

PHS NEWS #6



1. PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE
2. PRINCIPAL'S WRITING COMPETITION 2019
3. NAPLAN 2019
4. WELCOME MS SHANNAN ROBERTS
5. BOOK WEEKS!
6. JOIN THE CHOIR!
7. PICTURE STORY BOOKS
8. DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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It's September. The tentative arrival of spring brings lighter mornings, longer afternoons and a brightness to the sun that points to warmer months ahead. I love springtime. I love that there is an edge of unpredictability about this time of year. We know the sun might get warmer, but then we'll have rain like we have had this week; we know that Melbourne wind will be even gustier than usual, but it's lovely when it relaxes into a late afternoon warm breeze. I have favourite trees that remind me of the seasons. At this time of year, tiny green leaves start to appear and small, fragile flowers gradually start to unfurl.

It is a season of renewal, of promise and of vivid colour. So too, the foundation year at Prahran High School. For our community, the arrival of our school has brought such promise for so many young people and families. As a school team we are committed to fulfilling that promise for every student here with us. Three terms of our adventure and I am very pleased with our progress. Our students and staff energise me every day and I know we're in good shape for our next steps forward in 2020.

Springtime points to brighter months ahead. The achievements of this year (so far) also point to even brighter times ahead for all of us at Prahran High School.

Enjoy reading some highlights of the past term.



Nathan Chisholm
Foundation Principal



PRINCIPAL'S WRITING COMPETITION

I am delighted to announce the results of the inaugural Principal's Writing Competition. At a practical level, writing is key to success at school and in life, and it's much more than that too. For many of our students it's a creative outlet that they crave and need. The quality of the entrants for our first competition was outstanding.

Our Principal's Writing Competition will become a tradition at our school and as the tradition grows, so too will the entries we receive. Already in this our first year, I was so pleased with the entries I received and

with the exceptional quality of some of the writing. The theme this year was The Beginning and our young writers interpreted this in so many different ways, from beautiful, personal musings on being a foundation student, to a rollicking, suspenseful narrative that I would love to see developed even more, to a beautiful, serene and vivid description of the natural world awakening. The standard was truly exceptional.

The following students were awarded this year:



Congratulations to all students who entered.

I loved reading your writing and I look forward to reading even more entrants next year.

NAPLAN 2019

Recently families and the school received our NAPLAN data for this year. This is an important first set of systemic data for us as a new school. It is very much part of the starting point and helps clarify and refine the strengths and areas for improvement of our students.

While the data is unsurprising, as we know our students, it is still fascinating, clearly pointing to their relative literacy/numeracy strengths and weaknesses. This is just the beginning of our next 6 years and data like this helps us to plan purposeful pathways, interventions and enrichment opportunities for students. We have only taught our Year 7 students for about three months at NAPLAN time, so this data will show more of our impact when we can track their growth from Grade 5 – Year 7 – Year 9.

Already we can see differences in literacy and numeracy achievement and growth between Grade 5 – Year 7. For example, our data shows us that many of our students have made excellent progress in writing through their later primary years but not as strong in numeracy. This is just one of the trends that is already evident and so the work is now refined even further to ensure we work toward improvement.

This material provided by the VCAA can be helpful to understand the results provided to students and families:

www.nap.edu.au/results-andreports/how-to-interpret

Should you have any questions about your child's NAPLAN test results, please do contact your child's Maths or English teacher or Mr. Fidler.

WELCOME

MS. SHANNAN ROBERTS OUR NEW ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL JOINING US IN 2020

Hello Prahran High! My name is Shannan Roberts and I'm delighted to be joining your school as your second Assistant Principal in 2020. I grew up in Perth, but when I moved to Melbourne, I stayed with friends and worked in Prahran, just around the corner from the school, so the neighbourhood certainly holds a special place in my heart. I am thrilled to be joining such a vibrant community, one with loads of opportunities for our students and their families.

My teaching story is a little unconventional. Originally, when I left school I studied fashion design, working in the industry in New York. After some soul searching, I learnt that this wasn't the career for me, and so I returned to study to become a teacher. I worked in Corio for a few years, before helping start Parkville College, the school that operates within the Youth Justice Precinct. My time there has shaped me as an educator, a leader and a human being. I have been incredibly fortunate to work with some of the most courageous, resilient and generous young people, and with a staffing group of inspiring teachers. This work has helped form my core values around education- those of compassion, justice and high expectations.



Part of the appeal of joining PHS was the emphasis within the school on values and unconditional positive regard, and so whilst it will be challenging to join a new school, I am motivated to listen to your needs and co-create something truly special.

When I'm not in classrooms or at school, I love travelling the world- Ethiopia and Lebanon are two of my favourite destinations. I am trying to get into yoga, want to bushwalk more often, cook regularly and love spending time with my godson. I live in Brunswick, love the beach and can mumble a few words in Arabic.

I am really looking forward to getting to know a new cohort of learners and families, and I know I will have a lot to learn from all of you as we work towards the development of a truly excellent inner city school.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to serve your community- I am so excited.

