Welcome back all school association members.

Just as a short review, I would like to state that from my perspective, the Devonport Campus completed the 2009 school year in a productive and positive manner. The end of year assembly held on Monday, 15th December was a rewarding event for all students and staff members. There was certainly an increase in the number of guests and family members who attended the assembly which for me was very gratifying. The 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 Liberty Swing** - has now arrived at the school site and we are awaiting the Devonport Council to indicate when work will commence on preparing the specific area for ultimate installation of the swing. Messrs Peter Porch, Randall Stott & Stuart Jones visited SOSE D'port mid February and I sent an email on 24th February to remind them that a schedule of action needed to be prepared. As yet, there has been no response.

- **The BER initial project’s scope of works** undertaken by Fairbrother Pty Ltd has been completed and on the whole we have been extremely pleased with the outcomes. We are currently in the defects phase, and whilst we have experienced some minor problems, Mr Andrew Gurr from Fairbrother has responded positively when contacted re any issues. The final addition to the project will be the resealing of the asphalt of the carpark and thoroughfare to the school.

- **Ms Genevieve Andrews** has been re-appointed as **Teacher-in-Charge** for 2010. Genevieve’s teaching role this year focuses on the new early childhood class in the Green Room. This class is currently operating on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays and several of the students will increase their time at SOSE D’port as this term progresses. Genevieve undertakes her senior teacher responsibilities on Fridays.

  There are two full-time teachers – Mr Ted Barrance is teaching the Senior class in Blue Room and Ms Jo Corvinus has replaced Mrs Karen Slade in the Yellow Room. Karen’s baby (Caitlin Nancy) was born on the 4th February and she will remain on Parenting Leave until mid July.

- **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, 4.44 teacher FTE was granted for 16.7 students.
This increase has enabled the employment of Mrs Bronwyn West 1 day per week 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 once again 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

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 is wanting 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