



THE PHS NEWS

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

As I reflect on Term 3 (and the year so far), I am filled with pride and gratitude. This term has been one of significant growth, real achievements and many, many highlights. And at the heart of it all, the commitment to our school values and especially the strength of character shown by our students, staff, and families has continued to shine brightly.

I continue to see, hear and feel a deep sense of energy, commitment and care, which is a true testament to the supportive community we've built together at PHS.

Our students continue to amaze me. Each day, our young people display a boundless sense of curiosity, diving headfirst into new ideas and asking questions that show their genuine interest in learning. It truly is a privilege to come to work here every day.

Last week we completed our important School Review panel process, after three days of rigorous discussion, focus group work, classroom observations and data analysis. This detailed process takes place every four years. Facilitated by Dr John Hunter, a retired school principal with a PhD in education and deep experience as an external school reviewer, the Review highlighted the many achievements and positive progress of the past four years.

The School Review Panel was very encouraging and felt that the evidence was overwhelmingly positive, clearly pointing to a school that is doing an excellent job and is on the right path forward. Together we also unpacked the areas for improvement identified and began to build the frame of the next Strategic Plan which outlines our goals, targets, key improvement strategies and actions for the next four years.

The next stage in the process is the School Review report which is then shared with me for feedback. Soon after, the final report will be tabled at School Council and the Strategic Plan will be finalised and communicated to the community.

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It is important to note that we don't wait for the Strategic Plan to be written before the next level of work begins. We are clear about the strengths and forward agenda. We are already pushing forward with the new work. Onwards with focus and enthusiasm.

I am grateful for the support, input and feedback of many people throughout the process. We ran multiple focus group discussion with students, staff and families. I'm particularly grateful to those families who gave up your time to be part of a focus group. The feedback is vital.

On behalf of the whole PHS community, I also thank Michelle, our School Council, President, who was with us throughout and was an invaluable contributor in so many ways. We are lucky to be so well served by Michelle as our President.

Further, our staff are incredible. Their dedication to nurturing each student's individual talents and curiosity continues to be remarkable, making every learning session an opportunity for deep understanding and personal growth. The Review process affirmed this strongly. Their unwavering commitment has not only led to academic success but has also created a truly supportive and inspiring space where students feel encouraged to reach their full potential.

I also want to thank you, our families, for your continued partnership. Your involvement and support have made such a positive impact, reinforcing the values of challenge, character, curiosity, and creativity in your children's lives. Together, we've created a school where students are empowered to explore, grow, and succeed. This too was affirmed in our Review.

Enjoy reading this edition of The PHS News.

Happy holidays.

Nathan Chisholm
Principal



Thank You to Our Families for Your Payment Contributions

The PHS School Council is grateful to lead and belong to such a generous and inclusive school community.

This year, the School Council has commenced our PHS Family Hardship Fund which has received \$7,036 from parent/carer voluntary contributions.

This additional funding has enabled students, who may otherwise have missed out, to participate in year level camps, senior school formal celebrations, and our instrumental music program with the ultimate outcome of delivering the wholly inclusive school experience we pride ourselves on.

This year we were also the fortunate recipients of two Prahran Rotary student scholarships of \$750 each. These scholarships have been awarded to two Year 11 students to support their final years of school

2024 PHS School Council.



NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK AT PHS

This term we celebrated National Science Week at PHS

The theme this year was Species Survival: More than Sustainability. We celebrated our biggest Science Week yet at PHS with events happening every day. Students were invited to attend several hands-on experiments at lunch time, a unique Escape Room experience in the labs and to watch a magic show in the atrium run by our own lab tech, Miss Radhika. From testing whale snot to figuring out science riddles, the week was full of curiosity and fun.

