



**PRAHRAN
HIGH
SCHOOL**

2020
**THE PHS
NEWS #7**

END OF TERM

1. END OF TERM REFLECTIONS
2. LEARNING@HOME FEEDBACK SURVEY
3. FOOD FOR LIFE
4. TAKE THE STAGE
5. ART AND DESIGN
6. LIBRARY AND BOOK CLUB
7. SCHOOL UNIFORM
8. SCHOOL CAMPS AND EXCURSIONS 2020
9. 'HOUSE' TEAM COMPETITION 2020
10. KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

CREATIVITY | CURIOSITY | CHALLENGE | CHARACTER
MAKE AN IMPACT

END OF TERM REFLECTIONS

At the end of a term like none we've known before, I have found it helpful to pause and reflect on what we have faced, all that we have achieved and all that has been affirmed. I truly am so very proud of our students, staff and community for the way we embraced the challenge of the pivot to Learning@Home. It has been outstanding.

As the health crisis began to move quickly and worryingly back in early March, I was concerned about how our kids would manage if we were all sent home. I did also know that we were strong, we were building a powerful, positive culture of learning and that our students and staff had extraordinary capacity, strengths and personality. We did then and we do now too.

The reality of the experience has been that not only did many of our students manage well, they actually thrived and achieved so much. Of course, for some others, the experience was much harder, for all sorts of reasons. For all of them, the return to school seems to have been met with a sense of relief, anticipation and a lot of excitement. We have learnt a lot and we continue to listen, learn and refine our approaches at school to ensure we are nurturing the very best learning environment possible for our students.

This means a renewed focus on our unique PHS Learning Model with a particular focus on the pedagogical (lesson) model to connect Learning@Home findings with our practice at school – primarily greater independence, agency and flexibility in learning sessions, based on rich, deep and collaborative tasks. We know that our students 'want to do it their way', they do want to learn, they are motivated and they want to learn in relaxed places (like the bleachers or the floor). Equally we also know that they do not want learning to be like a traditional, didactic classroom – while this is not our approach anyway, we know more than ever that there are better ways to learn. Our kids tell us this and we are listening.

When we transitioned back to school, the Herald Sun visited to do a story on the hopes of students for school, post remote learning. It was great to sit with six of our students as they shared their feelings and ideas. The students painted such a positive picture of their school and they affirmed how much they enjoyed whole school

activities, community opportunities and the power of human connection. Wellbeing Wednesday, Challenge Fridays and the regular contact with Mentor Teachers were all considered to have been positive experiences and we will look to these concepts as opportunities to build on site now too.

One of the most beautiful and important reflections I have heard, and certainly felt myself, during this time is about the power of human connection. For some, it may seem self-evident that this is so important, for others this experience has shown that power in ways they may not have experienced as much before. At Prahran High School, we have a strong and heartfelt commitment to the power and importance of human relationships – they are the foundation of everything else.



During the Learning@Home experience and with our transition back to school, it has been affirmed over and over again that human connection matters a great deal. Even brief positive moments of connection are so vital for our emotional and physical health, our well-being, and how we experience our lives, our school and our world.

Every single positive human connection nourishes us, strengthens us and makes a positive difference in our lives. Good schools are full of these moments and Learning@Home proved again just how much it matters. As our learning adventure continues at Prahran High School, we will be even more resolute in our commitment to continue on this path – relationships are the bedrock, human connection is beautiful and important, we are committed to 'every student, every day.'

Enjoy the winter break. I very much look forward to reconnecting with you as we return to school from Tuesday 14 July 2020.

Keep smiling.



Nathan Chisholm
Foundation Principal

2020 LEARNING @ HOME FEEDBACK SURVEY

We are grateful to the many families and students who took some time to share their thoughts and feedback about the pivot to Learning@Home and how it worked for your family.

The survey tool was provided by the DET and while the timing would have been helpful earlier, the data and feedback is still important for us. The results are extremely positive and affirms the work of the whole school community, who did everything possible to make the Learning@Home

experience as positive and meaningful as possible for our students and families.

This won't be the only way we'll review the Learning@Home experience. Structured conversations with students at school have begun and have been so interesting and helpful. We see opportunities for improvement – in student learning, school organisation and ways of working for staff.

