Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to 2015! We’re in Week 5, and we have already welcomed nine new students and their families into our school community, enjoyed a very successful swimming scheme, and welcomed new therapists into the school to support learning. We have also welcomed the Executive Director, Public Schools NSW, Mr Murat Dizdar to our school when he visited last Thursday morning. Mr Dizdar was accompanied by Mrs Kathy Powzun, Director, Public Schools NSW and Ms Sandra Acevedo - Rugg, Learning and Engagement Co-ordinator, and all three visitors were really impressed by the teaching and learning occurring in our school. Staff and students made our visitors feel welcome as they toured the school. Two of our new captains, Shada and Taylor did a great job welcoming Mr Dizdar when he first arrived – well done!

Therapy

We have been really fortunate and have again received support from the Autism Advisory and Support Service (AASS) in Liverpool which has given us two hours of speech pathology and two hours of occupational therapy per week. This service can only be accessed by students aged 11 and under, and we have prioritised some students and classes, which proved very difficult. If you have not yet returned your AASS forms (permission to photograph and registration) please do so as soon as possible.

We also welcomed a music therapist, Akino, to the school this week. Akino had a wonderful time with our junior classes on Tuesday and will work with the younger students for the rest of the term. Next term, she will come each Thursday, which will extend the therapy to include our high school classes and I am sure they will enjoy it too.

Many thanks to our charity, Passfield Park Kids Inc, who are supporting this wonderful musical initiative.

High School

Whilst the primary aged students have been enjoying swimming, the high school students have been working hard at following their new timetables.

Diary Dates

6/3  Parent meeting
20/3  Harmony Day
12/5  School Photos
13-15/5  High school camp

The teachers have worked really hard in establishing different groups with learning opportunities for all students to achieve their potential and the students have adapted wonderfully to moving to classes straight from the playground. It’s a credit to all that the students are in the correct classrooms and the high school is a hive of activity!

Just a reminder that our camp is in May and all camp costs must be paid before the camp – a note will be following shortly.

Resource Allocation Model (RAM)

As you may be aware, school funding is undergoing many changes. Schools are now given an amount of money for running the school, which all schools have, and then extra funding called the Resource Allocation Model. This funding is linked to student needs, and so far we have received funding to support our Aboriginal students, to support students needing English language proficiency, and an equity loading for socio-economic background. These extra funds (including a teacher one day a fortnight) will support learning across the school and come as a result of our community sharing some personal information with us. Many thanks to you all – I have included further information about the RAM later in the newsletter.

Parent meeting

Finally, a warm welcome to everyone on Friday, March 6th, 9:15am for our first parent meeting for the year.

I would like to share the school plan with you and welcome your further input. I would also like to set the dates for future meetings and develop the ways in which home and school can continue to work together to support the students. I have been asked if we are having an Easter raffle which would be lovely and we would also love you to join us in supporting the students in other ways around the school. I am hoping that we’ll have our new rooms available to show you then, even though we will wait for some building works/fencing to be done in the holidays.

All in all, a busy start! Thank you for coming to our meet the teacher night and your continued support for this lovely school – see you on the 6th!

Julie
Pink Class

Pink Class students have all settled well into their new class. We welcome Dwayne, who is new to our school this year and we are pleased to see him happily interacting with other students especially at play breaks. Students are becoming more efficient at daily routines, such as, unpacking and packing their bags and opening lunch boxes and packets and are becoming familiar with the expectations in their morning work schedule. For the first few weeks of term, students were kept busy, during art and craft lessons, decorating book covers by painting, stamping and collaging. Swimming Scheme was an enjoyable and beneficial activity for all who participated. Unfortunately, due to illnesses and injury some Pink Class students were unable to complete the course of ten lessons. Now that Swimming Scheme has finished, we will start following our regular timetable. Music therapy and cooking sessions started this week; so please send $3 cooking money each week or you can pay by the term. Since we did not start cooking sessions until Week 5 this term, the cost for cooking for the remainder of term is $18. In cooking sessions this term, we will prepare breakfast, consisting of a bowl of cereal and a spread on toast/crumpets/English muffins/pancakes and will focus on pouring, spreading and tasting. Since we are learning about sea animals in Science, if you looking for ideas for family outings, you might like to take your child to visit a pet shop that has an aquarium section or if you are more adventurous, you might even like to visit Sydney Aquarium.

