next catch up of All Things AAC is Friday the 4th of December 12pm at La Mar in Turners Beach. It will be our final one for the year. Hope to see you there!
Contact Tanya Linden 0419134783
**Bottle-top Mural**
We have finished out bottle-top mural. At the moment it is on display in the hall. Thank you to everyone who sent along bottle-tops.

**Purple Room Gardening**
The Purple Room have picked the final head of broccoli from their garden for this season. The boys have worked hard all year on this project. Well done.

**EFTPOS Machine and Outstanding Accounts**
We are happy to say that we now have an EFTPOS machine in the office. It will make paying accounts much easier.

There are only 4 weeks left in this year so can all outstanding money please be paid soon. We are happy to accept small amounts each week if this helps.

**Devonport Christmas Parade**
Would you like to have the opportunity to ride a bus in the upcoming Devonport Christmas Parade? MerseyLink will have a bus travelling the parade route, and have offered our students the chance to ride in it. The bus would pick up here at the school at 6:30pm on Friday 4th December. Parents will need to supervise their child on the bus as this is an out of school activity. If you are interested please contact the school office for further information.
Birthdays
Happy Birthday to the following students who are celebrating their birthday this month:
November: Zac, Ruby, Nathan

Emailed Newsletters
We are now starting to email our newsletter out to anyone who is interested. If you would like to receive a copy of the newsletter this way please send an email to: cassandra.bonis@education.tas.gov.au and ask for your address to be placed on the list.

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.

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.

Old Uniform Items
We are looking for some second-hand uniform items. If you have any items at home that your child has grown out of we would appreciate them.

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 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 10:00am to inform us. It is NOT the responsibility of the bus aide to pass the message along.
- If your child is arriving late (after 9:30) 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 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
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Email: school.of.special.education.devonport@education.tas.gov.au
Web: education.tas.edu.au/schoolofspecialed
AWARD WINNER OCTOBER 2015

Sophie Mason

During the morning play block in Blue Room, Sophie had a clear idea of what she wanted to choose. She used her PODD Communication Book to tell her teacher aide: “more to say, Let’s go, school, school places, gym”. We were just thrilled to take Sophie straight up to the gym to show her the power of her words!

Wonderful to see you saying what you want to say Sophie. Keep it up.

Felicity Lovatt
Speech Pathologist

Grace Brown
Principal
ATHLETICS CARNIVAL