

PATHWAYS

Canterbury Vale School Newsletter

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT



It is with great pride and enthusiasm that I introduce myself as the newly appointed substantive Principal of Canterbury Vale School. After several years working alongside this incredible community, I am both honoured and excited to officially lead a school I believe in so deeply. Canterbury Vale School has long been a place of opportunity and transformation for students. As we look ahead, our shared journey continues to evolve with a clear focus on high-quality teaching and meaningful student support in wellbeing and transition.

Our school's direction is grounded in a commitment to planned, evidence-based teaching in every classroom. We are embedding practices that ensure all students receive individualised learning experiences which they can be actively involved in targeting curriculum, wellbeing and transition. The Canterbury Vale School also maintains a strong emphasis on literacy and numeracy to equip them with the foundational skills they need to thrive in the real world.

In 2025 and beyond, we are also strengthening our multi-tiered approach to wellbeing. Every student enrolled at Canterbury Vale will have access to targeted interventions whether through whole school social-emotional support and frameworks, such as our Making Choices Framework, targeted group experiences, including mentor groups, PCYC Fit for Life programs or Bushbred or individualised supports with our Care Team, that includes School Psychologist, Student Support Officer or Allied Health. We believe that wellbeing and learning go hand-in-hand, and every young person deserves the tools to regulate, grow, and succeed.

Our transition pathways remain a top priority. Every student will have a clear, supported plan to guide them from their time at Canterbury Vale into the next chapter of their lives—be it further education, VET, or employment. These pathways are not only about preparing students for what comes next, but also about empowering them to envision a positive future. Students, especially in Year 9 and 10, will actively voice their pathway to their senior years of study, engaging in mature, future focused conversations that formulate realistic goals and targets.

At Canterbury Vale School, we are incredibly fortunate to have a dedicated team of staff who consistently place students at the heart of everything they do. Each day, our teachers, support staff, and leaders come to work with one shared purpose: to support, uplift, and empower every student in our school. Their unwavering commitment, compassion, and professionalism create an environment where students feel seen, heard, and valued. Whether it's through tailored learning support, wellbeing initiatives, or simply a quiet conversation at the right time, our staff go above and beyond to make a meaningful difference. We celebrate and thank our team for the exceptional care and belief they bring to Canterbury Vale School every day.

I am genuinely excited for the work ahead, creating a inclusive school environment with the resources that enable them to have the same educational experiences as their peers but also as a place where students are seen, supported, and celebrated. I look forward to working with our staff, students, families, and community partners to ensure the success of every learner.

Warm regards,
Marco Blasutto
Principal
Canterbury Vale School

CELEBRATING ATTENDANCE

Well done to our best
attender:
Tony

STUDENT AWARDS Congratulations!

- Maths - Miriam
- English - Faith
- History - Yahya
- Science - Mohammad
- PDHPE - Fatima
- Art - Pat
- Cafe - Chantelle
- Intervention - Hassan
- School Sport - Ahmed

PRINCIPAL'S AWARD

- Miriam
- Luke
- Ahmed
- James
- Levi
- Yahya
- Chantelle
- Pat
- Faith

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ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S REPORT



As Semester 1 comes to a close, Canterbury Vale School is proud to reflect on a term filled with growth, learning, and connection. The year began with a strong focus on building positive relationships and setting clear routines, helping students settle into a supportive and engaging environment.

In Term 1, we celebrated Harmony Day — a highlight that brought the whole school together to explore and embrace the many cultures that make up our community. Students engaged in meaningful activities, shared food, and reflected on why diversity is one of Australia's greatest strengths.

Our Year 9 students also took part in a surf awareness program, learning essential beach safety skills and gaining confidence in the water. Some even stood up on a surfboard for the first time — a proud and exciting moment for all involved.

Year 10 students had the chance to tap into their creative side through a street art program at Street Uni. They explored a variety of techniques and learned how to express themselves through urban art, using stencils, and large-scale canvases to tell their own stories.

Throughout the semester, the school's mentoring program continued to provide valuable support for a group of students working on emotional regulation, goal setting, and confidence. Congratulations to Imad, Hassan, Saif, Luke, Jackson, Tamim, and Patrick for their strong participation and ongoing effort.

This term also saw the launch of a new girls program, with students engaging in weekly sessions focused on healthy relationships, communication, wellbeing, and personal growth. It's been a safe space for students to connect, reflect, and build each other up. Well done to all the girls for your participation.