Some snapshot points of interest from the survey.

Students	
100%	of students joined online, interactive learning sessions on Teams
93%	of students completed some learning without anyone helping
89%	of students know what schoolwork they should be doing each day
79%	of students feel like they still belong at their school, even though they are home
71%	of students looked forward to returning to school
82%	of students feel that they have family members who have helped them with their learning

Families	
92%	of families said they received clear communication from the school
88%	of families say the school was well prepared to deliver online learning
64%	of families say the amount of work for students was 'about right'
89%	of families say their child has regular communication online with their teachers
91%	of families say the school was ready to transition to Learning@Home
70%	of families felt the school has responded to feedback from families

Less positive but very interesting

- 36% of students liked Learning@Home
- 64% of students feel more pressured by the schoolwork than normal
- 57% of students said their daily increase of social media increased

Less positive but very interesting and helpful

- 36% of families know how their child will be assessed this term
- 48% of families say teachers communicated often enough about their child's progress

80% expressed overall satisfaction with Learning@Home as measured by this survey tool which is so pleasing.

FOOD FOR LIFE – HEALTHY PIZZAS!

Students in Food for Life have recently worked on a design and production task where they were challenged to create a super-healthy pizza that would be appealing for teenagers to eat.

Students followed the design process to investigate, produce and evaluate how well they executed this challenge. The pizzas were amazing!

Karen Richards



TAKE THE STAGE – PERFORMING ARTS

In Take the Stage this term, students have been learning about the style of musical theatre through the lens of designer (set and costume) and performer. For their Make an Impact task, students were asked to research a musical of their choice and then develop a creative interpretation.

Designers were asked to create original and imaginative set and costume designs and present their ideas to the class. Performers were asked to select a scene from their chosen musical and then perform this scene to the class.

Some of the musicals that the students explored were: *Alice In Wonderland*, *Spamalot*, *Mean Girls*, *The Sound of Music*, *Mamma Mia* and *The Lion King*.

Once again, our students are showing us their myriad talents in the Performing Arts. We can't wait for the production of *High School Musical* in Term 4!

Andrew Byrne

ART & DESIGN INNOVATION HIGHLIGHTS

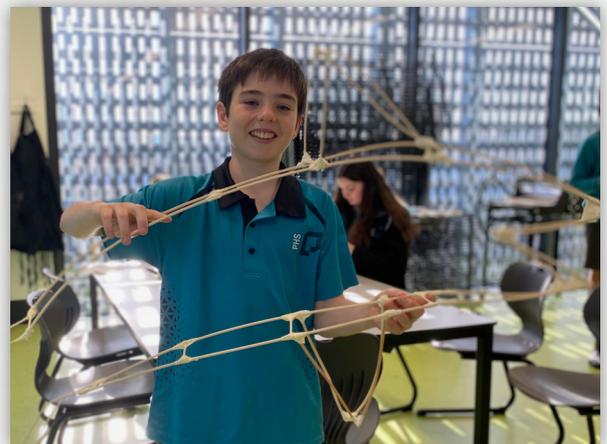
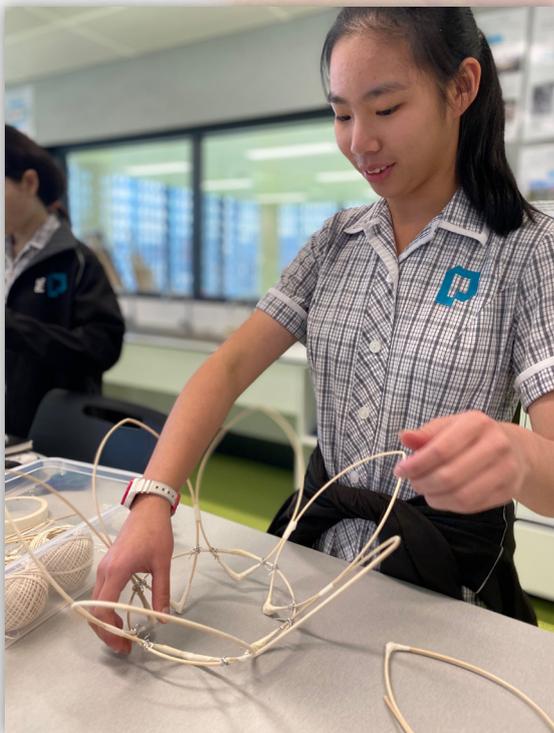
It has been wonderful having our students back in Art and Design Innovation, filling the space with their excitement and ideas. The Year 8 students were eager to focus on something tactile after exploring photography while Learning@Home. They have been learning how to make paper lanterns out of cane and tissue paper. The process has required lots of problem solving as they explored which techniques would enable them to best realise their diverse designs.

