Dear Parents

Welcome back to term 3. Students have come back from the break refreshed and ready for another productive term of learning. Over the past week with some of the cold and wet weather we have been experiencing I have noticed a number of our senior students particularly, wearing jumpers and hoodies that are not a part of our school uniform. As a school we have a fleecy jacket option for Primary students and a wind stopper jacket for Secondary students as a measure to counter the colder weather. I would appreciate parent support to ensure students continue to wear their full school uniform over the remainder of the year.

Staff Change Term 3
We welcome Mrs Belinda Gaffney to our Railton campus teaching staff. Mrs Gaffney commences Monday and will be teaching the 1/2 class on a Monday and supporting literacy groups and teacher planning and class release on a Tuesday.

Year 11/12 Provision at Sheffield School Second Forum
At our recent School Association meeting a date was set for the second forum on the proposal for the provision of year 11/12 at the Sheffield School. The forum will be held on the 28th August in the grade 8 classroom commencing at 5.30pm. Mr Alan Green, General Manager, Early Years and Schools, Department of Education will at this stage be attending the forum to provide further information on the proposal and answer questions.

At the forum held early in term 2 there was some uncertainty around what the provision of 11/12 would look like for our school. Over the next month prior to the forum I would encourage parents, students, staff and community members to e-mail our school public e-mail address sheffield@education.tas.gov.au with any questions you would like Mr Green to respond to during the forum as the format will run along similar lines to that of a Q & A session.

This is another important opportunity for members of our school community to gather further information on the proposal and is another step in a process that will assist to inform the decision making at School Association level on this matter.

A summary of the information and views shared at our previous forum is provided over the page.
Professional Learning Day
Last Monday staff had the opportunity to work collaboratively on a number of focus areas pertaining to the implementation of the Australian Curriculum area of Geography, whole school literacy plan review and the development of rubrics which is a tool utilised by staff to aid assessment. In the afternoon Geoff Davis, from the Respectful School Support Team assisted staff to unpack the departmental document Respectful Schools, Respectful Behaviour. This day enabled staff to progress work in each of the above areas and proved to be extremely valuable and productive.

Term Dates and Professional Learning Days for 2015
Term dates for 2015 as advertised on the Department of Education’s website are below;

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>2015</th>
<th>Start</th>
<th>Finish</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Term 1</strong></td>
<td>Monday 2 February (teachers commence)</td>
<td>Wednesday 1 April (students)</td>
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<td>Wednesday 4 February (students commence)</td>
<td>Thursday 2 April (teachers)</td>
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<td>Friday 3 April - Tuesday 7 April</td>
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<td><strong>Term 2</strong></td>
<td>Monday 20 April</td>
<td>Friday 3 July</td>
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<td><strong>Term 3</strong></td>
<td>Monday 20 July (teachers)</td>
<td>Friday 25 September</td>
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<td>Tuesday 21 July (students)</td>
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<td><strong>Term 4</strong></td>
<td>Monday 12 October</td>
<td>Thursday 17 December (students finish)</td>
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<td>Friday 18 December (teachers finish)</td>
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In 2015, three additional professional learning days and one moderation day have been granted by the Minister to enable principals and teachers to build capacity around, and to implement the Australian Curriculum and associated processes and requirements. These days are;
- Tuesday 3 February
- Monday 20 July
- Friday 23 October

In 2015, the Moderation Day will be held on Thursday 2 April (the last day of Term 1) in all Learning Services.

Head lice
Within this newsletter I have included a departmental fact sheet on head lice. This provides useful information relevant to the identification of head lice and the necessary treatment that should occur prior to a child returning to school. Please continue to monitor your child’s hair, particularly if you receive a letter informing you that there is a known case of head lice within your child’s class. Thank you for your co-operation on this matter.

Ron Daly
PRINCIPAL
Calendar dates.....

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>1 August</td>
<td>Assembly 7 – 10 Immunisations - Grades 7 &amp; 9</td>
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<td>5 August</td>
<td>3/4 LM Excursion Devonport Maritime Museum and Entertainment Centre</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Prep Excursion - Bluff and Entertainment Centre (Pete the Sheep)</td>
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<td>6 August</td>
<td>5/6 Sports Day</td>
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<td>7 August</td>
<td>Master Builders Presentation – Grade 9</td>
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<td>12 August</td>
<td>UNSW Maths Competition</td>
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<td>13 August</td>
<td>Daniel Witthause Presentation - Don College (Grade 10)</td>
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<td>14 August</td>
<td>Mainland Excursion Departs</td>
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<td>15 August</td>
<td>Assembly P-6 (Sheffield Campus)</td>
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<td>19 August</td>
<td>Don College Visit – Taster Day Choices</td>
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<td>20 August</td>
<td>40 Hour Famine</td>
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Pre-Kinder at Sheffield

(Railton Campus Pre-Kinder will commence later in the term)
Pre-Kinder sessions will begin this term for those children who will be starting Kindergarten at our Sheffield Campus in 2015.

