Diary Dates………

Feb 29  Pyjama Day and Parent Meeting
Mar 1  Vaccinations for Year 7 students
Mar 9  Companion Card team visiting
April 8  Last day of Term 1

by introducing other parents who speak many different languages. Don’t be shy- come and join in!

Pyjama Day
All students and staff are encouraged to come to school in their pyjamas on Monday – we’re asking for a gold coin donation and are collecting for AASS.

New toilets
I am very excited to share the news that our toilets are going ahead very soon. The builder has been appointed, and I am waiting to hear from them with finalised dates for construction. The building works will be disruptive at times but we are all looking forward to the new facilities – watch this space!

Contacting teachers
As many of you know, our teachers work hard all day at school and are off class one day each two weeks (RFF). On these days, they often try to schedule individual education program meetings with parents and carers. Please make every effort to attend these meetings, as teachers have to meet with each student’s family, and it is often hard to organise a new time.

If you need to talk to the teachers, please make an appointment through the office or communication book, as teachers are busy teaching during school hours and cannot take phone calls. Sometimes, especially for overnight excursions, teachers have shared their personal phone numbers with families. I would ask you to respect this sharing and not call/sms teachers on their personal numbers after the specific event. Thank you.

and finally…
Please, please label all clothing and other belongings! Swimming scheme is coming at the end of term for our primary students, and we really need everything labelled with your child’s name. Thank you!

Kind regards
Julie

Check out our school website
www.passfield-s.schools.nsw.edu.au
Blue Class
Blue Class is settling into 2016 well and have enjoyed getting to know me and SLSO, Narelle. Students have been involved in a range of activities already and are looking forward to upcoming, exciting events including food technology classes and work experience.

So far this term, we have made pancakes coloured with blue food colouring. These were a big hit with most students in the class, Chance and Luke especially liked the pancakes and wanted to make them every week. Aimee and Raya were a little unsure of the blue colouring but were happy to try some plain coloured pancakes.

Keeghan, Blair and Jesse were excited to help me to learn the words to the school song and school pledge, enjoying taking turns up the front to be the music instructors before heading to assembly.

Whilst we are on the topic of music, this is Jayden M’s favourite subject so far, he and Kurt have shown great skills and talent when working with music teacher, Akino playing a range of instruments to new and old songs.

Orange Class
The start of the school year has been a busy and exciting time for Orange Class. There have been lots of smiles as the students get right back into their school routine – completing their everyday Literacy and Numeracy work, participating in gymnastics and singing their hearts out in music therapy. Orange Class has started a new Science unit called “Toys at Play”, and students have been enjoying making and playing with their own toys. Last week, we made puppet theatres to learn about “push” and “pull” – they look fabulous! Another highlight at school has been snack making.

The students have enjoyed making their own cruskets with Vegemite or jam – sometimes they even make them especially for their teachers to eat! Everyone is settling in beautifully in the new classroom.

Orange Class has been trying really hard to make new friends – they are all so kind and friendly to each other, which is lovely to see. We look forward to a great year full of hard work and fun!

Silver Class
We have four new students who have joined Silver Class. Welcome Amani, Abbie, Aban and Mahee and their families to our Passfield Park School community. We look forward to working with the students and their families. It was lovely to see so many of you at ‘Meet the Teachers/Meet the Parents/Carers Night’. Over the next couple of weeks, we will be arranging Individual Education Plan (IEP) meetings where we will plan with you, your priorities for your child for the next twelve months.

The students have all settled in well to the new school year and we are particularly pleased with how well our new Kindergarten students have quickly learnt the routines of the school and the classroom. Silver Class students have gone to whole school assemblies and are doing very well at sitting through the entire assembly, learning when to stand and how to go up on to the stage, shake hands and receive their awards. Music Therapy has proved very popular with Silver Class and they look forward to this each week. Another highlight of the week is sing-along on Friday afternoons where students take turns to choose a song for the school to sing together. The students really love music and this supports them in learning many concepts. The students are working hard in class, counting and recognising numerals, learning to read and play.

We have had a student, Nicole, with us who is studying Education Support over the last few weeks and her work with the students has been invaluable. Next week will be her last week with us and we will miss her.

