Hello Staff, Parents, Carers and friends,

Over the last fortnight several staff members and students have contracted flu symptoms – runny nose, chesty cough and a temperature and consequently needed some time at home to recover. It is most important to wait until a child is fully recovered before he or she returns to school. Please remember that we have a number of students who have low immune systems and infection spreads quickly when infected students are in close proximity to others.

A reminder also that it is the parent/carers responsibility to phone the school and let us know why your child is away. It is not the responsibility of the Bus Aide/Driver.

**School Association**

The first meetings for 2012 have been held at both campuses where the following information was shared with members:

**4 Blocks Literacy**

Further to the 4 Blocks Literacy ‘Rounds’ professional learning held on 13th & 14th February, the daily timetable has been modified to accommodate a designated literacy time each day consisting of Shared Reading, Guided Reading, Working with Words and Writing. Newly purchased ICT hardware has been purchased through the Federal funded Digital Education Revolution project. All in One Touch Screens are now installed and fully operational in all classrooms and we are awaiting further swivel notebooks which will become one on one teaching tools for individual students working alongside a teacher or teacher aide. Both campuses will be acquiring electronic whiteboards and further iPads through a new Federal rollout of funding named ‘More Support for Students with Disabilities’ package (3.8 million over 2 years). The whole school will benefit greatly from these additional high tech resources. Teachers will also be taking advantage of specific relief days to attend assistive technology professional learning during 2012.

**Alternative programs**

As a result of the daily designated literacy block between recess and lunch, alternative programs e.g. personal care and individual therapy programs, swimming, transition to
work experience, day centre, high school programs and community access programs are now undertaken in the block before recess or after lunch.

**DoE directives affecting SOSE**

Tightening budget restraints have commenced to have an impact on programming for students and staff. Specific issues at each campus were thoroughly discussed as an agenda item at the first School Association meeting held this month. It will be imperative that the whole school community of the School of Special Education NW faces internal and external challenges with foresight and practicability. Furthermore, it will be essential that both campuses work constructively together to maintain resilience to cope with the expected and unexpected operational challenges that will emerge during 2012.

**School Association Annual General Meetings will be held in April**

18th April – Devonport Campus commencing at 1:30pm

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**New Fencing**

New fencing will be assembled on the playground boundary between Devonport Campus and Devonfield over the long weekend. The present fence has become a safety hazard. We have been most fortunate in receiving a substantial discount on the overall cost of new palings and rails from K & D Trade, Hobart. Many thanks to Peter Geard and Andrew Walker for the service and support provided to the school.

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**Celebrating our Successes**

In the front foyer of the main corridor the prize winning exhibits entered in the Coastcare Week 2011 Marine Debris Sculpture Competition are now on display for parents, carers and visitors to view. Please take note when you visit. It is great to see the efforts of the students. The two exhibits were commenced at the music camp held last November at Camp Clayton. You will see the Overall Winner and 1st prize Prep to Year 11 - “Seahorse in the Wild” and 3rd Prize Senior Group - “Beach litter - triggers disaster”.

The two exhibits will transfer to the Burnie campus to be on display after Easter.

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**‘Get Together BBQ’**

The barbecue held at the Devonport Campus on Thursday, 1st March was enjoyed by a number of staff and families. It is a great opportunity to meet and socialise especially with new parents, whilst the children play safely in the playground. A sincere thank you to the school attendants at both schools who set up prior to the barbecue.

I wish all families and staff a great relaxing long weekend.

**Yours sincerely,**

Grace
Residents warned over door-knockers

07 Mar, 2012 08:16 AM

DOOR-KNOCKERS masquerading as members of Tasmanian Disability and Community Services are scamming Tasmanian households, Human Services Minister Cassy O'Conner has warned.

Ms O'Conner said reports of the scam had been received across Tasmania and followed a pattern of a similar scam in 2010, when people were allegedly selling chocolates and claimed the profits would go toward Disability Services Tasmania.

``Disability and Community Services does not door-knock, offer items for sale, or seek donations from the public," Ms O'Connor said.

``These claims were bogus then and they are bogus now."

Ms Conner urged people to check the credentials of people doing door-to-door fund-raising before donating.

Launceston police Inspector Mick Johnston said police had also received some reports of the scam.

``Anybody who has seen this in operation should report it to the police and to scam watch," Inspector Johnston said.

The scam can also be reported to the Tasmanian Office of Consumer Affairs and fair trading on 1300 654 499.