

# People & Places

THE NEWS & EVENTS OF 2013

## NGADYUNG MAKES HISTORY



**A**S STUDENTS from Ngadyung entered the AIS Athletics Track for May's Athletics Carnival, they were greeted with a sign that said: "4 Trophies."

That was the goal, and it was also the result, as captains Tom Burgess and Taylah Fellows led Ngadyung to become the first House in MacKillop history to win all four trophies in a calendar year.

Having already taken out both cups at

the Swimming Carnival in March, which was also a MacKillop first, Ngadyung was the first ever House to go into the Athletics Carnival with the potential to win all four trophies.

With a leadership style based on getting people involved, Tom and Taylah helped Ngadyung to do just that – and the rest, as they say...well, you know.



### A Perfect Year: The Stats

- **4/4.** Trophies won this year.
- **3.** Consecutive years that Ngadyung has won the Swimming Spirit Cup.
- **7.** Consecutive years Ngadyung has won the Athletics Championship Cup.
- **9.** Total Athletics Championships won.
- **22.** The total number of carnival trophies won by Ngadyung – that's **nine** more than any other House.
- Since the inception of the Spirit Cup in 2002, Ngadyung has only had **two years** where it went without a trophy – in 2002 and 2006.



INTERESTING  
PEOPLE

TOM BURGESS &  
TAYLAH FELLOWS





# THE TEMPLE OF LIGHT

INTERESTING PLACES

MACKILLOP'S AWARD-WINNING CHAPEL

## CHAPEL WINS ARCHITECTURAL AWARDS

**M**ACKILLOP'S St Anthony of Padua Chapel was awarded the prestigious W Hayward Morris Award for Interior Architecture and the InLite Light in Architecture Prize at the 2013 ACT Architecture Awards in Term 2.

The Chapel, dedicated to the legacy of Padua High foundation principal Paul Butz, was designed by the Collins Caddaye

Architects to provide 'an absolute transformation from a dark and internal space to a naturally-lit and beautiful place for inquiry and contemplation'.

The Chapel's simplicity brings together nature, sacred geometries, symbolism, and light, with the intent to provide a place of worship in the heart of the school.

The Chapel's western and northern walls are finished

with an Australian timber veneer whilst the flooring is of marble, filling the space with natural warmth.

The southern wall that adjoins the school's corridor is a double layer of white frosted glass. The material allows the Chapel to 'glow' from the corridor, giving the sense that the Chapel is a 'beacon of light' and is present in the everyday life of a student.

The College community

will be proud that, not only are we working through a much needed and exciting redevelopment program, but we are also building facilities of exceptional design, award-winning concepts, functionality, and style.

Congratulations to all involved, including the architects, Project Manager Louise Davidson, and builders Total Project Construction.



INTERESTING PEOPLE

THE CAST & CREW OF SEUSSICAL

"What's that? We won TWO CAT Awards?"

## SEUSSICAL CLAIMS TWO CAT AWARDS

**M**ACKILLOP'S 2012 musical, *Seussical Jr*, claimed two ACTEWAGL Canberra Area Theatre Awards at the presentation ceremony in February.

Performing Arts Coordinator Tony Lazzarato and 2012 Performing Arts Captain Clare Fealy won the award for Best Director of a School or Youth Musical, while Chelsea Wright (Class of 2012) won the award for Best Costume Designer for a School or Youth Production.

Their input - and that of a talented cast and crew - into last year's musical resulted in five nominations for Mackillop. For school students to be nominated against productions designed for the general public is really an outstanding achievement, and for Clare, Chelsea, and Mr Lazzarato to take home awards was quite a remarkable feat.

Clare said it was a shock for the musical to pick up two awards but claimed it was testament to such a talented and dedicated cast and crew.

"After Chelsea's award was announced, we didn't really expect to pick up a second one," she said.

