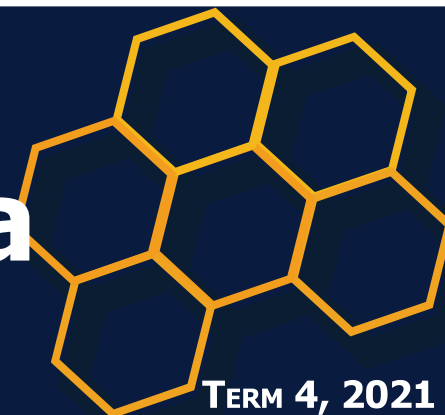


VERONA SCHOOL



The Verona Buzz



TERM 4, 2021

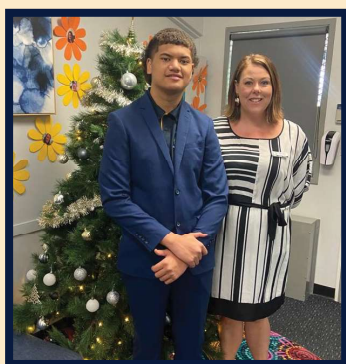
IN THIS ISSUE:



RETURN TO FACE TO FACE



CAN YOU SPOT THE VERONA ELVES?



PRESENTATION DAY

PRINCIPAL'S ADDRESS

I always feel like I start newsletter articles with a 'wow, what a term!' 'how quickly has this term gone?' 'what a whirlwind' etc and again this article is no exception!! Term 4 you have been tricky, you have been memorable, you have been fast paced, you have been challenging, you have been active, you have been busy, you have been many, many things but above all you have been SUCCESSFUL!!

We started this term learning from home not really sure where we would end up. It was a relief when our return date was announced. I want to take this opportunity to truly recognise the efforts of the Verona staff during this time. Teachers prepared and taught five hours a day worth of online lessons, they prepared paper copies, they ran competitions and organised special guests, they communicated with parents and agencies, they participated in their own professional learning activities; they did an amazing job catering for the individual learning needs of our students.

The team of special SLSO's worked tirelessly to connect with our students and their families and make sure they were ok. We had SLSO's making wake up calls, dropping work at people's houses, providing IT support, developing resources, collating packages, delivering online cooking lessons, supporting teachers in virtual classrooms and working through hours of online professional learning.

Our wellbeing team including our SSO Felicity, our counsellor Eddy and our social work students Joanna and Austin were amazing in their support of our community. Parent forum, surveys, wellbeing lesson, performances, student support, agency connection, kindness, care and compassion. They did whatever needed doing often before we even knew it was required.

The wonderful administration team kept the ship sailing full steam ahead. Soula and Jamel collected food donations from the Woolworths food rescue program and got



them out to our families. They supported families with funding applications and were on the phone from sun up to sun down. They made things happen during lockdown to ensure the school was ready and resourced for our return. The support they provided to me to ensure we could run the school remotely was incredible.

The executive team looked after everyone, me included. They were online with classes, supporting teachers with curriculum and behaviour management, finding creative ways to carry out their school plan responsibilities, planning for an EPIC 2022, meeting with parents, carers and agencies. I threw new challenges at them daily and they never said no. They constantly take my expectations and rise far, far above them. They define excellence.

This inspirational team of professionals did all this while caring for their own families, supporting their own children with online learning, while navigating their own struggles with lockdown and the world. I couldn't be prouder of each and every one of them nor could I be more grateful for their unwavering support of all things Verona.

The news of Mr Fisher's passing this term was incredibly sad and a big shock to our school community. The resulting out pouring of love and support has been a really special reflection of the impact Mr Fisher has had on our school community. I have met with his friends who live in

AND:

- Speech and OT Report
 - Photos
- AND
- More!

HAPPIEST OF BIRTHDAYS TO:

SOULA

JAI

HASHEM

CONNOR Mc

JAS

EVAN

LUCAS

LOGEN

TALIB

MIKE

AIDEN

Ms SCOTT



Sydney and have been in contact with his family in England. They have nothing but lovely things to say about our school and they were grateful that Mr Fisher had found a place he loved to work at while living in Australia. The staff and some students contributed to the Go Fund me page set up to support Mr Fisher's return to England for his burial. His family have shared with me their sincere thanks for our kindness and support. In this newsletter are numbers of agencies you can reach out to should you need to talk or need assistance.