When: Friday afternoons during terms 3 and 4. Sessions run from 1.20pm – 2.30pm
Where: Sheffield School Kindergarten
Who: Children who were born in 2010 that will be attending our school next year.
Cost: Free

The aims of our Pre-Kinder program are:
- to give your child the opportunity to get to know other children who will be in Kindergarten at our school next year.
- to establish some of the Kindergarten routines.
- for you and your child to meet some of our Early Childhood teachers and Kindergarten aides.
- for your child to become familiar with the Kindergarten room and playground.
- to provide support in the process of enrolling your child at our school.
- to offer some parent information sessions in relation to what your child will need in Kindergarten (uniforms etc.), general information about our school, and ways you can help your child prepare for his/her first year at school.
- to offer opportunities for you to ask questions you may have about your child starting school and discuss with you any concerns you may have about your child and his/her ‘readiness’ for school.

If you have a Pre-Kinder aged child but are unable to attend our Friday sessions, please contact our Pre-Kinder teacher, Karie van der Velde via the school office (64918222) as soon as possible, so that we can get an accurate idea of the number of children starting next year.
Proposal for Grade 11 and 12 at Sheffield School – Forum 1 Summary

Parents and carers in our school community will be aware that along with other rural high schools we have been invited by the state Government to express an interest in offering Grades 11 and 12 to our students here at Sheffield. As part of the decision making process we held a first community consultation evening on 16 May. Over 30 parents, students and community members gathered to consider this important issue and to identify the key issues which need to be considered in the final decision. The meeting was not a decision making meeting but did provide the opportunity for people to share their thoughts on key issues.

Retention
A key goal which has prompted the Government’s policy is increasing retention rates for grade 11 and 12 students. While this is a significant issue in some schools, it is not a primary consideration for us at Sheffield. It was pointed out that we currently have excellent retention rates for grade 10 leavers moving into further training and education. Our completion rates at Don College are among the highest of any feeder schools. While we can applaud any move to increase retention rates, it is not necessarily clear that offering grade 11 and 12 in all rural high schools would actually improve this. It is attempting to address a problem which is not currently relevant to us.

Socialisation
Unlike other feeder schools for Don College, our students are part of the same social community for their full Kindergarten to Grade 10 learning. It is a privilege to have our students for this amount of time through their formative years and we take very seriously the creation of a safe and supportive learning community. Our students consistently tell us that while they value what they gained from Sheffield School, by the end of Grade 10 they are ready and looking forward to the wider social network available to them at Don College. While not all parents and carers agree that broader socialisation is appropriate at this stage, there was significant support at the meeting for parents and students for this element. There was also a concern for the loss of this socialisation opportunity should students stay at Sheffield. It was noted that the transition to Don is sometimes a key motivator for students who have not always engaged well in grade 10 and seem to do significantly better in a new environment.

Educational Opportunities
A critical issue that was raised in the meeting was the question of the potential range of subject choices available to students should grade 11 and 12 be offered at Sheffield. While the nature of the funding package is not yet clear, it would potentially involve at most around 5 or 6 teachers who might be able to offer around 10-12 subjects, with other offered through online facilities. Our grade 11 students at Don this year are studying 43 different subjects with specialist teaching staff. A decision to keep grade 11 and 12 at Sheffield would significantly restrict the current range of subject choices and we would be unlikely to be able provide specialist teachers. There is no current move to close Don College, it would continue to serve Devonport schools. In this scenario, it is likely that a number of our students would choose to go to Don even if Grade 11 and 12 were offered at Sheffield, this would lower numbers and further limit subject opportunities. While there have been improvements in online learning, it still has lower completion levels than face to face teaching and learning.

Travel
Students from Sheffield and outlying areas do spend a considerable amount of time each week in travel. For some this is between 7 and 10 hours. While grades 11 and 12 would not eliminate travel as many of our students already travel in to Sheffield, it certainly would significantly reduce the travel component and this is a clear positive of the proposal. Not all students and parents see the travel as a negative. The implications of time lost in travel include limited opportunities for part time work and for community involvement and connections.
Implications for the school
Sheffield school does already provide a VET stream in the school. Moving to fully offering grades 11 and 12 at Sheffield would certainly attract some extra funding for the school. However there are also a broad range of facilities that we need to be able to guarantee to gain this funding. It is not clear that we are in a position to be able to provide the space and facilities for grade 11 and 12 without some significant resource changes to the school. It was suggested that in providing grade 11 and 12, more families could be attracted to the district increasing school numbers.

Pathways Update
We have a busy term ahead in Pathways with a number of Career Awareness Programs continuing to become available and the arrival this week of the Grade 10, 2015 Course Information Handbook for Years 11 & 12. I have supplied each grade 10 student with a copy of this guide to assist them with choosing subjects for next year. Over the coming weeks I will be spending time with each grade 10 student to continue working with them on their Pathway Plans and subject discussions ready for the Don Information Sessions and the Don Taster Day in the coming months.

