**Special points of interest:**

**Term Dates**
- The last day of term 1, 2010 is the 1st April
- Term 2 begins 20th Apr 2010 and ends 25th June 2010.
- Term 3 begins 20th July and ends 24th Sept
- Term 4 begins 11 October and the school year ends 17th Dec 10

**Principal’s Message**

“Albus Dumbledore had got to his feet. He was beaming at the students, his arms opened wide, as if nothing could have pleased him more than to see them all there.
‘Welcome!’ He said ‘Welcome to a new year at Hogwarts. Before we begin our banquet, I would like to say a few words. And here they are: Nitwk, Bludder, Oddment, Tweak!
‘Thank you’

Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone By J.K.Rowling

**Welcome back to the 2010 school year.** I look forward to being the Principal and building on the successful outcomes the school has achieved over the years. I hope to develop a strong collaboration with all members of the school community by working together to provide the best possible opportunities for students.

My past experience has taught me that without a strong partnership between school and home environments, student outcomes become limited. Therefore, we must develop a strong collaboration between the two environments. Parents and Guardians are more than welcome to contact me anytime at the school. I look forward to meeting with you.

**Educational Success : Tips for Parents**

_Educational research clearly states that for a child to be a success at school, it requires a strong collaboration between the student, teachers and parents/guardians. “The foundation for collaboration must come from a belief in a relationship of openness, trust, and support within the school community; parental involvement in the school decision-making processes, a belief in the need for personal development, and the evolution of the curriculum to serve the needs of all students.” (Ashman & Elkins, 2002,p.33)_

Thus, the Principal’s report will now include information on a range of educational topics to assist in the development of greater collaboration to support your child’s education.
Take an interest day to day

Getting involved with your child's education at any school doesn't have to be difficult. Verona School has an open door policy that allows both parents and guardians to feel welcome within the school community. The school encourages parents and guardians to take an active interest in their child’s education.

There are some simple things you can do to show your interest:

- ask about your child's homework - when work is due and whether they need any help with anything
- ask your child to tell you five points they learnt at school during the day.
- ask about their future dreams
- curriculum plan or talking to teachers find out the topics your child will be studying each term by looking at the school's

Verona welcomes our new Assistant Principal

Newly appointed Assistant Principal, Mr Jeff Walster is looking forward to working with the staff and students at Verona. Formerly Head Teacher Student Welfare at Prairiewood High School, Mr Walster enjoys working with students and their families so that students can be “the best that they can be.” That’s my motto for all students says the former Head Teacher PDHPE who has taught in many schools over the past 21 years.

Mr Walster welcomes any parents to contact him at the school for any advice or help with students and their learning.

Verona School Staff at the Staff Development Day in January 2010  Devel-

FUN SPOT

Don’t forget our Breakfast Program

Breakfast is supplier each morning from 8:45 to 9:00am. We have toast with vegemite, honey or jam.

Keep track of building projects

The BER works at our school are complete. We are now using the new driveway as the drop off zone for our students and it is proving to be a success.

New rules for children in cars

A reminder that from March 1 children up to the age of 7 must travel in approved child car seats or wear restraints. These new laws have been passed to address the high rate of injuries from children travelling in cars.

Research shows that younger children using adult seat belts greatly increase their risk of injury. For around $100 for a booster seat, families can reduce the risks and save lives.

The RTA has produced an information brochure to assist in choosing suitable child restraints and seats. The free Safer Child Restraints Guide is available from motor registries or on 1800 060 607 or www.rta.nsw.gov.au/roadsafety/children/childrestraints/. This page also includes all information on the new laws.
**Class 1—Teacher: Craig Wheele**

As this is my first year at Verona, I would like to initially say how welcoming the staff and students have been. It has been a fantastic start to my teaching life here and I look forward to many more!

I have been teaching for just over 12 years and have only recently returned to Australia from the United Kingdom. I was teaching in a few special schools in inner city London. After 7 years there, I have moved back to Australia and I’ve been lucky enough to get a job at Verona!

Our class at the moment has four students. They are Louise, Jayden, Leon and Matthew. They have all started the school year with a range of positive learning outcomes and determined attitudes. With Verona being a reintegration school I am very pleased to say that for the majority of my students, they are doing quite well at their home schools and are looking forward to either more days / hours or a full time program in the not too distant future. The students are learning to use the interactive whiteboard, which provides amazing visuals for the students and is an excellent resource for Verona. With further development in this area I can foresee the students enjoying their schooling even more. I hope you had a great summer, I hope to meet you all very soon!

**Class 2**

Classroom Two – The Kelpies

Classroom two or ‘The Kelpies’ as they have named themselves is one of the smallest and intimate classes in Verona School. We have commenced the School Year with a challenging and engaging programme taking a ‘holistic’ approach in teaching. Our new teaching facilities comprise the latest ICT technology from Smartboard technology to PC hardware inside the classroom. We are also involved in a re-integration programme with staff liaising and monitoring the student at their home school. The school year looks to be an exciting and rewarding year for both students and staff.

**Class 3**

Bennelong is Class 3’s new name. It was chosen because Bennelong, an Aboriginal, showed a lot of insight into establishing a link between his people and Governor Phillip in the early days of Australia. He was courageous in traveling to another country and meeting the King George III.

In Bennelong Class we have been working on a unit called Shrek. It looks at different approaches to fairytales and the student have enjoyed the humour in the story. We have also been studying Ancient Societies in HSIE. At present, the class is focusing on Rome. It has been interesting learning about how Rome has influenced present day society.
Verona school faces changes

BY MICHAEL CHAMMAS
03 Feb, 2010 09:39 AM

A NEW principal is just one of several changes this year at Verona School in Fairfield. Robert Patruno will join new assistant principal Jeff Walster at the school, which caters for 21 pupils at full capacity.

Verona School supports pupils in years 5 to 8 with emotional and behavioural problems, applying a 40-week program to ensure the pupils are fit to return to their regular schools.

Mr Patruno, who was deputy principal of Punchbowl Boys High School, looked forward to working with the Verona pupils and their families. "It's our goal to get these kids across the line," he said. "To help them become responsible learners and to make that transition into the wider community so they can be successful."

Another new addition to the school is the frog pond which was designed and built by the pupils last year. Teacher Helen Sim said the pupils gained a lot from the experience of building the pond. "There was plenty of team building," she said.

"They gained respect for the school and they learnt how to be environmentally friendly.

"It was quite productive and they take a lot of pride and ownership over it.

"It's amazing and very rewarding to see how these kids turn around."

Mr Walster used to be at Prairiewood High School.

"I'll be working with kids who need a lot of extra help," he said. "The goal is to try to provide that extra help so they can, hopefully, become confident enough in society."

Change of guard: New Verona School assistant principal Jeff Walster, new principal Robert Patruno, pupils Nathan Montgomery and Jayden Heys-Guest and teacher Helen Sims in front of the school's new frog pond which was designed and built by the students.

Picture: Wesley Lonergan