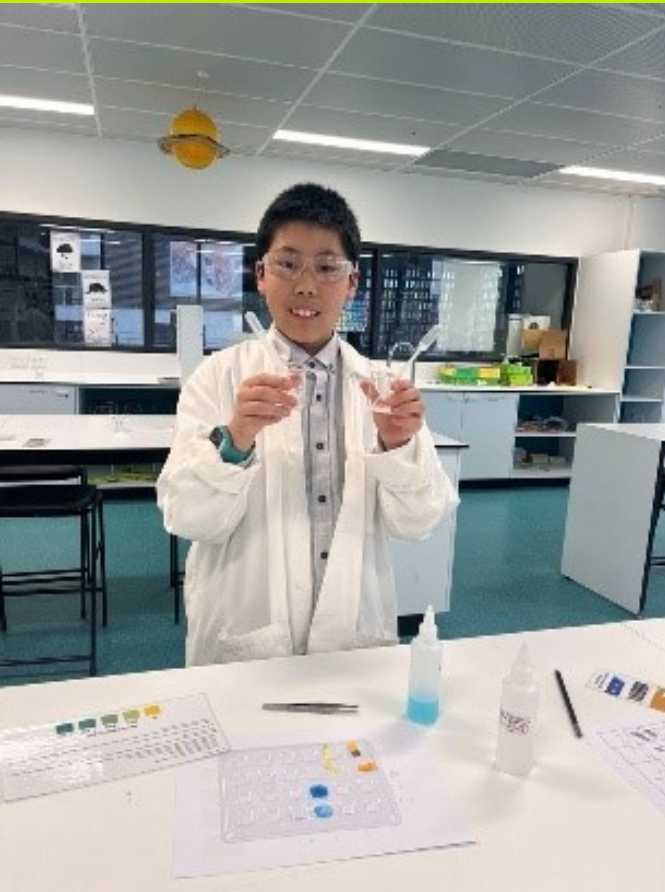
The biggest event of the week was the House STEM Olympiad. This event saw house teams challenge each other in science knowledge, maths skills and engineering enterprise. Congratulations to Mabo house, who took home the trophy!

Thank you to everyone who came along and had a go at the different activities and challenges.

A very special shout out to official photographers, Milla B (11A) and Charlie T (11E).

Ms Tess Pohlner
Science and Ethics Learning Area Leader





*My favourite thing about science week was the Escape Room (On Friday) because I like solving puzzles and tricky questions.
Yang, 7B*



VOCATIONAL MAJOR MICRO-CREDENTIAL COURSES

The Vocational Major Students Continue to Shine

This term students enrolled in our Vocational Major (VM) courses had the opportunity to complete two micro-credential courses, their Construction White Card and their CPR and First Aid Certification. These were two full day courses that were engaging and demanding!

Students rose to the challenge, participating in all hands-on activities and assessment. These credentials have broadened their employment opportunities and their knowledge and skills.

Well done to all of our VM Years 10, 11 &12 students.





It has been another fast paced term in the music spaces. It is hard to believe that soon our first group of Year 12 musicians will be in their final stages of preparing for their performance exams. They will also take part in their last Soirée at PHS in week one. These students have left a legacy that they should be very proud of. They have been significant contributors to the fantastic music program we have at PHS.

Spring Soirée- 10th October

In the first week of next term we will have our annual Spring Soirée. These events continue to go from strength to strength with over 120 students participating each time. Our musicians have been hard at work preparing for the show. I have included a photo of one of our Year 7 groups working with Luis Poblete, preparing their opening drumming piece. Tickets go on sale this week so be sure to get in quick as this will be another sell out show!

Songmakers Academy- Congratulations Summer Vidor!

Last term a group of our talented musicians took part in a program run by APRA called Songmakers. This program aims to partner musicians with successful music schools and empower students to write songs. Summer, one of our Year 12 musicians, applied to be part of their Songmakers academy, and she was successful in her application. Summer was one of 16 students chosen from around Victoria and will work in professional recording studios in Collingwood with well-known Australian musicians to write, collaborate and record tracks. Well done on this achievement Summer!

Year Level Assemblies

Over the past few weeks, we have had various bands perform at their year level assemblies. This has been a fantastic opportunity for them to gain more performance experience. I include a couple of photos from the Year 7 & 9 assemblies. These students showed great courage to get up in front of their peers and perform. A special shout out to Tyshawn who owned the stage singing 'Sweet Home Alabama' and to his band mates who supported him to do this - this is one of the things I love about the power of music and how it brings people together.

Year 12 Musicians...