"It came as a big shock, but we

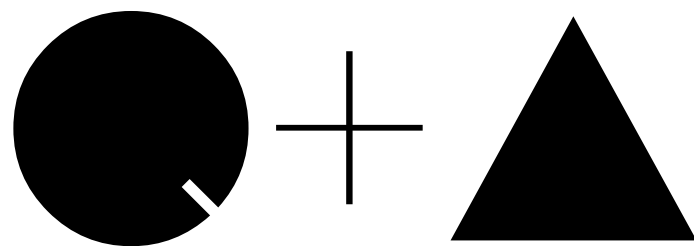
were extremely grateful and happy that we won - the cast deserved it and I'm so glad I got to accept it with Mr Lazzarato because we had both put so much time and effort into the whole thing."

*Seussical Jr*'s main story followed the tale of Dr Seuss' *Horton Hears a Who!*, and featured many of Dr Seuss' most loved characters, including the Cat in the Hat and Thing One and Thing Two.

*Seussical Jr* was one of Mackillop's most successful musicals, with tickets to all shows selling out ahead of time. It will be interesting to see how Mackillop's 2013 Musical, *Mulan Jr*, fares in the CAT Awards after it too managed to draw sell-out crowds.







## With CAT Award-winning Director, Mr Tony Lazzarato

**MacKillop caught up with the Best Director of a School Musical, Performing Arts Coordinator Mr Tony Lazzarato.**

**SMMC: Mr Laz, congratulations on your CAT Award! How did you feel when your name was called out?**

TL: It was an amazing feeling of achievement and honour. The CAT Awards are like the Oscars – you just never know what is going to happen or who will win.

**SMMC: What was it about *Seussical Jr* that made it such a success?**

TL: I believe it was a few factors – one was the great production team of seniors and staff – they had a great work ethic and the personalities gelled. The ability of the cast and the type of musical that was chosen were also major reasons for its success.

**SMMC: Clare Fealy and Chelsea Wright also picked up awards. How essential is the student contribution to the success of a musical?**

TL: Very Essential. We at MacKillop value the support of our students in musicals, especially the support of our seniors. Last year Clare and Chelsea were given the really practical opportunity to promote and enhance their skills in directing and costume design, respectively. Clare Fealy had demonstrated outstanding ability in drama performing as a range of characters and directing class performances. Clare was also the Performing Arts Captain and showed great leadership qualities. Chelsea Wright also displayed outstanding art and design skills throughout her time at MacKillop. It was a great opportunity for Chelsea to design the costumes for *Seussical*, and really enhanced the show.

**SMMC: People were obviously quick to draw comparisons between *Seussical* and *Mulan*. Is this fair? How do you think the two compare to each other?**

TL: It's difficult to compare the two because they were different. *Seussical* is a musical with comedy and a fast paced story with energy, whereas *Mulan* is much more serious. Both

are different styles and I believe our student performers need to be introduced to all styles of musical productions.

**SMMC: You've directed a number of musicals at MacKillop over the years. Do you think you've refined your directing style throughout your many years of experience?**

TL: No, directing is like teaching. Experience provides you with some skills but in every production you are learning new ways and ideas to enhance the performance and bring out the best in the major cast and ensemble.

**SMMC: Thanks to you and your faculty, the Performing Arts are looking strong at MacKillop. Have you got any plans for the future that you'd like to implement?**

TL: Yes, we are looking forward to implement more performance opportunities for drama, and for dance students to be involved in more productions as well. We also want to continue to strengthen instrumental ensembles throughout the College.