This term we celebrated International Men's Day and White Ribbon. Both of these incredibly important days focus on our young men. On IMD we had a BBQ and completed activities about positive male role models. We want our boys to understand that its ok to feel, to have emotions, to cry. We want to promote the idea that masculinity takes on many different forms. The 'macho' behaviour of fighting and violence doesn't make you a 'man'. Similarly, our focus on White Ribbon Day was to show our support for ending violence against women. Class activities, team building games and a BBQ culminated student learning. We also supported the Share the Dignity "Its in the bag" campaign; collecting, collating and donating essential items needed by women fleeing violent situations. I am so pleased with the response of our school community to this important cause.

We have welcomed some new staff and students to Verona this term – Ms T on Class Pearson, Zeke supporting Class Fearnley and Mr Robinson who has been working across all of our classes. It is

wonderful to have you all on board. Ms Lyddiard joins us next year also and it was lovely to have her visit for a couple of days during Week 8. At the end of this year, we farewell Scott B who has worked at Verona school this semester as an SLDO. He has formed some strong relationships with our students and staff and was a big presence on the basketball court. We also temporarily farewell Ms Yana who is going on maternity leave. We are very lucky to have a strong and stable staff at Verona School. Our teachers and support staff genuinely love coming here to learn and work. Congratulations to our presentation day award winners. Your hard work and diligence throughout a tough year has certainly paid off. I am writing this article before our special ceremony but I am certainly looking forward to celebrating with you all.

At our presentation day award ceremony, we will be recognising two exceptional staff members whom I nominated for an Auburn Network Award. Congratulations to Jamel Farah and Soula Stillianesis. These wonderful women are an asset to our school and it simply would not function without their love, care, dedication and hard work. I cannot praise their effort highly enough so was grateful for the opportunity to nominate them for such a prestigious award. Thank you, Jamel, and Soula for all that you do and for being you!

2022 is going to be BIG.

We have some wonderful facility upgrades planned for our students to use (a surprise for when they return!!) and some wonderful programs to implement including Bushbred



Verona Staff celebrating Halloween.

an equine (horse) therapy program and Top Blokes a targeted programs to minimise risk taking behaviour in boys. We hope to expand on our SLC and increase parent participation in school-based opportunities. We are always looking for new community partnerships and welcome suggestions from our parents and carers.

I wish you a restful holiday. A holiday without pressure and pace. Enjoy the break, enjoy time with your family and above all, enjoy time out for yourself. School resumes for all students on Tuesday 1st of February.

MS CARLA SCOTT



INSTRUCTIONAL LEADER'S REPORT



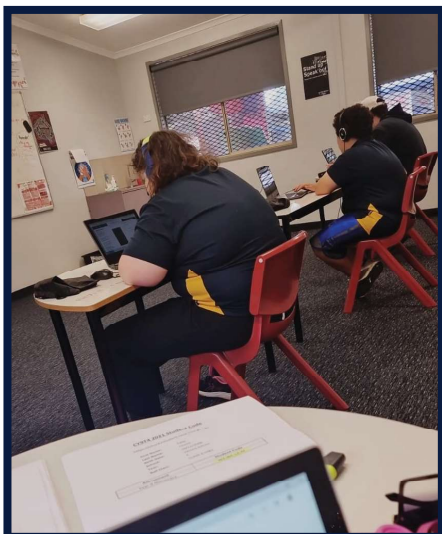
I would like to start my Assistant Principals by welcoming everyone back after the disruption of the Covid Lockdown. The students have taken the change and disruption in their stride and have settled well back into school routine, an effort for which they should be congratulated.

Due to the disruption of this term and Covid restrictions around the movement of people, Verona has temporarily suspended integration for the majority of our cohort attending their homeschool's on a Thursday. This is only an interim measure, and we are planning on resumption of integration in term 1, 2022. Integration in 2022 will have a greater focus on individual planning in an effort to tailor the experience to student need, so that we can maximise student success and chance at achieving their personal goals.

Reports this term have been modified and simplified to reflect the disruption to learning caused by the covid lockdown. There will only be one general comment by the classroom teacher which will discuss student participation and effort during remote learning and their engagement, both academically and socially on return to school. Subject teachers will grade student participation and work submission on a scale of excellent, satisfactory and unsatisfactory. The reports are designed to reflect the difficulties students faced when remote learning.