The Don Taster Day has been a huge success in previous years as Don College help students to become familiar with the college, with the teachers and with the subject content.

On Tuesday 19 August Don College staff will be visiting Sheffield School to assist Grade 10 students with choosing Don Taster Day options. Following the Taster Day on Tuesday 9 September, Don College staff will visit Sheffield School during November to commence the enrolment process for 2015, and finally during term 4, they will provide students with a head start to 2015 with the ‘Start Day’ program at the start of December.

Don College will also be holding a Parent Information Evening during October. I will forward this information to parents once details are confirmed.

As dates are locked in, we will be sure to keep you informed and if anyone would like to be involved with any part of the transition process, please feel free to contact me on: kelly.conkie@education.tas.gov.au or via the school office.

Kelly Conkie,
Pathway Planner

Young Australians from Sheffield High School give up to bring hunger down in Rwanda (MEDIA RELEASE 28th July, 2014)
A team of passionate young Australians from Sheffield High School will come together to support World Vision’s 40 Hour Famine this 20 to 22 August 2014.

The 40 Hour Famine is one of Australia’s biggest youth events raising community awareness and much-needed funds to help fight global hunger. Each year inspires a new generation of young people to help communities around the world to lift themselves out of poverty.

Participants will give up something important to them for 40 hours to spread the word as well as raise funds to help take on hunger around the world.

The students have chosen to give up anything from food to technology in support of this very worthy cause. The 40 Hour Famine was started by World Vision Australia in 1975 and around 300,000 young people from all over Australia are expected to participate this year.
The UN has named hunger as the number one risk to health for children and families around the world. Funds raised through the 40 Hour Famine will go to fight the underlying causes of hunger including poverty.

This year, the 40 Hour Famine will focus on Rwanda, in central-east Africa, where nearly half of children under five suffer from malnutrition.

To find out more about the 40 Hour Famine, including registering to participate or making a donation, visit 40hourfamine.com.au.

Interested Sheffield students from G3-10 will be invited to attend meetings next week.
School Photos

We are expecting school photos to be distributed to students by the end of next week.

DID YOU KNOW?

- As parents or carers, you have the primary responsibility for detecting and treating head lice.
- If your child has head lice, you must treat your child with a recommended treatment. Your child may return to school after treatment has begun.

WHAT ARE HEAD LICE?

- Head lice have been around for thousands of years. Anyone can get head lice. It doesn’t mean you are dirty or have dirty hair.
- Head lice do not care whether hair is clean or dirty.
- Head lice are small, wingless blood-sucking insects. Their colour varies from white-brown to reddish-brown. Head lice only survive on humans. If isolated from the head they die very quickly (usually within 24 hours).
- People get head lice from direct head to head contact with another person who has head lice. Head lice do not have wings or jumping legs. If they cannot fly or jump from head to head, they can only crawl.

WHERE TO START

To help prevent the spread of head lice, we ask that you:
- Notify your child’s school as soon as you detect head lice or nits in your child’s hair.
- Wash your child’s hair in a lice-killing shampoo available from your local pharmacy.
- Apply plenty of conditioner and comb your child’s hair with a fine nit comb, looking out for the lice.
- Remove empty eggs (nits) in the hair.
- It is recommended that you check the hair of all family members for the presence of head lice and treat them if necessary.

WHAT YOUR SCHOOL WILL DO

- The school will notify you if there is reason to believe your child has head lice.
- The school will notify parents if there are known cases of head lice in a particular class and ask parents to check their child’s hair.
- The school will NOT administer treatment to your child.

TIPS

- The lice themselves are hard to spot, but look for brown or grey insects about the size of a match head that lurk at the roots of your child’s hair.
- A nit will not easily come off the hair but may fall out if washed.
- Teach your child not to share brushes, combs, hats, swimming caps or hair bands.
- Brush long hair or tie it back while your child is at school.

WHERE CAN YOU GET MORE INFORMATION?

- A pharmacist or doctor.
- Talk to your child’s teacher or principal.

HEADLICE (NITS) IN TASMANIAN GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS
COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

LATROBE DEMONS BASKETBALL

BOYS & GIRLS - GRADES 2, 3 & 4

The Latrobe Basketball Club are still looking for players for our Boys & Girls teams, to compete in our U/10 - U/11 Tournament, which is being run on Friday 8 and Saturday 9 August.

There is also a Development Roster being run in September for U/10 - U/11’s and a Tournament in October for U10’s.

If your child was born in 2004/2005/2006 and would like to play, or would like to learn, we are currently training and anyone is welcome to attend. For more information, please phone: Rose Muir  0407 278 977 or Nicole Thompson  0439 917 322

Disclaimer: Parents should note that advertisements for education services, companies, activities or similar events are published as a ‘community service’. Sheffield School is in no way liable for the quality, supervision or integrity of the provider and strongly suggests that parents make their own enquiries before engaging with the advertised event.

Ron Daly, Principal