**SMMC: How did you get into Performing Arts?**

TL: I started at St Edmunds from Years 4- 12 playing in bands and learning a variety of instruments. I also was involved in the College Musicals playing many different characters. In Year 9, I joined the Canberra Youth Theatre, Canberra Youth Music, and the Canberra City Band. From there came opportunities to perform and direct in various productions around the ACT. When I finished Year 12 my great desire was to perform but found myself always teaching younger students and directing young ensembles so I decided to complete a degree in Education. My first teaching experience was at Stromlo High where I taught music and drama for four years. I then decided to experience Performing Arts at Radford College which was a great experience but had



Directing is like teaching - experience provides you with some skills but you learn new ways to bring out the best in the major cast and ensemble.

a real passion to teach at MacKillop so in 1998 I arrived in the Performing Arts department teaching music at MacKillop Catholic College. In the time I have been here I have produced and directed eight out of the 12 musicals MacKillop have presented. I have enjoyed them immensely, especially working with the student talent we have here.

**SMMC: Here's the question everyone's asking: what's the plan for next year's musical?**

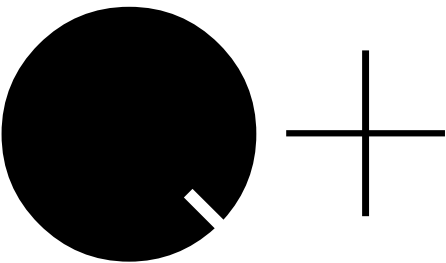
TL: At this stage, it looks like we've got the rights to the Addams Family Musical, which will be fun to work on. This will be confirmed early in 2014.



INTERESTING PEOPLE

*Tony Lazzarato*





## MACKILLOP'S MAGICIAN

**SMMC:** Daniel, MacKillop has been blessed to have an entertainer of your calibre perform at various fundraisers, assemblies, promotional events, and Variety Nights. What got you into magic in the first place?

DW: My dad was a magician and when I was young he made my toys disappear. And when I'd cry about it he would teach me how it worked. I love the mystery of it, I love to entertain people and that's just a part of who I am.

**SMMC:** How did you develop your skills?

DW: I started learning magic from my dad and after that I start to put together my own ideas. When I started performing professionally, I started focusing on corporate style magic as opposed to little tricks.

**SMMC:** Which magicians inspire you the most?

DW: My dad, David Copperfield and Dan Sperry. They're extremely creative and all of them have received awards and have achieved at an early age. They were really talented and experienced at a young age and that inspires me.

**SMMC:** You have your own magic



"I love to entertain people. That's just a part of who I am."

**Daniel Wong**

**show that you perform as you look to make it a profession one day. Tell us a little about it?**

DW: My show is a mix of magic, mind reading, stunts and comedy. It's action packed, from card tricks to swallowing razor blades to pulling needles out of my eye. I perform at my dad's restaurant Nyonya Tuggeranong and I do gigs at pubs and clubs and also perform at festivals like the Canberra Show.

**SMMC:** Where do you want to go with your magic?

DW: My goal is to have a show at Vegas.

**SMMC:** What's the secret to good magic?

DW: The secret to good magic is all about presentation. It's not the song, it's the singer. It's the way a magician can present an effect to an audience. A magician should know his audience. They have to adapt to

each audience. As a magician I can see through the method. So instead of looking for something to fool me I look to see how a magician can entertain me.

**SMMC:** What keeps you performing?

DW: I do it to make others happy, but I also mainly do it to make myself happy. If I was put in prison I would still do magic because I love doing it. It's self-improvement, too.

**The Plug:**

Facebook.com/jimtinmagic

## INTERESTING PEOPLE

DANIEL WONG,  
MARISA CLARKE,  
MADDI CATLIN



"I learnt a lot from experienced dancers. I was there for dance."

## Hip Hop makes Marisa move

**W**HILE MANY of us would be too shy to show our moves on the typical dance floor, Year 11 student Marisa Clarke has had to dance on stage - the world stage, no less.

Marisa competed at the World Hip Hop Championships with her Canberra-based Nirvana Crew in Las Vegas in August.

The group qualified for the World Championships after winning the Australian Championships in Sydney earlier in the year.

It was Marisa's second time representing Australia in Vegas after she qualified with the DC Crew when she was only in Year 9.