Due to the short, disrupted nature of this term I only have a few shout outs to students. From the classes I managed during lockdown I would like to single out the following students for their participation during remote learning- Michael Mhanna, Thomas Hawkins, Evran Agacayak, Bailey Hillman-Longbottom and Blade Hall. These students were consistent in attending of online lessons or submitted work regularly, well done!

MS KEHANE





AP REPORT - MR CHANG

As we welcomed back our students to face-to-face learning over this term, we have been humbled by the dedication and aptitude they have shown towards their learning. This term, we have been doing a fair amount of diagnostic testing as well as the state Check-in Assessment to collaborate data and set programs that improve students' outcomes. To those students who have dedicated themselves to trying their best during the assessments, I applaud you. With the same amount of dedication throughout 2022, you will certainly see improved results. This term we have also started



our QuickSmart Literacy program, with Alisa working with selected students to make gains in spelling, writing and comprehension. A special mention to Blade, Chrystal, Hashem, Jai and Bailey who have shown improvements in just the few weeks they have attended. As we wrap up another turbulent year, I wish you all a safe and happy holiday and look forward to working with you in 2022.

MR CHANG



AP REPORT - MR CHEBIB

As we approach the end of the year, we reflect and say what a year it was! With all the hiccups and ups and downs of 2021 we finally see the finish line. Coming back post covid, I was concerned that we would be in for a long ride. It has been everything but that! Our Verona students genuinely missed each other, and our staff couldn't wait to get back into full swing. We returned and like every other term we got busy pretty quick and found ourselves doing new things. Our class Pearson students helped with the organisation and celebration of International Men's day. This was a first at Verona, where we saw two of our class leaders Makala

Lewis and Christian Sapati cater for the whole school. They spent the whole day prepping and cooking on the BBQ. It was great to see the confidence and skills of our students and again proved to us that they have what it takes to be great future prospects in whatever field they choose.

The following week we celebrated 'White Ribbon Day' and again in true Verona style another BBQ. This time with the addition of ice-cream and the help of Leilani and Ahmed. It was impressive to see the students work cooperatively and willingly to support such a great cause. As we approach the finish line, we reflect on all our successes and all I can say is



we are in for a bigger and better 2022. Thanks for a great year and enjoy your well-earned holidays.

MR CHEBIB



AP REPORT - MR NOTT

Term 4 has been a whirlwind! From the return to face-to-face teaching, the start of Class Fearnley's amazing garden project, the new faces of support

work students, our new SLSOs, and our amazing new students. So many huge changes, so many big moments and it has all flown by! Class Peris welcomed in Robbie and Adam this term, and it has been great to see them both find their feet and settle in to learning at Verona. Robbie has demonstrated a strong understanding of technology and is already making new friends. Adam has an encyclopaedic knowledge of internet culture and loves to tell us about his favourite YouTube channels. We welcome you both to our amazing school and can't wait to watch you grow at Verona. Class Bright welcomed Laura, who has a passion for all-things sci-fi! Laura has transitioned well and I am so proud of her commitment to her education. Welcome Laura, I know you will make valuable relationships here and I can't wait to see

you full-time next year! Returning to face-to-face teaching has been tricky at times, we have all been so used to logging onto to our computers at nine am and checking in online. Returning to school has been tricky for some of us, we had to set our alarms earlier and make sure we got enough sleep. Those early morning travels into school and then staying focused for so many hours! The teachers and SLSOs have been so proud of all the effort students and their families put in to support our students returning to school. Finally, I would like to thank all of our families, carers, service providers, supporters, community and staff for the amazing effort and support you offer our students every day. Well done and see you again in 2022.

MR NOTT

CLASS TRICKETT REPORT

The year 2021 was full of adventures for Class Trickett. Upon returning from remote learning and transitioning back into face-to-face learning, students endeavoured on many class tasks and took part in several extracurricular activities.

During Halloween week, students helped decorate the classroom with bats, webs, and other Halloween décor. They authored fantastic spooky essays and illustrated some very interesting horror homes. The week ended with a "Trick for Treats" during period 5, students had to compete in challenges to win candy. We had good laughs.

Morning check in activities were great starters to their day. Students enjoyed completing the literacy activity first and followed through with Mental Math for 30 minutes each day. The Literacy activities stimulated their listening skills for a set of instructions to draw an image or complete lyrics to a song. While Mental Math wired their brain cells to perform quick calculations of order of operations, fractions, and other strands of Math. Students were well engaged in both activities and performed really well overall.