Another exciting initiative this semester was the start of an Aboriginal mentoring program led by Mr Cochrane. Thank you to Jackson, Levi, Faith, and Tahliyah for their enthusiastic involvement. The whole school also participated in NAIDOC Week learning, taking time to understand why it's important to honour Aboriginal history, culture, and voices. These experiences have helped strengthen cultural awareness and build pride in identity across our school community.

As we prepare for the second half of the year, we thank all students, staff, and families for making Semester 1 such a positive and memorable journey.

Mr A Woolaston



ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S REPORT



LEARNING HIGHLIGHTS FROM SEMESTER ONE

It's been a busy and rewarding semester of learning at our school, with students engaging in a wide range of academic and wellbeing programs designed to support their growth, both in and out of the classroom.

A strong focus this semester has been on student wellbeing. All students have taken part in two social and emotional learning (SEL) lessons each week. These lessons support students in building self-awareness, resilience, respectful relationships and strategies to manage emotions and solve problems. These skills play a vital role in supporting student engagement and success in all areas of learning.

In addition, Year 10 students have begun a workplace skills curriculum during weekly lessons. This program is aimed at preparing students for life beyond school, with a focus on developing skills in job applications, communication, transport, budgeting and navigating workplace expectations. The students have responded positively to the practical and real-life nature of these lessons.

Across the school, students have been working through the core learning areas, including English, Mathematics, Science, History, Technology and PDHPE. Teachers have provided engaging lessons tailored to meet the individual needs of students, using hands-on activities, group projects, and real-world problem solving to make learning meaningful and accessible. Students have shown strong participation, and many have made pleasing progress across the curriculum.

We are proud of the effort and growth students have demonstrated so far this year. Our school remains committed to creating a supportive and engaging learning environment that helps every student thrive. We look forward to seeing continued success as we move into the next semester.

Miss E Hart

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S REPORT



CELEBRATING SUCCESS AT CVS

Term 2 has been a productive and purposeful time at Canterbury Vale School, with students continuing to engage in meaningful learning opportunities that build both academic and practical skills.

Our reading intervention programs have remained a key focus this term, and it has been encouraging to see students making steady progress. Congratulations to Hassan, who was awarded the Intervention Award for his consistent dedication to improving his reading. Hassan approaches each session with focus and a positive attitude, and his hard work is certainly paying off—well done!

Our Workplace Skills Program has continued to support Year 10 students as they prepare for the transition into employment or further study. The program provides students with real-world skills such as résumé writing, interview preparation, job applications, transport planning, and financial literacy. These skills are designed to build independence, confidence, and readiness for life beyond school.

Another highlight this term has been the Café Program, delivered each Wednesday by Mr Carty. This ten-week program gives students the chance to apply key workplace skills in a hands-on, simulated café environment. Students develop competencies in customer service, communication, teamwork, time management, and cash handling while running the café for staff. The program fosters a strong work ethic, professionalism, and valuable real-life experience.

A special congratulations to Luke Barillaro, who successfully completed work experience at Bambajya Café this term. Luke represented CVS with maturity and commitment throughout his placement—an excellent achievement.

We'd also like to give a huge shoutout to Mr. Smith, who proudly represented Queensland in the Under 19s State of Origin match this term. Mr. Smith, who also plays for the Bulldogs, is a valued member of our team and a fantastic role model for our students—congratulations on this well-deserved recognition!

Miss R Bridges



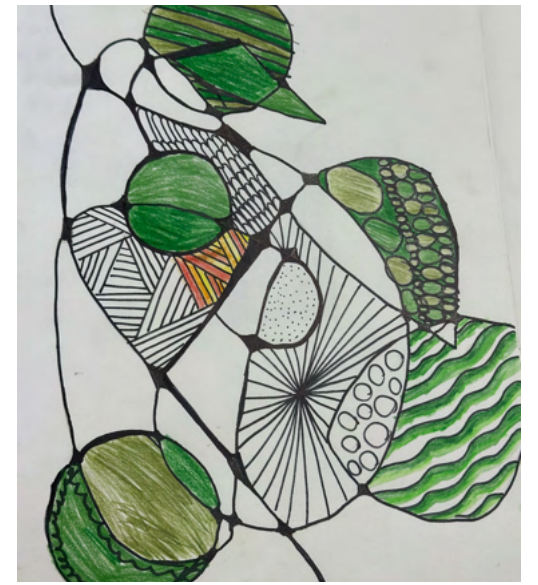
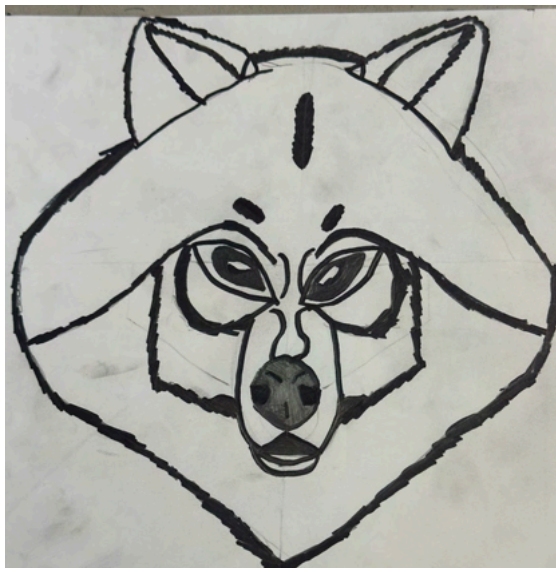
Thank you to all students, staff, and families for a wonderful Term 2. We wish everyone a safe and relaxing break, and we look forward to welcoming you all back in Term 3.

