Happy New Year and a warm welcome to new parents and carers who are receiving The School of Special Education NW’s newsletter for the first time!

I hope all families enjoyed a wonderful and relaxing holiday break.

We have commenced the 2010 school year with 13 full-time student enrolments at Devonport Campus.

**Refurbishments**

I am very pleased to report that the ‘Building Education Revolution’ projects at both campuses are almost complete. Congratulations to Mr Andrew Gurr who managed the project and the team of tradesmen employed by Fairbrother Pty. Ltd. who worked across the both campuses during the whole of January and into February.

The remodelled library at the Devonport campus will become an expansive student-centred learning centre. The area consists of open spaces to accommodate explorative floor play with educational games, a computer section where students can engage in formative learning and an area set aside for book sharing. With the removal of interior walls, new shelving and carpet, the area is welcoming and bright. New skylights have also been installed in the main corridor leading to the Yellow and Blue Rooms.
At both campuses ceiling tracking in the disabled toilet facilities has been installed at the Devonport campus and extended at the Burnie campus to promote safer manual handling practices for support staff to manage students. All staff are now utilising the ceiling hoists to transfer students from their wheelchairs to the adjustable change tables.

**Liberty Swing**

The Liberty Swing has been delivered to the Devonport campus and we sincerely thank Tas Freight Services for transporting the swing from Sydney at a reduced rate. The Devonport City Council’s engineer, Mr Randall Stott, Mr Peter Porch and Mr Stuart Jones have made a visit this week to determine a suitable location for the swing.

**Changes in Staffing**

At the Burnie Campus we welcome Ms Cathy Bester to the position of Teacher-in-Charge for 2010. Cathy will continue as the teacher and co-ordinator of the Links program across the two campuses on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. The Links program offers students enrolled in regular schools opportunities to work alongside their teacher aides in small group settings where specific intervention is planned and assessed.

Mrs Bronwyn West will be responsible for managing student transition and work experience options across both campuses this year.

At the Devonport Campus, Ms Genevieve Andrews continues in the role of Teacher-in-Charge for 2010. Genevieve will also be responsible for the early childhood class which will operate in the Green Room. We welcome the following new students - Lily Stott, Christopher Wallis, Samuel Packard and Logan Barnes who will join Chloe Osbourne and Laurence House in this class.

Mrs Karen Slade who took leave at the end of 2009, has a new addition to her family. A very small daughter, Caitlin Nancy was born on 4th February. Ms Jo
Corvinus is replacing Karen in the Yellow Room until she returns from parenting leave later in the year.

Mr Ted Barrance has taken up the full-time teaching position in the Blue Room. We welcome Jake Groom as a full-time student this year.

Mrs Jacqui Astley will be responsible for the music program across both campuses on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays and due to the increase in teacher allocation for 2010 a physical education teacher has been appointed to the School of Special Education NW for 1 day per week at each campus. We welcome Miss Rebecca Clarke to the school.

All classes have settled with basic routines and timetabling of optional programs has commenced this week.

**Surf Lifesaving Experience Day**

Several students from both campuses will be again participating in this very exciting day to be held at the Devonport bluff on Friday, 26th February from 10am until 2pm. Information sheets and permission forms have been sent home with the participating students and need to be signed and returned as soon as possible.

**Hats**

Please ensure that your child has a comfortable hat to wear during break times and when participating in outdoor activities whilst at school.

Let's look forward to a productive and rewarding educational year in 2010.

Regards to all,

Grace
We are pleased to invite you to a DISABILITY POLICY PRE-ELECTION FORUM.

This is your chance to hear from three prominent Tasmanian Parliamentarians, who have the opportunity to influence disability policy direction for the next four years.

Guest Speakers:

Brett Whiteley MP
Liberal Spokesperson on Human Services

Cassy O’Connor
Greens Spokesperson on Human Services

Bryan Green MP
Labour Member for Braddon

WHEN:       Monday, 22\textsuperscript{nd} February 2010
TIME:       12pm to 2pm
WHERE:      Burnie Civic Centre
            Wilmot St, Burnie, TAS 7320

Everyone welcome,
Especially families and disability support workers.
Complimentary Light Refreshments will be available.

For further information, please contact
Margaret Reynolds, State Manager
Ph: 6223 6086    Mobile: 0418 181 843
Email: margaret.reynolds@nds.org.au