Silver Class

At the start of the new school year we welcomed five new students and their families to the Passfield Park School Community. It was lovely to see so many of you at the Parent Teacher evening and to have the opportunity to talk to you about what your child will be learning this year. It has been a busy start and all students are setting in well, working hard to achieve and learn the expectations and new routines. Three students participated in Swimming Scheme and achieved much over the ten days. This week, we had our first Music Therapy session of the year which the students enjoyed very much. This week we also had our first whole school assembly of the year and all students were well behaved. Silver Class will be performing at assembly later in the year.

We have been fortunate to have a Speech Pathologist working with the students in Silver Class one session per week and this is giving the students an opportunity to develop and enhance their communication skills. Please ensure that your child’s belongings are labelled as it can be difficult to determine what belongs to them. If you have any concerns or would just like a chat about your child, please contact me on the school’s phone number and I will ring you back or arrange a time to meet with you. Over the coming weeks I will arrange Individual Education Plan meetings with you for your child. These meetings will take place either this term or next term and are approximately one and half hours duration.

Belinda and Sharon
Purple Class

Welcome back, we hope you had an enjoyable break. Purple Class has had a happy return to school and students are settling into their new routines and timetable very well. It is great to see students working enthusiastically in all areas but especially in reading groups each day.

Swimming Scheme was a great success again this year. We were very proud of the progress our students made. They all worked well over the two week period and showed steady improvement in their water confidence and swimming abilities. It was obvious from their smiling faces just how much they all enjoyed swimming each day. We are looking forward to an enjoyable and rewarding year with Purple Class.

Di, Theresa, Lesley, Sonia and Kris

Yellow Class

It has been a busy start to the year with two weeks of Swimming Scheme. The students all worked hard at swimming and made terrific progress with their skills in the water. They were very tired by the end of the two weeks.

This week we have started to settle into our class routine with regular key learning area (KLA) lessons as well as Music Therapy. The students enjoy using reading programs on the iPad and computer to learn and practise reading skills as well as working with the teacher to learn sounds, and sightwords to increase independence in reading. As a class, we have been reading ‘The Greedy Grey Octopus’ and ‘Commotion in the Ocean’ as we will be learning about ocean animals this semester. We have celebrated birthdays with Tamzid and Claire who both turned eight in January.

Alison, Teresa and Michele

Resource Allocation Model (RAM) funding for 2015

On November 20, the Minister for Education, Adrian Piccoli, announced the next stage of the RAM process. Under this next stage, schools will receive funding for all four equity loadings. The Socio-economic background and the Aboriginal background equity loadings first delivered in 2014 will be supplemented by new equity loadings for English language proficiency and Low level adjustment for disability.

Remote and/or isolated schools will also be the first to receive a new location loading as the first element of the base school allocation, in recognition of disadvantage due to distance from population centres and other schools.

Our school has been advised that we will receive $40,522 RAM funding to support our students with additional learning needs in 2015. This includes our schools equity loadings.

The school executive will be working with our school community to determine the best ways to use these resources to support student learning.
Red Class

This year has started jam packed with activities and learning opportunities for all students in Red Class. The students have settled into classroom routines and activities and seem very happy to be back at school after the long Christmas break. They all appear to have developed independence and an ability to care for their own needs. Thank you to the parents of Red Class students for helping your children do more things for themselves at home and further developing your child’s independence.