Students participated in physical activity sessions with Janine in the Gym. They looked

forward to each Friday to engage in the activities set up for them in the Gym. Boxing challenged their endurance and strength, as they partnered up with their classmates to complete sets and learn different routines: Jab-cross-hook, double jab-cross and punch. They achieved personal bests and pushed themselves further to perform better. It was remarkably interesting to see their treadmill warm-ups; the diverse types of walks-jogs-runs were sure to put a smile on anyone's face.

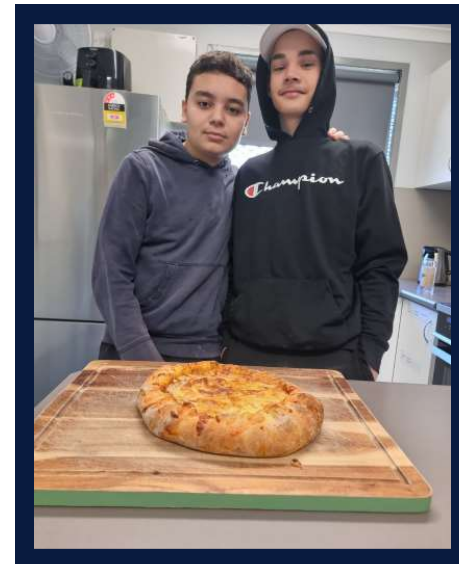
On Monday every week, students went to the kitchen in Block A to cook with Michelle. I was lucky to witness the amazing dishes Michelle arranged for the boys to make each time, from chocolate rocky-road to the science behind making honeycomb. Students really enjoyed taking part in making the dishes and then eating them once finished.

It was always game on during Basketball at lunchtime. When the bell went, students always returned to class huffing and puffing defending and justifying their loss "the other team had all the good players Ms, that's why they won." They lost a few and won a few, each day was full of reflections on how to play better for the next match.

The year has come to an end Class Trickett, I am wishing you joy, happiness, adventure, and endless positive opportunities.

Believe you can and you're halfway there.

MS GHONIEM AND SACHA



CLASS PEARSON REPORT

Hi everyone, allow me to introduce myself. My name is Donna Te Puia I have been the new teacher of Class Pearson since we all started back after lockdown this term. I am now grateful to have been given this opportunity to be part of the Verona team and contribute to the school community. I have been warmly welcomed from everyone here especially Class Pearson. Class Pearson and I have also been fortunate to have had Scott as our class SLSO. He has been valuable support and formed great rapport with the students. Change has been difficult for many so I must say Class Pearson have made positive progress here. This term we focused a lot on

reconnection and relationship building. This included communication, team building activities and learning to respect the opinions and values of others. Students have been able to learn about each other and find they have common ground. We have been learning about Poetry, it's language and how it is used as a form of protest. In Science we carried out an observational experiment, drew different lab equipment and discussed their purpose. In PDHPE we looked at various Paralympics sports and their top competitors. We also completed regular Mental Maths and Literacy. Mikala, Leilani and Christian have been involved in Visual Arts this term as part of the Reconnecting Project. They created own stencils to paint onto

canvas bags and at this moment are completing Zentangle Art activities. Mikala and Leilani have thrived in Food Technology and have enjoyed being able to prepare yummy recipes.

Our highlights this term have been forming connections in getting to know the students and seeing the gradual steps they have been making. It has been rewarding for us to see them share aspects of their personality, lives and talk about their hopes and goals for their future. As we near the end of this year we would like to see them build on these goals for next year and begin to put steps in place. It has been a pleasure coming in during term 4 to work with them. We do wish them the very best for Christmas and summer holidays, that they enjoy quality time with loved ones and please be safe.

MS T AND SCOTT B



CLASS BRADBURY REPORT

It has been wonderful to finish off a crazy year face to face with all students at Verona! Although it was so exciting to be back at school, it wasn't a very smooth transition for Class Bradbury students. We had to get back into routine and find some sort of normality but, we managed and finished off the term in a positive way. Thomas Hawkins should be congratulated for receiving the student class award for his consistency with online learning which also continued when we returned at Verona school. This term we also welcomed Ahmad Hatahet to our class who has proved to be a good learner and has built positive relationships with staff.

In class we have been working hard on our winter wonderland display and Christmas display which has brought colour and excitement. We also focused on revising important aspects of math and Literacy that we may have forgotten to practice while we were in lockdown. Talib Chami has shown he has not fallen

behind with his mathematics easily grasping new skills and even assisting others when needed.

