



**PRAHRAN  
HIGH  
SCHOOL**

CREATIVITY . CURIOSITY . CHALLENGE . CHARACTER  
MAKE AN IMPACT

2021 THE PHS NEWS #5

# CONTINUING OUR LEARNING ADVENTURE



1. PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE
2. SCHOOL CANTEEN DEVELOPMENT
3. SCHOOL UNIFORM REVIEW
4. PRINCIPAL'S WRITERS COMPETITION
5. ENGAGING POSITIVELY ONLINE
6. OUR POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR SUPPORT EXPECTATIONS
7. THE LAUNCH OF THE PHS STUDENT DIARY
8. RECONNECT SESSIONS
9. TAKE ME TO TOKYO
10. LEARNING AND TEACHING UPDATE
11. NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK
12. KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



PRAHRAN  
HIGH  
SCHOOL

CREATIVITY . CURIOSITY . CHALLENGE . CHARACTER  
MAKE AN IMPACT

## Principal's Message

**Our students and staff are working hard, in cheerful spirits to ensure that Term 3 continues with positivity and momentum, back on site once again. As a school, as in the community more broadly, we're doing our very best to adapt to the ever-changing world around us. As challenging as these recent weeks have again been for students, staff and families, there is still such joy and energy around learning, connection and contribution in our school and it's truly wonderful to be part of it.**

In this edition of The PHS News, we explain some review, planning and further school development updates that are taking place this term. Please do take some time to read and consider all that is happening. Today, I also share some of the thinking and science which underpins Positive Psychology, one of our 'three PHS pillars of wellbeing'. Why does this matter? Why is this more important now than ever? And, why as a school, have we decided that a culture grounded in the research base of Positive Psychology is the right work for us?

Diagnoses of depression and other affective mental health disorders have been increasing amongst young people, worldwide, at an alarming rate. This has actually been a developing trend for many years but has increased further, as a result of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Throughout those years, and certainly across the last decade, this worrying data has risen within the broader social context (for many, certainly not all) of relative wealth, success and generally higher standards of living, especially here in Australia. There has long seemed a disconnect between what these indicators suggest young people 'should' be experiencing, and what the realities for them can be.

Professor Martin Seligman founded the science of Positive Psychology in 1998. Fundamentally he believed that there was a gap in the science of psychology. He noted that most psychological interventions were designed to repair, to fix problems. His simple, but multi-layered contention was that we ought to be equally as concerned with true wellbeing and life satisfaction, as well as with repairing that which has gone wrong.

Seligman founded a psychology that focuses on cultivating positive emotion, optimism, resilience, our unique character strengths and life satisfaction, rather than waiting for depression or anxiety to occur and then treating those symptoms. (*Authentic Happiness, University of Pennsylvania, 1998*)

When this science is applied organizationally in schools it is known as Positive Education. Considerable research from around the globe gives us confidence that we will make a positive difference in the lives of our students by embracing this work. We're really pushing ahead with our efforts in this area this year, now more resolute than ever in our commitments. We know it's the right work.

Ms Shannan Roberts leads the work of our Student Wellbeing and Engagement Team, where many aspects of this work and our approach sit best. However, it is also a whole of school and community focus. It's cultural and we look forward to continuing to engage with families more on this as a community in partnership. It's about learning and wellbeing; wellbeing and learning; we can't focus on one without the other.

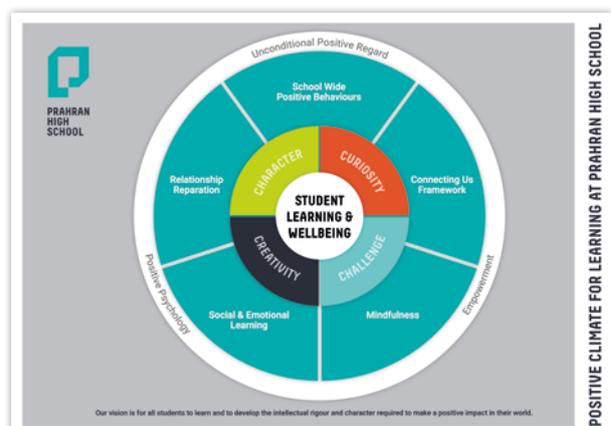
Schools have a powerfully important role to play here. And, the many positive learning, social and community interventions we can put in place don't rely on money or huge resources. This is cultural work and language is vital. Language is culture. Language is also powerful and free. We work from that belief at our school.

