Welcome back all school association members.

Just as a short review, I would like to state that from my perspective, the Burnie Campus completed the 2009 school year in a productive and positive manner. The end of year assembly held on Tuesday, 16th December was a rewarding event for all students, staff members and guests. There was certainly an increase in the number of visitors and family members who attended the assembly which for me was very gratifying. The items and personalised record of student achievement and school events that was captured on screen via the data projector was a powerful indicator of individual improvement and whole school participation in a variety of innovative programs being offered at the school.

There are several initiatives that have boosted the morale and optimism of all members of the school community.

- **The BER initial project’s scope of works** which involved relocating and adding extra ceiling tracking in the disabled toilet facility has been managed by Fairbrother Pty Ltd. Whilst this may appear at first glance to be a fairly insignificant job, there was extra strengthening in the ceiling and walls that needed to be expertly done. An additional ceiling hoist has been purchased as part of the project. At the present time, we are awaiting a quote from Mr Andrew Gurr for shelving within an open glass panel /door arrangement to be constructed in the foyer area. This space will house the library resources currently in the Hellyer Academy library.

- **Other improvements** that have been organised over the Christmas break include the sealed area at the lower end of the playground together with the erection of a shed to house the bicycles. Air conditioning units were installed in every classroom and in the front foyer area. Much of the organisation of this work has been the responsibility of Mrs Keenie Baker and Mrs Sandra Cock and we sincerely thank them for their role in communicating and liaising with contractors.

- **Ms Cathy Bester has been appointed as Teacher-in-Charge** for 2010. Cathy’s teaching role this year focuses on the Links program across the both S0SE campuses. The Burnie campus Links programs now operate over two full days on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The Devonport Links program is held on Wednesdays. Cathy is able to fulfill her senior role on Mondays and Fridays. There are two full-time teachers – Ms Darlene Kumar is teaching the Senior class in the Gum tree Room, whilst Ms Patsy Cairns is working in the early childhood class in the Banksia Room. There are several younger students who are continuing at this stage to transition into the early childhood program. Mrs Wendy Bennell and Mrs Bronwyn West share the primary class in the Wattle Room.
The increase of teacher FTE was granted as a result of the discrimination claim made by the Northern Support School's School Association. We sincerely thank Mrs Cherry Thomas and Mrs Sandra French for also supporting action to address this anomaly. In the 2010 SRP, 5.11 teacher FTE was granted for 19.20 students at the Burnie campus.

This increase has enabled Mrs Bronwyn West to be employed 1 day per week at each campus to plan and manage initial steps of individual student transition to a future life pathway including work experience and day centre options.

Mrs Jacqui Astley is responsible for the music program across the whole school on Mondays and Wednesdays and on Tuesdays, Miss Rebecca Clarke is undertaking a phys ed. program with the three class groups. All three teachers work across both campuses of SOSE which is extremely advantageous in developing collaborative teaching practice and maintaining communicative networks between class teachers and support staff.

Teaching and support staff attended the following Professional Learning Workshops offered the week commencing 1st February:

* Understanding Autism presented by Rose Clark – Wed 3rd & Thurs 4th February
* Team Teach presented by Nick Burnett – Thurs 4th & Fri 5th February
* Building an AAC Community presented by Felicity Lovatt, - Tuesday 8th February

Of notable importance this year will be the need for curriculum writing to support and include students with severe disabilities in the National Curriculum. Mrs Margaret Ridgers attended the National Executive meeting of ASEPA held in Canberra 20th/21st February. The Victorian DoE has released (work in progress) Level 1 of the Essential Learning Standard – I have a copy of the following:

* Stage A  Beginning to Explore
* Stage B  Active Exploration
* Stage C  Intentional Participation
* Strand Discipline-based Learning

Copies of the above have now been circulated to the Special Education Advisors, Felicity Lovatt, Speech & Language Pathologist and class teachers for perusal.

There is already a working party established to work with ACARA (Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority) and fairly soon they will be calling for skilled practitioners to help with the writing of the new national curriculum guidelines to include students with disabilities. Lynne James has nominated someone from SA who she has worked with through AASE and there has been no nominations from Tas. ASEPA wants to address this. At this stage, I believe we are very fortunate to have Margaret representing us.
I will conclude by sharing with you that Bill Shorten is responsible for the development of the National Disability Standards – education is included in the standards.

Needless to say, we will be facing some times ahead when the need for clarity to determine guidelines and conditions will be extremely necessary as a means of crafting a successful pathway forward.

Grace