Hello parents, carers, staff members and friends. With the start of the month of May, we’re all aware that the weather is much cooler and there have been quite a few showers and rough winds in the lead up to winter.

Nevertheless, staff members at both campuses continue to take advantage of special events advertised on the Tasmanian calendar. This week, weather permitting, a whole day excursion to Agfest has been planned. The details of the day will be outlined in the student communication book.

Gaining skills in the REAL world!

The educational pathways of several of our senior students can be very diverse. Diversity allows the students to choose options in relation to work related pathways. Bronwyn West, the resource teacher who is responsible for transition one day per week at each campus is currently beginning the planning phase by talking with parents and carers to discuss viable options.

I would like to share some further information about two well known students who currently access the transition program at The Don Polytechnic. Kieren Walker is currently enrolled in Foundation Certificate 1 in Hospitality and also attends the School of Special Education NW Devonport campus. Kieren is currently learning about kitchen hygiene and Occupational Health and Safety as well as knife skills and basic industry food preparation skills. He is supported by a teacher aide and his industry teacher and is achieving well. Along with the SOSE
Devonport campus teacher, Mr Ted Barrance there is a shared view that Kieren long term will gain appropriate skills to gain paid employment.

Jessica Cox-Patchin who completed Year 11 at the Burnie campus in 2009 is also accessing the transition program for 2 days per week at The Don Polytechnic. Her choice of subjects involves a number of subjects in the mainstream e.g. Music and Art and Craft.
Jess also attends hydrotherapy on a weekly basis at Latrobe and joins a group of SOSE Devonport students to share in some fun and exercise.

The Transition program at The Don Polytechnic allows students with disabilities to foster friendships with regular peers of their own age and encourages social networks to actively thrive within the local community.
Professional Learning Day - 3rd May 2010

The teaching and support staff from both campuses gathered at Penguin High School for last Monday's opportunity to work collaboratively on the following:

- The morning session focused mainly on reviewing Positive Behaviour Support approaches and was led by Mr Matt Perry & Ms Jane Bird who are currently the LSNW Special Education Advisors. Teachers also revisited their knowledge and understandings of the TeamTeach intervention that teachers took part in on 4th and 5th February 2010.
- This revision supported detailed discussions during the afternoon session between individual class teachers and teacher aides to work on individual student risk assessment. This work is ongoing and will lead to the development and trialling of individual student response plans during the remainder of this year.
- All support staff attended a PODD fluency session led by Mrs Felicity Lovatt which provided ‘hands on’ practice and training associated with a PODD book. The school’s goal of embedding PODD into our daily class practice with all students continues to be of prime importance. This fluency session was particularly appreciated by all support staff members.

SOSE NW TALENT QUEST

This combined campus extravaganza will be held on Tuesday, 25th May in the Burnie Campus gym commencing at 11:30 am. Parents, carers and friends are invited to attend this event to share in the frivolity and fun as individual students, class groups and staff members showcase their talents.

CAR BOOT SALE

A steady stream of people visited the Middle Road campus on Saturday, 1st May from 8:00 am onwards to pick up a bargain and enjoy a hot sausage from the barbeque. A special thank you goes to Ron Davey who set out the goods and cleared away later in the day. To date $327 has been raised. There are currently 5kg bags of potatoes for sale $4 - straight from the farm at Thirlstane - please ring Lindy or Cassie if you wish to buy. All proceeds go to SOSE Devonport.
All mothers, carers and grandmothers – enjoy a happy Mother’s Day on Sunday, 9th May.

Best Wishes,

Grace

Wanted : parent feedback!

Are you interested in finding out more about issues that may affect your child’s education??

The Department of Education is planning a series of parent info sheets on topics that will be distributed throughout the year via your child’s school newsletter.

We’d like to know what kind of information you would find useful, and what topics are important to you.

Please send in your suggestions to the Communication Services Unit no later than Friday, 22 May 2010 by:

- Dropping in your feedback to your school office
- Emailing: communications@education.tas.gov.au
- Sending in your feedback to GPO Box 169, Hobart, 7000

All feedback will be considered, and names will be placed in a draw to win a $50 Myer, Coles or Woolworths voucher.

Thank you for taking the time to share your views.

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