Our charity, Passfield Park Kids Inc., was set up in 2013 to support the therapy needs of our students. If you would like to find out more about this wonderful charity, please call Cheryl (in the office).

**Julie's Jottings…….**
Dear Parents and Carers,
Term 4 is always a busy term – students are practicing for Schools’ Spectacular; presentation day, the formal and our swimming carnival are just around the corner. Teachers are also busy with assessments and reports and new students are being enrolled as our Y12 students begin their transitions to life after school.

**The Formal**
Our farewell to Year 12 students and ex-students’ reunion will be held tonight. We will be farewelling three senior students, Shada, Zac and Zane, who will leave at the end of term (December 16). Friday night is a chance for their families, friends and staff to celebrate their many achievements and watch them all grow up through a photographic DVD. Thanks to Lesley, Mandy and Chris for organising the photos.

**Classes for 2016**
We have Kindergarten students enrolling for 2016. Students are offered enrolment through a regional placement panel and students filling the vacancies can be at any stage of their school journey. Discussion has started for 2016 classes. Students will be placed in classes by their educational needs. We put a lot of thought into classes each year, and plan to let students and parents know their new (perhaps!) class before the end of the year. So, teachers really don’t know who will be teaching your child yet!

**Lunch boxes**
Thank you for sending beautiful lunches for your children. Please cut up and peel fruit such as watermelon, oranges etc because it is unsafe to have knives in the playgrounds or classrooms. Once the fruit is cut up, please place in a zip lock bag to avoid leakage.

**Batteries**
We have had a couple of incidents over the last couple of weeks where small batteries, similar to those found in watches and toys, have been found on the playground. These batteries are fatal if swallowed so please do not send toys to school if these batteries are needed for their use.

**New Teacher**
Due to Sarah Clissold gaining the position of Assistant Principal during the year, we welcome Danielle Gordon as a classroom teacher in 2016.

Kind regards
**Julie**

**Whooping cough information for schools**
There is an outbreak of whooping cough (pertussis) in NSW, mainly affecting school-aged children. Whooping cough can spread easily and can be especially dangerous for babies. It starts like a cold and progresses to bouts of coughing that can last for many weeks. Older children may just have a cough that is persistent and may be worse at night. Children with these symptoms should see a doctor.

If your doctor diagnoses whooping cough in your school-aged child, please let the school know and keep your child at home until they have taken 5 days of antibiotics. Keep coughing children away from babies.

The local public health unit can provide advice about whooping cough on 1300 066 055 or visit the NSW Health website for information for childcare and schools about whooping cough.
Orange Class
The children better bring their snorkels to school because Orange classroom has been transformed to under the sea! The children have been very artistic in recreating sea animals learnt about during Science. They made some great rainbow fish which are swimming around our roof. The students enjoy learning about the different animals and hopefully we will get to see some in real life later this term. Orange and Yellow classes participated in a Softball Gala Day at the end of Term 3. All students enjoyed playing a round robin against other schools and showed great sportsmanship. They showed off the skills they had been practising during the term and enjoyed the BBQ too.

Silver Class
Silver Class is continuing gymnastics this term and really look forward to this each week. They have all improved in their skills. This semester, Silver Class students have been learning about sea animals in science and enjoy this unit of work. They have created a lovely mural in visual arts to go with this topic and it is a colourful addition to the classroom. They often stop to admire their work and name the animals in the mural. We look forward to seeing you on presentation day at the end of the term where we will celebrate student achievement. All the students have made many gains this year. Thank you to all who came and celebrated Grandparents and Special Friends’ Day with the class.

Belinda, Sharon and Lucinda
**Pink Class**

We welcome Terence, a new student to our school. He has settled in very well to Pink Class and is interacting well with his classmates. We are continuing to attend Yotala Gymnastics Club for sport this term as it provides activities that all the Yellow Class students participate in eagerly. It is wonderful to see each student's confidence developing each week, as well as their physical abilities of strength, balance and movement. Their social skills of turn taking and waiting have also improved and their behaviour while traveling on the school bus and walking between the bus and the premises has been excellent. During cooking sessions we are experimenting with spreading a variety of crackers with a choice of spreads. We are also cutting up fruit and making milkshakes. The favourite part of each cooking session is making and drinking the milkshakes. Chocolate milkshakes are definitely the most popular flavour.

