Hello Staff, Parents, Carers and friends,
The showers and cold wind did not deter our students and staff from both campuses taking part in the first Special Olympics Day on Wednesday, 21st March. The day’s program was moved indoors to the Ulverstone stadium – home of the Tall Timbers Thunder basketball team. The students had fun socialising with other students from neighbourhood high schools with all participants practising their ball skills – indoor cricket and soccer.

More News about the ‘More Support for Students with Disabilities’ package
I mentioned in the last newsletter about the Federal funded $3.8million over 2 years which will assist our students at both campuses. Ms Lynne Ryan, the school’s ICT Consultant who works across both campuses is the NW representative on the steering committee which is responsible for the roll out of funding. Stage 1 will provide 110 ipads to be shared between Southern, Northern and NW Special Schools along with 15-20 interactive whiteboards. The ipads will become a valuable teaching and learning resource to support student’s communication and literacy development. Each ipad will be provided with a case + built in speakers and $100 itunes card to assist the purchase of suitable apps to further enhance learning and participation.

Stage 1 will also provide professional learning for all staff members to further support interactive and practical skill development in small groups and well as 1on1 sessions with individual students.

This is an exciting initiative for the Special Schools, as our centres will ultimately showcase the use of ipads and interactive whiteboards as valuable tools to promote student’s innovative learning and skill acquisition.

Visit to the ‘Wetlands’ – Natone Primary School
All staff and students from both campuses will travel to their ‘buddy’ school for the whole day on Friday, 30th March. Visits to Natone Primary have become an annual event with a student from each school having a buddy to ‘share’ in a variety of activities on offer. A note detailing requirements for students on the day will be sent home via
Meetings between teachers, parents and carers
These are now underway and a big thankyou to all parents and carers who have been prepared to attend meetings throughout a school day and after school when individual teachers are free. Your input into reviewing learning goals and discussions on each student’s progress is greatly appreciated as all individual education plans for each child are reviewed and adjusted at this time in Term 1.

Visit from Mr Michael Ferguson, State Shadow Minister for Education
Mr Ferguson will be visiting both campuses including Acton, on Tuesday, 3rd April. He is expected to be on site at the Devonport campus at 9.30am to meet staff and students and will then travel to Burnie, arriving at 11.15am. His visit will conclude at Acton around 12.30pm.

Surf Experience Day
This annual event will be held on Friday, 20th April at the Ulverstone beach area in front of the Ulverstone Surf club. Westpac will again be funding the day.
Unfortunately, the event has been planned a little later than usual this year. Ms Sharon Kemp, the organiser of the event intends to coincide the event with the running of NW surf carnivals to ensure that a reasonable number of volunteers and surf lifesavers will be available to organise and support individual students on surfboards in the water throughout the whole day. The event has attracted a growing number of students from many schools since 2008. This year, participating schools will be expected to adhere to set times in the water to meet safety guidelines. Permission slips and information will be sent home next week.

Yours sincerely,

Grace

Christopher, Kayla, Lily and Jack admiring our new playground fence.