At Prahran High School, we are striving to nurture and consolidate our school culture, grounding all that we do in meaningfully engaged and positive relationships. Our unique Connecting Us relationships framework and our work with John Hendry are serving us well.

Essentially, we're aiming to build a truly compelling culture of learning well, doing well and being well!

Keep smiling.

Nathan Chisholm  
Foundation Principal



## Rooftop Café Development

**As we are now well into our third year of operation, the next stage of our progression is working toward the development of a bespoke canteen/café for our school. We do have an excellent purpose-built facility on Level 4 but to this point it has remained unused.**

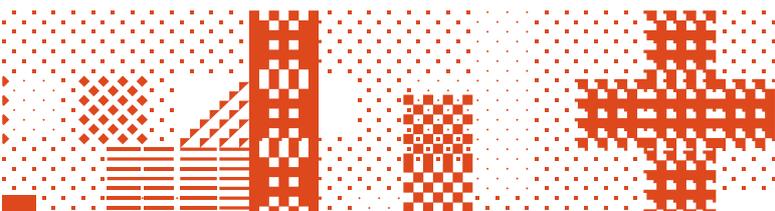
As a relatively small school, we have not yet had the scale of customers required to make a canteen viable. We have now reached this point and we know that students (and families) are keen to see this progress.

The School Council have been working through a process to seek expressions of interest from suitable businesses. We are now at the next stage and are close to finalising the contract.

Our plan was to have the canteen operational to begin Term 4. The situation with the recent lockdowns means that the start date may now need to be at the beginning of 2022. We are however still working this through, and I will update again as soon as practical.

We are very pleased to be able to progress the development of a PHS café for our school. When we begin, the service will operate from 8:30am until 2:00pm and will operate within the required DET Healthy Eating Guidelines.

We are close to finalising the arrangements. A focused canteen launch newsletter will be shared with the community as soon as possible.



## School Uniform Review Feedback Survey

**As we approach the latter half of our third year of operation as a school, we will be reviewing and evaluating our work to this point, in a range of different ways. From curriculum to student wellbeing, from office processes to classroom furniture, from use of community facilities to the school uniform. It is an appropriate time to review our progress.**

The Foundation School Council decided that the new Prahran High School would be a school where students wear uniform. It was considered to be important and was broadly supported by the community. We developed the uniform collaboratively with significant input from families and students.

When we began our work together as a new school in January 2019, our students looked fabulous. When worn properly, they still do.

A school uniform will never please everybody. Students and families will always have preferences and certain garments will be more popular than ever. Some garments are more easily enforced than others in schools.

The School Council is responsible for decisions around school uniform. It is then the role of school management and staff to enforce the Council approved uniform policy.

At our most recent School Council meeting, it was agreed that a detailed school uniform review survey will be developed and distributed to the community to seek your feedback. At the Council meeting, an initial threshold motion was passed to confirm that Prahran High School will continue to require students to wear a school uniform.

[This survey is available here](#) for families and students to complete until Friday 20 August.

**We look forward to your feedback.**

## Principal's Writers Competition

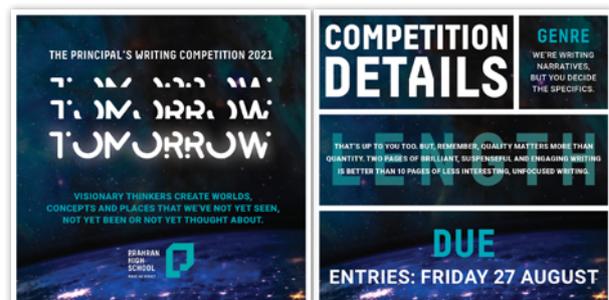
**Recently, I launched my annual Principal's Writing Competition 2021. I have held this competition since our Foundation year and the entries have been consistently outstanding. Last year, we awarded a range of prizes and I am confident that the standard will be even higher this year.**

Great stories, storytelling and storytellers, have been a deeply important aspect of the human experience for many, many thousands of years. Visionary thinkers create worlds, concepts and places that we've not yet seen, not yet been or not yet thought about.

