



**PRAHRAN
HIGH
SCHOOL**

CREATIVITY . CURIOSITY . CHALLENGE . CHARACTER
MAKE AN IMPACT

2021 THE PHS NEWS #1

CONTINUING OUR LEARNING ADVENTURE



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What a Beginning!

It seems something of an understatement to say that it's been a huge start to the year – both here at Prahran High School and in the world around us. While Melbourne has had some ups and downs, the strength of the developing culture here at our school sustains our work, our energy and our positivity.

One of my favourite things about the return to school each year is the arrival of our Year 7 students. Each year there's a thrilling sense of excitement (and nervousness) that fills the Atrium as our new students arrive and look up to the sky through the soaring glass ceiling. We watch them wonder how their combination locks work, we help them navigate a new world of Compass, fortnightly timetables, no bells and new computers for learning.

It's been fabulous how well our Year 7 students have settled into life at PHS. We've loved getting to know them and we very much enjoyed spending time with families too at our recent Year 7 family BBQ. Soon, the students will be at their transition camp together too.

It's not only our Year 7s though who have settled in well. Our Years 8 - 9 students have returned to school with energy and drive too. At the time of writing, the momentum for our Year 9s has improved once again and the learning starting to happen in their Specialisations, the IMPACT9 projects and their Core subjects is high-level indeed.

This past year has been hard for these kids – very hard in some cases. The extended lock down last year, the uncertainty of this year and the normal challenges of finding your way in the modern world as a teenager. For some of our students (and right across Melbourne) it's not been easy, some learning habits have slipped and the return to normal classes and a full school day is taking time to adjust.

We understand this, we are doing all we can to support them and we are aligning significant human resources to ensure we're strategically working to catch-up. To that end we have appointed a new staff member, Ms Cressida Crossley, whose role it is to work with targeted students for whom close intervention is required for learning and wellbeing. The DET has invested heavily in this 'catch-up' priority through the Tutor Learning Initiative and we certainly hope to see significant improvements statewide.

I have been reflecting recently on what matters most in schools, especially now, in these times. There is a lot happening in our system and while there are a lot of well-intended initiatives flowing to schools, we won't jump into all of them. We need to be methodical and strategic and calm. And, we know our community, we know our kids and we know what we need to do for them. I'm working to quieten some

of the noise around us, to enable my staff to do what they need to do to ensure the best possible outcomes for our kids. There has never been a more important time to get the basics right and ensure a tight, refined focus on what matters most – relationships, community and teacher practice.

In the wash-up of the past year and associated responses, the trust in communities to know what is best for our contexts is perhaps not being as highly valued as it could be. I am determined that we don't lose sight of that here.

I have faith in the PHS community, and I trust my understanding of our kids and what they need. Further, I trust you, our families, to work in partnership with us; I trust my staff team to bring their absolute best each day and I trust our students to step up, put in and contribute. That is the relationship and improvement compact we have nurtured here at PHS and it's certainly how we'll ensure further success as we progress.

Last Friday, the staff worked with our expert partner, John Hendry OAM for the day. We had a challenging, supportive and thoughtful day with John, as together we unpacked the theory and practice of mindfulness, relationships and resilience, to build a kind, high-performance culture. John's generosity of spirit, his 50 years of experience and his truly expansive mind, ensured a most worthwhile day indeed.

The work we are doing with John is ongoing. It is also work that is important for all of us who work in the relationship of learning together: students, families and staff. We will offer an evening with John for families early in Term 2. I'll confirm the date soon. John wrote this material, [Relationship Based Education](#), for Parents Victoria. I share this with you and invite you to spend some time with John's thinking should you be interested.

Thank you for your ongoing support and for your patience this year. We are striving to ensure that our students have every opportunity available to them, in and out of the school. The challenge of the times has meant quick decisions, last-minute notices and just generally less time to plan than we otherwise might. I appreciate your understanding.

Every day I am grateful to walk into this school with the people who fill this place with their energy and personality. The pace of life at school this year has been fast, to say the least. It's exciting and makes our commitment to mindfulness as a strategy for focus, wellbeing and time just to be still even more important.

Nathan Chisholm
Foundation Principal

Art, Design & Innovation

With the introduction of IMPACT9 and Specialisations this year, the Art Design and Innovation learning area is buzzing with excitement. Our Year 9 students are embarking on diverse projects, following their interests and passions, while our Year 7 and 8 students are building the foundations with in-depth development of new skills and ideas.