BOOK WEEK?

AT PRAHRAN HIGH SCHOOL, WE HAVE BOOK WEEKS!

These past few weeks have been 'crazy' book wise. Week 6 was CBCA Book Week and on Wednesday afternoon we were lucky enough to have an author visit our school. The author, Anna Snoekstra, has written crime books such as *Only Daughter* and the young adult mystery book *Mercy Point* which is in the PHS Library. I highly recommend it! Everyone who came along had a great time participating in a creative writing exercise and learning about the craft of writing. During Book Week we also had picture book readings in the PHS Library and a Staff vs. Student debate on the topic "the book is always better than the movie" (which the staff won by one point!)

On Wednesday in Week 7, the Book Club and Art Club combined forces and went on an after school incursion to the Prahran Library for a workshop with graphic novelist Chris Gooch. He helped us draw on graphic novel templates and encouraged us to "think outside the box".

Finally, during Week 8 a group of us went to the Melbourne Writer's Festival. The first place we went was the Immigration Museum where we had a poetry writing workshop. We all contributed to different poems and the results were amazing. After stopping off at a comics store and the QV for lunch, we went to the Wheeler Centre for an author talk called "What is Love?" Interestingly, this session also had a scientist speak so that they could provide answers about the scientific side to love. Last of all, we went to the announcement of the 2019 Inky Awards, which are book awards that are voted by teens. Altogether, it was a great day and we all had a lot of fun.

Thank you to Ms McEwen for organising these valuable experiences and Ms Turnbull and Ms Karasavvidis for helping.

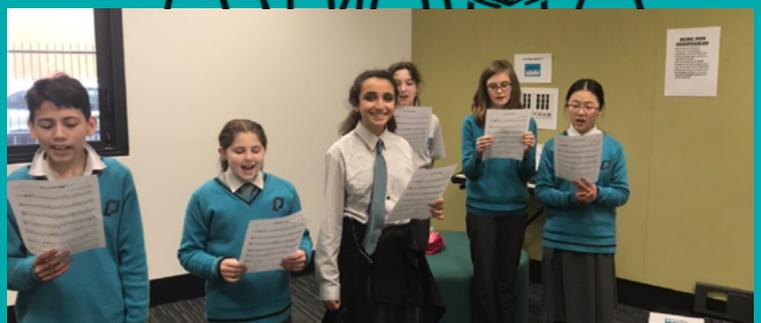
Luca

JOIN THE CHOIR

It is indeed scientifically proven that singing really does make you happier and more relaxed. Singing also releases stored muscle tension and decreases the levels of a stress hormones, releases endorphins and even makes your immune system stronger.

Students from all classes come every Monday lunchtime to choir. Our PHS choir are working very hard on repertoire of songs and building to a performance. Students have a lot of ownership over their song choices and we have covered a lot of music genres. All students of all abilities welcome. Interested? Try it, it is genuinely good for you.

Choir is every Monday lunchtime 1.10-1.45pm.



Picture Story Books: Our Art – French – English Collaboration

This term, we have been doing a fantastic project, combining English, French and Art: we are creating picture storybooks, with our own original illustrations and text (which is in French).

We started this task in English, at the beginning of term. For this term's English unit in storytelling, we learnt how to tell stories to younger children as our audience, how to use strong description and how to create a captivating picture story book overall. Each of us wrote the text for our own story, which focused on five characters including family members, classmates and ourselves.

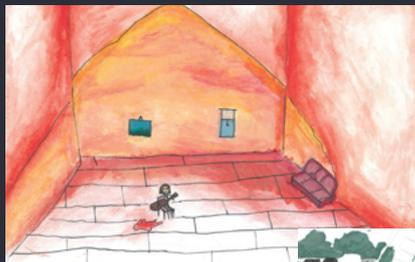
We are now working on translating and illustrating these stories in French and Art. In French, we have been focusing on the topic of "This is Us", learning how to talk about the traits and interests of ourselves and others. To prepare for our translation, we learnt how to conjugate verbs, agree adjectives and use words for interests and nationalities. In Art, we have been

focusing on the topic of "Communicating in Colour", so we can illustrate our stories. We learnt about different colour schemes and painting techniques, so we can communicate ideas and emotions.

Right now, we are painting beautiful illustrations and translating from English to French, so we can actually read these stories to Grade 1 students at South Yarra Primary. Once we have finished the stories and read them out at the end of term, the books will be permanently stored in the library collection.

I have really enjoyed this project. I really like that it spans across many different subjects, which allows us to have made something bigger and better than usual at the end of term. The process of writing, translating and painting has been great and I am very excited to read the finished product to the Grade 1s (who are learning French at school, so hopefully our stories teach them something new!).

Dylan



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

End of Term 3 – Students dismissed at 2:30
Friday 20 September

Student Free Day
Monday 7 October

First Day of Term 4 for Students
Tuesday 8 October

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