



# THE PHS NEWS

## THE JOY OF SCHOOL

I've said this quite a lot lately as we've made our way through an overwhelmingly positive, productive and enjoyable first term here at school. It truly has been a great start to the year!

As we have settled back into the rhythm of school, we've been able to reflect more objectively on the difficulty of the past year/s. In many ways 2021 was harder than 2020 and amongst all the unrest, the disruption and the anxiety, we were actually trying to build a school and a culture. Was it easy last year? No, it wasn't. Did we still do a good job to ensure we consolidated well toward this year? Yes, we certainly did.

We should all be proud of that – students, staff and families – all of us contributed.

Throughout this first term, there has been so much joy. Our students have had the opportunity to participate in our swimming and athletics carnival, a flurry of inter-school events, our Year 7 camp, our first family BBQs of the year, excursions around Melbourne, getting started on rehearsals for our next production, stand-up paddle boarding on the bay, rowing at Albert Park Lake and so much more. I couldn't be more pleased with how well our students and staff are working together and with how students are approaching their learning.

I've been extremely pleased with how well our Year 7 students have settled into life at PHS. It's been great getting to know the kids and their families as they've quickly adapted to life at high school. I certainly know that together they created some great memories at Camp Adanac. I couldn't make it to the camp this year but I've loved talking to the Year 7s about their experience. I've not heard a single complaint – even the food was "amazing".

There is much about a camp of this nature that is challenging for kids. That's actually partly the point. For example, I know that many of our kids didn't know how to canoe before the camp, but they had a go, they persevered, and they learned a skill. They put in and they tried. That's what it's all about.

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**PRAHRAN  
HIGH  
SCHOOL**  
MAKE AN IMPACT



It's that spirit of having a go and doing your very best that is so important at school, every day and in every learning session. When we had our first assembly some weeks ago, I asked the students to truly and honestly think about this and consider if they are putting in all they can.

As we approach the end of the first term, after a full, rigorous and engaging term together, here on site, I wanted students to reflect on these questions. Am I doing my very best? Am I contributing all I can to build our school? If not, what steps will you take and what further support do you need from us? It's a partnership and it takes commitment.

Finally, as we round out this fabulous first term, I have been thinking about manners and the importance of respectful, polite and courteous communication. I was chatting to Amanda, our canteen manager, recently and she was saying how "nice your kids are" and "they use their manners when they're at the window".

Of course, I agreed. They are a fantastic bunch of kids and they are generally well-mannered. I did also say to Amanda that I want her to reinforce this with the students and to never accept impolite manners. She assures me she won't!



I watched the very sad State memorial for the late Shane Warne last week. It was a moving tribute to a man who lived a very full life, albeit too short. His three children spoke which was so very brave and, I imagine, so difficult for them. Each of them spoke with poise, honesty and love for the father they've lost. Each of them spoke about being taught the importance of resilience, of doing your best and of always being polite.

They shared that their dad always told them that "manners are free, they cost nothing", "always say please and thank-you" and "always be polite". It is such an important message for young people, and all of us.

I've had the privilege of being a principal for about 12 years now and in that time the world has changed a great deal. My work has changed, I've learned so much and I've grown as a leader and a person. One of the constants for me throughout that time (and will be forever) is the importance of manners, civility and respectful relationships.

At times it can somehow feel old-fashioned to value good manners and remind students of the value of manners at times when they've slipped; it shouldn't and isn't. It matters. It always has and it always will.

We have built a school in which manners and respectful communication is valued and is noticed. Nothing is ever perfect, all of us are a work in progress, we are all learning - particularly our young people. That's why we must never lose sight of these most fundamental of building blocks for positive human relationships.

Wishing you a wonderful term break with your kids. I look forward to welcoming the students back to school on Tuesday 26 April to begin Term 2.