Nirvana managed to place 32nd in the world, but Marisa said it was more about the experience than world ranking.

"I was nervous but on the other hand it was a massive achievement just to get there so there wasn't really any pressure," she said.

"Overall, we were happy with our performance but we probably could have done better.

"Going to Vegas changed the way I see dance. The first time I went it was more like a holiday because it was our first time overseas.

"This time I did all the workshops so I got inspired to try new styles and try everything I could. I learnt a lot from experienced dancers. I was there for dance."

Upon returning, Marisa decided to expand her knowledge and skills and is now undertaking technical classes as she aims to become a full time dancer after she finishes Year 12.

Despite that, Marisa is still keen to return to the World Championships for a third time.

"We're training to get back to Vegas again," she said.

## A movie star, but Maddi's modest

MACKILLOP HAS A MOVIE STAR in its midst - Year 9 student Maddi Catlin.

Maddi played the role of Kerri Waters, a cricket-playing tomboy in the Australian film Backyard Ashes.

The film premiered in Wagga Wagga on 6 November to packed crowds.

Maddi performed alongside some big names in Australian film, with her on-screen parents played by Andrew S Gilbert and Rebecca Massey and brother played by Jake Speer, whose usual gig is on TV's *Home and Away*.

Maddi landed the role after her friend put her forward for an audition in Sydney, despite having little cricket experience and being 'the furthest thing from a tomboy'.

For Maddi, working on a movie was a new experience, given her background in theatre.

"It was different, a really good experience," she said.

"It was fun working with all the famous people.

"I've been doing stage work for seven years but doing a production on screen is completely different."

While it was a new experience for Maddi, she said it was something she would want to do again.

"It's a dream of mine to be an actor on TV and in movies," she said.

"I still want to do stage but mainly screen work."





INTERESTING PLACES  
WANNIASSA'S  
NORTHSIDE  
LANDSCAPING



## WANNIASSA'S NEW LANDSCAPE

IT'S NOT quite yet complete (at the time of print), but the new landscaping and stairway has opened up Wanniasa's north side like never before.

New terraced timber seating, a beautifully landscaped garden, a stairway with a more gradual ascent, new gates, and new concrete paths are all part of the renovations.

The removal of the external

office will open up the space, while the inclusion of an amphitheatre will offer extended teaching and learning opportunities for staff and students.

Designed by our award-winning Collins Caddaye Architects, the area will more accurately reflect the welcoming and dynamic community that MacKillop strives to be.



## COLLEGE TO GROW WITH ST PAT'S RELATIONSHIP

Looks like there are going to be quite a few new faces at Isabella next year.

At long last, MacKillop has forged a relationship with St Patrick's Cooma that will mean students completing Year 10 in Cooma will be able to enrol into Year 11 on our Isabella Campus, thus providing a Catholic education pathway for students in the Monaro.

Next year, MacKillop will welcome 23 graduates of St Patrick's who will commence their studies for the ACT Year 12 Certificate. This relationship will grow in 2015 when we

look to welcome even more students to our school. The St Pat's students will significantly add to our community, be fully integrated into the life of the school, and be encouraged to retain links with St Pat's through their sporting carnivals, Masses and celebrations, and their leadership programs.

All of us can be very proud that we are seen as a desired partner in the education of students from the Monaro.

It's also great that this partnership will make such sensible use of resources and facilities.



## In Brief.

MORE NEWS FROM  
MACKILLOP

### FIVE MORE YEARS!

Good news for MacKillop: a letter from the Director of the Catholic Education Office has announced that, following a successful performance review, Mr Lee has been offered and has accepted another five year contract as Principal of the College.

"This is very exciting for me," Mr Lee said.

"With so much going on in education and at the College, I am delighted to be able to accept another five years as principal. Thank you to the staff, students, and parents who were so generous with their remarks to the Performance Review Panel."



