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.

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 ‘Round’s’ 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 Student with Disabilities’ package. 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, hydrotherapy, 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 19th April – Burnie Campus commencing at 3.00pm

Parents can nominate to be involved in this group
Forms available at school or in this newsletter

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

Yours sincerely,
Grace

VALIDATION FORMS

Validation forms were sent home at the beginning of the year. We require these to update your records on our new system. It is MOST important that we have correct information especially contact phone numbers and any changed medical conditions of your child. PLEASE return these as a matter of urgency.

Teachers have requested that all items belonging to students, be clearly marked with their name. Clothing, lunch box etc..

On sunny days please ensure your child brings a sunhat along to wear at recess and lunch times.

Whooping cough (pertussis)

- Notifications of cases of whooping cough (pertussis) to the Tasmanian Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) have increased significantly since late-2011. Cases of whooping cough have been reported from all regions of Tasmania. People of all ages have been affected.
- Please think about whooping cough if your child (or you) has a cough. Please see your doctor as soon as possible if you suspect someone in your household has it. Whooping cough is easily diagnosed and can be treated. Children with whooping cough must stay away from school until they are no longer infectious to others (5 days of treatment).
- Vaccination provides protection against serious whooping cough disease. Infants and teenagers should receive vaccine as part of their routine, free vaccinations. Adults should also consider whether they should get a booster dose.
- For more information, and contact details for DHHS, please read the Whooping Cough Fact Sheet, available at