Nathan Chisholm  
**Principal**

*"Manners are free; they cost nothing. We always remember how we feel when people communicate with us kindly, politely and respectfully."*

**PRAHRAN  
HIGH  
SCHOOL**

MAKE AN IMPACT





*"This was our first athletics carnival with our Houses in full colour, voice and spirit."*

## HOUSE ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

Our PHS House Athletics Carnival was a huge success last Wednesday. Held at Lakeside Stadium, the venue was highly impressive, and as students arrived dressed in their House colours it created a fantastic atmosphere!

There were plenty of opportunities for participation in team and individual events across the carnival and the competitiveness, House spirit and involvement were outstanding. I congratulate all participants and supporters on a brilliant Athletics Carnival.

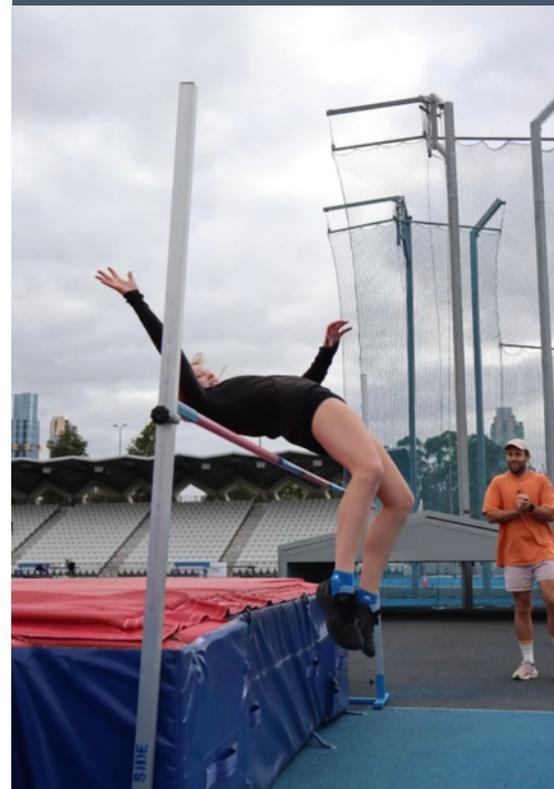
We were receiving frequent score updates through the day on the huge electronic scoreboard. After McGorry led for much of the day, it was actually Mabo who won our 2022 Athletics Carnival. Congratulations to the Mabo team!

The placings for the day were: 1st – Mabo, 2nd – McGorry, 3rd – Magda, 4th – Mirka. Well done to all students who participated in an event and contributed to their House score. Students having a go and trying their best is highly valued at PHS.

Lastly, thank you to all staff, parent, and student volunteers for their assistance. It was a fantastic day for the school community to come together.

Justin Bennett  
**Sports Program Leader**

*Congratulations to Mabo - our athletics champions for 2022!"*





## LEARNING AND TEACHING UPDATE

The year has begun well across all areas, with new teachers and staff fitting smoothly into our existing teams and our students starting the year in extremely positive fashion. A major highlight so far has been the launch of our Senior School model.

We have aimed to develop an ambitious 3-year Senior School program that offers students the flexibility to build out a learning program based on their skills, passions, and interests. This year we are running nine VCE extension programs across all Learning Areas, as well as providing flexibility in a range of Year 10 subjects. Along with Senior School comes changes to learning routines and assessment practice, greater emphasis on study skills and independent revision, exams, and a whole range of other changes. Our students are rising to the challenges.

In the Middle School, this year we have been able to embed some key structures more systematically across the school. Our growth has meant that we are able to embed our flexible collaborative teaching and learning practice across almost all core subjects from Years 7-9, allowing teachers more options and flexibility in how they support learning for students. We're also now consolidating our approach to IMPACT9, with a slightly revised program that builds on the strengths of 2021, while also making some necessary revisions to improve.

The end of Term 1 is always a busy time too – progress reports have already been distributed, Parent Teacher conferences (using an online mode) have just been held, and it is an exciting time with camps, excursions and Make an Impact projects taking shape across the school.

