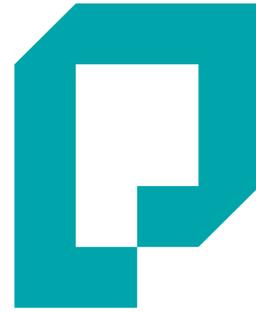


2020  
**THE PHS  
NEWS #3**



**PRAHRAN  
HIGH  
SCHOOL**

# IT'S BEEN A GREAT TERM!

1. VOLLEYBALL STARS
2. FESTIVAL D'ANGOULÊME EN FRANÇAIS
3. TAKE THE STAGE
4. ART AND DESIGN
5. MATHEMATICS LEARNING GROWTH
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8. HOLIDAY SUGGESTIONS
9. KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

CREATIVITY | CURIOSITY | CHALLENGE | CHARACTER

**MAKE AN IMPACT**

# DON'T FORGET IT'S BEEN A GREAT TERM!

Dear Families,

Term 1 has finished a few days early for 2020 and not in the circumstances that any of us could have expected, or even imagined. The world is experiencing a challenging, sad and confronting time on a scale that most of us have never experienced. It's hard and it might get harder.

For many of us, 2020 may well be the hardest year of our lives. I believe that, but I also remain hopeful (and sure) that we will be stronger when we come through it. Further, I am determined to lead our school and our amazing kids throughout this time with kindness, honesty, empathy and courage. We'll be with them and you every step of the way.

Together, let's make the Prahran High School community a positive model, a microcosm reflection of the shared humanity, decency and generosity of spirit that we want to see in the world. The foundations here are strong. The community here is strong. The spirit of challenge, of creativity, of curiosity and of showing good character is strong too.

In time, the future will start to seem more hopeful again. When it does, we'll be there, ready to do our bit to help the world get brighter. We'll be there to shine a light on the power of learning, of young people and of striving to make an impact.

What we need now is good news!

So, for now, let's not forget what a fantastic year we've had together so far. I couldn't be more pleased with the achievements of our students and with their contribution to school life in so many different ways. We always end the term with some highlights of what we've been learning and doing together at Prahran High School. We need these highlights now more than ever.

I look forward to being in touch again soon as we work toward the beginning of Term 2.

**Enjoy this PHS News. Take care.**



Nathan Chisholm  
Foundation Principal



Borrowing from the library for the holidays



Urban Eyes Exhibition

# VOLLEYBALL STARS



## THE FIRST PHS TEAM THROUGH TO REGIONAL FINALS!

My name is Harry S and I was in the Prahran High School volleyball team with Jess, Gus, Markis, Ryan N, Kris K and Ms Graham. We played at Cheltenham High School and when we arrived we saw a few other schools there, such as Albert Park and Elwood. It was a nice stadium with two courts both set up with nets ready.

We started to have a hit around and got some serving practice in. Our first game was a bit weird for me as I was in the team last year but was sick on the day! I had never played against another school in volleyball before and I had a lot of fun with our good starting formation. Jess and I would be in the middle, Markis top right, Ryan on the left, Gus back left and Kris would serve from the back right.

We won our first game and were feeling pretty good about it. We started to watch the other teams to find the best way of winning. We had our eyes on Elwood who were undefeated (as were we) and we knew we needed

to beat them in order to win the Beachside competition. We then won our second match, our third, and our fourth until it was time to play against Elwood.

We got our game faces on and got ready to play, it was a tough first set and we managed to claim it 20-18. We were over the moon but it wasn't over just yet, we still had to win the second set. We got ourselves calm and ready and the second set began. Points were going back and forth. Our team kept fighting until the scores were 18-19, our way. It was our match point. We could all feel the adrenalin kick in as we knew we had to win the point!

We played our best combo and managed to squeeze the ball through the gap of two people and we won! We went crazy and knew we had done it! We elbow shook hands with the other team and celebrated. Our team worked so well together and I was so happy to be part of the team this time round. Regionals is going to be tough, but we can take it as long as we work well as a team and have fun!