Lara Karasavvidis - Art & Design

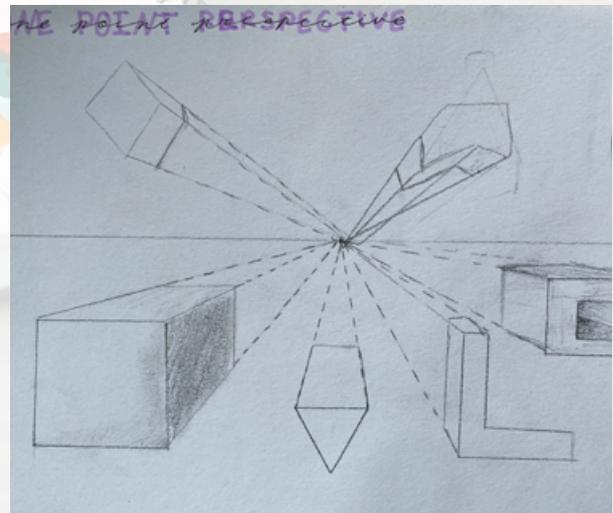
Year 7

Looking at the landscape through both the Western tradition and the Indigenous tradition, our Year 7 students are creating a topological map of their local area. Investigations into a range of media underpin this unit as they explore how artists make a mark, both figuratively and literally.



Year 8

Our Year 8s are learning about realism in their unit 'What's your perspective'. They are building their skills in perspective and tone, in preparation for a direction of their choice. We are so lucky to have two teachers working collaboratively this year, which has enabled our students to have more autonomy over their creative directions.



Year 9 Identity Project

Students began IMPACT9 with an investigation into their identity through a scientific, social, cultural and personal lens. Students chose to realise this project in a self portrait. As part of the research phase, we visited artist Atong Atem's exhibition at local gallery Mars. As you can see, our students were incredibly inspired, responding in a range of techniques and media and with their individual stamp.



Otto P.



Gus



Josie



Pipi

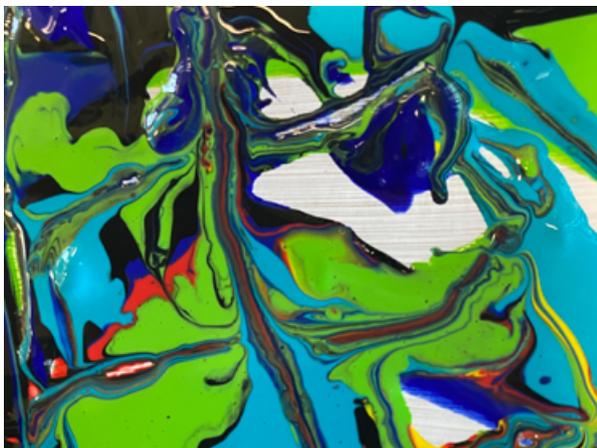
Year 9 Apprentice to Master

We have begun our year with a deep dive into the genre of Still Life. Here our students are drawing from observation, spending time honing their skills. From this point we will be taking this genre into a contemporary context, considering the value that we place on objects of importance in 2021.



Year 9 Art Laboratory

It has been a fun and experimental start to Art Laboratory with our first unit 'Art and Physics'. We've explored a range of fluid painting techniques and combined these with gravity and motion to see what effects we can create. Now to housing these in a concept and a refined final artwork!



Year 9 Wearable Art

How can we create an adornment that is reflective of our culture and history? Students in Wearable art have been researching this question and are developing their ideas both in their visual diaries and on Adobe Illustrator.



MUSIC

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“He who sings, sings away his woes” – Cervantes

Music has steadily been heard through the PHS over the beginning of the term. Instrumental students have begun their lessons and the rock bands and guitar ensemble have had their first rehearsals. Our newly minted Choir also had its first rehearsal on Thursday afternoon and everyone is invited to add their voice to our chorus. As our school grows, so are our aspirations for what music will be at PHS. In Semester 2, we will be broadening our instrumental opportunities with a unique musical project that we will be unveiling in Term 2.

Learning music is one of the most sophisticated and rigorous cognitive activities a brain can do. Musical learning involves the auditory, motor and visual cortices communicating at an astonishingly fast rate. The cognitive, reward and sensory networks are sharing information, and the perception, emotion and cognition networks are making personal meaning from all the information the brain is processing. It is no wonder then that people who learn music make excellent learners throughout their lives.

