Together we learn, participate and strive every day to achieve our best.

**Julie’s Jottings......**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Many thanks to all of you who have volunteered to help in the classrooms – teachers are looking forward to you supporting student learning from week 6.

**Speech pathology and multiculturalism**

Kate, our speech pathologist is looking forward to meeting you and talking about ways she and you can help your child to communicate. After her talk, please stay and become involved in our multicultural handbook. We’d like to include all significant days for our community throughout the year, and need your help to identify what is important to you! See you from 9.30am on Tuesday, August 25 in the staffroom.

**2015-The year of the survey!**

As we keep looking at ways to improve our school, I would like to invite all parents to participate in an online survey. The survey will open from August 25, and a link to the survey will be sent home to our families. You are most welcome to access the survey in the morning or afternoon when you bring your child to school. We look forward to your opinions regarding the way we work together for our students.

**Red Class**

Red Class has moved into their new room and the students are enjoying their extra space. Thank you to Mrs Armishaw who worked so hard during the holidays to have the room ready for the start of Term 3.

Julie

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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).

**SPEECH PATHOLOGY AT PASSFIELD PARK SCHOOL**

I’ve had the pleasure of working with the staff and students here at Passfield Park School since Term 1 of this year. It has been wonderful to get to know the students, and I am excited to now be greeted by name by many of the children when walking around the playground at lunchtime.

Some of the goals I have been working on with students (individually, in small groups, and in whole classes) includes:

- PECS - Picture exchange to request items.
- Conversation/ Social Skills.
- Speech Sound Production and speech clarity.
- Use of iPads for communication.
- Reading and writing skills.
- Sign language and other alternative communication systems.
- Language skills - such as following instructions, improving vocabulary and assist with sentence structure and grammar.

Week 7 of this term coincides with SPEECH PATHOLOGY WEEK. To celebrate, I will be hosting a morning tea for parents/carers at the school on Tuesday August 25, 2015 at 9:30am in the staffroom. I feel this would be a great opportunity to get a chance to meet families and carers and to discuss with you the communication programs currently happening at the school.

I’d be more than happy to answer any questions, and I would love to show you some of the great work we’ve been doing!

I hope to see you there

Kate Meredith
Purple Class

On the first day of school this year, Purple Class began using a counting chart to record the number of days they had been at school. To encourage participation and ensure the activity was motivating for each student, we decided the class would celebrate when we reached our 100th day of school. It has proved to be a popular activity and each day a different student has had a turn to write the next number on our chart. The excitement started to build as our 100th day approached with all students happily offering suggestions for our party and Maths activities. On Monday July 20, Purple Class celebrated their 100th day by having fun with a variety of counting songs and activities on the interactive whiteboard followed by a party where the fairy bread and cupcakes covered in hundreds and thousands were a favourite. We have now started a new chart and everyone is excited at the thought of reaching 200!

Purple Class had a wonderful time celebrating Education Week last week. Our class enjoyed participating in a variety of Indigenous games and art activities. It was lovely to see so many parents and visitors enjoying the activities and a BBQ lunch with the students. Thank you to all those who attended. We hope you enjoyed your afternoon with us. Purple Class would also like to thank Mrs Armishaw for organising such a great day!

Cheryl, Rob and Jenny

Pink Class

In Week 2, Pink Class started attending Yotala Gym for weekly gymnastic sessions. All students are really enjoying using the great variety of equipment and are participating eagerly in the diverse range of activities. After completing circuits involving crawling, climbing, balancing, jumping, swinging and rolling students are happy to finish the session laying on the air floor while it is being inflated and then bounce and jump on it.

This term, Pink Class also started participating in a canteen program where students purchase snacks from Sarah Redfern PS canteen in order to learn how to request items and exchange money for requested items. Students are communicating their request to the canteen staff by using photos, Picture Communication Symbols (PCSs), a voice output communication aid (such as an iPad or Tech talk) or spoken language. They are gaining satisfaction and a sense of achievement and independence through the freedom to make their own choices and then purchase it themselves.

To increase opportunities to improve turn taking, communication and social interaction we have been playing games including, ‘Beetle’, ‘Pop-up Pirate’, ‘Mr Potato Head’, ‘Puppy Chase’ and ‘Tornado Train Domino Drop’. Students have been participating enthusiastically in these games with a peer and an adult.

During Naidoc Day celebrations, students had fun throwing pool noodles like spears, using ball throwers like woomeras, throwing bean bags and completing art and craft activities.
High School Classes

High school students have continued to work well on their class and stage programs. Students are broken into groups to complete activities in Key Learning Areas such as Food Technology, Geography, Design and Technology and Personal Development, Health and Physical Education.

Throughout Term 3, high school classes are combining for sport and travelling each Monday to Eagle Vale Leisure Centre for swimming. Students and staff break up into supervision groups for travelling to and from the pool and getting changed. As part of the swimming program, students work with staff members to practice floating and different swimming skills and techniques while others play ball games as a group. Students are also working on their independent living skills such as staying with the group, safe travel, drying and dressing themselves, brushing their hair and looking after their personal belongings.