The theme this year is TOMORROW and my hope is that with this theme, students have the space and opportunity go in all manner of different directions and places.

Most importantly we want opportunities like this to encourage students to just simply have the chance to write freely, creatively and embrace their wild and crazy imaginations in any way they like.

**Please encourage your child to participate. I look forward to reading the 2021 entries.**





## THE PRINCIPAL'S WRITING COMPETITION 2021

# YU MURRU TUMURRU

Great stories, storytelling and storytellers, have been a deeply important aspect of the human experience for many, many thousands of years. And, as we think about Tomorrow, perhaps the power of great writing is even more vital.

Fantastic, unputdownable novels bring us joy.

Powerful, accurate journalism helps us learn.

Beautiful poetry helps us to reflect and articulate our feelings.

First Nations stories teach us about history, love of Country and respect for traditions.

Playwrights create opportunities to walk in someone else's shoes.

**VISIONARY THINKERS CREATE WORLDS, CONCEPTS AND PLACES THAT WE'VE NOT YET SEEN, NOT YET BEEN OR NOT YET THOUGHT ABOUT.**

### COMPETITION DETAILS

#### GENRE

THE WRITTEN GENRE AND  
STYLE OF YOUR CHOICE.

#### LENGTH

THAT'S UP TO YOU TOO. BUT, REMEMBER, QUALITY MATTERS  
MORE THAN QUANTITY. TWO PAGES OF BRILLIANT, SUSPENSEFUL AND ENGAGING  
WRITING IS BETTER THAN 10 PAGES OF LESS INTERESTING, UNFOCUSED WRITING.

**DUE** ENTRIES: FRIDAY 27 AUGUST EMAIL: [NATHAN.CHISHOLM@EDUCATION.VIC.GOV.AU](mailto:NATHAN.CHISHOLM@EDUCATION.VIC.GOV.AU)

## How We Behave Behind our Keyboards – Engaging Positively Online

Our increasingly online and connected world presents exciting opportunities for connection- globally and locally. Students are engaging with each other often, and often intensely, something that has been exacerbated during our periods of lockdown.

Whilst overwhelmingly these communications have contributed to fostering a sense of connection, there have also been instances where devices and platforms have caused deep distress.

The anonymous nature of the online world can encourage unkindness and a sense of 'zero responsibility'. Young people have powerful devices in their hands, and these devices provide access to an increasingly unregulated and adult world earlier and earlier.

Please talk to your children about how they communicate online. Remind them that there is no distinction between the real world and the virtual world when it comes to the feelings of others.

Please encourage them to promote positive reflections on content that is shared on social media and teach them how to respectfully call out harmful and unkind behaviour they see online. There are many challenging things in our world to navigate at the moment and spreading and sharing kindness is one antidote to this.



## Our Positive Behaviour Support Expectations

**At Prahran, we are committed to fostering a learning environment that is kind, focused on learning and where students are supported to Make an Impact.**

As a result of significant consultation with families, students and staff, we have developed our unique PHS Positive Behaviour Matrix. This matrix encompasses the nine behaviours we believe are best to support learning and wellbeing in our school.

This matrix and the behaviours within it are displayed throughout our school, referenced during learning sessions and explicitly taught to students. Thank you to all of our students, families and staff who contributed to the development of this important set of expectations and commitments.



Our Positive Behaviour Expectations and Commitments			
Be <b>KIND</b>	Encourage and accept others.	Listen to each other respectfully.	Show care and kindness with our words and actions.
Be <b>RESPONSIBLE</b>	Be punctual and use your time productively.	Follow staff instructions.	Wear your uniform and keep the school calm and clean.
Be a <b>LEARNER</b>	Challenge yourself.	Learn from, with and about others.	Be ready to learn: mindset and materials.

**The Prahran High School Pledge**  
I challenge myself to think creatively, speak respectfully, engage empathically and act courageously to make a positive impact in the world around me.