Our Year 7 students are in the final stages of their Packaging Design unit, completing designs in Adobe Illustrator and preparing to pitch their ideas in an authentic way. They have shown such a sound understanding of how colour schemes appeal to particular audiences and have used this insight to inform their designs.

In our first week of Art and Design Club we experimented with our new alcohol inks, spraying them with fixative and drawing over the top in mixed media.

Check out these amazing results!

Lara Karasavvidis



LIBRARY AND BOOK CLUB

The library has been busier than ever this term, though much of that flurry of activity happened online during Learning@Home!

The eBook library that was created in order to give our students access to high quality reading material saw over 175 loans throughout Learning@Home. Now that we are back, the eBook library will continue to be available to everyone. If you don't know your login details, please speak to Ms McEwen.

Another resource to aid remote learning was our Click + Collect Library. This was a resounding success, with numerous students taking advantage of the service to borrow physical books. We are proud to have offered the opportunity to keep our students reading in isolation.

Book Club continued on and offline this term, and it was encouraging to see how many students jumped on the virtual Book Club meetings each Wednesday afternoon. Since being back, it has reminded us how important this social interaction is, and our shared love of talking about all things literature has persevered.

The most popular books in Book Club this term have been:

- Aurora Rising series by Amie Kaufman and Jay Kristoff
- Four Dead Queens by Astrid Scholte
- The Thing About Oliver by Deborah Kelly
- Ghost Boys by Jewell Parker Rhodes
- Catch a Falling Star by Meg McKinlay
- The Medoran Chronicles series by Lynette Noni
- When the Ground is Hard by Malla Nunn
- The January Stars by Kate Constable

Winter holidays are the best time to curl up with a good book. Stay warm and happy reading!

Karys McEwen



SCHOOL UNIFORM

Our high standards of school uniform have recently slipped somewhat as we have transitioned back to school. We have been lenient during the past few weeks as we are mindful of what a difficult time it has been for families. However, there are many small issues creeping in and I ask that these are improved before we return to school for Term 3.

The Prahran High School community decided that we would be a school with a smart, contemporary school uniform. As a community we decided this was important for our school, to build pride and to help establish our positive reputation in the community. It does help, it does matter and our students look fantastic, when the uniform is worn correctly.

I ask that families use this upcoming two-week break to ensure that your child has all uniform items required shoes, clothes, tie, socks - everything.

I also ask that you support us at school by insisting that your child does the right thing and wears the uniform properly. This means no random, added garments, no hoodies, no mixing of sports and academic, no trainers with the academic uniform and no sports shorts under the skirt.

When we return to school in Term 3, I will ask the Assistant Principals to lead a sustained focus on uniform to ensure that students are doing the right thing. We will ask families rectify any issues if they arise.

I have often said that I am not going to let Prahran High School be an environment where uniform issues are an ongoing source of negative communication between teachers and students. It is just not necessary and is so unhelpful. However, for us to live out our commitment in this way, we need your support.

Should there be a financial hardship concern for you about buying all uniform items, please do contact our Business Manager, Joanne Clifton, for a confidential conversation.

Thank you for your support.

Nathan Chisholm

SCHOOL CAMPS **AND** EXCURSIONS 2020

We are very pleased that we have received official notification from the DET that school camps are able to run again, effective Monday 21 June 2020. We have been concerned about this as we know how much camps mean to our students (and, we love them too).

We provide the following notes so you have an understanding of the exact advice and direction that we follow. The below notes are taken from the advice from the DET:

School camps can reopen from 11:59pm on 21 June, aligned with the opening of holiday accommodation communal facilities including shared kitchens and bathrooms.