VISUAL ARTS

This term, our visual arts students took a creative dive into the theme of 'identity' by exploring portraiture. They experimented with a mix of traditional and modern art techniques, using line, shape, tone, texture, and colour to express who they are.

Students experimented with various mixed-media techniques to express their individual identities. This approach allowed them to move beyond conventional portraits incorporating materials and methods that added depth and texture to their artworks.

This term's visual arts program has been a testament to the students' creativity and introspection, highlighting the powerful role of art in exploring and expressing identity.



SCIENCE

This semester in science, students enjoyed participating in several hands-on experiments in Term 1, when they were learning about how light travels, bends and reflects.

They were able to relate these concepts to their use in everyday objects, such as cameras, glasses and mirrors. During the Term 1 topic of light and optics, several students started asking space-themed questions relating to light, so it was only fitting that this term's science focus was on space and the solar system.

Students have shown a keen interest in this area, asking lots of questions, and learning to form their own hypotheses based reasoning and background knowledge.

EXPLORING THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION: A JOURNEY THROUGH HISTORY

This term, students have taken an exciting journey back in time through our engaging History program on the American Revolution. Designed to spark curiosity and build historical understanding, the program explored the key events, influential figures, and global significance of this pivotal period.

Through the use of visuals and interactive activities, students delved into major moments such as the Boston Tea Party, the Declaration of Independence, and the crucial battles that shaped the course of the war. They also investigated the roles of key individuals including George Washington and King George III, while analysing the causes behind the conflict — from unfair taxation to colonial resistance.

The program was tailored to meet the needs of all learners through scaffolded tasks and differentiated assessments. Students demonstrated their understanding in a variety of ways, including written responses, verbal explanations, and creative projects, such as group debates and presentations. This approach supported students of all abilities, encouraging them to think critically and ask meaningful questions about the past.

By the end of the unit, students had not only developed a deeper appreciation for the American Revolution, but also strengthened their skills in historical inquiry, interpretation, and communication.

ALLIED HEALTH

This term, students have been participating in a Social Skills Program with a focus on employment readiness. The program, developed by our school speech pathologist, has guided students through every step of the employment journey — from preparing for job interviews, practising communication skills, and understanding workplace expectations, all the way to learning how to maintain a job successfully.

Through role-plays, group discussions, and real-world scenarios, students have built confidence in key areas such as active listening, professional body language, problem-solving, teamwork, and emotional regulation. It's been wonderful to watch students develop not only practical skills but also a greater sense of self-confidence and independence as they prepare for life beyond the classroom.

We look forward to continuing this work next term as students put their new skills into action!

SPORT

This semester, students from across the school came together to take part in an exciting Whole School Sport program. With a diverse range of activities on offer – including Ultimate Frisbee, NRL, NFL, and AFL – there was something for everyone, regardless of experience or skill level.

The program was made even more engaging thanks to professional facilitators, who brought expert knowledge, high energy, and a passion for sport to every session. Students had the opportunity to learn the rules, techniques, and strategies of each game, with a strong focus on building both individual ability and team cohesion.

Throughout the semester, students developed key skills such as passing, catching, strategic movement, and game awareness. More importantly, they learned about the importance of teamwork, communication, and sportsmanship – all while having plenty of fun and healthy competition.

The atmosphere was always lively, with students showing great enthusiasm and commitment each week. Whether it was chasing a disc in Ultimate Frisbee or tackling a play in NRL, the program encouraged everyone to give it their best and support one another.

Whole School Sport this semester was a fantastic way to stay active, try new things, and connect with peers through the power of play.

We look forward to even more action-packed afternoons next term!