### MACKILLOP'S SENATOR

Liberal politician Zed Seselja has become MacKillop's first ever Senator. The ex-student (he attended both Padua and St Peter's prior to the amalgamation) was successful in claiming one of two Senate positions to represent the ACT after September's Federal Election. Mr Seselja is a frequent visitor to the College; we congratulate him and wish him the best of luck in his new role.



### TRY MACKILLOP DAY

The College held its first ever *Try MacKillop Day* for Year 6 students as part of its Enrolment Period.

Over 300 students from Primary Schools across Canberra had the chance to try a day at MacKillop before applying to join us in Year 7 next year.

Feedback and numbers suggest the day was a success.

Thank you to the Year 12 students, teachers, and all Wanniasa Campus students who ensured everyone felt welcome.

### CANBERRA CENTENARY

Like the rest of the city, MacKillop celebrated Canberra's Centenary in 2013. As part of the Centenary, MacKillop's mark on Catholic education has now been recorded in Jenny Jeffery's book, *Ring in the Years*, which launched in November. The book provides a snap shot of Catholic schools' contribution to Canberra's education system, and an overview of the history of each school.





# Events.

Year 7 2014

Information Nights  
and the  
Careers Expo

Careers

Isabella

Honours

Awards Assemblies  
and the  
Honours Assembly

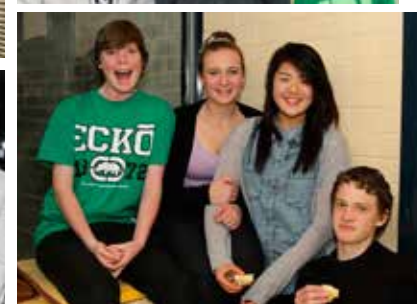
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# Events.



Mulan Jr



Performance Nights:  
Musical and  
Variety Night

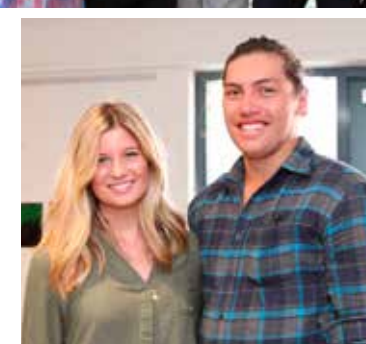


VN2013



# People & Places

Staff Art



Exhibition Openings:  
Staff Exhibition  
and ISART



ISART





# YASH AND GRACE BECOME PRINCIPAL FOR A DAY

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF MR LEE

"I'll be with you in a minute. I've got an important call with a Mr Cheatham."

## MACKILLOP SURVIVES STUDENT **PRINCIPAL** STINT

The role of a modern principal is much more than dealing with misbehaving students and talking at assembly. As *Carrie Altinger* and *Aidan Brunskill* report, it's about politics, recruitment, community, and equipping your teachers with the tools to get results.

If you were principal of MacKillop for a day, what would you do? Put on a uniform-free day? Throw a full-school party? Give the teachers a raise?

The Principals Australia Institute's *Principal for a Day* initiative gave two students the opportunity to experience a day in the life of a principal - but, alas, there were no uniform-free days, parties, or pay increases.

The two Year 12 students, Yash Bhosale and Grace Vincent, were selected from a range of applicants for the opportunity to lead their school on Thursday 6 June, under the very careful guidance of Principal Michael Lee.

According to Yash, they soon learned that the role was quite different to what they expected.

"It was a very insightful experience," Yash said.

"I thought being a principal was really school-based, but you're out in the community

a lot talking to other principals, external groups, and politicians, all for the good of each and every student at your school.

"There was never a dull moment - we were on the move almost the whole day and it was an enjoyable experience."

In the morning, Yash and Grace led a Staff Briefing, met with prac teachers from two of Canberra's universities, toured classes and the playground, and visited local primary school St Anthony's, in Wanniasa.

