30th April 2015

Hello Staff, Parents, Carers and friends,
What great weather over the Easter and term holiday! We were also very fortunate to enjoy a warm and sunny Anzac Day! Many thanks to the SOSE staff members, parents and students who made an effort to attend a service to commemorate the 100th year since the landing of Australian and New Zealand troops on the shores of Gallipoli.

SOSE Burnie was represented at the 11am service held at the Burnie Park Cenotaph by Allison Hardstaff and staff members Michelle Young and Lyn Bester, together with Sophie Townley and her mother Adele, who is a returned Australian Air Force Service woman who served in East Timor and the Middle East. Tim Goss made the effort to march alongside Allison and SOSE staff members.

Anzac History Theme has become a planned topic of investigation and historic interest for several SOSE classes during the last two weeks in particular. Items of memorabilia have been on display and have become topics of conversation with students working on literacy tasks based on the theme.

Light Box Activities
Mrs Lynda Cameron who is now a member of the teaching team across both SOSE campuses is actively demonstrating her skills and knowledge on cortical vision impairment. Many of our students have a diagnosis of CVI and Lynda is working individually with those students to develop sustained visual attention, scanning, tracking, look and reach, grasp and manipulate a range of objects. All of these key skills will extend student’s ability to use PODD resources, the eye gaze technology and learning in particular.
On the 22nd April Blackwood and Myrtle Rooms went to explore the Cenotaph at the Burnie Park. All children were involved in a camera trail and had a great time finding words and pictures. Each group were also asked to make a crayon rubbing on words they found on the plaques. Photos of the day, children’s work and the rubbing are proudly displayed at Acton. The participation and engagement of all children made the day such an enjoyable and successful hands on experience.
Why use a light box?

Students with a diagnosis of cortical vision impairment have difficulty with visual complexity. They will show a strong colour preference especially for red or yellow and will respond to movement. The use of coloured overlays on the light box assists individual students to work out colour preferences and the size and position of items e.g. shapes that are the same size or different. Lynda has made up 18 activity bags and each bag has a card explaining the contents of the bag, suggested activities and learning outcomes on it. Lynda plans to do light box activities on a weekly basis and will devise a feedback sheet for teachers outlining what each student worked at, their responses and further suggestions for follow up by a teacher aide during the week.

Eye Gaze Equipment and Technology has arrived!

The Independent Living staff from Launceston will be undertaking training for SOSE staff and trialling the suite of equipment and technology with individual students and specific staff members at the Burnie campus on 1st and 2nd June. The students who were involved with the trial with Zyteq staff at the June 2014 workshop will be included on these special trialling days. How exciting!!

We look forward in sharing photos on the trialling days in the next fortnightly newsletter!

Kind regards,
Grace
SCHOOL ATTENDANCE is COMPULSORY. Parents/Carers MUST advise the school office if a student will be away and the REASON so that a Department approved code can be allocated.

Medical Certificates are required for 5 days or more.

The Dept of Education requires this information and performs regular checks.