Don’t forget Pyjama Day on Monday!

Danielle and Narelle

Silver Class

Blue Class

Orange Class

Silver Class
**Pink Class**

Congratulations to Pink Class who won the first best class at assembly for the year. We are participating in gymnastics at Yotala Gym Minto where students’ favourite activities include the beam and trampolines which are part of a circuit involving crawling through tunnels, climbing over obstacles and jumping.

This semester, Pink Class is studying water, nutrition and workers in the community. Students have enjoyed exploring how we use water and participating in experiments using ice and water and creating patterns with food colouring to see how paper absorbs water. As part of the nutrition unit students have looked at foods that are good to eat and foods that are sometimes foods even if they taste really good.

*Sarah and Michele*

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**Purple**

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

Students from Purple Class English group enjoyed their recent trip to Hungry Jack’s to meet with a high school class from Beverley Park School. Each of our students will be allocated a Beverley Park student who will become their pen pal. The two classes plan to meet twice a term and use our schools' connected classrooms to get to know each other. Through the use of the connected classrooms’ technology, our students will be able to sit in their own classroom and see and speak to their peers in their classroom at Beverley Park School. Students will be writing to each other as part of their English program and are looking forward to making lots of new friends. Congratulations Purple Class on a great start to the new school year. We are looking forward to an enjoyable and rewarding year working with you.

*Di, Sarah and Julie B*
Green Class

Amanda, Rob and Sharon are very excited to welcome students, families and carers to Green Class 2016. Green Class is the home room for Aaron, Jacob, Kaati, Norm, Taylor and Tony. Our high school timetable continues from 2015, students are at times broken up into groups for English, Maths, subjects and community access. This has been a huge success so far with students calmly transitioning from one classroom to another and engaging with all high school staff.

Green Class hit the ground running in 2016 starting our cooking, crunch and sip and canteen programs from Week 1 which has helped Green Class students settle back into school routines quickly. We also celebrated Tony’s birthday in Week 3 as he turned 14 and Sharon’s birthday in Week 5!

Green Class has transitioned their reward system over to the Class Dojo program available as an application for smart devices and an online website. Some students are using tick charts along with Class Dojo to provide a meaningful representation of their points earned.

Green Class will also be using the application/website SeeSaw – An Online Education Journal so that families and carers can keep up to date with students’ activities in the classroom. Notes will be sent home shortly to help families and carers set up this program which aims to strengthen home – school connections, learning and communication.

Amanda, Rob and Sharon

Red Class

Well done Red Class! You have all settled into class activities and are all striving to expand your learning. Vito particularly enjoys the successes when working on independent activities. Ben and Nicholas have been a delight in activates as they progress through the Reading Eggs Program. Mikayla and Mayss have really liked working independently with folder activities. Rebecca and Aidan were very creative in Music Therapy.

The students of Red Class have been enjoying Pamela Allen’s book ‘Who Sank the Boat?’ They have listened to the story and created artwork. All the class enjoyed the experiments to find out which animal sunk the boat. We used a small plastic container (the boat) floating in a tub of water, with plastic animals (cow, donkey, pig, sheep and a small mouse) to re-enact the events of the story. All waited for their turn and were very careful in placing their animal into the boat. All students enjoyed the sinking of the boat and their enthusiasm continued as they requested and participated in the many re-enactments of the events.

Cheryl and Jenny

Yellow Class

Welcome to Yellow Class for 2016. Everyone has settled in well to our class routines and they are already working hard with Literacy and Numeracy lessons. We all enjoy Music Therapy with Akino and going to gym on Thursdays. We are also working hard on following the school rules and earning Class Dojo points each day. This week we set a class goal to reach 500 points and we achieved this by Thursday. Well done Yellow Class! Don’t forget to sign up to Class Dojo so we can share with you, what we are doing in class. As a class, we are reading the book Handa’s Surprise and learning about the animals and fruit in the story. We are also studying nutrition in our health lessons and talking about healthy food and sometimes food. In science, we have been doing experiments using water and in history, we are learning about workers in the community. This term we have celebrated Dylan’s 11th birthday, Jesse’s 10th birthday and Tamzid’s 9th birthday. Happy Birthday!

Alison and Mandy