In the afternoon, they visited the Federal Member for Canberra, Gai Brodtmann, and met with executive officers of the Catholic Principals Association, the NCEC, and the Director of the Bishop's Conference for the Inclusion of Women.

This helped to fill a busy but fairly typical day in the life of a principal, which ended with a radio interview with ABC

Drive host Adam Shirley.

"The students gained a good insight into the complexities of the role of principal - particularly the work beyond the school - and they managed it splendidly," Mr Lee said.

"I am sure it was a memorable day for them. I certainly enjoyed taking a bit of a back seat on the day."

Grace said the experience was beneficial as she considers her post-school options.

"I have considered doing primary school teaching after school so it was a great insight into how schools work, and I really enjoyed the opportunity," she said.

"Some teachers jokingly asked us for a pay rise, but obviously we had no power to do that."

"We want to thank the College Executive and Principals Australia Institute for organising this, and Mr Lee for taking us around - we had a lot of fun and learnt a lot."



And not a single bit of paperwork was completed that day.



# YASH AND GRACE'S GUIDE TO BEING A PRINCIPAL

## PRINCIPALFORADAY

### STEP ONE: LOOK BUSY (BECAUSE YOU ARE BUSY)

**The myth:** Principals have all the time in the world  
**The truth:** Every day is a busy day

When you see Mr Lee walking around campus to chat with students, odds are it's because he's finished up a meeting earlier than planned, or has scheduled some time to get out and see people. According to the Principal's Secretary, Mrs Cindy Dean, Mr Lee barely has unallocated periods of time during the day.

"Staff, students, and parents are often eager to get in contact with him," she said. "It usually means that even if he has a fairly empty day the next day, it quickly fills up with appointments."

According to Grace, "Everything Mr Lee does during the day serves a purpose - there's not enough time to waste even a minute."

### STEP TWO: GET OUT AND ABOUT

**The myth:** Principals spend most of their day behind the desk  
**The truth:** Good principals build connections outside of the office

"We really thought that when Mr Lee wasn't visible that he was in his office or at the other campus," Yash said.

"We now know that he's always on the move, talking to politicians, community groups, other schools, staff, and other people who can help move the school forward."

### STEP THREE: TALK

**The myth:** Principals need to talk a lot  
**The truth:** Principals need to be good at talking a lot

You only need to see Mr Lee in front of a school assembly to know he has the gift of the gab. This ability to communicate his and the school's philosophies is one of the major factors for MacKillop's growth under his tenure. And Mr Lee talks a lot: chatting with all the aforementioned entities to create partnerships, gain funding, recruit staff, and develop policies.

### STEP FOUR: KNOW WHAT YOU AND YOUR SCHOOL STAND FOR

**The myth:** Schools are just for learning  
**The truth:** Schools are businesses, too

One reason for MacKillop's success is its clear vision when it comes to education. While MacKillop's early years were spent searching for an identity, it soon found one under Mr Lee.

"MacKillop is a Catholic school for all, not just a school for Catholics," Grace said.

"We've been that all along but Mr Lee helped us accept it. Now, we're all working towards a common goal, and because of that the school is achieving some really good results."

"MacKillop is run very much like a business - from recruiting to internal and external marketing, and professional standards."

## THE ACTUAL DAY

8.30am: Staff Briefing.

9am: Meeting with prac teachers.

9.30am: Classroom visits.

10am: St Anthony's visit.

11am: Time in the Office.

12pm: Lunch.

1pm: Politician meet and greet, Parliament House.

2pm: Meeting with the Catholic Principals Assoc.

4pm: Radio Interview with Adam Shirley, 666ABC.

5pm: End of a busy day.

# WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

We asked students what they would do if they got the chance to do Principal for a Day. Here's a selection of your responses - some serious, some tongue-in-cheek:

"I would raise the salaries of teachers because they deserve to be paid more."

"Throw a massive school party."

"Fix up the student carpark at Isabella. By hand."