We encourage anyone who might be interested in joining an ensemble or learning an instrument please contact Mr Welch to have a chat about becoming involved in this joyous and rewarding musical experience.

Alex St Vincent Welch - **Head of Music**

Further we ask families to complete this simple survey to express interest in instrumental lessons this year.



[Click here for survey](#)

DRAMA

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Performing Arts Costume Department – Can You Help?

The Performing Arts department is seeking your help! Do you have any clothing items that would be suitable for Prahran High School's theatre costume department?

We are seeking donations from families to begin building our school's costume department for use in class and in school productions. Desired items of clothing include, but are not limited to:

1. Jackets or Coats (male/female)
2. Dresses
3. Skirts
4. Suits
5. Hats
6. Halloween/Party costumes
7. Handbags/Bags
8. Costume Jewellery & Accessories

Vintage clothing items are highly desirable for use in plays and performances that are not contemporary. Contemporary/current fashion and clothing is a lot easier to source. Any donated items that are not considered suitable can either be returned to the family who donated them, or Prahran High will donate them to charity.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact the Head of Performing Arts, Andrew Byrne. andrew.byrne@education.vic.gov.au

MATHS



First term has been very busy in the Maths community at PHS. We began the year by getting to know our new students and sharing the values that are important, and lived, in Maths at PHS. We have also re-established learning routines and expectations with all our returning students, including the introduction of our new Mathspace homework program.

Year 7 and 8 began their learning by focusing on developing and refining their number skills through the Integers topic. Year 9 students have delved into the world of Probability across the first weeks of the year. It has been pleasing to see majority of students have commenced the year with a positive intent and have challenged themselves to achieve their best in Maths.



Students in all year levels participated in diagnostic testing to assist teachers in identifying their starting point (or point of growth for past students). We commit to meeting every student at their starting point, wherever that may be, and this diagnostic information helps to ensure that we can effectively differentiate for all students, so that every student can maximise their learning growth.

In 2021, specialised Maths homework help will be available 3:15 - 4:30pm every Tuesday after school. We encourage all students to attend.

2020 was a disrupted year for so many of us, in Maths at PHS we look forward to a return to normality, and to seeing all students flourishing and achieving success in their Maths learning and in broader school life.

Sara Wise - Mathematics Learning Area Leader

BOOKS

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Library Report March 2021

As our school continues to grow, so does our library! So far this year we've seen a large increase in the numbers of students coming through the doors every day to explore what's on offer, and we continue to add to the library collection every week.

All Year 7 classes have undertaken a library orientation within their first weeks of high school, in order to introduce them to the plethora of resources available to them, and to enable them to feel confident and comfortable using the library. They have been ferociously borrowing ever since! As all students know, the PHS library is their library, and we always welcome feedback and suggestions for new books.

Our Book Club has restarted for 2021 with new members from all year levels, and we are especially excited to host the Richmond High School Book Club for a joint session at the end of this term. It is great to make new bookish friends and bond with likeminded students!

Our Book Club doesn't involve any prescribed reading, but is instead a chance to talk about what we're reading and recommend books to one other in a relaxed, social setting. If there are any students that are tempted to come along and see what we get up to, you would be very welcome! Just stop by the library after school on Wednesdays and join in the fun.

A new Writers' Club has also begun in the library. Students have the opportunity to learn new techniques and workshop their writing with two staff that have publishing experience. Newcomers can join in by coming along at 8.15am on Mondays. All you need is your imagination and something to write with.

In the coming weeks there will be an opportunity for keen students to form a Library Committee. The group will consult on the library programs for 2021 and this will be a great leadership experience for those passionate about libraries. Together we will be cooking up some exciting new initiatives, so stay tuned for more information coming soon!

Ms Karys McEwen - **Library Manager**



City of Stonnington Climate Change Forum

On Monday 8th February, several passionate young members of our PHS community came together with other schools to participate in an online meeting about Climate Change. The meeting included team members from CERES, the City of Stonnington, and we were joined by the mayor Cr Kate Hely.

There were four areas of focus: Understanding Climate Change, we watched the trailer from the movie 2040. Students discussed and drew pictures of: "What is your 2040?".