ATTENDANCE EXCURSION TERM 1

Every term, students have a merit target to work towards. If they reach their target, they are invited on the rewards excursion at the end of term, which is always a fun day out. In Term 1, students tested out their golf skills at Holy Moly mini golf. They enjoyed the quirky setups and obstacles, especially the money blowing chute! This term, 6 students will be going to the Bubble Planet Experience at Olympic Park.

At Canterbury Vale School, we also like to reward students with high attendance. Each term, students with an attendance over 90% are invited on the Attendance Excursion. In Term 1, 3 students were treated to a delicious Italian pizza lunch at Bankstown Sports club. This term, we have had 6 students achieve over 90% attendance, which is fantastic.



NUMERACY

This semester, our Stage 4 and 5 students had focused on two vital areas: fractions and the calculation of surface area for various shapes. The program was designed to build a strong foundation in fractions, which are essential for understanding more complex mathematical concepts. Students learnt how to work with fractions through addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division, and applied these skills in practical, everyday contexts. This hands-on approach helped students appreciate the value and application of fractions beyond the classroom. In addition to mastering fractions, students explored geometry by calculating the surface area of both geometric and composite shapes. This aspect of the program enhanced their spatial reasoning and problem-solving abilities, key skills for future success in mathematics and many other areas.

REFLECTING ON OUR YEAR 10 WORKPLACE SKILLS WORKSHOP

This term, our Year 10 students participated in a comprehensive Workplace Skills Workshop, aimed at equipping them with essential tools to enhance their resumes, craft compelling cover letters, and prepare confidently for job interviews. The program was delivered by the wonderful Allied Health Team, Lauren and Brigid, who supported the students with the following:

- **Resume Building:** Students engaged in hands-on activities to create professional resumes, highlighting their skills, experiences, and achievements.
- **Cover Letter Crafting:** Guidance was provided on writing personalised cover letters that effectively communicated their qualifications and interest in potential roles.
- **Interview Preparation:** Interactive mock interviews allowed students to practice responses, body language, and professional etiquette.

This workshop provided students with the tools to present themselves effectively in the competitive job market. By participating, they gained confidence and practical experience in job application processes.

We are proud of our students' dedication and growth throughout this workshop.

SURF SCHOOL

Term One this semester, our students took on the ultimate coastal challenge at Surf School – and what an adventure it was! Over several days, students embraced the unpredictable power of the ocean, facing off against wild weather conditions, including the lingering backlash from Cyclone Alfred.

Despite the blustery winds and rolling waves, spirits were high as each student stepped well outside their comfort zone. The beach became our classroom, and the surf our teacher. Under the guidance of experienced instructors, students were introduced to vital surf safety skills – from understanding rips and currents to safely mounting and dismounting a board in tricky conditions.

While the weather tried its best to dampen the fun, it only made the experience more unforgettable.



With resilience and determination, many students managed to stand up on their boards and ride their very first waves – an achievement made all the more impressive given the wild surf. A shout out to Imad, Tony and Hassan for their determination to stand up and surf.

Surf School wasn't just about learning to surf – it was about courage, persistence, teamwork, and celebrating every small win in a big, salty sea. We're proud of everyone who gave it a go, pushed their limits, and walked away with a new respect for the ocean and themselves.

An unforgettable experience – come rain, wind or wave!

NAIDOC



MASTERCHEF AT CVS: A CULINARY SHOWDOWN

Week 5 brought great excitement at Canterbury Vale School as each class took part in our exciting MasterChef Mystery Box Challenge. Each class was handed a mystery box packed with surprise ingredients and tasked with designing, preparing, and plating a delicious meal—creativity, teamwork, and taste were all on the menu.

Our enthusiastic student chefs rose to the challenge, brainstorming recipes, divvying up roles, and showing off their cooking skills in what turned out to be a fun, engaging, and delicious week. Once complete, the meals were proudly presented to a judging panel made up of our office and exec staff, who tasted every dish and scored each one based on flavour, presentation, and originality.

Here's a tasty rundown of what was served:

- Class 1 impressed with a delicious sweet and sour chicken, packed with flavour and colour, and a peach cobbler for dessert.
- Class 2 served up a crowd-pleasing creamy tomato, chicken and mushroom pasta, and wowed the judges with coconut, blueberry, and white chocolate muffins for dessert.
- Class 3 kicked things off with sweet potato fries, followed by a rich Massaman beef curry with rice and spiced apples, finishing strong with cinnamon pastries drizzled in warm chocolate sauce.
- Class 4 cooked a flavourful curry rice dish and served a comforting rice pudding for dessert.
- Class 5 made roasted zucchini boats filled with creamy beef, carrot and rice filling and chocolate coated strawberries for dessert.
- Class 6 began their meal with freshly baked bread, followed by a tasty chicken fried rice, and wrapped it up with a fun and simple dessert of banana slices with melted chocolate and whipped cream.