James Fidler  
**Assistant Principal**

2020

2021

2022

2023

2024

## SENIOR SCHOOL - 2023 AND BEYOND

Over the past few weeks, we have been doing some preliminary work to finalise our Senior School curriculum for 2023 and beyond. In the background the Victorian Government is implementing a major overhaul of the vocational sector across the state. We are lucky that our introduction of Year 11 and 12 coincides with the rollout of the new vocational model in all schools.

In practical terms, this means that in addition to our full VCE offering, PHS will also be offering a significant variety of vocational pathways.

First, the new VCE Vocational Major, which replaces the VCAL, allows students to complete a non-scored, VCE program, including study of a VET/TAFE course and an emphasis on workplace skills. This course will allow us to provide a rigorous, workplace-focused option that complements the traditional exams/ATAR VCE pathway, while also providing students with the flexibility to continue with other traditional VCE studies in areas of interest and passion.

Aligned with this is a broad introduction of VET/TAFE courses, available for study for students in Year 11 and 12. Under the new Pathways program, schools are required to provide students with the option to enrol in a VET/TAFE course in a wide range of areas: from Building/Construction, Media Studies, Music and Dance, Art/Design, Hairdressing, Plumbing/Electrical, Hospitality and many more. At PHS our intention is to partner with other schools in the area and external providers to allow students to choose from a wide range of options. Our central location and close community connections mean our students will have a lot of opportunity in the vocational space, if they wish.

Finally, we have been planning the next stage of accreditation for the VCE subjects we intend to teach. We have submitted the first stage of documentation to the VCAA and are intending on offering the following VCE subjects in 2023:

Further Maths, Maths Methods, Specialist Maths, English/EAL, Literature, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Psychology, History, Politics, Sociology, Economics, Business Management, Physical Education, Health and Human Development, Art, Studio Art, Media Studies, Product Design Technology, Systems Engineering, Music Performance, Theatre Studies, Visual Communication and Design, Food Studies and Extended Investigation.

These subjects were selected after consulting with students and staff, and based on 2022 subject selection patterns. There is scope to continue to build in the future and gives an exciting range of options for students

More detail on all of our Senior School programs will be presented to families as the year goes on. Should you have queries in the meantime please feel free to contact us at the school.

James Fidler  
**Assistant Principal**

Jason Wood  
**Head of Senior School**

# MUSIC NEWS

As we come to the end of the first term our music classrooms continue to be a hive of activity.

## Classroom Music

Students in Years 9 have been working on their own compositions, some have decided to use the programme 'Ableton' whilst others have gone down the more traditional route with handwriting notation and working with others in a group context. We hope to showcase them later next term at our Winter Soiree evening!

Our Year 7 students have been continuing to look at the music element of 'Rhythm'. We have now moved to the African instruments and students have learnt the traditional names and where in Africa they come from and how they are used. This past week they had the privilege of having Luis Poblete come in and run workshops with them.

Luis is a very well-known Melbourne musician who specialises in percussion and ensembles with his main instrument being the Congas. Our Year 7 students thoroughly enjoyed the experience to work with him and learn different skills. Luis will be partnering with us this year so expect to see more amazing creativity from this space. Below you can see some photos of the students working with him.

## Instrumental program & Ensembles

Our ensembles are going from strength to strength with students being dedicated to attending rehearsals and improving all the time. We look forward to showcasing these talents next term in our **Winter soiree which is due to take place on the 9th of June.**

There are still some spots left in our program and if you are wanting to learn an instrument, please see Miss Haddon in the music room for more details.

Theresa Haddon  
**Head of Music**





## SCHOOL STRIKE 4 CLIMATE AUSTRALIA

**PHS Enviro Club students walked out of school, with parental approval to attend the Schools Strike 4 Climate Australia protest on Friday 25 March 2022.**

Last week, a few students from Enviro Club at school went to the school Strike 4 Climate rally at the Old Parliament building. It was organised by a group of school students which I am a part of. We marched through the streets of the city, blocking off intersections and used our voices to demand climate action.

Actions like these do take a lot of time, commitment and effort to plan, but they are always so worth it. There is a really special feeling about chanting on a megaphone in a crowd of thousands of other school students who also want climate action, and climate justice, now! All of our futures are at a huge risk and if we do not act now and if the government doesn't stand up and do something about it, we won't have one.