With the end of the year drawing near, we have started a Christmas theme in our art and craft work. Students enjoyed painting their hands and feet to make prints to represent reindeers.

*Cheryl and Rob*

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**Yellow Class**

We ended last term with a great time at the Softball Gala Day.

This semester, we are learning about our five senses. We were able to explore using our senses on our excursion to Sculpture by the Sea where we were able to see, touch, smell and hear many of the sculptures which were all very different. You can see just a few of them in our photos below. This term we are doing gymnastics for sport and even in just a few weeks, the students have made progress with their skills. They enjoy walking on the balance beam, rolling on the mats and swinging on the bars. Rylen really enjoys the swing and Ishmam likes the vibrating machine. Thank you to everyone who joined us for grandparents and friends celebrations. We had fun painting using marbles, listening to stories and playing games.

*Alison and Michele*

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**Lunch Box Tips**

For a balanced lunchbox we suggest:
- A main meal (sandwich, wrap, salad) containing veggies and a protein food (meat, fish, chicken, egg, cheese)
- A piece of fruit
- A healthy snack (e.g. veggie sticks)
- A drink (water is the best choice)
- An extra snack can be included once a week. Try to reserve these for days when your child needs more energy.

For more ideas visit www.healthy-kids.com.au
High school staff and students would like to sincerely thank Cricket NSW for donating a Milo in2 Cricket kit to our school. We have made great use of it already on the bike track. We even have two pink stumps for the girls. Aimee is doing a great job as a spin bowler. Jayden M has an awesome bowling technique while Blair and Norm are our fast pace bowlers. We have many great batters such as Norm, left handed Blair, Chance and Ronnan; Jesse is learning to be an all rounder. Our regular cricket day on the bike track is each Thursday so watch out Steve Smith, Passfield Park School students are in training.

Shirley, Amanda, Glenda, Diana, Julie B, Mandy and Kris B.

Purple Class

Over the last four weeks Cassandra Barlow has been a welcomed guest in Purple Class. Cassie is in her final year of her teaching degree and has been an asset to our class and the school. The students have worked enthusiastically with Cassie, responded well to minor changes in routine and I know they will miss her when she leaves.

A big thank you to Lily, our parent helper, who comes in every week to work with our students on literacy and numeracy activities. Your assistance is very much appreciated.

Our recent Grandparents and Special Friends Day was a great success. Purple Class enjoyed having Mr and Mrs Dawes join us for several activities including a pool noodle throwing activity in the playground, marble painting and reading The Potato People by Pamela Allen. The day was a lovely opportunity for family and friends to chat over afternoon tea in the staffroom and then joined us for a singalong. We hope you enjoyed watching our students demonstrate some of the skills learnt with Akino during Music Therapy this year. Thank you to all those who visited, we hope you enjoyed your day as much as we did.

Lastly, Purple Class would like to say goodbye to Logan. We hope you take many happy memories of your time at Passfield Park School with you and wish you every success at your new school. Your teachers and friends are sad to see you go. We’ll miss you!

Di and Sonia

Red Class

Students enjoyed many experiences on Grandparents Day sharing the day’s activities with parents and volunteers. Cassandra loved sharing a story with her grandmother, while Nusayba liked sharing work activities with her parents. Mahib enjoyed being read to by a volunteer and then wanted to show how clever he was and re read the story. Well done Mahib. Dipta and Aidan were fascinated by how the marbles were rolled through paint to create their artworks. Rebecca loves books and really enjoyed being read to while Ben was lucky enough to have his Aunt visit and spend time with him. This was a fabulous day and all the students of Red Class enjoyed themselves particularly during the noodle throwing.

Cheryl, Kris and Jeanette
Highlights from Grandparents and Special Friends Day
Congratulations to our students of the week

Claire Dyllan Vito Mahib Ben

Rylen Terence Jesse Julian Ronnan

Blair Kaati Taylor Zane

Kids love watermelon because it is sweet and juicy. Pack a container of chunks with a spoon for your child to eat at school. A melon medley of different types and colours can be fun and appealing too.

Did you know? Children who drink sugar sweetened drinks (such as soft drinks) on a regular basis are more likely to be overweight. As the weather warms up, it is important that your children stay hydrated, and water is the best choice! Pack a full water bottle with their lunchbox to quench their thirst without any added sugar or kilojoules. A frozen bottle can double as an ice brick to keep the food cool too!