Hello Staff, Parents, Carers and friends,

The SOSE NW community has received some wonderful news as part of the 2015-16 Tasmanian Budget that was announced on Thursday, 28th May. I am pleased to announce that a $4.5 million Capital Investment Project which will provide for the refurbishment of the old Acton school site. This initiative will enable the students and staff to relocate from the current SOSE Burnie beside Hellyer College as we have outgrown the site.

The scope of the works includes the modernisation of the old Acton school. As you would be aware, Ms Debbie Thomson, Senior Architect for GHD, was chosen to draw up the plans for the refurbishment in Term 4 2014. The process involved all SOSE staff and the SOSE Burnie School Association members having some input into the design proposals particularly at the draft stages.

The project funding includes allowances for furniture and equipment, supply and installation of artwork, professional fees and allowances. The planning and design of this project will be progressed by the Asset Planning Section in liaison with the School of Special Education NW. A Project Committee will be formed to manage the project and will include representation from the school, Learning Services and Asset Planning.

This project commenced as a ‘vision’ at least 4 years ago when our student population continued to grow steadily from year to year. I mooted the idea with Sandra French, President of the Burnie SOSE School Association and the past Learning Services Manager, Mr Malcolm Wells of taking over some classrooms that were empty when the Acton school staff and students relocated to the newly built Romaine Park Primary School. With the continued support from the Learning Service Managers, Bruce Cameron and Trudy Pearce, and School Association President, funding was initiated to upgrade access and basic refurbishment of the toilets and classrooms with new paint and floor coverings. Gradually, we have continued to improve the amenities as our student population has continued to increase.
I would like to sincerely thank everyone who has been so supportive of the long term plan to ultimately relocate to the Acton hub. Liz Banks, DoE Deputy Secretary (Early Years and Schools) in particular, has tirelessly continued to advocate for SOSE Burnie by encouraging Mr Jeremy Rockliff, Minister of Education to visit the Mooreville Rd campus in October ’14 to view the setting and the issues that had emerged.

A new journey is about to begin..................

The DoE Asset Planning Manager, Mr Todd Williams will be visiting the school early June to discuss the stages of the project including the establishment of the Project Committee.
I have yet to be informed whether the minor works project prepared by Ms Debbie Thomson and intended for the SOSE D’port campus has been successful!

Join Hearts and Hands with School Aide for the children of Nepal
Together as one education community we made a difference! A Footy Colours Day and a Pizza Fundraiser raised $217.50 across both D’port and Burnie SOSE campuses which will be donated to UNICEF. Thanks to staff, students, parents and carers for your support.

Eyegaze Training for SOSE Burnie will be held at the SOSE Mooreville Rd campus on Monday, 1st and Tuesday 2nd June. Over the last few weeks, Lynne Ryan and Lynda Cameron have been working constructively to assemble the hardware and load specific software in readiness for the training days which will be led by the Independent Living Centre team. Several students have already commenced to trial the software with some promising results.

Parents/Carers PODD Support Group was held on Wednesday 27th May at the SOSE Mooreville Rd campus. The school’s Speech & Language Pathologist, Felicity Lovatt prepared and presented the day’s program whilst Michelle Williams and the senior class students prepared morning tea and lunch for the 12 parents and children. It certainly was a very successful day!

Reminder- On swimming and hydrotherapy days could parents please dress students in tracksuit pants rather than tight fitting trousers and tights. Loose clothing is preferred when dressing students after being in the water.

Mayor’s Gala Event – The Devonport Mayor, Mr Steven Martin has informed me that SOSE NW will receive $650.00 towards the ongoing costs of providing breakfast for students. This is a very worthy fundraising venture and we appreciate the efforts made by the Mayor and other organisers of this annual event.

Parent/Teacher Interviews will be taking place from Tuesday 9th June until Friday, 19th June. Class teachers will contact you to organise appointments on mutually suitable dates and times. Please take this opportunity to come and discuss your child’s progress.

SCHOOL BUS REMINDER
Parents and Carers are reminder that our school buses have a tight schedule to keep to every morning and afternoon with so many students to pick up and deliver home. It is NOT acceptable to keep the bus waiting. You must be in attendance at the estimated time. Due to recent occurrences, if the child is not ready or parents are not home – the bus will continue on with its schedule.

Kind regards,

Grace
Dear Colleagues

The 2015-16 Budget builds on our strong investment in Tasmania’s education system, and I am pleased to share with you today that as part of this year’s State Budget a record $1.44 billion will be injected into education and training next year alone.

We made the structural changes last year to put education on a sustainable footing for the future, and this year we have delivered a budget that allows us to get on with the important task of allocating our education resources where they are needed the most. It is important to note that there are no additional savings measures in education this year due to the structural changes made last year, allowing us to continue to raise educational standards and to work with and support education professionals in Tasmania.

Our commitment to Students First (Gonski) remains, with a $77 million investment in 2015-16, which is $21 million more than 2014-15. This means a minimum five per cent increase in the Fairer Funding component of the School Resource Packages in 2016. We will also use the additional Gonski funding to support those schools with the greatest need.

The Budget also delivers on the promises we made to create a job-ready generation of young Tasmanians, with $68 million to be invested in Reinvigorating Tasmanian High Schools. These upgrades represent the largest state infrastructure investment in Tasmania’s high schools in 20 years, and will provide modern and flexible facilities for 21st century learning.

We are investing $17.75 million over four calendar years in the critical early years to develop an exciting new program targeting 4-8 year olds and their families. LIFT (Learning in Families Together) will focus on school and family partnerships in education, particularly in literacy and numeracy. This is informed by our understanding that active, engaged parents have a significant impact on increasing learning and development outcomes for children. The LIFT program will help ensure that our children who need it most will have additional support during the important developmental stage between Kindergarten and Year 2.

It is widely accepted that education is the cornerstone of Tasmania’s economic and social improvement, and we will continue to build on our key policies to improve educational outcomes and raise the value of education in Tasmania.

This Government is committed to lifting education, and I want to thank you all for your continued efforts and hard work over the last 12 months. Our agenda is a positive one, and it is making a difference to the lives of all Tasmanians.

Jeremy Rockliff MP
Minister for Education and Training