From the Principal

Welcome back everyone to the 2013 school year. I look forward to the working in the role of Relieving Principal and build on the successful programs and outcomes that the school has achieved.

A warm welcome back to the students at Verona School in 2013, and a special welcome to our new students; Fernando Gonzalez, Natasha Dupond, Tamara Hart and Slash Merritt. We are looking forward to working with all students in achieving their learning outcomes and integrating back to a mainstream setting or alternative educational setting.

Welcome back to the staff of Verona School. The school community also welcomes new staff members Ms Kylie Jones and Ms Kelly Bamford and wish them all the best for the upcoming school year.

A strong partnership between school and home is vital to meet the needs of students. This partnership requires trust and support and is formed to meet the needs of students. At Verona School we look forward to developing or continuing this partnership with new or current parents/carers and remind you that you are always welcome to contact me any time at school.

The ‘Seven Elements of Expectations” will continue to be adopted as the Verona School philosophy. Students have been able to use this philosophy in a positive manner to help them reflect on their behaviour and gain the courage to change.

Seven Elements of Expectations

- Respectful
- Responsible
- Safe

- Choice
- Reflect
- Resolve
- Restart

Teaching and Learning

Verona School has organised many exciting teaching and learning opportunities this term to support students in achieving their learning and social outcomes.

These programs and activities include:

- The Verona Interest Program which includes: Canvas painting, Fitness Instruction, Healthy Cooking Program and IPAD Technology.
- Gardening Workshops
- PCYC Sport Program
- UWS Medical Student placement
- CRS Employment workshops
- Girls Education Program
- Curriculum Excursion
- Level Three Excursion
- Level Five Excursion
- Working in conjunction with Sally from Youth Connections

School Expansion

This year will be a year of consolidation and expansion with a fifth classroom being officially opened by the end of term one. Classroom Five will specifically cater for Year 10 students currently engaged in the Verona School program with a particular focus on school to work transition and career planning.

The transition teachers, Mr Spiropoulos and Ms Jones will support individual students with interviews, course selection and work experience. This new initiative will assist student to experience success after school life. We wish the teachers and students involved in the transition class every success.

Mr Craig Wheele,
Relieving Principal
From the Assistant Principal

Welcome to the 2013 school year. My name is Mr Andrew Smith and I am the newly appointed Relieving Assistant Principal. May I firstly take this opportunity to sincerely thank all the students and staff at Verona School for making me feel so welcome.

I have also been encouraged to see all the good work done at Verona School and will continue to work hard to further develop the school’s outcomes and improve engagement.

We have an exciting semester to look forward to with many interesting and fun activities planned for all of our students.

The highlight of this term will be the opening of the fifth classroom specially designed for our transition students. We have again engaged CRS to assist the transition teachers to interview students and develop their individual career/transition plans. I would like to thank Michelle Spiros from CRS for her wonderful work with our Key Stage Five students.

Attendance
The attendance at Verona School, so far this term, has been excellent. It is very important that students attend school regularly to increase their learning and social outcomes. If your child is absent from school, please ring the school in the morning or send a note on their return. Regular attendance also increases students’ chances of attending the reward excursions. Keep up the good work!

Uniform
Verona School’s uniform policy is flexible to reflect the integrating nature of the program, therefore we allow two options. Students attending Verona School may wear their home school uniform or the Verona School polo shirt. School pants, shorts or skirts can be worn with the Verona School polo and school type shoes must be worn.

Items of clothing that is not allow includes but is not limited to:- Shorts/skirts that are of an inappropriate length, sandals, thongs, singlets, tank tops, midriff or revealing tops or excessive jewellery.

If you are unsure about an item of clothing please refer to me, as the uniform expectation at Verona School is not different to mainstream educational settings.

If your child comes to school dressed inappropriately, I will contact you to discuss the matter.

I am confident that you will cooperate and support the school to implement the uniform policy.

Excursions

Excursions are a wonderful experience that should not be missed and give students the opportunity to experience learning outside the classroom.

We must work together to ensure that excursions continue to be part of the Verona School program and that individual students continue to be eligible for participation in excursions.

This can be achieved by working towards improving social and academic outcomes and observing the ‘Seven Elements of Expectation’.

This term we will conduct a curriculum excursion and two reward excursions.

Curriculum

The Curriculum Excursion was held on Tuesday 12 February 2013. The excursion traced the steps of the explorers and convicts from the early settlement and showcased the buildings created from their hard labour.

Level Three

The Level Three Reward Excursion will be held on Tuesday 12 March 2013. The excursion will be to Madame Tussauds Sydney waxworks where we will learn about Australian icons and view their life-size sculptures.

Level Five

The Level Five Reward Excursion will be held on Wednesday 3 April 2013. The excursion will be to the Sydney Royal Easter Show. It will be the first time that Verona School has been able to offer this and I hope that students are encouraged to make their day to this wonderful opportunity access.

Mr Andrew Smith
Relieving Assistant Principal

From Class 1

Welcome back students, parents and carers, I hope you all had an excellent holiday and took the opportunity to relax and recharge for the New Year. Class One has had a few changes, we kept two students from last year Ben and Mohamed, while we have acquired Michelle and a new student to the
school Fernando. So far the interaction within the class has been exceptional, the majority of students have maintained a positive attitude in terms of their behaviour and as a result all of Class One has made Level One. From an academic viewpoint Class One is now the room where the subjects Mathematics, Science and PD/H/PE are taught.