PDHPE practical lessons have helped us get fit again as students have enjoyed engaging in lessons supported by our fitness fanatic SLSO Janine. Students got to participate in Boxing sessions, circuits and learn about different muscle groups. Kemryn Hand was a super star in our boxing sessions working hard by showing his enthusiasm to participate and correct his technique. Also, class Bradbury have enjoyed cooking up a storm in the kitchen! Kemryn and Thomas created some super scary Halloween donuts and our SLSO cooking queen Michelle has provided some delicious recipes for students to follow and learn new skills in the kitchen.

I would also like to thank Shayla who has supported all students through the term. We would truly be lost without her as she brings fun and enthusiasm to our

lessons and classroom! Unfortunately, I may not be teaching class Bradbury next year as I will be away on maternity leave therefore, I want to wish all a safe and fun break! I look forward to hearing about all students exciting learning adventures next year while on leave.

MS YANA AND SHAYLA



CLASS THORPE REPORT

Class Thorpe farewells it's Year 12 students and welcomes a cohort of junior students to the class. It was a relief to return back to face to face teaching and to see everyone again in a classroom and the playground.

Let us start with welcoming our new students to our classroom. First, I'd like to welcome Aiden who comes from Sir Joseph Banks High School. Aiden can be described as a diligent and hardworking student who is looking forward in completing his Year 12 studies and to attain an ATAR score. We also welcome Faye who is seeking career in building and construction once he completes his Year 10 studies. Finally, our youngest student to join Class Thorpe is Zaman who is adjusting to his enrolment at Verona School and participating in the wide variety of activities on offer this school term.

A shout out to Pany who has completed his Certificate I in Construction at Miller TAFE this year via remote learning and face to face learning. Pany has enjoyed the opportunities offered by TAFE learning and is continuing with his studies by enrolling in a Certificate II in Construction.

Finally, we would like to congratulate our three Year 12 students: Jordyn, Connor & Jasmine who have successfully completed their Year 12 studies under the most challenging circumstances. We offer them our sincerest well wishes in their future endeavours and tertiary education.

Class Thorpe would like to wish all our parents and carers a Merry Christmas and a Happy and healthy New Year.

MR SPIRO AND CHANTAL



CLASS BRIGHT

It has been wonderful to finally welcome our Class Bright students back to our classroom after such a long time. The students have done an exceptional job at settling back into the classroom environment and we could not be prouder of them.

This term the students in Class Bright have endeavoured to do their best in all of their subject areas. The students have thoroughly enjoyed the well-being lessons organised by our incredible Student Support Officer Felicity and her social work students Joanna and Austin. During these sessions the students have been extremely engaged participating in topics such as how to be a good friend and learning about brain development and function. Furthermore, during these sessions our student Harry Calvert has brought the Christmas cheer by participating in Just Dance Christmas addition and the students have also had fun making Christmas baubles. One of our big class projects since coming back to school has been revamping our school garden. After many long months of lockdown, our garden was in desperate need of some love and attention. Together we have trimmed the hedges, cut and pulled the overgrown

weeds, raked the garden, and continued to water the garden every morning - although there hasn't been much need due to the heavy rainfall. We have also planned which flowers and veggies the students would like to plant next year. A special shout out goes to Chrystal Barnes who has successfully completed the EVET foundations course this year. She has conscientiously engaged in and completed all tasks during the course. She is to be commended on also supporting other students and learning new skills such as how to complete an interview successfully. Well done Chrystal!

Congratulations to our two senior students, Ben and Brayden, who have officially begun year 12. The students have put on their thinking caps and have managed the senior workload exceptionally well. As the term nears the end it also means that assessment tasks are slowly creeping in. Both students have been working hard on completing their first few assessments for year 12. We wish them the best of luck for their end of term results. We are sure they will do us proud! We would also like to congratulate the students on completing their first year at TAFE. The students

have received very pleasing results and positive feedback from their automotive teacher.

As we near the end of the year, our class has enjoyed making Christmas decorations and singing to Christmas tunes. We thank our wonderful SLSO Anne-Marie for being super creative and making us a Christmas tree out of tinsel. We wish everyone a wonderful Christmas break and a happy new year!

MS CEKIC AND ANNE-MARIE



CLASS FREEMAN REPORT

What a wonderful Term 4 it has been. I was privileged to move over to the lovely Class Freeman this Term. The students settled in well after such a long-time remote learning displaying their appreciation by attending the classroom to learn opposed to online learning.

