**Hello Staff, Parents, Carers and friends,**

The highlight over the last fortnight has been the combined campus athletics carnival which was held on Wednesday 11\textsuperscript{th} November at the Latrobe Primary oval. The success of this event can be measured by the astute forward planning of the events that the students would participate in, along with the preparation of equipment that needed to be transported to the oval. The chief planner, Kathy Milne-Viney did a superb job at organising this event, whilst other members of staff took on various roles on the day.

Congratulations to the students who energetically took part in races, group favourites such as tunnel ball and sensory activities for example the parachute and bubble blowing.

It was very gratifying to see parents, carers, grandparents and family friends who travelled to Latrobe to be spectators and we were grateful for the extra help with the younger students who required an extra hand to stay in their team.

The sports leaders from Latrobe High and extra teenage helpers were greatly appreciated for their caring support and enthusiasm.

The involvement of students and staff from the Northern Support School added further success to our event. Jeffrey Van Houten and Katherine Voss were really thrilled to meet up with some friends from their previous school.

Already, staff members from both campuses are discussing a range of sporting events which could be negotiated in 2016.

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**Calendar Term 4**

- Fri 4 Dec  Advent Pageant
- Tue 8 Dec  Christmas Lunch
- Tue 15 Dec  End of Year
  - Assembly 1pm Acton.

**Thu 17\textsuperscript{th} Dec**

**Last Day School Year**

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Please advise the office of any changes with your phone number or address.

The school MUST be notified of the reason your child is away from school.

64 333870
Parent Satisfaction Survey 2015 – School of Special Education NW

Many parents participated in the DoE survey and I sincerely thank you all for taking time to express your opinions on how we can make improvements to the operations of our school.

I wish to share this most valuable comment that was written by one anonymous parent which we already have begun to act upon.

‘It would be terrific if this school could provide parents with some communication at the beginning of the school year, before commencement of classes.

I have never received a letter etc. and each year I need to ring the school a day or so before school starts to confirm where my child’s classroom is located, who the teacher is, if we didn’t know from the year before etc. A simple letter welcoming us to the school year and confirming the relevant details would be terrific – overall, the teachers and TA’s at this school are terrific’.

Many thanks for this comment. Already, the office staff are working on the format of the letter, however I must state that very often staffing changes by the Learning Service can still be changing right up to the week that school resumes in the new year.

We will do our best to send out a letter with the relevant information in it the week before school commences in 2016.

Strengthening connections between SOSE NW and ASELCC

This week, I have met with Kathryn Fordyce to discuss the above. Over the last few years, both settings have been pre-occupied with coping with new enrolments and meeting new families with the result that joint meetings between personnel employed at both settings have been minimal.

We are aware that in 2016, there will be 5 students and their families that we will jointly be communicating with and nurturing the educational experiences of the 5 children across both centres.

We have jointly acknowledged the importance of developing collaborative practices by sharing information and ensuring that educational strategies are accepted and practised to effectively support each student’s growth and development.

With staff changes at both SOSE and ASELCC over the last few years, Kathryn and I are determined to foster trust relationships with all staff and parents via regular meetings and casual exchanges so that IEP development can be shared. We also agree that it is imperative that staff members visit each setting on a regular basis to observe and share best practices and information on student’s successes.

Dates for your Diaries

Please take note of the many activities and special events that are currently being planned over the next few weeks.

Kind regards,

Grace