This is why we strike, so that all young people on this earth have a future, a future that's liveable and safe.

### **Lucie – Year 9**

On 25 March, myself, along with around 20 other PHS students made their way to Melbourne CBD. We joined an estimated 10,000 kids and teens, all around the country to demand climate action from the government. We chanted, we marched, we made signs and we made an impact.

### **Charlotte – Year 8**

We marched in the streets chanting what we wanted with kids and teens like us all over Australia. We marched and stopped traffic. People started giving us weird looks, but it was for a good cause. I did this with my friends and it was an amazing experience.

### **Donny – Year 8**



## SCHOOL UNIFORM - IMPROVING FOR TERM 2

Overall this term, we are pleased with how well most students are wearing their uniform, correctly and with pride. Thank you for your support. We do ask please that you continue insisting that your child/ren wears their correct uniform, on the correct days.

As the term break approaches and the winter months bring cooler weather, please ensure students have the necessary jumpers, blazers, track pants and shell jackets. If you need help in acquiring these items, please let the office know.

Students should not be wearing hoodies or non-PHS branded items to school.

On a less positive note, there are a few students who are continually out of uniform. We need your support in enforcing this at home. The Middle and Senior sub-school teams will again be focused closely on uniform as we begin Term 2. We have a School Council approved PHS Dress Code and it is expected to be followed each day students are at school.

Shannan Roberts  
**Assistant Principal**

Rebecca Domange  
**Head of Middle School**

Jason Wood  
**Head of Senior School**



## SCHOOL ENROLMENT TOURS - PLANNING FOR YEAR 7, 2023

We have continued to host regular and well-attended school tours with prospective families. It's a pleasure to tour our school with our future families and again start to feel their excitement and interest in joining us at PHS. We can't fake the learning, the energy, and the positivity that our family's sense in our school – it's real, it's important and it's noticed.

The opportunity to 'walk and talk' in small groups has been valued by families again this year and people seem happy to be in the school again.

As always, the transition process at this stage is led out of the primary schools. Families are to have their Application for Placement forms, noting their first preference schools, returned to their Grade 6 teacher by Friday 13 May. The process then moves to us and continues from there until offers are made in late August.

When we lead school tours, we aim to give significant tour-guide responsibility and opportunity to our PHS Ambassadors. Our students are the best advocates and promotion for their school. We are so proud of the way students embrace this responsibility. Their poise, insight and warmth is inspirational.

**Should you know families who are keen to attend but have yet to book a tour, please encourage them to do so.**

Tania Casonato  
**Enrolment and Administration**



## 2022 PARENT FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS & 2021 CREDIT BALANCES

Thank you to all our families who have made 2022 financial contributions to date. This ongoing support ensures we can continue to provide our rich, rigorous and engaging program of student learning, over and above the standard government curriculum.

Financial Contributions can be made via Compass/Payments Centre or via instalments. If the later is your preference, please find my contact details below to arrange accordingly.

Regarding 2021 credit balances, it has come to our attention that these are unable to be transferred to camp events via Compass. Please contact Laura Rizk on 9113 1000 or [laura.rizk@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:laura.rizk@education.vic.gov.au) to arrange this credit off-set on your behalf prior to making payment.

For those students participating in our extra-curricular programs PHS Basketball Academy & Instrumental Music & Vocal programs, a reminder these programs are provided on a user-pay basis and therefore we require your payment no later than end of this term, 14th April, 2022.

For a confidential discussion of an alternative payment arrangement/s, please contact me on 9113 1000 or [natalie.smolarek@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:natalie.smolarek@education.vic.gov.au).

Natalie Smolarek  
**Business Manager**

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**End Term 1 - Friday 8 April**  
(Students dismissed at 2:30pm)

**First Day Term 2 - Tuesday 26 April**

**Senior School Curriculum Planning / Student Free Day**  
**Tuesday 24 May**