The first day back, class Freeman arrived to 'The Verona Class Freeman Ghost House' ready to celebrate Halloween week. The room was decorated with spiders, ghosts, skeletons and ghouls. To keep the Halloween spirit alive. We played Halloween games and learnt about where and when Halloween originated from ending the week with some Halloween Krispy Kreme Donuts while Trick or Treating out the front Verona gates.

As always there is never a dull moment at Verona School. In class we participated in fun classroom science experiments such as: making blue crystals and observing our

results under a microscope. We also conducted a diffusion experiment showing us how one substance spreads through another.

Tuesdays were our cooking day making delicious food ready to eat for morning tea. I think we have some future chefs in our class. We made yummy sausage rolls, muffins, Harissa chicken wings with coconut rice, chocolate croissants and cheese and spinach puffs just to name a few.

Amongst all our exciting lessons we celebrated 'International Men's Day' and 'White Ribbon Day' filled with an afternoon of whole school fun activities while we all farewelled one of our students who moved to another state.

Let's farewell 2021 and embrace 2022 with another year of learning with fun. Be safe and see you all next year

MS NARDO AND JANINE



CLASS PERIS

Well, what a rollercoaster Term 4 has been! We want to say a big thank you to all the parents, carers, and support workers for keeping our students safe and well during an extraordinary difficult time, you have all been instrumental in making sure all the students were doing okay and engaging in the online and learning from home tasks. We hope you have managed to make time for yourselves as we could not have done it without your support.

As we returned to face-to-face learning, we welcomed new friends to Class Peris who have fit into Verona life very well. Adam was the first one to join our little family and he has shown his skills in mathematics and art. He is a very imaginative student who can transport you to great places with his stories of teleportation. We have also welcomed Robbie, who has quickly made friendships and shares his love for all things related to air travel. Robbie is the best debater we have seen in a long time, and he always has a point to add to every conversation. Welcome to Adam and Robbie, we look forward to getting to know you both more in 2022.

During term 4, we have been very busy getting back into school life and routine. The students are now familiar with the morning check-in, where Class Peris all work on math mental and a fun literacy activity before we start our day. The

results from the daily math mental have been going from strength to strength, all students have seen an improvement in their recall of facts, working out skills and independent work. As many students will be heading to Year 7 next year at Verona school, working independently is a skill we have been working on, from learning to listen more closely for key information and the start of research skills has set the class up to be lifelong learners and has ensured they should transition to rigour of High school standards.

It has certainly been a year where we have all learnt to be flexible, patient, kind and grateful in the midst of a global pandemic. While things have looked a little different at Verona School this year, we are so lucky that our students have been able to attend school for the last few weeks of the school year. Thank you to everyone in our Class Peris community who has supported the students through this journey. It will be a year that we never forget as we look forward to all the great things to come in 2022. Ms Kylie and I wish everyone a wonderful holiday and a Happy New Year! We hope you all keep safe and well over the summer break and we cannot wait to see you all in 2022.

Keep Shining Bright, .

MS REDFERN AND KYLIE B.



CLASS FEARNLEY REPORT

What a year! Who would have thought we would have faced so many changes and challenges this year? This term alone we have had to face the transition back to face to face teaching under new and difficult circumstances. While it has been tough at times Adam, Charlie, Connor, Corban, Hayden, Thomas and Ty'Lah have all coped with the challenges and learnt to adapt to new and unfamiliar circumstances. They have worked hard in the classroom, and have grown closer as friends and school mates.

This term we have been very lucky to have Zeke as our class SLSO. Zeke has adapted extremely well to the fast paced and crazy environment in Class Fearnley and always goes above and beyond to help and support the students when they need it. He is always willing to listen and guide the boys and his kindness and calm nature have not gone unnoticed! Thank you Zeke for everything you have done for us this term. We have settled in to our morning routine of mental maths and literacy very well. Class Fearnley have worked hard on staying focussed and giving challenging problems a go, and the results are starting to show. We have enjoyed learning about some famous historical figures in History, algebra and data in Maths and building our skills in Science. Our highlight has been getting out onto the basketball court on Wednesday mornings to do fitness obstacles and

coordination games with Janine. Thanks Janine! Cooking has also been a highlight of our return to school with so many delicious recipes being cooked up by Class Fearnley in the kitchen on Thursdays after recess. A big thank you to Michelle for patiently guiding us through the recipes and allowing us to use our creativity! Our afternoons have been spent working on Verona's new sustainable sensory garden being constructed right next to our classroom. We have been extremely busy putting together the raised beds, bench seating and arches as well as helping our GA construct the fixed garden beds for our native plants and fruit trees. A lot of progress has been made and we are excited about getting soil and gravel in sometime soon so we can start buying and planting out native plants and our fruit and vegetables. We are hopeful that by early Term 1 of next year, the space will be ready to be used as an outdoor learning area or a calm, sensory space for those who need it! A BIG thankyou to Ms McConville for growing and donating some amazing native plants for our garden, we cannot wait until we can plant them!