We were shown scientific data to help us understand some Climate Science Basics:

- It's warming
- It's us
- We're sure
- It's bad
- We can fix it

Students were given an opportunity to pose any questions. Each question was answered by various panel members. Students concluded the day, making a pledge of what they wanted to do next.

"I'm really excited to see young members of the community such as me working together to solve our Climate Crisis."
Harry P 7E

"I was very excited to be participating in an activity in which my voice is included in climate change. I think it's very important to be open to young people's minds so we can look forward to a better future."
Juliya T 8E

"It was a great experience to communicate with other high schools that are under Stonnington council and to share our ideas for our future environment."
Xavier 8E

"I am looking forward to inspiring young people like me to help fight against climate change." Ruby G 7B

"I'm doing my part in helping to stop climate change, it may be small, but it still helps. Climate change is scary but I'm glad we're facing it." Violet H 7B

"I am part of the Enviro Club because I think we really need to do something on climate change before it's too late, climate change isn't something we can delay we have to do something now... ... a few years ago, I cut my hair to raise money for a charity called One Girl, they help girls in places like Sierra Leone to go to school. This helps "cure" Climate Change because it means the women are educated and have the decision children when they are older and have less children."

Yael S 7F

In future meetings, at the school, we can review and reflect on these pledges and new ideas to discuss how we will begin to 'Make an impact' at PHS.

We will be asking for new members to join our team. Look out for our next meeting, join us!

One of first community project, involves our newly obtained rubbish bins. Students had noticed there have been areas around the school that do not have close access to bins. We are hopeful that students/staff, separate their waste in the appropriate bin.

Students in the 'Enviro Club' will be 'adopting a bin', to decorate and provide their own inspirational, creative message to remind all in our community to use the appropriate bin for their rubbish.

We hope you will all notice and use our new bins.

Mrs Dimi Charalambous - Science Learning Area Leader



Annual Implementation Plan 2021

Flowing from our Strategic Plan, each year our Annual Implementation Plan guides our improvement agenda. It's a vital planning and accountability document for us and it's always [available on our website](#) should you be interested in reading over it at any time.

Further, each year we create a snapshot of the work – The Top10 - so all stakeholders are clear about what we're doing and what our responsibilities are. The following is an executive summary/overview of the plans for the coming year.

Our AIP 2021 Top 10

1. We will further operationalise and embed our Positive Climate for Learning
2. We will lead the implementation, consolidate and review of IMPACT9
3. We will continue our focus on collaborative practice, leading to our involvement in the PLC initiative
4. We will continue to embed our instructional model with fidelity
5. We will develop further student leadership roles, creating enhanced responsibility and agency in their school
6. We will build the capacity of the leadership team to effectively lead and achieve
7. MYLNS and Tutoring: We will develop and implement our literacy and numeracy improvement plans, embedding our approach to support students most in need
8. We will build real and meaningful links between the school and community
9. We will develop a Later Years model for Prahran High School
10. We will plan, document and seek VRQA registration to deliver our 10 – 12 curriculum

Bike and Helmet Safety

Our school is central to our community. We are surrounded by business and residential life. We are also situated on a very busy road, in a very urban environment. We strongly encourage all community members to scoot, ride or walk to school where possible.

Recently we've noticed that some students who ride bikes to school have not been wearing helmets. It's an absolute requirement of the school, the community and the law, that all cyclists wear a helmet. The fine is significant but more importantly the risk is significant. If students are on bikes without helmets, we will keep their bikes here until they bring a helmet to collect.

Further, we have had a few complaints from local businesses/homes about students on bikes on footpaths. Teenagers riding fast on footpaths right past shop doorways is a dangerous mix. We will reinforce this message of bike safety at school and we ask for your support at home too.





RISE & SHINE! IT'S

Breakfast Time

**Come and enjoy breakfast with
your friends at school.**

8AM - TUESDAYS

ROOM 3.06

NO CHARGE - NO NEED TO BOOK

YOUR DATES FOR DIARY

Monday 15 March – Wednesday 17 March
Year 7 Camp Adanac

Thursday 25 March

Parent-Teacher Conversations

Midday – 8:00pm (Virtually conducted through Teams)

Thursday 1 April

End Term 1 (Students dismissed at 1:30pm)

Privacy Statement

Our school collects, uses, discloses and stores student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the [Schools' Privacy Policy](#).

Please take time to remind yourself of the school's collection statement, found on our [website](#).