Dear Parents and Carers

The return this term for staff, students, parents and the community saw a very different appearance to our school. An enormous amount of work was completed over the holiday period and works are ongoing. Two demountable classrooms were installed in the high school bike track playground, resulting in the need for a new playground. The new playground is behind the existing area, at the side of Sarah Redfern High School cricket pitches. The playground area has been mostly covered with astro-turf; shade sails have been erected this week over the eating tables. The students are loving their new open space and have been very active in varying games and ball activities.

A new walkway to the front office now means the gradient is compliant to Australian Standards. Handrails and an awning will be installed soon. The external fire hydrant was fully replaced and is now to standard and operational. The main building block of the school was fully re-roofed. Privacy screening to all playgrounds has been installed.

Our charity, Passfield Park Kids Inc. was set up in 2013 to support the therapy needs of our students. The committee meet once each term. If you would like to find out more or be a part of this wonderful charity, please call Cheryl (in the office).

On Thursday, 24th October, the Education Minister, Hon Sarah Mitchell, visited Passfield Park School to chat with staff regarding our concerns of the current site and the future proposed upgrade. The Minister was clear in following up our concerns with Department personnel and is committed to making Passfield Park School the best it can be. It was a positive visit and we appreciate the Minister taking time out of her busy schedule.

Teachers are busy writing end of year reports for all students which will go home at the end of term. We will be celebrating our Year 12 leavers at their formal on 29th November and I look forward to seeing you all at Presentation Assembly on Tuesday, 10th December where we will celebrate our wonderful students.

Kind Regards,

Wendy Low
Principal
Silver Class

Silver Class has a very exciting Term 4 planned! We are thoroughly enjoying our return to swimming each Friday at Beverley Park School. We have already seen some big improvements with students' safety around water and swimming skills making this a very valuable program for all! Silver Class is also practising the skills we have worked hard on all year at the playground in Currans Hill. This opportunity enables students to generalise skills such as staying with the group, following transitions, sharing and being kind and friendly across various environments.

Our academic program has a strong emphasis on encouraging verbal language this term. Every student deserves recognition for their increased language skills from increased verbal approximations to growing verbal vocabulary! We continue to explore celebrations this term and have covered Diwali, Halloween and Remembrance Day so far. Students showed a strong enthusiasm for the Diwali tradition of making a Rangoli. We responded to students' enthusiasm by completing individual and then two whole class Rangoli artworks.

Amanda, Lucinda and Di B

Pink Class

This term, Pink Class has been learning about seasons and the weather changes that seasons bring. We have been reading and studying The ABC Book of Seasons and have made some sensational multimedia artworks that reflect the weather we have observed every day – sunny, rainy, cloudy and windy. As spring is the growing season and the season for flowers, we have learnt about how flowers grow and have planted our own to watch them grow.

As Term 4 is a busy time for special days and commemorations, students have learnt about different events that are celebrated in the community. We made paper lanterns for the Diwali Hindu Festival of Lights, we made Jack O’Lantern pictures for Halloween and have taken part in our school’s Remembrance Day assembly. As Christmas approaches, our class has already entered local art competitions for Christmas card designs. We would love our parents and caregivers to share with the class, the special days your families celebrate and would love for you to share photographs of your child celebrating. We look forward to your contributions in the following weeks.

Marlene, Mandy & Jeanette
This year has been such a fun and eventful year, full of wonderful memories. We have explored, laughed, sang and grown up together. It has been a pleasure to watch students’ social maturity growing. This is evident in the morning when they come into the classroom and unpack their bags and changing the class visual timetable with increasing independence. Students continue to use the *Bucket Filling and Zones of Regulation* strategies to help them to grow in kindness, self-control, resilience, and forgiveness. We shared news about the weekend on Monday mornings and it was exciting to watch students confidently standing up to share their news. We also explored ways to keep ourselves safe and discussed who the safe strangers are in our local community. Students have greatly enjoyed the weekly visits to Minto Mall. Music, sports, swimming and cooking remain the favourite programs for all students. We would like to thank all parents for supporting the students’ efforts throughout the year and wish everyone all the best for next year.

Tapiwa, Michele and Kris
Green Class

Green Class has had yet another great term. We have been able to start a swimming program. This allows us to not only have a great time swimming in the pool but to also focus on important water safety and life skills. We all have a ball swimming and we are all very excited to participate each week. Each Wednesday, we also split into our community access groups, where we are able to put some of our community skills into practice. On top of our fun outside the classroom, we have also been learning about different forms of transport and their role in our society. We are also discovering different famous Australians, exploring what their achievements are and how they become famous. The end of the year is fast approaching. Congratulations to all the students in Green Class for a productive year and enjoy the holidays.

Alana and Nicole

Orange Class

Orange Class has had a fantastic term. We have continued to hone our physical skills during Special Olympics each Thursday. This term, we are experimenting with electronic instruments with our friends from Rhythm Village. On Wednesdays, we are continuing to split into our community access groups and improve upon our independent living skills. On Thursdays, we have been accessing Minto Mall to practice buying and eating lunch out in the community. It has been an amazing year in Orange Class and I wish the students all the best for 2020!

Cameron and Julie
Congratulations to Blue Class students on a fantastic start to Term 4. One of the highlights of this term has been the commencement of swimming. Each Friday, the boys in Blue Class travel by school bus over to the pool at Beverley Park School. They then enjoy an hour session in the pool where they engage in physical and leisure activities. Blue Class students have continued study on the text ‘Charlie and the Chocolate Factory’. Each week the students study a chapter of the text and look at an integral character within the text. So far we have studied Augustus Gloop, Violet Beauregard and Veruca Salt. During History, Blue Class has continued studying the history of man-made and natural landmarks of Australia. Over the coming weeks, we will be looking at celebrations around the world and enjoying a range of hands on activities to solidify the learning we have conducted throughout the year. Rami and I would like to congratulate all the boys on a very successful year in Blue Class. We wish you all the very best for the remainder of the term and the coming year.

Holly and Rami
White Class has been having a wonderful term so far. Community access excursions have included a picnic at Bowral, ten pin bowling and we enjoyed seeing Arctic Justice at the cinemas this week! We are back in the kitchen cooking and have made some wonderful smoothies. Ask us about our healthy banana breakfast smoothie, it was delicious! We are working hard and practicing Zimbole, our body percussion song for our performance at the Week 8 school assembly. We are learning about bushfires this term in Science, learning all about stop, drop and roll and the items that we need to include in a bushfire survival kit to help keep us safe. The most exciting thing this term has been going out onto the new high school playground! The new pretend grass is soft and spongy!

Karen and Rob