It is with sadness that we said goodbye to Corban this term. As his classroom teacher for much of the last two years it has been so rewarding to see Corban grow and flourish. As a class we will miss the way he makes us laugh, his kindness and his very unique sense of humour. Good luck and best wishes Corban!



Thankyou to the wider school community for all your support this year. Have a safe and happy Christmas break. See you all in the new year!

MR SCHAEFER AND ZEKE

VERONA SCHOOL PRESENTATION DAY

Guy Zangari Encouragement Award - Isaiah Carr & Gemma Malia

Joseph Phillips Integration Award - Michael Mhanna

Outstanding Attendance - Connor Maurice-Forman & Brayden Sutton

Most Improved Attendance Award - Georgia Lumsden-Hylands

Fairfield RSL Transitional Scholarship -

- Stage 3-4 - Michael Mannile-Fox

- Year 12 - Brayden Sutton

Wellbeing Award - Connor Maurice-Forman

Sportsperson of the Year - Jai Carroll Field

Hospitality Award - Georgia Lumsden-Hyland & Eric Euridge

Class Awards

Class Trickett - Jai Carroll Field

Class Pearson - Leilani Leulua

Class Bradbury - Thomas Hawkins

Class Thorpe - Panagiotis Roussos

Class Bright - Braydan Sutton & Georgia Lumsden-Hyland

Class Freeman - Eric Euridge

Class Fearnley - Ty'lah Bell

Class Peris - Hashem El-Ayoubi

Courage to Change - Charlie Ford

Principal's Award - Makala Lewis

Student of the Year - Thomas Hawkins

Wellbeing Award - Connor Maurice-Forman

Congratulations to the graduating class of 2021:

- Connor McConville

- Jasmine Tindall

- Jordyn Willer

VERONA SCHOOL





STUDENT SUPPORT OFFICER REPORT

This year has been a whirlwind of remote and to face to face learning. The students have shown us how resilient they are.

During online wellbeing, we explored the areas of; safe online behaviours and we were fortunate to have a special guest Olympian, Chris Morgan. Chris is a professional rower, a triple medal winner who has an Autism diagnosis. Chris shared his challenges and how his diagnosis has empowered him to be successful.

The transition back to school was challenging and continuing wellbeing was a priority. The sessions were co-created and developed by the Student support officer (SSO) and Social work students. The sessions were well thought out and interactive.

Our current TAFE students have now successfully completed their studies. They received positive feedback and high grades. SSO has assisted a number of students to put in an expression of interest' for TAFE 2022.

The Hub is now been open to students during breakfast, recess and lunch. We have been lucky to receive some new resources to engage in a safe and respectful time-out. Students have loved putting together many 1000 pieces of puzzles, playing connect 4, making sculptures with kinetic sand, and games of chess.

We farewell year 12 students, Jordyn, Jasmine, and Connor. The SSO has supported the seniors in their transition out of school with resumes, a personal portfolio, and service referrals.

It is a bittersweet end to the year where we also farewell our two social work students Austin and Joanna. It has been a privilege for Verona school to have them on placement and make such valuable contributions.

Below is a message from Austin and Joanna

This term was super exciting for us since we were finally able to meet everyone properly after so so long! We have absolutely loved every day spent at school, even if it's meant having to wake up earlier.

Being able to chat with the students and getting to know them better has been really enjoyable. We have loved doing puzzles, cooking, and playing basketball with the students. We have also been helping Felicity plan and deliver Wellbeing lessons each week and it's been really nice to see all the students engaging and joining in.

The lessons we've run this term have been themed on:

Positive online behaviour

Being a good mate.

Different parts of your brain- fight, flight & freeze; and calming down.

Collaborative storytelling.

Problem-solving.

When not engaging with the students or planning lessons, we have been working on a research project aiming to understand what our parents and carers feel is currently being done well and if there were any improvements they would like to see. The results from this project will be used to help inform the future direction of the school.

