Hello parents, carers and friends,

With the start of the month of May, we're all aware that the weather is much cooler and there have been quite a few showers and rough winds in the lead up to winter. Nevertheless, staff members at both campuses continue to take advantage of special events advertised on the Tasmanian calendar.

**Gaining skills in the REAL world!**

The educational pathways of several of our senior students can be very diverse. Diversity allows the students to choose options in relation to work related pathways. Bronwyn West, the resource teacher who is responsible for transition one day per week at each campus is currently beginning the planning phase by talking with parents and carers to discuss viable options.

I would like to share some further information about two well known students who currently access the transition program at The Don Polytechnic. Kieran Walker is currently enrolled in Foundation Certificate 1 in Hospitality and also attends the School of Special Education NW Devonport campus.

Kieran is currently learning about kitchen hygiene and Occupational Health and Safety as well as knife skills and basic industry food preparation skills. He is supported by a teacher aide and his industry teacher and is achieving well. Along with the SOSE Devonport campus teacher, Mr Ted Barrance there is a shared view that Kieran long term will gain appropriate skills to gain paid employment.

Jessica Cox-Patchin who completed Year 11 at the Burnie campus in 2009 is accessing the transition program for 2 days per week at The Don Polytechnic. Her choice of subjects involves a number of subjects in the mainstream e.g. Music and Art and Craft.

Jess also attends hydrotherapy on a weekly basis at Latrobe and joins a group of SOSE Devonport students to share in some fun and exercise.

The Transition program at The Don Polytechnic allows students with disabilities to foster friendships with regular peers of their own age and encourages social networks to actively thrive within the local community.
Professional Learning Day - 3rd May 2010

The teaching and support staff from both campuses gathered at Penguin High School for last Monday’s opportunity to work collaboratively on the following:

- The morning session focused mainly on reviewing positive Behaviour Support approaches and was led by Mr Matt Perry & Ms Jane Bird who are currently the L.S.N.W. Special Education Advisors. Teachers also revisited their knowledge and understandings of the “Team Teach” intervention that teachers took part in on 4th & 5th February 2010.

  This revision supported detailed discussions during the afternoon session between individual class teachers and teacher aides to work on individual student risk assessment. This work is ongoing and will lead to the development and trialling of individual student response plans during the remainder of this year.

- All support staff attended a PODD fluency session led by Mrs Felicity Lovatt (Speech & Language Pathologist) which provided ‘hands on’ practice and training associated with a PODD book. The school’s goal of embedding PODD into our daily class practice with all students continues to be of prime importance. This fluency session was particularly appreciated by all support staff members.

SOSE NW got TALENT
This combined campus extravaganza will be held on Tuesday, 25th May in the Burnie Campus gym commencing at 11.30am. Parents, carers and friends are invited to attend this event to share in the frivolity and fun as individual students, class groups and staff members showcase their talents.

TO all mothers, carers and grandmothers - enjoy a happy Mother’s Day on Sunday, 9th May.

Best Wishes,

Grace

HEAD LICE:

Head lice are proving to be a problem in the school, so we ask that you be vigilant in checking your child’s hair. Students are not permitted at school whilst infected. A treatment guide is attached to this newsletter.

Useful Website;

A useful websites has been set up by Lynne Ryan who does I.T. work with our students. The site has lots of links, activities, recipes, games, tutorial etc.

www.studentswithdifference.co