Lastly to the Year 12 class of musicians, who by the time The PHS News news is published, will be stepping into those performance exams. I am so proud of each of you and how you have worked this year. It has been such an honour to see you develop as musicians and to see how you have inspired the Middle School musicians with your dedication and skill. I wish you all the best in your exams and thank you for the impact you have made on this music program in its foundation years.

Ms Haddon
Head of Music



Spring

soirée

Prahran High School

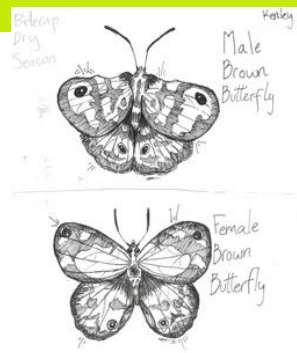
Music showcase evening

Thursday 10th October

Prahran High School Atrium

6:00-7:45pm





First Nations Project Enriches Year 9 Learning Experience

Our Year 9 students recently completed an inspiring and educational journey through the First Nations Project as part of their IMPACT9 program. This initiative aimed to develop cultural competency by immersing students in Wurundjeri First Nations history and culture.

Students explored one of four specialized streams: Botanical Illustrations, First Scientists, Storytelling, or Health and Wellbeing. Each stream offered unique insights into First Nations knowledge and traditions.

A highlight of the project was the visit to Melbourne Museum's Bunjilaka Aboriginal Cultural Centre. This excursion provided a tangible connection to Indigenous heritage, enhancing students' understanding of First Nations culture.

The curriculum delved into crucial historical topics, including:

- Melbourne's history during colonisation
- First Nations peoples' contributions to Country
- Significant referendums on Indigenous rights
- The Stolen Generations
- The Uluru Statement from the Heart
- Frontier wars

Throughout the project, students maintained reflective journals, encouraging self-evaluation of their growing cultural awareness.

The learning experience was further enriched by a series of incursions:

- An insightful Q&A session with our Koorie Education Support Officer
- A whole-year assembly featuring Djirri Djirri, who presented on First Nations culture and language.

Interactive sessions led by Wanyara, focusing on Sport, Yarning, and Artwork. These diverse learning opportunities fostered a deep engagement with First Nations culture and history. The project has undoubtedly broadened our students' perspectives on Australia's rich Indigenous heritage and contemporary issues.

We're proud of our Year 9 students' enthusiasm and respectful approach to this important area of study. Their journey of cultural discovery will undoubtedly have a lasting impact on their understanding of Australia's First Nations peoples.

Thanks,
Tim Darby
IMPACT9 Area Leader

Skateboard Workshop

Our ADI captains Neve Coleman and Charlotte Gallace recently held a skateboard workshop where students were able to design their own skateboard decks.

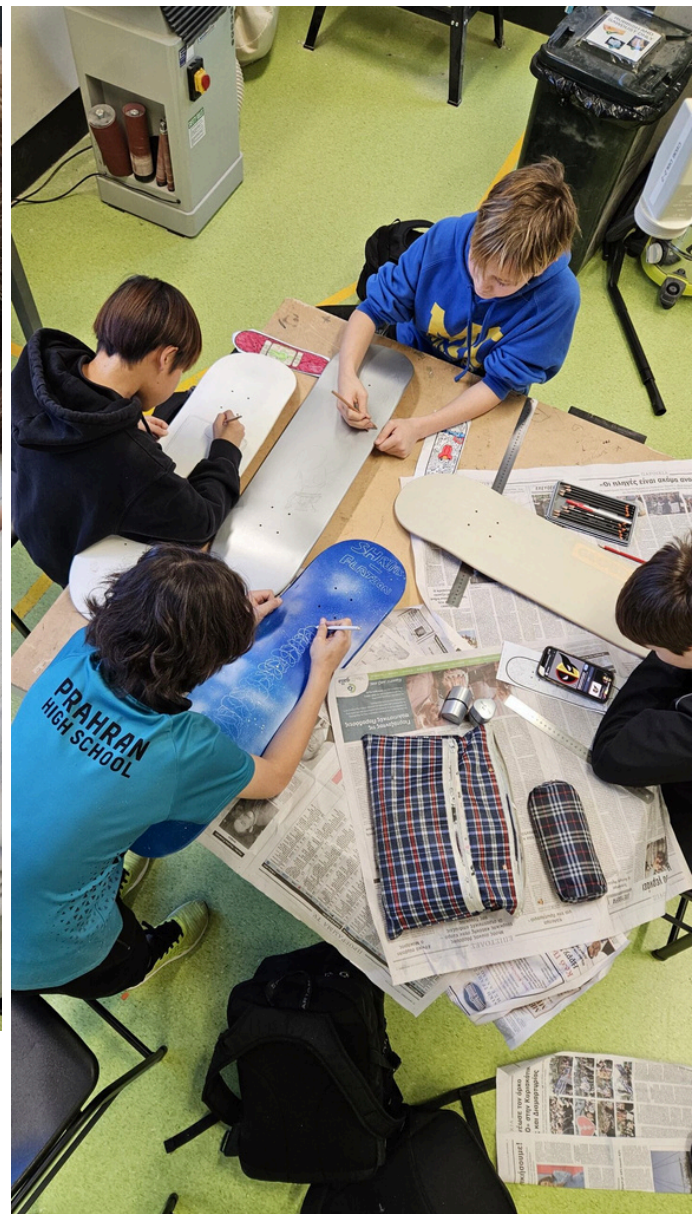
The workshop was a great success. The students created an open and positive environment where they were engaged in making and learning in order to produce their desired outcome.

