Happy New Year and a warm welcome to new parents and carers who are receiving The School of Special Education NW’s newsletter for the first time!

I hope all families enjoyed a wonderful and relaxing holiday break.

We have commenced the 2010 school year with 14 full-time student enrolments at Devonport Campus and 20 at the Burnie Campus.

Refurbishment undertaken during the Christmas/New Year Holidays

I am very pleased to report that the ‘Building Education Revolution’ projects at both campuses are almost complete. Congratulations to Mr Andrew Gurr who managed the project and the team of tradesmen employed by Fairbrother Pty. Ltd. who worked across the both campuses during the whole of January and into February.

The remodelled library at the Devonport campus will become an expansive student-centred learning centre. The area consists of open spaces to accommodate explorative floor play with educational games, a computer section where students can engage in formative learning and an area set aside for book sharing. With the removal of interior walls, new shelving and carpet, the area is welcoming and bright. New skylights have also been installed in the main corridor leading to the Yellow and Blue Rooms.

At both campuses ceiling tracking in the disabled toilet facilities has been installed at the Devonport campus and extended at the Burnie campus to promote safer manual handling practices for support staff to manage students. All staff are now utilising the ceiling hoists to transfer students from their wheelchairs to the adjustable change tables.

The installation of air conditioning units in classrooms and the foyer area at the Burnie campus has been welcomed by all staff members and students as on summer days the large areas of glass throughout the building attracts and traps the heat. Over the last week, the units have made such a difference to the interior temperature!

Further paving in the lower section of the Burnie campus playground has been done to provide a bike riding area for students and a galvanised shed has been erected alongside to house the bikes. This was paid from the school’s own funds.
Changes in Staffing
At the Burnie Campus we welcome Ms Cathy Bester to the position of Teacher-in-Charge for 2010. Cathy will continue as the teacher and co-ordinator of the Links program across the two campuses on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. The Links program offers students enrolled in regular schools opportunities to work alongside their teacher aides in small group settings where specific intervention is planned and assessed.

Ms Patsy Cairns is continuing her early childhood teaching role in the Banksia Room. We welcome Cassidy Robinson, Claire Rowe, Jewel Sallholvic and Jimmy Watson as new enrolments this year.

Mrs Wendy Bennell and Mrs Bronwyn West are sharing the primary class in the Wattle Room. We welcome Chelsea Gunn and Manuel Schweinitz as dual enrolments.

Mrs Bronwyn West will also be responsible for managing student transition and work experience options across both campuses this year.

Ms Darlene Kumar is new to the Burnie campus and will be responsible for the senior class in the Gumtree Room. We welcome Stefan Piskor as a fulltime student and Tom Allen who is accessing 1 day a week from Wynyard High.

We also welcome several new support staff to the Burnie campus team – Congratulations to Linda Gregg who was successful in gaining permanent hours this year and others who have temporary contracts - Janelle Stevens, Toni Murphy, Michelle Young, and Claire Johnston. Welcome back Marcia Witeri after several years at Burnie High.

Mrs Jacqui Astley will be responsible for the music program across both campuses on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays and due to the increase in teacher allocation for 2010 a physical education teacher has been appointed to the School of Special Education NW for 1 day per week at each campus. We welcome Miss Rebecca Clarke to the school.

All classes have settled with basic routines and timetabling of optional programs commencing this week.

Surf Lifesaving Experience Day
Several students from both campuses will be again participating in this very exciting day to be held at the Devonport bluff on Friday, 26th February from 10am until 2pm. Please read the information sheet and return signed permission forms as soon as possible.

Hats to be worn whilst outdoors
Please ensure that your child has a comfortable hat to wear during break times and when participating in outdoor activities whilst at school. THIS SHOULD BE NAMED !

Transport
Many parents and carers may be aware that the Burnie campus has taken possession of a new bus which is wheelchair accessible with more seating to accommodate the growing numbers of students who are now enrolled.

Let’s look forward to a productive and rewarding educational year in 2010

Regards to all,
Grace

Hi! I started working at SOSE in term 3 last year when I replaced Glenda Sharman as the LINKS teacher. I will be continuing to do the LINKS class this year as well as taking on the role of Teacher in Charge. I moved from Circular Head late last year where I had worked as a support teacher at Smithton Primary School for a number of years as well as working for Early Childhood Intervention for the past 7 years. I thoroughly enjoy working with children with additional needs and am looking forward to getting to know everyone at SOSE.

.........Cathy Bester
Horse Riding will commence on Monday 23rd February. Healthglo Swimming will commence on the 19th March. Hydrotherapy dates will be advised as soon as they are finalised.

Reminder:
Please ensure your child has a suitable hat to wear at school, preferably a wide brim or legionnaire style and provide sunscreen.

PLEASE clearly mark the students NAME.