Hello Staff, Parents, Carers and friends,

There are several highlights to share with you in this fortnightly newsletter.

Firstly, Felicity Lovatt, our Speech and Language Pathologist who services the staff and students across both campuses gave birth to a daughter, Sadie Sylvia on 27th September. Several staff members visited Felicity in hospital and the latest news is that the new mum and baby are now at home and progressing well.

Special Olympics Day
Wednesday, 29th September

Several classes from both campuses attended this event which was held in Devonport at the Recreation Centre. The day’s program focused on team work, following instructions, sharing, learning new skills and applying them in alternative activities. Several students were elated to receive medals at the conclusion of the day – Christopher Wallis and John Murray. Byron Klynstra, Brooke White, Kayla Webb, Shaun Foster and Brady Lyons attended a Bocca morning at the Ulverstone Basketball Stadium. Bocca is modified indoor bowls specifically designed for wheelchair bound people. Paraquad organised this session.

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School Contact Details

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Staff News

Ms Genevieve Andrews is progressing well although continues to undertake administrative duties only at the Devonport campus from 8:30am - 1:00pm daily until early November.

Federal Government Schools Funding Review

The school community has been encouraged to prepare a submission which will be a combined effort prepared by Principal, staff and members of the School Association. This is the first time since 1973 such a comprehensive review has been undertaken. It is expected that the results of the review will inform the funding of schools for at least a decade. As you are all aware, Special Schools in particular have not received equitable levels of funding over past years compared to regular schools. Now is our chance to speak up and be forthright in recognising and stating the large gaps in outcomes for students with severe disabilities who are supported either full-time or as dual enrolments in the School of Special Education NW. More information about the review is available at: www.forourfuture.org.au

Our submission must be completed and received at the Hobart AEU office by Friday, 22nd October.

Curriculum Development and Trialling of Materials

Over the last few months, class teachers from both campuses have met collectively after school to discuss the need for appropriate curriculum documentation as a guide in the development of individualised and sequential learning plans for students. Ted Barrance, in particular has clearly demonstrated his enthusiasm after a visit to the Woden School in Canberra during the June school holidays. Ted has negotiated with the Woden School to obtain copies of subject specific curriculum documents and over the next few months, Ted and Jo Corvinus intend trialling the Woden School Literacy curriculum with students in their classes. The Waddington test will be administered to gauge the reading ages of students at the Devonport campus over this term. This is certainly an exciting step forward!

Coles Sports Dockets

Every time you undertake your grocery shopping at Coles supermarket please don't forget to ask the cashier for the Coles Sports Dockets. Keep sending those dockets in!
This weekend is double voucher weekend!

Cheers to you all,

Grace
Work Experience

Work experience offers students an opportunity for both vocational learning and personal development. Our whole school focus centres on the belief that our students should have the same access to the world of work as regular students. Our school's engagement in work experience activities ensures that our students are given opportunities in the workplace that they may otherwise have been excluded from.

Students who participate with the support of staff known to them in work experience are given the chance to gain an insight into the working environment and gain valuable on the job training. It also gives them the opportunity to find out what type of job and work environments suit them the best. It also allows the students to make contacts and allows potential employers to critically assess the student’s capabilities for their workplace. This process supports a student being favourably looked upon when applying for a permanent position.

One of the most recent employment opportunities that has been sourced for our students is catalogue home delivery with two different companies. We have started with a small allotment in both Burnie and Devonport. Both of these have the potential to expand. This could eventuate into paid employment for those students that wish to continue in this line of work.

The students involved to date at the Devonport campus are across both the senior classes Jo’s and Ted’s. Andrew and John had there initial delivery on Tuesday.

Bronwyn

ADVERTISING

Talking to Children About Sexuality

Parents and carers play a vital role in communicating with children about sexuality, however, we know that many parents have doubts about how to talk to their children about sexuality, and what is appropriate for children of different ages. A research project currently underway at the Parenting and Family Support Centre at the University of Queensland and Family Planning Queensland is looking at how parents communicate with their child about sexuality, and what support they would like in teaching their child about sexuality. We are seeking parents of 3 to 10-year-old children to share their thoughts in an online survey, which takes approximately 15 minutes to complete. Please visit the website to find out more and take part in the survey.

For more information about the project email: alina@psy.uq.edu.au