The results were individual and unique designs that reflected the creativity of each person.

Thank You
Lara Karasavvidis
ADI Learning Area Leader



Skateboard Workshop





EMERGE

2024 ART AND DESIGN SHOW

Friday 18th Oct 5-7pm
Tuesday 22nd October AM and PM guided tours via Trybooking
Prahran High School and Melbourne Polytechnic
High St, Windsor



READING IS MAGIC



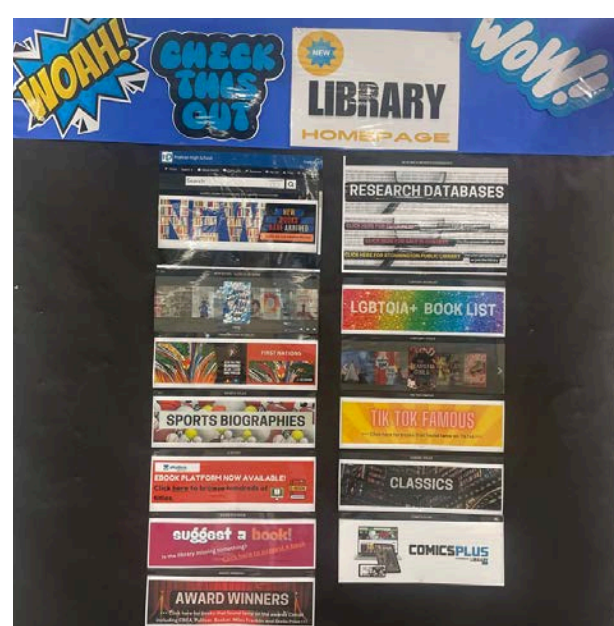
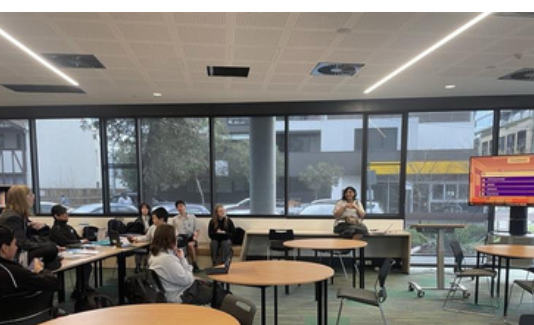
In the PHS library, we have celebrated the CBCA Book of the Year theme "Reading is Magic."

We welcomed Nova Weetman, a published writer of Children and Young Adult books, to speak to Year 8 students to help guide their creative writing this term. Jack Matthews from Stonnington library spoke of the book mark and writing competitions open to teens celebrating book week.



We celebrated the joy of reading with some friendly competitions: "Guess the title?", Book Trivia, Book lucky dip and "Judge a book by it's cover!"