Students have begun to work on personal design and technology projects. They were given the choice of either creating an artwork spelling out their name or a 3D foil print canvas. Students were guided in planning their projects by choosing images and colours. Each week students work on their projects as well as completing updates of their projects which are uploaded to the high school blog.

High school students are also beginning a new playground activity roster to give them greater choice over the activities they engage in during their breaks. All students were given the choice of different activities which will take place on a daily basis either in the games area or on the bike track. This includes cricket, soccer, football, drawing and colouring, ball games and board games.

Yellow Class

It was lovely to start the term by celebrating Naidoc Day with lots of fun activities. There were games, painting, weaving, drawing and food tasting. Some of us even tried kangaroo meat. It was great to have some of our families join us for the day.

In class, the students have all been working hard in English and Maths each day. They have all made progress with sound and word recognition and are using these skills to work out new words in their readers. In Maths, they are learning to add groups of objects together and take away objects to find the answer. Students are also using the Reading Eggs and Skoolbo programs on the computer as well as programs on the iPads to enhance their learning.

In Science, we have started a unit on The Five Senses. So far we have looked at sight and went for a walk around the school to see what we could see. We have made coloured binoculars to see things through different coloured glasses and tried walking in the classroom with our eyes closed to experience what it is like to be blind. In Visual Arts we are exploring colour. We have tried mixing colours together to find out what colours we can make. This week we are starting softball for sport and are looking forward to trying out our batting skills.

Alison and Michele

Amanda, Diana, Glenda, Julie B, Kris, Mandy, Olena, Rami, Sukhraj and Terry
Red Class

A fun and active day was had by all as the students of Red Class who participated in the various events on Tuesday, July 28 along with their family and friends. The day’s activities of Australian Aboriginal (Indigenous) art, craft and games had a strong emphasis on participation and fun. The day was a great success with everyone having a go at all the activities offered. Cassandra and Nusayba particularly enjoyed having their faces painted and wearing their bandanas which they had decorated. Dipta and Mahib enjoyed throwing noo-dles at animal targets, while Ben and Aidan liked throwing beanbags into hoops. Rebecca particularly liked spraying paint to make hand printing. Red Class also enjoyed the barbecue, kangaroo meat tasting and damper (bread) with honey.

Silver Class

Last Thursday, Silver Class attended their very first gymnastics lesson at the PCYC in Minto. The class followed a circuit which involved jumping on a mini tramp, stepping over hurdles, walking across a suspended beam, stepping or jumping on coloured discs, rolling down a mat and crawling through a tunnel. The highlight of the lesson was lying on a huge mat while it inflated and then bouncing on it with the staff. Everyone participated and thoroughly enjoyed all activities.

Our university student, Kimberley, has been teaching a unit called ‘Under the Sea’ for Creative Arts and Science. Each student helped paint the ‘sea’ mural and each week they add beautiful sea creatures to this mural. So far they have made seaweed, coral, painted shells and sharks. The mural looks beautiful on our classroom wall and our students often admire their artwork. In HSIE this semester, our topic is ‘This Is Me Part 2’ where we focus on our class and the school environment. We are currently learning the names of all the students in the infants classes and the names of the different areas of our school. The students particularly love naming or selecting photos of their peers on the IWB.

Belinda, Di, Sharon and Kimberley

Advanced Warning
Special Needs Community Expo
October 14, 2015

In conjunction with Beverley Park School, Mary Brooksbank School and the Mary Brooksbank School P&C, we are holding a Special Needs Community Expo at Mary Brooksbank School. Information on a range of services relevant to our students and families will be available including social isolation, lack of transport, restricted or no access to technology and language barriers. Further information will become available closer to the date.
Orange Class
This term, Orange Class is plunging into the deep sea ocean as we are learning about ‘Sea Creatures’ during Science. The students enjoy learning about the different characteristics of all the animals, watching videos of them in their environments and making sea animals during craft. Many of the students have been working hard during Literacy and Numeracy and have scored high points on Skoolbo and Reading Eggs. Joshua has shown great interest using the computer as he is learning these new programs and learning to type. Billy and Darren have also shown off their awesome skills in cooking as they have been making fried rice. Orange students have shown great improvement in their communication as Passfield Park School is focusing on building and improving students’ communication systems. Tia, Jamie and Zion enjoy their speech therapy sessions as they practice their new skills and Zion has been using Proloquo2go very effectively. Addison is beginning to use his new Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS) book in the classroom. Sarah and Narelle

Check out our school website
www.passfield-s.schools.nsw.edu.au

Pirate Day
Last term, primary students enjoyed wrapping up their H.S.I.E program on ‘Places’ with a Pirate Day. They all enjoyed reading their treasure maps and following the trail around the school to find the hidden treasure chest whilst participating in some fun activities along the way. Such as, Pirate dancing, direction games, craft and dressing up like pirates. A special thank you to all the families who were able to join in on the day and help celebrate their child’s learning with us. The children had a great time.