Harry S 8D



## FESTIVAL D'ANGOULÊME EN FRANÇAIS

We are delighted with what our students are achieving in French at Prahran High School. Here are some of the Year 7 comic strips covering the basics they learned in French this term.

The aim was to create our own version of the Festival d'Angoulême which is an immensely popular international comic festival in Angoulême, in France. It is held annually in the last weekend of January and the students watched a video which showcased the variety of drawings that enter the different competitions every year.

Some of their comic strips are on display in the atrium at school. I was blown away by their creativity and how well they worked independently, it really makes my heart swell with admiration and pride when I see so much effort and dedication.

Excellent travail de nos étudiants.

**Ornella Seneque**



## TAKE THE STAGE

Students in Year 7 Take Stage have been exploring drama techniques this term, creating original performances week after week and presenting these performances to their classmates. The students are given a stimulus image which they use to collaboratively devise their plays. They brainstorm ideas, improvise scenes, rehearse and refine their performances.

Their Make an Impact task was to create a performance using all of the techniques they had learned. They were given three stimulus images to choose from. I was blown away by the creativity and imagination of our students. Their original performances ranged from travelling back in time exploring music from the past, a robot apocalypse, an injured soccer player, the quest for the holy grail, an evil boss and the workers who rebel against him, the great taco shortage and police corruption.

The way that the students collaborate creatively was wonderful to see. I can't wait to see our students' confidence, technique and skills grow more and more as we Take the Stage together throughout 2020.

**Andrew Byrne**



# ART AND DESIGN

It's been an exciting and bustling start to the year in the visual arts, both within the everyday curriculum and through the co-curricular opportunities on offer. The Year 7s have been learning lino printing and collage in response to the 'Crossing Lines: Haring and Basquiat' exhibition that we attended at the NGV in February. Using Haring and Basquiat's commentary on their society as inspiration, we explored the issues that we might like to comment on in our society, considering the role of art as a mirror to society.

The Year 8s have been looking at how inanimate objects can communicate an idea or message by the way they are arranged together. In this drawing project students developed their skills in realism through perspective and tone and then considered how their artworks could be adapted in a design context through a digital drawing. The learning growth that I have witnessed in our students throughout this unit has astounded me. Each student has produced a work that they could be proud of and that shows far more skill than they were capable of at the beginning of the year.

While the Year 8s have continued to participate in the many Art and Design experiences on offer at PHS, it has also been wonderful to welcome our new Year 7s. I've been impressed by their enthusiasm and commitment and grateful for the way they have made Tuesday afternoons at Art and Design Club feel even more alive.

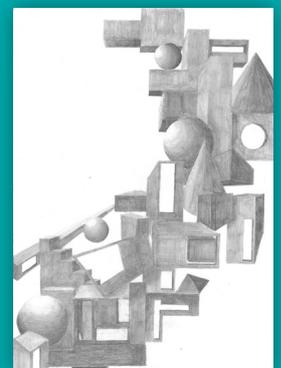
So far this year we have worked in a range of media and techniques from mono-printing to ceramics in our most recent workshop with artist Stefan Damschke from Duldig Studio in Malvern. Stefan was so generous in sharing his expertise in ceramics and demonstrated many tricks along the way that made completing this project successful and achievable within a short amount of time.

Another major milestone this term was our first art exhibition, 'The Urban School Experience', held at Chapel off Chapel. Students who created artwork for this exhibition did so entirely independently, in their own time. The vast range of art forms, ideas and the quality of the work is testament to the inherent capacity of young people to express themselves creatively and to hone their craft.

As we perhaps learn more from home for the next short while, I encourage students, parents and guardians to embrace the creative possibilities that this presents. As Edward de Bono so wisely said "Creativity involves breaking out of established patterns in order to look at things a different way."

We are certainly breaking out of our established patterns right now, but this could be the perfect opportunity to begin the many projects that we never thought we had time for.