We have certainly been kept busy and on our toes each day but it's been a smashing time and we wouldn't have had it any other way. Thank you everyone for making us feel so welcomed!

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy new year .



FELICITY, JOANNA AND AUSTIN



MATHS REPORT

In Problem Solving this term we have focussed on learning about different skills for using maths in living. In Stage 4 we started the unit by brainstorming different things we would like to know when we start living independently. Some of the areas the students wanted information on were budgeting, earning money, the cost of running a car, the differences between renting a whole house to renting a room in a share house.

In Class Peris, we have been looking at the cost of keeping a pet and starting a dog grooming business. The students have planned out their grooming and pet play areas, decided on their staffing needs, worked out the costs for their furry friend's day spa experience, the profit of the business for a month and of course the advertising campaign.

We have had a wonderful return to school, and it has been great to be back teaching and sharing our Maths face to face. The excitement of being back with friends, peers, and teachers to share our learning makes it even more meaningful.



MS HAYS

QUICKSMART REPORT

The Quicksmart literacy program launched in Term 4. The students who have been selected have really pushed themselves to their limits to their best learning potential. During the lessons, the students have focused on their reading, spelling and comprehension skills. They have been undergoing intensive reading, grammatical and spelling sessions together three times a week, and have already seen some terrific improvements. We are very proud of the students taking part in the QuickSmart literacy program. Also, we have been very impressed by their behaviour, self-confidence and their engagement level in their learning – and their overall performance this term. Hopefully, the momentum continues to roll on to the new year. A truly exceptional effort to the QuickSmart literacy students of 2021!!



MS ALISA



SPEECH PATHOLOGY AND OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY REPORT

In Term 4 we welcomed back our students into face to face lessons and we can't explain to you how excited we were to see all of them back. Returning to school showed us all how much we love the Verona classrooms!

This term, Speech Pathology went back into whole class lessons and we have had a lot of fun learning. Class Peris learnt about webs, word webs and how our words can be connected. Well done Michael and Baran for always engaging in the lessons and being willing to learn more words.

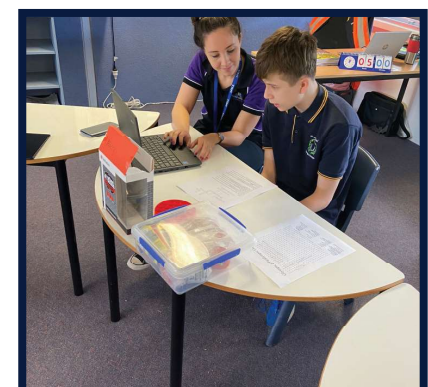
The rest of classes worked really hard on building their understanding of words that were related to travel. They continue to grow their comprehension and reading skills through reading schedules and timetables for different modes of public transport. Students played games like Taboo, Pictionary and charades to help them remember what they have learnt. Well done to Ahmed, Blade, Leilani and Georgia for your consistent hard work and contribution to the class! We can't wait to see how much you grow in 2022.

Our whole class Occupational Therapy sessions resumed in Term Four, and it has been great watching the students have fun and working to refine their skills. Both class Peris and Fearnley have loved their weekly origami activities where the focus has not only been refining

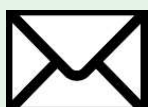
fine motor skills, but also working together and supporting others to ensure success is achieved. We have made everything from jumping frogs, to whales, transforming ninja stars and even a car! A big shout out goes to Charlie, Hayden, Ty'lah, and Hashem who have been an amazing support to their peers and are always willing to give anything a go.

Withdrawal sessions have also resumed, and allowed the individual goals and needs of students to be met. The focus for these sessions has ranged from developing whole body coordination and confidence, to discussing strategies to control / regulate emotions. Each of the students have shown amazing determination to learn and improve their skills. A big congratulations to Georgia and Chrystal for identifying personal goals and working hard to achieve them.

Thank you to all of our staff and students at Verona School for an amazing 2021 despite all of the challenges this year has brought us. Have a wonderful holiday, a happy Christmas and a safe New Year. We can't wait to see you in 2022!



GRACIE AND ERIN



KEEP IN TOUCH!

**135B FAIRFIELD STREET, FAIRFIELD
9721 0488**

VERONA-S.SCHOOL@DET.NSW.EDU.AU

WWW.VERONA-S.SCHOOLS.NSW.GOV.AU

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/NSWVERONASCHOOL