# LEARNING

CREATIVITY . CURIOSITY . CHALLENGE . CHARACTER  
MAKE AN IMPACT

## The Launch of the PHS Student Diary

Just this week, students have been assigned their very first Prahran High School diaries. These diaries are an important tool for students to improve their organisation and time management skills. We will be working closely with students in coming days and weeks to build positive habits of diary use.

Students are required to write homework, learning assessments, due dates and school events in their diaries. Students will be using their diary every session, every day. There will be times when students bring diaries home at the end of the day and we ask that you support them with this by checking them, asking about homework and reminding kids how important diaries can be for effective organisation.



## Reconnect Sessions

From time to time in schools, students make poor decisions in regard to their behaviour. When this occurs, it is important that students have logical consequences for their actions, and an opportunity to make things right. This is often handled 'on the spot' by our school staff, however there are instances where we need more time with a student to address this behaviour.

One way we will do this moving forward is through the issuing of Reconnect Sessions. Reconnect Sessions are designed to give students the opportunity to repair a relationship with a teacher, or to recommit to the learning they have missed due to poor behaviour in a learning session.

These sessions will be held after-school three times a week: Monday, Tuesday and Friday. The Reconnect Sessions are staffed by our leadership team.

Families will be notified through Compass that your child needs to attend a Reconnect Session, the date and time, and the reason why it has been issued. Reconnect Sessions are scheduled for one hour, however depending on the situation, they may be shorter than this. We look forward to your ongoing support.

Shannan Roberts - Assistant Principal



# WELLBEING

CREATIVITY . CURIOSITY . CHALLENGE . CHARACTER  
MAKE AN IMPACT

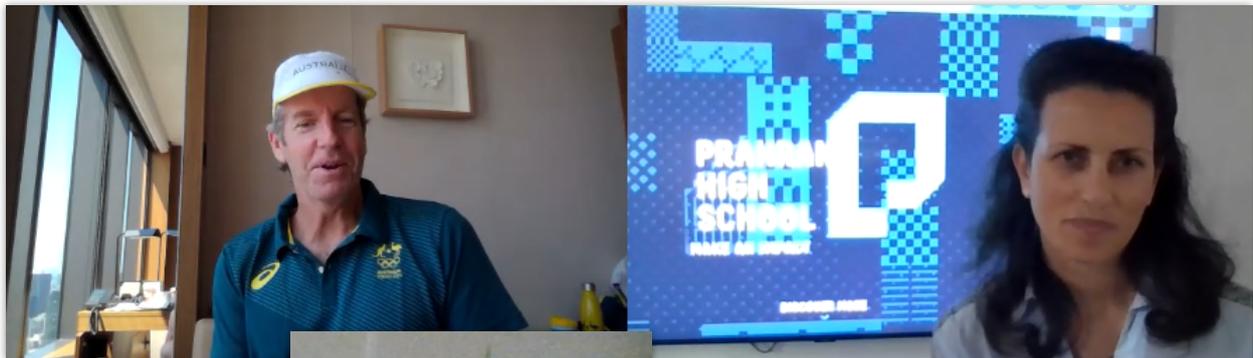
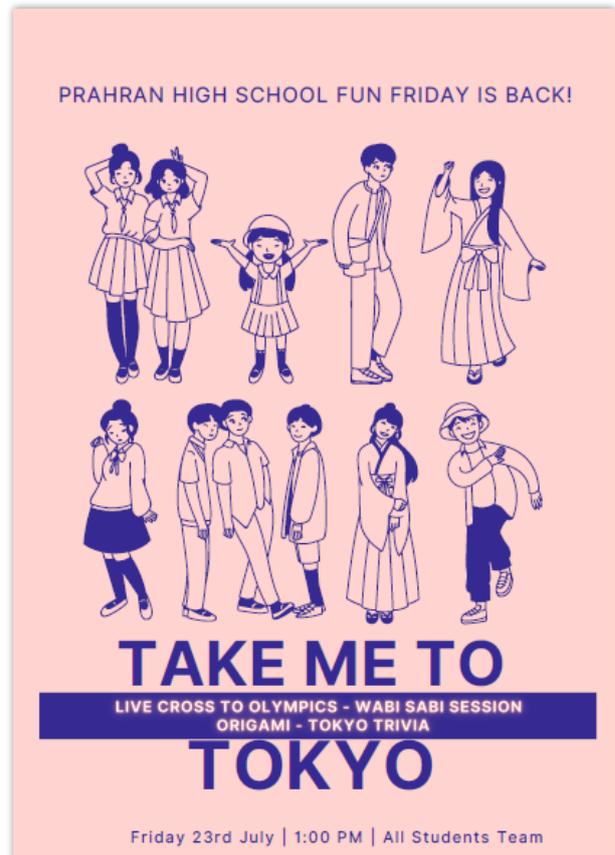
## Take Me to Tokyo

