Hello Staff, Parents, Carers and friends,

We're now mid-way through Term 2 and at times it seems that there are not enough hours in the day to allow us to achieve all that we list as important and must be done!

There have been two major events that have been shared by both campuses over the last fortnight.

A Special Olympics Sports Day was held on Friday 16th July at the Forbes St. Basketball Stadium. The students from both campuses mingled and teamed up with students from many regular schools - Devonport, Ulverstone, Penguin and Burnie schools. It was a great opportunity for students to work as a team, practice their skills and co-operate with each other to finish activities in a given time frame. It was very pleasing to note the support of the Aussie Sports Leaders from Reece High. These young people organized the setting up of equipment when activities were changed and assisted to group students into teams.

I certainly had plenty of exercise as I kept my eyes on Samuel, who is a student from the Green Room at the Devonport campus. He's a lively 5 year old who loved running around the large floor space.

A Professional Learning Day was held on Monday, 19th July with both campuses of teaching and support staff members including relief staff who met at the Devonport campus to attend the following sessions:

- 'Focusing on programming for students with sensory behaviours in order to maximize their Learning' - led by the DHHS Occupational Therapists, Cilla Travers and Sara Croome who presented a mix of practical activity as well as theoretical information.
- Feedback about our current PODD practices and in particular early PODD visual and auditory scanning books - led by Felicity Lovatt, Speech & Language Pathologist.
- Continuing on with development of Positive Behaviour Management with teachers in class groups aiming to facilitate further individual student management plans.

Overall all attendees praised the content and gained further knowledge to inform their classroom practice.
A visit from Jane Hofto, Librarian Department of Education, Systems Support and Development

Jane visited both campuses on Tuesday, 20th July for two purposes:
- to inspect the new library resource area at the Devonport campus
- to visit the Burnie campus to discuss the formal removal of the collections held in the Hellyer Library and the setting up of the library in the foyer once the alcove modifications are completed by Fairbrother Pty. Ltd.

Mrs Michelle Anthony, the Library Technician at the Devonport campus will manage the setting up of the Burnie campus library will support from Mrs Keenie Baker during Term 3. We all look forward to the opportunity of accessing our resource books and reading sets within close proximity to the classrooms.

A new student – Billy Dodds

We welcome Billy's parents, Louise and Josh together with his brother who have relocated from Queensland to the North West of Tasmania. Louise wants to see and touch snow for the first time! Billy is currently transitioning into the Wattle Room by spending more time each day in the class group.

Bowen Therapy Research Project

Bev Chell has formally completed her study utilizing the small group of nominated students at the Burnie campus. The research paper written by Bev Chell will be made available for parents and carers whose children participated in the research.

Certainly from the perspective of the student’s physical and emotional outcomes from the Bowen Therapy treatment over the six week period there appears to have been some notable improvements. Bev reports that ‘all students benefited either in a physical and/or mental capacity’.

Many staff members have expressed their delight in the improved physical outcomes for several students and due to this I am negotiating a plan with Bev to establish a Bowen Therapy treatment program at the Burnie Campus for 4 hrs. per week. More details on this plan in the next newsletter.

Kind regards,
Grace

Special Olympics Ribbon Day

On the 16th July students from Links, Gum Tree Room and Wattle Room, along with the students from the Devonport Campus were involved in the Special Olympics Ribbon Day held in Devonport. We were fortunate to mix with students from a variety of other North West Coast primary and high schools who took part. There were about 60 students who were involved in the day!

Our students participated in a variety of activities that were arranged by the Special Olympics co-ordinator, these included shooting hoops, kicking soccer balls and skittles. All students had fun trying the variety of fun activities that were organised on the day.

All students were awarded with a Ribbon to acknowledge their participation on the day.

Jeans For Genes Day 2010

Next Friday the 6th of August we will be participating in raising funds for Children’s medical research.

Student may wear jeans if they wish for a gold coin donation.