**Lara Karasavvidis**



# MATHEMATICS LEARNING GROWTH CHECK OUT THESE NUMBERS!

At PHS we believe every student has the right to learn the mathematics that is 'just right' for them. Rather than teaching the Level 8.0 curriculum to all students in Year 8, we aim to meet students at their starting point. With this approach we hope to see more students flourishing as they learn in their 'sweet spot'.

At present, our curriculum in Year 7 spans content from Level 6.0 through to Level 9.0, while our Year 8 students are presented with mathematical skills ranging from Level 7.0 to Level 10.0. In addition, broadening the curriculum may mean that students are not always working at the 'expected level' for their age. We believe that a student's age is not the determinant factor for their mathematical level and we are far more focused on the growth our students exhibit than the level they achieve. We believe that by meeting students at their starting point we enable them to progress more effectively through the curriculum.

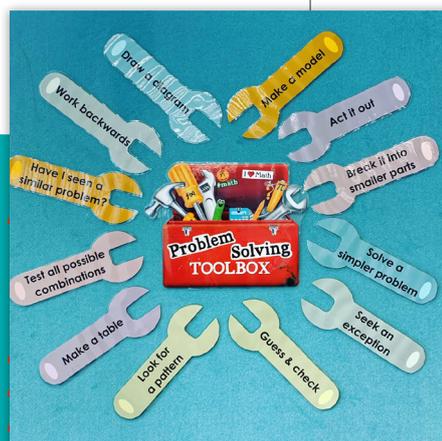
As such, we are proud to present our learning growth data from Term 1. This data shows the progress made by PHS students in the Number strand of the Victorian Mathematics Curriculum. We see meaningful growth across the vast majority of our cohorts, with a significant number of students progressing more than 18 months through the mathematics curriculum.

This data equally celebrates students who began at the expected standard and have progressed far beyond it as well as students who started well below the expected standard and have sprinted towards it. Thank you for supporting us in our pedagogical approach as we continue striving to maximise student growth, whether at school or online.

**Steven Goldberg, Sara Niglia,  
Madeleine Graham and Thomas Savage**

| Year 7 – Number Strand  |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <p><b>&lt;6 months growth</b></p> <p>25%</p> <p>NB* These students progressed less than 6 months through the new content (e.g. Level 6.0 à 6.5) however many of them started from Level 5.0 or below.</p> | <p><b>6 – 12 months growth</b></p> <p>55%</p> | <p><b>&gt;18 months growth</b></p> <p>20%</p> |

| Year 8 – Number Strand  |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <p><b>&lt;6 months growth</b></p> <p>16%</p> <p>NB* These students progressed less than 6 months through the new content (e.g. Level 7.0 à 7.5) however many of them started from Level 6.0 or below.</p> | <p><b>6 – 12 months growth</b></p> <p>54%</p> | <p><b>&gt;18 months growth</b></p> <p>30%</p> |



# MUSIC NEWS

The development of our Instrumental Music Program has been a real hit at school this term. Already we have had 28 students sign up for instrumental and ensemble lessons which is fantastic! The students have shown a genuine interest and enthusiasm in learning how to play music and it has been a joy to watch them improve.

Every lunchtime students request to 'jam' in the rock band, piano and guitar rooms. In the instrumental lessons attendance has been excellent and the students have applied themselves so well. The ensembles have also been well attended and are making good progress. In Piano Ensemble the students have been learning a three-part harmonised arrangement of Clocks by Cold Play.

Rock Band proved to be so popular that we have needed to run two bands. The rock bands consist of guitar, bass, drums and keyboard and these students have

successfully learnt to play an arrangement of Boulevard of Broken Dreams by Green Day. The Year 7 band is learning to play Back in Black by AC/DC and the Year 8 band is learning Lonely Boy by the White Stripes.

Choir has also been progressing and the students have been learning vocal warm-ups, three-part chord harmonies and have begun learning a three-part harmonised arrangement of Silent Night.

It has been a great start to instrumental music here at Prahran High School and I very much look forward to seeing the students' progress next term and beyond.

