

5 December 2023

**By email**

Dear Preshil Community,

As we come to the end of another School year and say farewell to some members of our community, I want to share with you some important news regarding our school's leadership beyond 2024.

Our Principal, Joshua Brody, has recently advised us that he and his family have made the difficult decision to return to the U.S. at the end of Term 2 in July 2024 for personal family reasons. Supporting family from abroad presents significant challenges. While we will feel saddened by Josh and his family's departure from our community when the time comes, we also understand and fully support their difficult decision to prioritise family and move back home. As Josh is still with us for some time yet, we'll have the opportunity to celebrate his significant contribution to Preshil and the broader community, and to wish the family well for their next chapter.

When Josh arrived two years ago, schools in Melbourne were emerging from the upheaval and disruption of lockdowns. Preshil benefited from Josh's experience in leading a school through this transition. It was wonderful to have Josh's reassuring and calm presence to welcome staff, students and families and create a sense of stability after months of remote learning.

Josh has made a significant impact in his time with Preshil. He has built a team of dedicated and caring professionals, well-placed to lead the school into the future. Under his tenure, student agency has flourished through new student leadership structures and the innovative Change-Makers program.

Championing diversity, equity and inclusivity, Josh prioritised making the school a safe space for our First Nations students and families, while expanding support for working families with Commonwealth approved Long Daycare and a new model for offering outside school hours care. In 2024, the VCE Vocational Major will be offered for Year 11 and 12 students as an alternative to the IB Diploma Program.

Moreover, he has been encouraging increased parent/community participation through committees, Celebrations of Learning, and the relaunch of Preshil's Alumni program and newsletter. Josh has also overseen numerous operational improvements including the introduction of new administrative, HR and teaching and learning systems, and compliance policies and procedures, resulting in a successful VRQA audit and Diploma Program review by the IBO. Importantly, Josh has been working with Council to bring together a new strategic plan for 2024 and beyond; this work will continue into 2024, and we will appoint a new Principal who will be able to build on these successes.

We are immensely grateful for the positive impact Josh has had on our school. It has been a gift to have a capable and internationally experienced progressive educator of Josh's calibre to lead us through a challenging period of transition and usher in a new era for Preshil. By opening up Preshil to networks of progressive educators across the world, Josh has inspired us to think beyond our shores for best practice pedagogy, just as the founders of Preshil looked to European educators in the school's beginnings. Josh leaves us well placed to combine a progressive educational approach with an internationally recognised qualification to create graduates who can truly be global citizens and change makers.

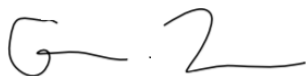
We wished to announce this change now, even though it is some months away as we are committed to being open and transparent. We will be commencing a search for the next Principal straightaway to ensure that there is continuity in leadership and time for a handover, so that the high standards of education and support that we provide for our students are maintained.

We know that a change in leadership can create a sense of uncertainty for staff, students and families and it's natural to have questions. We believe we have ample time to engage, share information and create a sense of assurance for everyone involved. We are committed to keeping everyone informed throughout the transition to a new Principal from the start. We have developed some Frequently Asked Questions that can be accessed [HERE](#). Any further questions during this period can be directed to Council directly ([council.president@preshil.vic.edu.au](mailto:council.president@preshil.vic.edu.au)). Council will also be hosting an online forum with any interested parents/families at 7:00pm AEDT on Thursday 7 December ([MEETING LINK](#)).

Having said that, Josh will be here until the end of Term 2 next year so we will have plenty of time to bid him and his family farewell and say thank you closer to their departure. In the meantime, there will be no change going into 2024, and you will see him on campus for the start of Term 1 next year.

Thank you for your continued commitment to our school.

Yours sincerely,



**Emma Zipper**  
School Council President

5 December 2023

**By email**

**Principal Update:**

Dear Preshil Community,

It is hard to believe that the school year is coming to an end. There is much to celebrate and much to reflect upon at the end of a year full of triumph and challenge. Part of my personal reflection has been around my family circumstances and the challenge of supporting family members from abroad. While the opportunity to be at Preshil has been a joy, after much deliberation, we have decided to return to the United States in July of 2024 to be closer to family in need of our support.

Even though I will continue to lead the school into next year, I want to take this opportunity to say that I am very grateful to have had the privilege of leading Preshil through a period of transition and I have enjoyed being a part of the Preshil community for these past years. Preshil is a unique environment where students feel a wonderful sense of belonging and agency in their learning. These qualities are not easy to come by in a school environment. They are important characteristics on which to build and I look forward to cheering the school on from afar as it continues to grow and change into the future as Preshil embarks on a new strategic plan.

I want to thank Preshil's School Council for their leadership and support. Council members contribute much time, energy, and skill that is not always recognised. I want to acknowledge the Preshil staff, all of them—teachers, administrators and support staff alike. It is truly a group of people dedicated to supporting the ongoing growth and development of students in the most kind and caring of ways. A very special thank you to the students of Preshil. It would be hard to find another school where students are more willing to stop and have a chat with their principal. And finally to parents, thank you for trusting your children to Preshil's care. I understand the significance of the decision and the investment you have made. I believe that trust and investment have been well placed.

For both new and returning families, I want to assure you that while change can be challenging, our classroom teachers and dedicated staff remain the heart of our school. I will, of course, continue collaborating with this team to ensure a smooth transition between now and June 30, 2024, when I will pass the baton to a new Principal. Over the next seven months, I look forward to continuing my work at Preshil with students, parents, staff, alumni and council. And while my time at Preshil will not be as long as I had initially imagined, my family and I will certainly take with us the Preshil spirit and values of Kindness, Community and Courage.

With warmth and appreciation,



**Josh Brody**  
Principal