The judging panel had a tough time choosing winners, as all classes brought creativity, teamwork, and impressive flavours to the table. Most importantly, students had a fantastic time learning about food preparation, working collaboratively, and celebrating one another's efforts.

Well done to all our budding chefs!



**WELL DONE !
CLASS 3 MASTERCHEF WINNERS**

STREET UNIVERSITY PROGRAM

During Semester 1 on Tuesdays, Year 10 students embarked on a unique 8-week program to Street University in Liverpool. The students had the opportunity to dive into the world of graffiti writing, exploring its artistic expression and cultural significance.

Street University, known for its commitment to engaging youth through creative arts, welcomed the students for a hands-on workshop. The excursion aimed to teach students about graffiti as a legitimate art form and a means of self-expression.

Under the guidance of experienced graffiti artists, students learned about various techniques, styles, and the history behind graffiti writing. The workshop included practical sessions where students were encouraged to create their own pieces, allowing them to express their thoughts and emotions through art.

Students were also introduced to the concept of public art and its role in community engagement. Discussions included the importance of respecting public spaces and the legalities surrounding graffiti art.

Overall, the excursion to Street University was a resounding success, leaving students inspired and with a newfound appreciation for graffiti art. The school plans to continue such initiatives, encouraging students to explore diverse forms of creativity and expression in their education journey.



GUARDIANS OF THE PARK

Every Wednesday, the students participated in a Guardians of the Park excursion within the expansive and scenic Western Sydney Parklands. These weekly outings provided hands-on environmental experiences, where they spent time weeding invasive plants, planting native species, and trimming trees to support the health of the local ecosystem.

One particularly memorable week was dedicated to cultural learning, where they were introduced to traditional Aboriginal practices. They learned how to throw spears and boomerangs, gaining a meaningful appreciation for Indigenous knowledge and heritage.

On another occasion, they explored bushcraft skills by lighting a fire and cooking damper and sausages, creating an enjoyable and communal outdoor meal experience.

In addition to their conservation work, they embarked on a hiking adventure through the parklands, taking in the natural beauty and enjoying the peaceful surroundings. Each excursion also included time for play and relaxation, allowing them to connect with one another and make the most of the natural setting.

Overall, these weekly experiences were both educational and rewarding, helping the group develop a stronger connection to nature, culture, and community.



SAILING INTO NEW SKILLS EVERY FRIDAY

Every Friday, the students set off on an exciting adventure as part of their school's sailing program. Travelling by school bus into the heart of the city, they made their way to the sparkling waters of Rose Bay, where their sailing sessions began.

Each week, they built on their knowledge by learning new techniques and practical skills for handling a sailboat. From mastering wind direction and steering to understanding how to adjust the sails, the students gradually grew more confident and capable on the water. Alongside these technical skills, they were also taught vital lessons in water safety, teamwork, and how to respond in challenging conditions.

The program not only gave students the opportunity to develop a unique and valuable skill set but also allowed them to experience the joy and freedom of being out on the water. It was a highlight of the week—combining learning, adventure, and personal growth in one unforgettable experience.



WORK EXPERIENCE

Our Year 10 students, supported by Brigid and Lauren from Allied Health, have been actively participating in the Work Skills Program this term. The program is designed to equip them with essential tools for entering the workforce as they begin to transition into employment or further education. Through this program, our students have been learning how to craft effective résumés, prepare for interviews, and navigate job application processes with confidence.

A separate special mention goes to Luke, who recently completed a three-week work experience placement at Bambyja Café in Bankstown. Luke demonstrated excellent commitment and a strong work ethic, taking on every challenge with a positive attitude, while also gaining valuable hands-on experience in a real workplace setting. Well done, Luke!



WHITE CARD TRAINING

We are proud to share that seven of our Year 9 and 10 students have successfully completed the White Card course this term. The course was delivered onsite by Andrew from Licences4Work, who provided an engaging and practical learning experience for our students. A massive thank you to Melissa for organising this opportunity also.

This nationally recognised certification is an important first step for our students looking to work in the construction industry, and they showed great commitment and focus throughout the training.

Congratulations to all involved on achieving this milestone!

FROM THE OFFICE

TERM 3 - Term Dates

21st July- 26th September 2025

Staff Development Day

21st July 2025

Note: students return on 22nd July 2025