**Sam Buckley**



# BOOK CLUB REPORT

Another term full of joyous Book Club meetings has been the highlight for the PHS Library so far in 2020. Book Club increased its membership by over double with the arrival of many new bookworms this year! There have been around 28 attendees every week.

As usual, we met every Wednesday afternoon in our library space, looking out over the busy street, and happily chatting about what we've been reading.

Our group isn't run like your typical book club with everyone assigned the same book to read... instead, we use the opportunity to read widely across any genres and styles, and then make book recommendations to one another. Sometimes we do all end up reading the same book because the best ones get snapped up! Our favourites this term have been:

- Arc of a Scythe series by Neal Shusterman
- Heartstopper series by Alice Oseman
- The Babysitters Club series by Raina Telgemeier
- Angel Mage by Garth Nix
- Keeper of the Lost Cities series by Shannon Messenger
- Monuments by Will Kostakis
- The Peacock Detectives by Carly Nugent
- Scars Like Wings by Erin Stewart
- The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy by Douglas Adams
- Invisible Emmie by Terri Libenson

This term we also participated in a number of book-related activities, including a Book Trivia Kahoot (won by Lola P), Library Lovers' Day, and some other games to help meet new book besties.

Book Club now has its own group on Microsoft Teams. Please email Ms McEwen if you'd like to join this "virtual book club" where we will continue to share book recommendations.

In the last week of Term 1, students at Prahran High School borrowed 469 books. The library shelves have been left empty... which is just the way we like them over the holidays. Happy reading, everyone!

**Karys McEwen on behalf of the Book Club**



## HOLIDAY SUGGESTIONS

As promised, the Student Wellbeing Team have developed a collection of suggestions for keeping kids busy, engaged and happy on the holidays. For all of us this holiday period looks different to normal with no sleep-overs, no sports events and no shopping trips.

Yes, the kids are at home together more than normal so let's make the most of it!

We'll be getting into some of these ideas with our kids at home. We hope you enjoy some of these holiday suggestions at your house too!

**Ricci Thompson and Erin Immel**



**DATES** FOR  
**YOUR DIARY**

**First Day of Term 2**  
Wednesday 15 April 2020



# Holiday Fun

*Just some ideas we've put together to share with you*

## Value of Routine

All humans, especially kids, benefit psychologically from having some sort of structured routine. Sit down with your child(ren) and have them map out what they think their new daily routine ought to be. Be sure to include physical activity, meals, leisure time, study/learning time and bedtime rituals.

## Bored Board

Brainstorm with your kids activities they could/should/would do in this new day-to-day structure. In my house, each child has made a "board bored" that they consult when they feel bored, choosing an activity that they themselves have come up with. Alternatively, on three separate sheets of paper, write BIG, MEDIUM and SMALL at the top, and list chores and responsibilities by "weight". Each day, everyone picks one big, two mediums and three smalls to get through.

## Photo Journal

Start a photo journal by snapping a pic at the top of every hour of whatever you're doing (you can set an alarm on your phone to remind you). At the end of the day, collate your photos and write a one-sentence caption to accompany each one. Print it out into a booklet.

## Photo Wall

Thinking of friends, family and good times can make us feel happy. So why not make it creative as well and make a photo wall?! Find as many photos as you can, print more if you have a printer, or order some on-line and blue tac them to your bedroom wall. Inspo below....



## Renovate Your Room

After you have culled your room of old toys, clothes and artwork, stage a reno. Move your furniture around to new locations, hang some new decorations, get a new lamp or curtains.

## Inspiration for Your Room

Find an inspirational quote and make a poster for your room – add paint, collage, photos, anything. This also makes an excellent birthday gift for people you love.



## Picnic

Pack a picnic and take it outside to eat. If it's raining, spread a rug on your living room floor and eat!