Maths, this term is focused on patterns and algebra. This topic revisits the simple functions of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Already there have been a few students excelling in this subject area. Tamara and Fernando, both new students to Verona, have been diligent in learning new procedures and have shown an ability to produce a high standard of work.

Elsewhere, it is an exciting time in PD/H/PE as Verona School is now a part of the New South Wales Health campaign within schools. This means that as a part of the Live Life Well at Schools (LLW@S) we will slowly implement healthy educational practices to teach all students about the importance of being active and eating healthy.

On a final note, all students within Class One still have the opportunity to go on level and curriculum excursions. I hope to see the strong start by all students in Class One continue throughout the year and grow to becoming Respectful, Responsible and Safe Verona School students.

Mr Blasutto

From Class 2

A Welcome to all Staff and Students back to Verona School for another year. This year brings other new challenges for the class as we have for the first time in the school’s history a large cohort of Year 10 students participating into the Transition to Work Program. Working alongside with Ms Jones we will actively be pursuing, networking and liaising with a large body of Job Agencies and organisations to assist our students to make the transition into the workplace.

Once again we look forward to continuing our working relationship with Seema and her staff from CRS Australia Liverpool. We like to welcome Michelle Spiros from CRS Australia who will be coming out to our school every Wednesday to speak and organise with our students Work experience and Work Traineeship programs.

We also like to thank Sally from MTC Liverpool for her continue support and her presence at the School on a weekly basis. We look forward in working with her this year.

Finally, I like to wish both our old and new students in the classroom and look forward in working with them in the School Term.

Mr Spiropoulos

From Class 3

The 2013 year has had a wonderful start. It’s great seeing students start the year on a positive note.

Carolyn has embraced ICT and literacy this term. Every week she has led the school in points on Literacy Planet, which is a literacy program for middle and high school students. She has also demonstrated her natural rhythm in VIP through her progress in African drumming. She looks forward to performing later in the year.

Sharna, Issa and Dean have met the challenges of algebra in Mathematics. They have also gained proficiency in using computers for practical purposes in ICT. Sharna and Dean have explored future career prospects through Links to Learning and CRS.

Both Tyrone and Courtney have returned to school this year with a clearer vision and have begun using their time at school to prepare for their futures. It’s a pleasure to take this class. I look forward to a great year.

Mr Eldred

From Class 4

Welcome to Term 1, 2013! This term, our class is lucky to have two new teachers to Verona school, Miss Bamford and Miss Jones. We are both excited to be teaching Class Four and look forward to working with all the students both new and old. Class Four comprises of Alex, Natasha, Layla, Jeremy, Tyrone, Tamara, Scott and Slash.

Our focus this term will be Literacy and the Visual Arts. As part of the Visual Arts curriculum we are completing a unit on Pop Art and exploring different styles, techniques and forms. As part of literacy we are unpacking the film genre and will hopefully have completed our own short film by the end of the term.

Mr Spiropoulos
We've been seeing real progress in students’ understanding of Pop Art and we have been learning a great deal from all of our the students.

A big thank you to Gus our SSLO for all his hard work so far this term. I’m sure Class Four will continue to have a great term.

Miss Bamford & Miss Jones

EXTRA EXTRA…READ ALL ABOUT IT

Water
Tap water makes the best drink!
Not only is it thirst quenching, but also contains fluoride which helps make teeth stronger. Here’s what water has to offer:

- it is cheap and readily available
- it doesn’t contain any kilojoules or sugar
- It encourages optimal functions of the body

Cordials, soft drinks and sports drinks
Cordials, soft drinks, energy drinks and sports drinks are high in sugar, and often contain artificial colourings and flavourings as well as caffeine. For these reasons, cordials, soft drinks and sports drinks should be reserved only for special occasions. Too much of these drinks lead to excess consumption of sugar and kilojoules, which may lead to weight gain and tooth decay.

Take a look at the sugar content found in these drinks:
As you can see, water has zero spoons of sugar making it the best option. Choose water as a drink whenever possible.

HAVE YOU RECEIVED THE SCHOOLKIDS BONUS?
Do you know about the School kids Bonus? It is a new cash payment to help eligible families and students with the costs of primary and secondary school studies. Around 1.2 million families have already benefitted from the first wave of payments in January 2013 – have you?

If you receive a family or income support payment, including Family Tax Benefit Part A, you could be eligible to receive $410 a year for each primary student and $820 a year for each secondary student, with half paid in January and half paid in July.

The School kids Bonus replaces the Education Tax Refund (ETR) and is a much simpler system. You no longer need to collect receipts and payments are made automatically so you don’t have to wait months to make a claim via your tax return. Unlike the ETR you can choose how you use the payment to best support your children’s education – whether it be school books, stationery, uniforms, school fees, or excursions.

Check your eligibility by visiting australia.gov.au/school kids bonus and if you think you might have missed out on the January payment, contact Centrelink – either in person at a Centrelink-Medicare Office or by calling 132 468.

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<tr>
<th>Drinks</th>
<th>Teaspoons of sugar</th>
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<tr>
<td>Can of soft drinks 375 mL</td>
<td>8 to 9 tsp</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bottle of soft drink 600 mL</td>
<td>15 to 18 tsp</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fruit juice drink 250 mL</td>
<td>3 to 5 tsp</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cordial – 250 mL diluted</td>
<td>4 to 5 tsp</td>
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<td>Water</td>
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We should all aim to drink between five to eight cups of water a day. In the warmer months it is important to keep well hydrated. Always have water available when children are active. Encourage them to drink water regularly, even in cooler months.