Hello Staff, Parents, Carers and friends,

All staff and students are looking forward to a holiday break at the end of this week. Certainly this third term has been exceedingly busy with a range of initiatives that have required collaborative planning and sharing between members of the whole school community to ensure successful outcomes. It is truly amazing that our small school community settings can strive to produce amazing results!

The Fairy Godmother’s Market
SOSE Burnie’s stall selling various apple products on Saturday, 13th September 9am – 2pm in the Burnie High gym was a fine effort of team work and commitment. Seven boxes of apples were donated by Avro Orchards in Spreyton. Apple cakes, apple pies, apple and blackberry crumbles, toffee apples and apple sauce were popular with patrons and sold well. A slushy machine was kindly supplied by Sue Ann and Shane Beaumont and icy cold ‘slushies’ were in great demand. Many thanks to the families who generously sent along cooking ingredients to assist the intense baking sessions which occurred over successive days prior to the stall day.

This fundraiser raised $630.

Walkathon
SOSE Devonport participants were extremely lucky in dodging the showers as this event took place outdoors on Wednesday, 24th September in the school’s playground. This fundraiser was organised by Brooke Ansell and Luke Dolbey with every staff member and student taking part in walking, riding or being pushed around the circular pathway for at least 20 laps. Parents were great spectators who urged the students and staff to keep up their pace! The barbecue was manned by Ron Davey with everyone enjoying a hamburger or sausage at the end of all the physical activity. Parents, family members and local community people were approached to sponsor student’s efforts per lap. Well done to Chloe Osborne’s mother, Peta who raised the fantastic amount of $800. Peta is a non-driver so I imagine she made door to door contact with East Devonport citizens by knocking and asking for donations and sponsorship. What an inspiration Peta is! The overall amount raised was $1500.
SOSE NW Review
The SOSE D’port hosted the review team on Wednesday 10th and SOSE Burnie followed on Thursday 11th September. I would like to sincerely thank the representatives from within the whole school communities and support agencies who actively participated. The external review panel report has been received and will be officially discussed at the next School Association’s meetings early in Term 4. Here are some overall comments from the reviewers:
- SOSE NW has current strategic and operational plans that include vision, values, priorities, targets and outcome data sets.
- The panel collected ample evidence that the vision and values permeate the entire organisation and are lived on a daily basis through structures, policies, decision-making and curriculum.
- IEP’s were critical to learning, planning, goal setting and assessment. IEP’s were collaboratively prepared with all stakeholders (including parents) and were viewed as valuable working documents that helped direct learning for students.
- The panel was impressed by the strong leadership, clear ethos, high staff morale, high parent satisfaction levels, successful student learning and open community integration of SOSE NW.

AASE (Australian Association of Special Education) Conference
I was accompanied by Bronwyn West and Michelle Williams to attend the 2014 conference held at Manly Sydney, on Wednesday, 17th to Friday 19th September. The theme for the conference was Catch the Perfect Wave: Evidence Based Practice, which matched well with the presentation entitled ‘Shaping the future for students with a significant disability’ that Michelle Williams & Bronwyn West prepared and presented.

The presentation showcased work experience as an essential part of each student’s education program at SOSE with a focus on the planning team consisting of parent’s, class teacher’s and transition co-ordinator’s input into meeting the expectation towards clear pathways for each student to develop personal and work skills appropriate to particular workplace settings. Photos and video footage were utilised to demonstrate the work experience model which involves the whole senior classes from both campuses being engaged as a group to develop sets of specific work based skills according to a series of job site descriptors.

Bronwyn and Michelle were approached by other conference attendees after the presentation who wanted to know more about this program. This was a great way to outwardly display and share knowledge of SOSE’s best practices. Well done Michelle and Bronwyn!

In Conclusion
Take care over the football grand final weekend! I hope all staff, students and families enjoy a relaxing term break.
School resumes on Monday, 13rd October.

Kind regards,
Grace
Thank you to all that helped in the preparation and selling of our apple goods.

Students were invited by ECIS to investigate the fire truck and explore all the equipment and hoses.