## MeditOcean

Visit the Monterey Bay Aquarium and enjoy a guided morning meditation with moon jellies.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bc1VLgNBYyM>



## 'Inspired' Baking

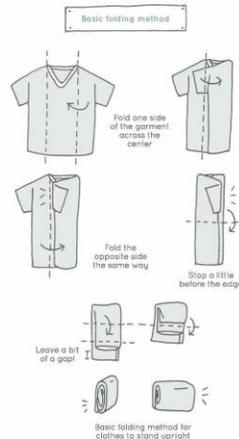
Bake a cake or cupcakes inspired by a movie, book or theme. Check out *The Handmaid's Tale* cupcakes below as inspo. Oh and we'd love to see your creations so snap a photo and send it to Ms Roberts or Ms Immel.



## Channel Marie Kondo

Go through your clothes and cull anything that is too small or that doesn't "spark joy" in you anymore. Then follow Marie's tips to Kondo your drawers!

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lpc5\\_1896ro](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lpc5_1896ro)



## Home Day Spa

Mani/pedi/facial/foot soak for you and your family! Maybe add a new hairstyle, too.

## Gardening

Autumn is the perfect time to tidy up any outdoor area. Rake leaves, empty old flower pots, pull weeds, sweep. Maybe even plant some cuttings from other plants and watch them grow.

## Indoor Gardening

Create a window sill indoor herb garden. Find an old pot, jar, plastic bottle, cup or empty tin and get planting. Plant from seed, cuttings or seedlings. They look awesome in kitchens!



## Grow Garbage

Instead of tossing out vegetable scraps – regrow them into new plants. Celery is a super easy one. Check out the link below.

<https://mommypoppins.com/growing-celery-and-10-other-kitchen-scrap-you-can-plant>



## Visit a Park in the USA

No need to leave your loungeroom for this one. Take a virtual tour of some America's most amazing national parks.

<https://artsandculture.withgoogle.com/en-us/national-parks-service/parks>

## Organize Your Home Library

Rearrange all of your books by colour. You'll have a rainbow in your book shelf at the end of the day!



## Science Baking

Research how fermentation and sourdough works! Make your own sourdough starter (don't forget to feed it every day!) and bake heaps of delicious things: <https://www.sbs.com.au/food/explainer/make-your-own-sourdough-starter>

## Pringle Ringle

Test out the physics of stacking. Mmmmm...mindful, challenging and tasty!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=apJtZX39i80>



## Get Moving with @phs\_HBBM

Join the exercise fun by following our school Instagram page @phs\_hbbm

Maybe even make up your own workout consisting of several moves – 30 star jumps, 40 crunches, 20 squats, etc and share it with us all. If you're not on Insta, don't worry – design a poster or a fitness campaign and email it to your friends! (Maybe even workout together on Zoom)

## Let's Get Physical together!

Learn the dance, film yourself, get your friends and family to do the same and make a combined video. Check out the link attached for the moves. (And just for a laugh!)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L46Yg4ai8AY>



## Appliance Investigation

With an adult, take apart an old appliance to see how it works inside. Can you put it back together? Can you repair it?



## Target Practice

If you happen to have a Nerf gun lying around, set up a stack of empty cans or lightweight cups and fire away. You can even label the cans/cups with points to make it even more competitive.



## Mini Golf At Home

Why not create a mini-golf course around the house! Find some cups, a ball and a club (bat or stick) and get designing.

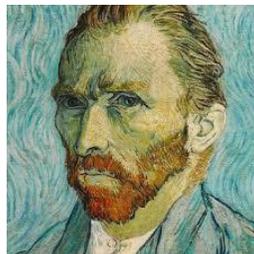
<http://www.mykidsadventures.com/build-your-own-mini-golf-course/>



## Visit a Museum... (Online of course)

Take a virtual tour of some of the world's greatest museums.

<https://artsandculture.google.com/project/streetviews>



## Just for laughs...

1. **Whose Drawers are in My Drawer?** – Switch out the underwear drawer for each of your kids or parents and replace theirs with yours. You could do this with any of their clothing drawers, but of course, underwear gags always get the biggest laugh.
2. **The Cereal Bowl Shuffle** – Move things around in the kitchen cabinets: Put the cereal where the bowls should be, cups in the cutlery drawer, etc. You can make it as simple or as elaborate as you want.

