**Newsletter**

23rd February 2012

Burnie Campus

Principal - Mrs Grace Brown

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**Important Dates**

**Term 1**

- **Thur 1st March School Association Meeting** 3 p.m.
- **Thur 8th Mar. BBQ School** 5 p.m.
- **Mon 12th Mar. Long w/end**
- **EASTER BREAK**
  - Good Friday 6th April
  - School resumes Mon 16th Apr

- **Wed 25th Apr ANZAC DAY**
- **Mon 21st May Pupil Free Day**
- **Friday 1st June - End Term 1**

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**Hello Staff, Parents, Carers and friends,**

It was very impressive to note the smiles and greetings shared between staff members and students as they arrived on the first day back to school on Wednesday, 15th February 2012. Whilst many parents and carers commented that the summer holiday is too long for their children, the holiday programs either sponsored by Ability Employment for Burnie campus students or the Glee Club for Devonport campus students was greatly appreciated. Many parents and carers took advantage of some free time whilst children really enjoyed the fun activities on offer. We value the commitment of many staff members and volunteers who planned and participated in the holiday programs this year. Many thanks for your support!

**Welcome** to several new families this year.

- Robert and Ruth Jones and family who also relocated from Ipswich late November and now reside in Wynyard. Nicholas is attending Kinder at the Acton Campus.
- John Lees – son of Donna & Shannon Kinder student at Acton Campus
- Dylan Wescombe – son of Tamara & Brendan Kinder/Prep student at Acton Campus

A ‘get together’ barbecue will be held on Thursday, 8th March at the Burnie Campus at 5 p.m. till 6.30 p.m. s for all families to attend. Meat will be supplied. Please bring a salad to share. Let’s make this a great social occasion to welcome especially our new families.

**Professional Learning Opportunities for Staff**

A varied and purposeful range of workshops were on offer from Wednesday, 8th February for all staff members from both campuses to attend.

- **7th & 8th Feb – Autism Spectrum Disorders – Intervention and Support for Students on the Autism Spectrum** presented by Rose Clark & other guest speakers.
- **8th Feb – Manual Handling Training** presented by Lani Helbig, Physiotherapist.
- **9th & 10th Feb – Understanding and Managing Challenging Behaviours** presented by Nicola Crates (Optia) and Matthew Spicer (Anglicare)
- **13th & 14th Feb – 4 Blocks Literacy ‘ Rounds’** – led by Felicity Lovatt (Speech Therapist) to brief teachers and teacher assistants on student literacy groupings for 2012 to foster the increase student participation with Pencil tools (light and high tech) for Writing, Alphabet Flip Charts, Word Walls and shared teacher weekly planning via resources on the IT sharepoint.

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**School Contact Details**

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P.O. Box 520

**BURNIE 7320**

- **Phone:** 6433 3870
- **Fax:** 6434 4011

**113 Middle Road**

**DEVONPORT 7310**

- **Phone:** 6424 5554
- **Fax:** 6424 2992

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**PLEASE ADVISE the School Office if you have changed your phone number, address or emergency contacts so that our records are up to date!**

I attended, along with many Principals from the all parts of Tasmania a Leadership Symposium that was held at the Rokeby Police Academy. The opening address was delivered by the Premier, Ms Lara Giddings followed by Mr Nick McKim, Minister for Education and the DoE Secretary, Mr Colin Pettit emphasised the challenges facing school leaders during this time of tightening budgets and changing external circumstances. The Department of Education’s Strategic Plan for 2012 – 215 focusing on ‘Learners first, connected and inspired’ has now been finalised and the identified goals will drive the work that educators will do in the future.

I do remain optimistic that we will be able to offer our students who are enrolled or accessing the School of Special Education, fulfilling opportunities to learn and reach their potential. It will be a matter for all staff members, parents, carers, members of the School Association along with interagency networks to ‘look outside of the square’ to ensure that all available resources and opportunities are pursued and maximised to assist our students to continue to engage in purposeful and supported learning programs. There will be a greater emphasis on providing relevant skills and knowledge for teachers and support staff to foster innovation and continuous improvement.

Class groupings for 2012

I am very pleased to announce that Kindergarten, Senior Class cookery groups and Links program classes have commenced at the Acton site this week. The 3 classrooms have been refurbished with new paintwork, floor coverings and ramped access into the building and from classrooms to the secure play area. Modifications have also been made to a toilet block to provide a change table space as well as storage for nappies, gloves etc. This work was funded by the Department of Education and managed by Peter Heathcote, DoE Project Officer. Several staff members including teachers and teacher aides worked as a dedicated team to clean equipment and set up the furniture in classrooms before Monday, 20th February. In particular, Sandra and Keenie followed through with last minute requests to ensure that issues were minimised. What a great effort! Thank you!

Burnie/Acton Campuses

Kindergarten (Acton) on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 9.00 – 12 noon
Teacher: Laurie White

Links Program (Acton) on Monday & Tuesday 9.00 – 2.30pm
Teacher: Sue-Ann Beaumont

Senior Cookery groups (Acton) on Tuesday & Wednesday 9.00 – 2.15pm
Teacher: Wendy Bennell

Early Childhood class (Mooreville Rd Campus) – Class teacher and Teacher-in-Charge: Cathy Bester

Primary class (Mooreville Rd Campus) – Class teacher: Devin Cullis

Senior class (Mooreville Rd Campus) – Class teachers: Bronwyn West and Wendy Bennell.

I look forward to working with and supporting the whole school community during 2012. I know that there will be challenges to face however, open communication between all individuals that are respectful and built on mutual trust will ensure that our shared vision and priorities across the School of Special Education NW will be realistic and achievable. Our aim is to work together.

Yours sincerely,

Grace
SCHOOL ASSOCIATION MEETING - Thursday 1st March  3 p.m. in the school

Recently forms for Bowen Therapy and Enrolment Validation were sent home….it is essential that we have these returned as soon as possible to update our records.

Teachers have requested that all items belonging to students, be clearly marked with their name. Clothing, lunch box etc..

Your attention is drawn to the School Bus Policy which requires parents/carers to take their child to and from the bus. Students are to be ready and waiting for the bus so as not to make the school run late for the start of the school programs.

If your child is going to be away from school you must advise the bus and the office. The office records absences every day and we require a valid reason for absences. (Thank you)

Garry’s  Bus 0409 977809

Graeme’s  0400 089724

SCHOOL BUS POLICY  (attached)
Parents/carers are responsible for escorting their child/children out to the bus. Once the child is on the bus then the bus aide is responsible for their welfare. It also should be stated that the bus aide is continually responsible for all the students on the bus at all times and therefore cannot be expected to go and knock on a door to check whether parents are home at the end of the day.

New Tobacco Legislation

From 1 March 2012, additional smoke-free areas will be introduced in Tasmania. Aimed at reducing exposure to harmful second-hand cigarette smoke, they cover places where people – especially children – gather. Smoke-free areas now include bus and pedestrian malls, bus shelters, outdoor dining areas, sports venues, beaches, public swimming pools and children’s playgrounds.

The ban on smoking at children’s playgrounds means that smoking will not be permitted within 10 metres from any play equipment at children’s playgrounds. As well, sportsgrounds will become healthier places for participants and spectators with smoking banned within 20 metres from any competition and seating areas at all sportsgrounds. This includes all grounds, tracks and stadiums. The smoking ban runs from 30 minutes before and after any organised sports event. Additionally, smoking will no longer be allowed anywhere at public swimming pool complexes and between the flags at patrolled beaches. For more information, go to www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/peh/tobacco_control
Smiling staff and students from the LINKS group at the new Acton campus