Hello Staff, Parents, Carers and friends,

The last week of Term 3 2011 has finally arrived! All the official end of year outings and end of year concerts for both campuses have occurred and what great celebratory events they were.

‘Shrek’s Christmas’ was presented by staff and students at the Devonport Campus on Wednesday, 14th December at 10:30 am on the outdoor area in front of the music room entrance. Several students were particularly excited to see their parents and family members in the audience. The joy of participating as a group was reflected in the spontaneity of students joining in with singing, actions and playing instruments. Cody Matthews is becoming a budding singer whom I feel sure will be keen to display his talents at The Don College in 2012. Matthew Groom provided a solo of ‘The Drummer Boy’ and sang alongside his brother Jake who played the drum. What a sensitive moment it was to watch two brothers entertaining the audience together!

Once again Mrs Jacqui Astley excelled in planning this item. I sincerely thank all teachers, teacher assistants and students for enthusiastically presenting such a memorable repertoire of songs and actions.

School Leavers

Farewell to Ben Jetson and Brady Lyons who are our 2011 School Leavers.

It is sad to say goodbye not just to the students but to their parents who have been great supporters of the Devonport Campus. Liz Jetson was a member of the School Association for many years and represented the parent body by listening and joining in discussions on a range of issues. John and Aileen Lyons have also been great supporters of the school and we thank them for their help over the last 6 years.

We all wish Ben and Brady personal happiness and fulfilment as they enter their adult pathway of interacting in activities within their local community.
Award Winners
Our award winners for 2011 were:
• SOSE 2011 Award for Successful transition into Post School Options and Improved Skills & Communication through PODD – Ben Jetson
• Senator Anne Urquhart Award for Exceptional Improvement in all Areas – Logan Barnes
• Minister for Education, Pride in our School Award – Brady Lyons

Farewell to Staff Members
Linda Boyes who has been sharing a teaching load in the Senior Class with Grant Maloney in the Yellow Room will be returning to Queensland in 2012 to resume her permanent teaching position. Linda has certainly demonstrated to us that she is a friendly and caring person who quickly adopts a supportive role to other colleagues, parents and carers when required. Linda approached her role with enthusiasm and initiated many new programs which will now become permanent options for senior students to participate in throughout 2012. We wish you a safe return to Queensland and please call in to 113 Middle Road when you visit Port Sorell for holidays.

Sharon Lovett has decided to take leave of absence for 2012 from her position here to take up a fulltime teacher assistant position at The Don College. With increased enrolments at The Don, Sharon will be able to utilize her in-depth knowledge of disability and understanding of inclusive practice with many Grade 11/12 students. Sharon first commenced employment at the Devonport Campus in the late 1990’s, and was responsible for co-ordinating the Links program, where students with severe disabilities enrolled in regular schools accessed a therapy program one day per week. We will certainly miss Sharon’s friendly smile and her enthusiasm.

Steve Artis has formally resigned his teacher assistant position to take over the management of the Glee Club. Steve was first employed at the Devonport Campus in 1999 and began his role supporting a multiply impaired boy who was a new enrolment. We will certainly miss Steve’s easy going manner and friendly disposition. There was never a task that was too difficult for Steve to manage and he was always able to problem solve ways to engage particular students by tuning in to their interests. We congratulate Steve on his new position and we’re aware that he will still maintain a positive connection with the Devonport campus.

Teacher Staffing List at Devonport Campus for 2012
Brooke Ansell – Kindergarten teacher 3 mornings per week + teaching in Senior and Primary Classes
Jo Corvinus – Early childhood teacher full-time
Ted Barrance – Teacher in Charge 2012/13 + Primary class teacher
Grant Maloney – Senior class teacher
Jacqui Astley – Music therapy teacher
Grace Brown – Principal
In conclusion
I would like to sincerely thank all teachers, teacher assistants, school attendants, admin staff, library technician, President and members of the School Association, parents, carers and friends of the school for your ongoing commitment and support of the School of Special Education NW. Our school is successful because we collectively strive to ‘get along’, we’re willing to work as an organised team and we possess ‘confidence’ to face the challenges of the 2012 and beyond. Merry Christmas and a safe, relaxing holiday!

**We will see you back at school on Wednesday 15th February 2012.**

**Grace**