Fun Friday returned to PHS during lockdown. In the spirit of the Olympics the theme last week was 'Take Me to Tokyo!'

Ms Roberts kicked off the afternoon by guiding us through an explanation of the well-known Japanese philosophy - Wabi Sabi. Wabi Sabi refers to finding beauty in imperfection in nature and aesthetics. Miss Domange then channeled her inner creativity with an origami making session. Well done Erika Eto for completing the highly detailed paper swan!

Next, we competed in a challenging Olympic Trivia Kahoot that tested even the most senior amongst us. Finally, Fun Friday ended on a high with a surprise visit from gold medal Olympian James Tomkins. James zoomed into PHS from Tokyo and chatted about the events, the city, his role in the Tokyo Olympics and the interesting Covid testing regime in the Olympic Village. A big thank you to James Tomkins for taking the time to speak with our school community.

Ricci Thompson - **Learning and Wellbeing Support Team Leader**



## Parent - Teacher Conversations

On Thursday 2 September, beginning at 1:00pm, our **Parent Teacher conferences** will be held. Once again, we will run these conversations on-line, using MS Teams. Our normal assessment and reporting schedule will continue and our first progress reports for Semester Two will be available in week 7.

Students are expected at school as normal, but their classes will be shortened to enable the conversations with families to begin. Students will be dismissed from school at 1:00pm on this day and are then expected to attend the conversations with you.