Accommodation providers, including privately operated school camps, outdoor education schools, and camps operated by individual schools and the Department of Education and Training can accept school group bookings consistent with typical class/year level sizes. They are not bound by public gathering limits.

Health and safety precautions will be required, with guidance to operators and schools to be issued shortly.

So, we are very excited to have the Year 7 camp definitely back on track. The revised dates for this camp are now in the final week of Term 3. The camp will run from Monday 14 September – Wednesday 16 September 2020.

We continue to plan for the Year 8 trip but being inter-state, there are added layers of permissions still to come. The revised restrictions which were announced in Victoria this past week are concerning as we are relying on Tasmania to open their borders to inter-state travellers. For now, we just wait a bit longer and we will communicate with you openly and in a timely manner.

Unfortunately, the situation is not so positive with inter-school sport. Until further notice, we will not be travelling to other schools to participate in inter-school sport opportunities. We will continue to prioritise sport and activity at school and in the community, but the DET have advised that inter-school sport is not allowed yet.

DATES FOR **YOUR DIARY**

Final day of Term 2

Friday 26 June | School finishes at 2:30

Staff Professional Learning Student Free Day

Monday 13 July

Staff will be engaged in high-level learning around our PHS Learning Model and the implementation planning of our Year 9 curriculum

First day of Term 3 for students

Tuesday 14 July

Relationships education staff professional learning Student Free Days

Thursday 6 August – Friday 7 August

Year 7 Camp

Monday 14 September – Wednesday 16 September

Final day of Term 3

Friday 18 September | School finishes at 2:30



PHS HOUSE TEAM DEVELOPMENT COMPETITION 2020



As we continue the development and growth of our school, today we launch a community competition to plan the purpose, theme, colours and names of a system of 'house' teams which will become a feature of school life at Prahran High School. The concept of school 'houses' dates back centuries and while we may not end up using this traditional language of 'houses', it is our starting point.



We have decided to pursue the development of a 'house' team structure for our school as the students and staff believe we can add even more to school life for our students. Together, we see leadership, design, team-building and healthy competition as part of this. Importantly we also see connection, engagement and pride. We don't seek to mimic the traditions of older schools – we seek to create our own and they must be right for us. The Student Leadership Action Team is enthusiastic about this and will have a role in leading this forward.

There are many questions to be asked. There are endless ideas for thematic concepts to underpin the naming and development of our new 'house' teams. There are colours, patterns, mascots, logos...

There is the traditional structure evident at Hogwarts and there is Prahran High School building for our future, and there is a lot in between. There is no right or wrong. All ideas are welcome and we would love to see lots of entries.

HOW TO ENTER

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1. Form a group of friends with whom you can collaborate and plan your entry.
 2. Brainstorm ideas and concepts together to refine your thinking. E.g. great inventors, female athletes, indigenous leaders, local historical figures, native fauna, Greek gods... let your thinking soar.
 3. Research the ideas and concepts you would like to put together and offer as an entry to ensure you are presenting an informed proposal.
 4. Complete the editable entry PDF attached to the poster. You may need to include further details or links to other sources. That is fine and can just become further attachments.
 5. Submit your completed competition to Mr Chisholm at nathan.chisholm@education.vic.gov.au by Friday 14 August 2020.

HOW WILL WE DECIDE?

1. All entries will be accepted and will be considered.
2. An initial judging criterion will be used by a panel of student leaders, staff and community members.
3. The panel will refine the entries and then announce the top entries which will then go to a community vote.
4. A community vote will be held and all students, staff and family members will be able to vote.

PHS - HOUSE DEVELOPMENT COMPETITION 2020

Group names:

House theme and description of relevance and significance:

House Name 1:

Colour or Pattern?

Why is this important to honour?

House Name 2:

Colour or Pattern?

Why is this important to honour?

House Name 3:

Colour or Pattern?

Why is this important to honour?

House Name 4:

Colour or Pattern?

Why is this important to honour?

Entries to be submitted by **Friday 14 August 2020**

nathan.chisholm@education.vic.gov.au

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