

The Weekly News

Keeping you up-to-date with what's happening at Giant Steps Tasmania 22nd September 2011

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome to New Students

Term Three has arrived and we are delighted to welcome a number of new students to Giant Steps. Jade and Jack have both had their first day in Green Room; Tristan is becoming familiar with the Early Intervention Program and Zack will be attending for two days a week in Blue room. There have been many transitions for students who have started this week as they become familiar with a new school setting, new teachers, new students in their classrooms and learning to travel on the Giant Steps bus for the first time. This is huge change.

We appreciate the effort, energy, tenacity and determination it takes on the part of parents, families and carers to support children through this process of adjustment and change.

Who has taken a Giant Step this week?

I was able to share a quite incredible story about a student who took a "Giant Step" recently at the Emergency Services Ball. I think this remarkable achievement needs retelling.

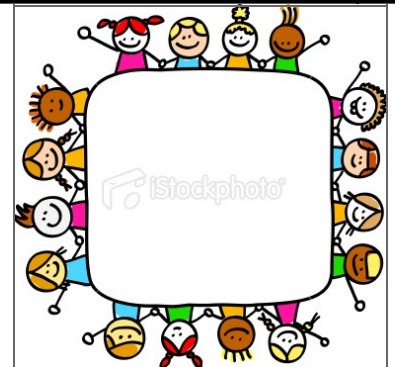
Our very skilled and creative knitting ladies, Anne and Kathy, who visit each Friday, were working with a student who was learning to weave across a frame in Blue Room. At first the task of weaving in and out of the frame seemed insurmountable but with gentle encouragement from Anne and repeated demonstration, gradually the student was able to weave further and further into each row. When the student realised he had almost mastered an entire row he began to become excited and when it was completed, he looked up at Anne with a delighted smile and gave her an enormous high five! There was a magical moment of celebration and fortunately captured on camera. At the end of the lesson the student stood up and shook Anne's hand. What a moment! Not a dry eye in the room!

Well done Austin for your perseverance, for recognising and enjoying your own achievement and for the lovely thank you you extended to Anne.

Anne came into my office overjoyed. It is a day we will not forget.

Renovations to Adult House

I am able to report that the wall between the front room and the kitchen has been dismantled over the holiday period. The extra space this creates is quite exciting. The staff of the adult program are happily discussing a multitude of possibilities to broaden programs now there is a larger space. There is still some plastering and painting to occur before the floor covering is laid. Disruptions should not be too lengthy as the larger part of the work was completed over the holidays.



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Resources

Staff have observed that students who have come through a range of comprehensive Early Intervention Programs are coming to Giant Steps with a capacity to develop a broader range of diverse skills. We anticipate that in the coming years the nature and needs of the student population will change significantly. We need to be able to cater for the broad diversity of students. Some students require practical hands on repetitive experiences; others learn through the arts; some through technology; many are keen observers of nature and many learn through their individual interests.

To cater for the range of diverse needs I have recently met with a representative of the Independent Schools Association (I.S.T) to discuss funding to purchase a comprehensive and structured reading program as well as purchasing more ipads for students who learn more effectively through technology. The Independent School Association are very supportive of Giant Steps and recognise the range and diversity of student needs and are most keen to assist us in this area.

Rodger Hawkins from IST came in the last week of term two to take a professional learning session for staff on programs for ipads that can be downloaded to cater for the specific needs of students. This was an enlightening session and staff felt they gained significant benefit from the time spent with Rodger.

Anne

Woolworths & Coles Dockets A huge thank you to all those parents and friends who have forwarded their dockets. Woolworths have extended their collection of dockets to 18th Oct. We should have some wonderful new resources and new sports equipment for the start of next year.

Sponsor a Child

These are now due if you could please write some thing about your child and give it to Pip please as soon as possible.

Giant Steps Uniforms

The first order for uniforms will go in this **Monday 26th of September** so please send your order forms in by then. It should take 2 to 3 weeks to receive the order and we look forward to seeing our students in the first Giant Steps Uniform.

Dates to Remember 2011

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| ★ | Thursday 6th October | - Launceston Show Day Holiday |
| ★ | Friday 7th October | - Final Pupil Free Day for 2011 |
| ★ | Monday 7th November | - Recreation Day Public Holiday |
| ★ | Thursday 15th December | - End of Year BBQ & Breakup |

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Red Room at Work

Friday Knitting Group



& Henry
enjoying the Dentist