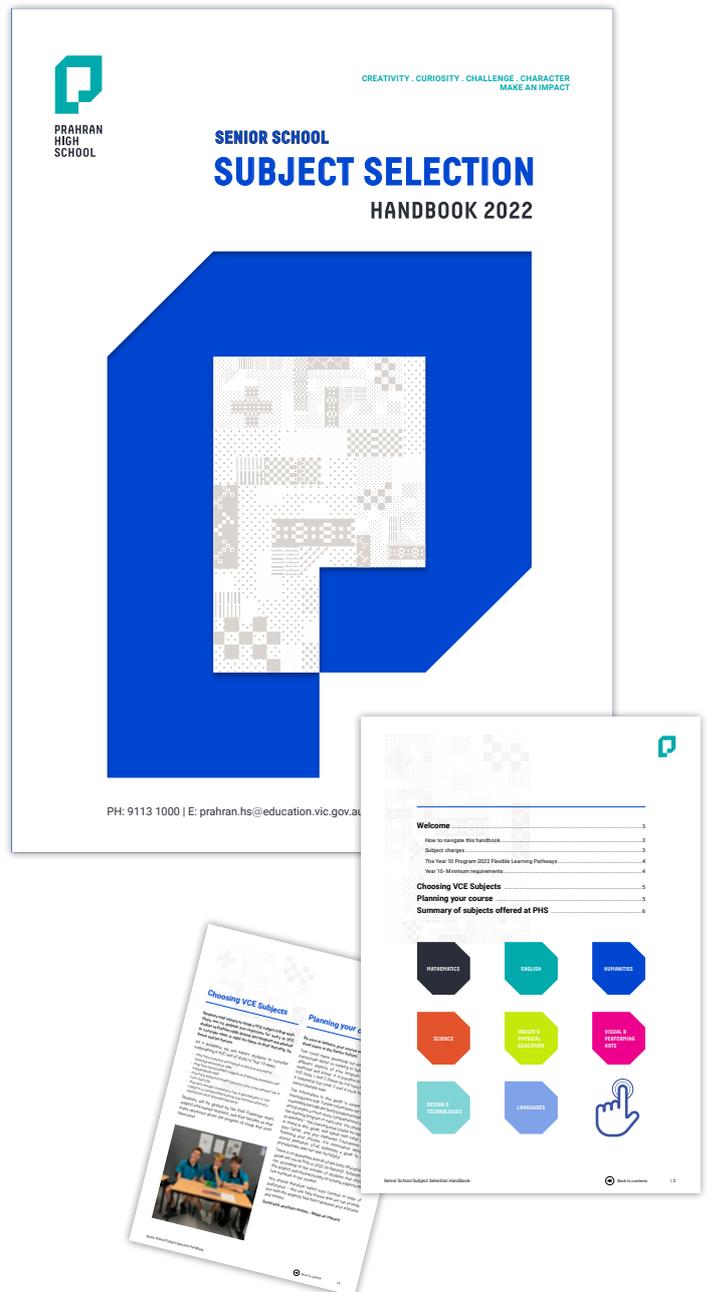
## Senior School Update

For Year 9 Students, our planned **Subject Selection Information night** will continue, and will be held on Tuesday 10 August at 6:00pm. The evening will involve a presentation for families and students, which will again be an online presentation.

Information regarding subject choices for 2022 will be distributed alongside that presentation. Our careers program will also continue in full. Our Year 9 students recently completed their Morrisby careers profiles while in remote learning, and the follow-up interviews with external careers counsellors will still take place in coming weeks. These interviews will now take place via Zoom and instructions on how to connect will be sent to families.

We will still also conduct our subject selection conversations with students from August 16 - 20, and families will attend via Teams/Zoom.

James Fidler - **Assistant Principal**



# SCIENCE

CREATIVITY . CURIOSITY . CHALLENGE . CHARACTER  
MAKE AN IMPACT

## National Science Week 14 – 22 August 2021

The theme of Science Week 2021 is: “Food: Different by Design”.

The [website](#) has a lot of engaging activities, links to events, articles, experts and much more. Families can even type in your postcode to see if there is a Covid-safe event that you can join in and enjoy.

There are also many options to allow families to view online sessions during Science Week, in a variety of areas that might interest you.

At school, we will run special experiments in our Science classes, as well as activities at lunchtime and a pile of great prizes.

Dimitra Charalambous - Science Learning Area Leader





*CBCA Book Week will be celebrated around Australia from 20th - 27th August in 2021. **The Library Leadership Committee is currently planning several bookish events to be held at school in Week Seven this term.** This includes a lunchtime event, an author talk, a very special DEAR Day (can you guess what it stands for?) and a second hand book sale. **But we need your help!** Do you have any second hand books to donate? We are looking for books in very good condition that are of interest to teenagers. If you have any, please contact our librarian Ms McEwen to discuss drop off. All proceeds from our sale will go to the Indigenous Literacy Foundation. **We can't wait to celebrate CBCA Book Week with you all!***

**DYLAN, LUCA,  
RUBY, AMELIE,  
JAVAN, YAEL,  
LUCIE & POPPY**

Library Leadership Committee

**CBCA Book Week // 20th - 27th August 2021**

Prahran High School Theatre proudly presents...

THE  
BROTHERS  
GRIMM  
SPECTACULATHON

BY DON ZOLIDIS

26th, 27th and 28th of August  
2021 @7pm in the  
Prahran High School Theatre

directed by  
Andrew Byrne

An Amateur Production By Arrangement with ORiGiN™ Theatrical, on behalf of RIGHTS HOLDER.

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

## Thursday 26 – Saturday 28 August

The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon (6:00 – 7:30pm)

## Monday 9 August – Friday 13 August

Year 9 Senior School Course Counselling Week

## Thursday 2 September

Parent-Teacher Conversations (1:00 – 8:00pm)

(NB: Students will be dismissed at 1:00 pm on this day)

## Friday 17 September

End Term 3

Students dismissed at 2:30pm

## 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](#).