Hello Staff, Parents, Carers and friends,

We’ve all been waiting with excitement for Heather Munro’s visit to both campuses today. Heather is a qualified and highly experienced kindergarten teacher. She has taught for over 25 years and is a confident and dynamic motivator of children and adults. Heather’s passion for music with young children is to see them having fun and learning at the same time through singing, dance, movement and percussion.

Heather visited both campuses in 2008 and we are so fortunate that she agreed to again visit both campuses to share her action songs, percussion and entertaining rhythms with staff and students. ‘It will be fun’!

Respite Activity Program

Have you heard of this program which is funded by the State Govt. through Baptcare Family Services? This week, Bronwyn West, the SOSE NW Transition Co-ordinator, Di Ewington representing ACD and I met with Yvette Dawe who is the newly appointed Co-ordinator of RAP. The program is currently being set up to service families on the NW coast with a child who has a disability.

Who is eligible?
- Young child and adolescents aged between 5 to 18 years.
- These people must be eligible for disability services.
- They need to meet the RAP eligibility criteria.
- These people and their families require some respite.

How does a family access RAP?
Contact the local Gateway service on 1800 171 233 and ask to be referred to the RAP. An assessment will be made around eligibility. Families will then be contacted and told of the outcome. If families are eligible for support through the program then the co-ordinator will make a time to meet and discuss your child’s needs.

When does RAP operate?
RAP will offer 25 school holiday days + one Saturday each month and occasional weekend camps. It is a non-centre based program i.e. children and adolescents will be engaged in activities out in their local community. A maximum of 8 participants will be taken on each activity with 3 support staff as supervisors.

How will families know what activities are available?
Once your eligibility has been met and your son/daughter is a registered RAP participant then parents receive newsletters each quarter. One month prior to school term holidays the holiday program will be available for you to select offerings.
What are the costs?
A fee of $15 per day activity will be charged with the exception of higher costs for special events, e.g. festivals, concerts or sporting events. Camp costs will be advised when camp dates are notified.

At the meeting with Yvette we discussed the need for further respite services right across the NW coast and particularly for families who reside on the West coast and in Smithton. RAP will give children and adolescents the opportunity to participate in a variety of outdoor activities and excursions in a supported environment. Baptcare Family Services is situated on Level 1, 8 Boland Street Launceston. Please refer your queries about RAP to Gateway on 1800 171 233.

Continuing Bowen Therapy
I will be meeting with Bev Chell this Friday to discuss dates, days and costs to establish a Bowen Therapy program at both campuses on a weekly basis. As stated in last fortnight’s newsletter, the research undertaken by Bev has clearly highlighted the positive benefits gained by several of our students and we are committed to continuing this support.

SOSE Burnie School Association Meeting
The next meeting will be held on Thursday, 19th August commencing at 3.00pm.

Staff and students across both campuses will be involved with the following events before the end of Term 2 -

Wednesday 18th August - Circus Challenge at SOSE Devonport

Tuesday, 31st August - NW Dance Event at Ulverstone on foreshore

Kind regards to you all,

Grace

Jeans For Genes Day 2010

Many students were away last Friday so we will have another attempt this Friday - 13th August to raise funds for Children’s Medical Research.
Student may wear jeans for a gold coin donation