Following the wonderful celebrations of Book Week we have launched our revamped library homepage. Head here to access all the amazing resources available for all students and teachers at PHS. Click on the Compass favorites menu or via this link <https://au.accessit.online/PRH01/#!dashboard>



YEAR 7 NEWS



What a wonderful Term 3 We've Had in Year 7

Our focus in Year 7 this term was Personal Wellbeing, with our Mentor curriculum exploring gratitude, character strengths and emotional, mental and physical wellbeing. Over the term students had the opportunity to participate in both a screen-time and step-count challenge.

Sofia B of 7A took out the screen-time challenge, averaging a very low 9 minutes of screen time a day over the two-week challenge period. Rayaan Mohd Najib of 7C completed a total of 236, 404 steps, which is an average of 16, 886 a day over the two-week challenge period. Congratulations to our two winners! Their fantastic efforts saw them each win two movie vouchers to village cinemas and a \$15 PHS canteen voucher.

It has been inspiring to see so many Year 7 students engage in the challenges, taking active steps to seek out opportunities to better their personal wellbeing.

In Week 2 and Week 7 all of Year 7 completed a Personal Wellbeing Survey and it was fascinating to see the results. Over the course of the term, it was clear students gained a better understanding of what personal wellbeing is, and how they can take active steps to improve it.

Term 3 was full of exciting activities, including Chicago, our school production, which included many year 7 students! It was wonderful to see their involvement in the production. Another wonderful experience was the music excursion into the city to watch the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra perform the story of Peter and the Wolf.

In addition, Year 7 ventured to the National Gallery of Victoria for an outstanding exhibition called Pharaoh. A huge thanks to the Humanities team for giving our Year 7 students such an amazing opportunity. I was very proud of the way Year 7 conducted themselves on this excursion. They were all so curious and respectful.

We had a large number of Year 7 students participate in Inter-school Sport this term. Two boys teams and a girls team represented PHS for basketball, a girls and boys team played futsal and a girls and boys team had a wonderful time participating in table tennis! It's fantastic to see these students represent PHS with pride and exhibit outstanding sportsmanship.

Year 7 engaged in a Cyber Safety Workshop which saw students engage in a range of important content around their safety online and digital imprint. The workshop also provided families the opportunity to learn more about this ever-important topic.

The final assembly gave students the opportunity to reflect on all their hard work and participation over the course of the term. Here we acknowledged Kira Saito, Marus and Max Donnelley, Nathan Truong and Mikki Giannakoulis for achieving the highest Green Note Celebrations for positive behaviour this term. Well done to all of these students!

Finally, I wish everyone a happy and safe break. It is so exciting to see the weather getting warmer and the energy building as we move closer to the end of the year. I can't wait to see what Term 4 has in store!

Meg Collins
Year 7 Coordinator



Abby Langhammer, IID



OUT NOW!

ISSUE 2 - 2024

In My Words:
PHS Writing
Journal

BEACHSIDE DIVISION ATHLETICS

A group of students from PHS participated in the Beachside Division Athletics event on August 26th, hosted at the Sandringham Athletics track. The day encompassed a diverse range of 13 events which were: long jump, triple jump, high jump, shot put, discus, javelin, hurdles, 100m, 200m, 400m, 800m, 1500m and 4x100m relays.

Students competed in their events, encouraged by their peers and interacting with students from various schools in our area.

The day finished off with the much-awaited relay events where everyone gathered to watch. Many students brought home ribbons in an array of winning colours

Kira S, 7D

FITNESS FOR LIFE PROGRAM.

Students in Year 10 took the option to participate in a fun Self-Defense Taekwondo session earlier this term.

**Racquel Lewis,
Teacher of HBHM**



The Boys 18-20 Years – Relay winners!





OPEN ENTRY FOR STAFF AND STUDENTS

Showcase your creativity in our upcoming exhibition.



We are seeking entries from staff and students for the open call out section of our upcoming whole school exhibition.

All art forms welcome!

Entries due to Ms Karasavvidis by October 11th 2024

Artworks must be accompanied by the following:

- Artist Name
- Artwork Title
- Medium
- Size
- Artist Statement (2-3 sentences)

**ART, DESIGN &
INNOVATION**