Hello Staff, Parents, Carers and friends,
It’s been a long but productive 2nd term. I know that all staff members and students are looking forward to a well-earned rest and a break to relax. There are several staff members who are currently recovering from injuries sustained in their course of work – Mrs Tammy Smart and Mrs Anne Finch. We hope you are all fully recovered and able to join us again at the commencement of Term 3.

Welcome Back!
Mrs Sandra Cock has returned from Long Service Leave looking very refreshed after a 5 week break overseas visiting relatives in England and Ireland. She certainly is glowing and really enjoyed touring around and catching up with friends and sharing a Guinness!

Changes in Staffing for Term 3
Ms Darlene Kumar will teach full-time in the Gumtree Room for Term 3. Mrs Laurie White will continue working closely with individual students to provide intensive teaching and learning support across the three main classes including the Links program at SOSE Burnie for two days per week. Laurie will also be teaching two days per week at the Devonport campus assisting with transitioning new students and also supporting students on an individualized basis in the Blue and Yellow Rooms.

This week we farewell Mrs Felicity Lovatt, Speech & Language Pathologist who supports students across both campuses as she commences maternity leave. Her baby is due mid October and we wish her all the best for this big event. Felicity will be returning to work and will continue to be based at SOSE NW early May 2011.

Mrs Michelle Cooney will undertake the role of Communication Facilitator across both campuses whilst Felicity is on leave. Michelle will work closely with Mrs Pauline Mawer to continue training preparing and supporting students, teacher aides and teachers with PODD resources. Both Michelle and Pauline have been working alongside Felicity for almost three years and have acquired extensive knowledge and skills in relation to PODD. Extra funding for this initiative has been provided through the NW Learning Service.

PLEASE ADVISE THE SCHOOL IF YOUR CHILD WILL BE AWAY FROM SCHOOL

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NEiTA nominee – Jacqui Astley

NEiTA- National Excellence In Teaching Awards
Not all members of the SOSE school community may be aware that Jacqui was nominated by Kate French, School Association member at Devonport, in recognition of her inspiring music program that has been established at the Devonport campus since 1989. Jacqui has received a Certificate of Nomination and she has over this last weekend completed the NEiTA’s online Teacher Self-Portrait form.

Here is a short excerpt taken from my support letter of recommendation:

'The School Association requests your consideration of Jacqui as an aspiring teacher. Her natural musical talent is fully utilised when she is planning and delivering her music sessions. There is spontaneity in the way Jacqui is able to combine percussion, song, creative movement and dance into an open ended session that is deliberately time managed to fully engage the students. The support personnel working alongside the students are also invited and expected to fully participate in the music session.

In spite of their low cognitive functioning and limited on-task behaviours, Jacqui utilises visual cues and signing to inform each student of her program intentions. These systems are consistent strategies that are utilised to encourage full engagement.

The sessions are flexible and allow opportunities for students within small class groups to maintain individual choice selections. The whole atmosphere is one of ‘fun, free expression and rhythmic exploration’.

Congratulations Jacqui on your nomination!

Some Fun Outdoor and Indoor Experiences for Everyone
Over the last three weeks, there have been several opportunities for students and staff to enjoy some great outdoor experiences. Fun in the Snow! Some students and staff really had fun making and throwing snowballs! There are some great photos here which will provide lasting memories for all to share.

Circus Challenge – 18th August
Two young enthusiastic performers travelled all the way from Perth WA to entertain students and staff from both campuses in the gym at SOSE D’port. There was juggling, plate spinning and stick tossing which really interested everyone. The performers demonstrated their skills and then set up workshops for students and staff members to have a go. Alec Snowden who attends the D’port Links program performed in front of the audience with a Diablo trick – Well Done Alec.

This special performance concluded with a barbecue lunch.

I wish you all a safe and relaxing holiday break. School resumes on Monday, 20th September 2010.

Kind regards to you all,
Grace
Transition

An important part of a student’s final year is preparing and transitioning into their post school options. Early in the 3rd term students will be commencing transitioning activities designed to assist them in making the change to their new environment.

The students are assessed and prepared individually. Some of the common methods used are social scripts, pre-placement visits, orientation and familiarisation. The following is a short explanation of the procedures for the transition program.

With the individual student in mind, I visit a workplace or day option site; take photographs of the site and the people with whom they will be working. As well, I photograph activities they will participate in e.g. Music Therapy and the way that they will be transported to the site. These pictures are used to make a book that will tell a story (Social Script) which also assists the student to familiarise themselves with the surroundings prior to their first visit. The cover page has a picture of the student and the workplace/site to further personalise it.

To familiarise a student and the new staff, pre-placement visits are organized. This staff member will also visit the school to meet the student so that the student and staff member can get to know each other. The school staff pass on relevant information/strategies to aid in understanding how to best work with the student.

The orientation visits are initially short ones which are gradually increased as the student feels more familiar with the placement. During these visits the students engage in activities that they recognise and enjoy. Once the student shows that they are engaging with their new environment the school staff withdraws.

Bronwyn West
Transition Teacher