Cassandra, Nusayba, Rebecca, Aidan, Ben, Dipta and Mahib all had a dynamic time during their participation in the two weeks of water safety sessions at Bradbury Pool. These pool sessions were an enjoyable time for each student as they relished the pool and made gains in their water skills. I was very impressed by each student’s participation and their developing ability to change quickly and care for their belongings.

Cassandra, Nusayba, Rebecca, Aidan, Ben, Dipta and Mahib

High School

This year we are trialling a new high school timetable which will see the students changing classrooms and teachers according to subject groups. The groups have been selected to best suit the learning needs of all students and four separate subject groups have been devised to offer students a more mature and suited learning environment for their individual needs. We have already completed three weeks of our new timetable and feedback has been positive.

School Camp dates have been booked for Term 2, Wednesday 13th – Friday 15th May. Camp has again been confirmed at Teen Ranch in Cobbity. The cost of camp this year is $260. Payments can be made in instalments and students who have not paid for camp in full by Monday 11th May will not be able to attend. Cadbury Fundraising Chocolates can be sold to help raise funds for school camp. For each $50 box sold - $20 will be taken off the cost of camp fees. If you would like to order fundraising chocolates, please write in the communication book how many boxes you require.

We would like to welcome Luke, a new student at Passfield Park School, who has joined high school in Year 7. We would also like to wish all family and friends of our school community best wishes for the forthcoming year.

Mat, Sukhraj, Diana, Glenda, Kris, Mandy and Julie

Parking

For the safety of children in our school communities, we ask that you obey parking signs and not double park or park in “kiss and drop” zones. Please also use the marked crossing when crossing the road to set a good example for children. Local council has advised that inspectors will be in the area penalising drivers who are parked incorrectly.
**Orange Class**

Welcome all students to a new year in 2015. We also welcome a new student, Billy, to our school. He is making friends and learning our school routine. Orange Class students are settling in well and have already been so busy in the first five weeks of school. All the children are putting their best efforts into their work and Narelle and I are quite impressed.

The students participated in Swimming Scheme where they all practised and learned some great swimming skills. Connor (Blue Class) and Tia were improving their freestyle and backstroke, Darren and Zion demonstrated a great effort and really impressed their swim teachers. Jamie and Joshua improved their underwater skills and Billy and Addison demonstrated a great confidence in the water and showed great skills in floating. They have all learned some lifesaving skills and enjoyed a play in the water park on the last day. Well done everyone!

Orange Class also enjoyed celebrating Zion’s 11th birthday. The whole class went to Hungry Jacks and enjoyed a cake at school. Happy Birthday Zion!

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**Congratulations to our students of the week**

*Kayla*

*Logan*

*Aidan*

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*Check out our school website*

www.passfield-s.sCHOOLS.nsw.edu.au
OPEN DAY

Come and celebrate the opening of Shine House and our wonderful new sensory gym!

There will be children's activities, light refreshments and an opportunity to meet our staff and explore the centre.

Everyone's welcome!

Shine Early Intervention is an innovative service providing speech pathology, occupational therapy and physiotherapy to children aged 0-7 years in the Macarthur area. We offer individual and small group therapy sessions and specialise in working with children who have a diagnosed disability or complex needs. Services can be provided in the home, preschool or school environment or at our new centre in Leumeah!

Our goal is to help every child to reach their full potential and Shine!

Ph: 0410 459 363
Email: lisa@shineearlyintervention.com.au
Web: www.shineearlyintervention.com.au

Let It Go
The Aussie FROZEN tribute show

An action-packed interactive treat of song, dance, frosty fun & REAL, FALLING SNOW

Thurs 9th April - 10.30am
Wests Leagues
☎ 4628 4188
Tickets: $14pp

Kids Disco

Thursday 16th April
11am – 1pm • $5 entry
includes free soft drink, games, dancing, and prizes to be given away!

Keep the kids entertained these school holidays!!

Tickets available now from reception
Phone 4628 4188 for further details