"I would throw a surprise school-free day."

"Bring in nap time."

"I would go on strike, drive to the beach, and soak up the rays."

"Throw papers around Mr Lee's office, use his umbrella indoors, eat from his stash of bickies, drink from my 'Office Joker' mug, the usual, you know?"

"I would re-hire Mrs Hayes, throw multiple parties, order pizza for the Wanniasa Campus, then sit in Mr Lee's chair and make an important business call. The end."

"Turn all Principal speeches into interpretive dance or rap."

"I would make the students be teachers and the teachers be students."

"Give the teachers a day of thanks."

"Construct a giant statue of Mary MacKillop over the school."

"I would, from this day forth, make every day a Tuesday (except weekends, of course) so Mr Nulley ALWAYS has to wear a bowtie."

"Give Aidan a raise so that he can afford more coffee."

"I'd give everyone their favourite class for the whole day, extend recess and lunch by 15min, and ensure the Principal's daily wage was \$400m - for that day, at least."

"Make the teachers wear school uniform and allow the students to dress casually."

"Make everyone give at least one other person a compliment."

"I would be famous for being the youngest Principal of all time."

"I would give everyone ice cream for the day, have a jumping castle for everyone, and build a pool on the oval."

"Make every Friday uniform-free day. For a gold coin donation to charity, of course."

"Make a giant skate park and give every student a bike each."

"I would put through a number of policies that would provide benefit me when Principal for a Day ends."

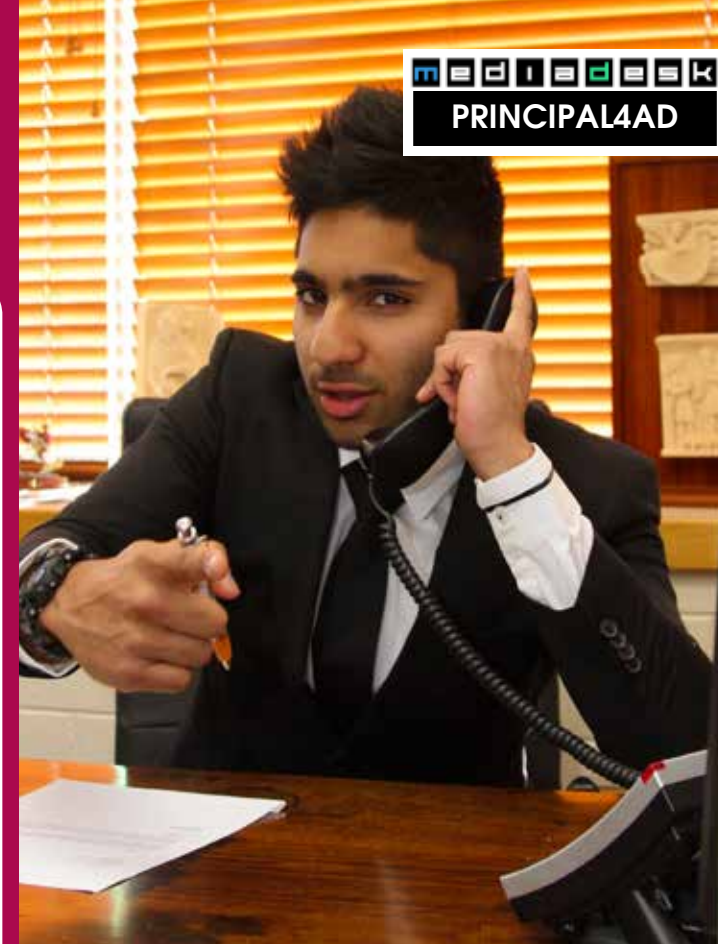
"Play music over the PA system to get everyone going!"

"Have a video game day with no blocked websites."

"Talk about Collingwood instead of Essendon and, yes, I would wear colourful ties and socks."

"Bring in EFTPOS at the canteen."

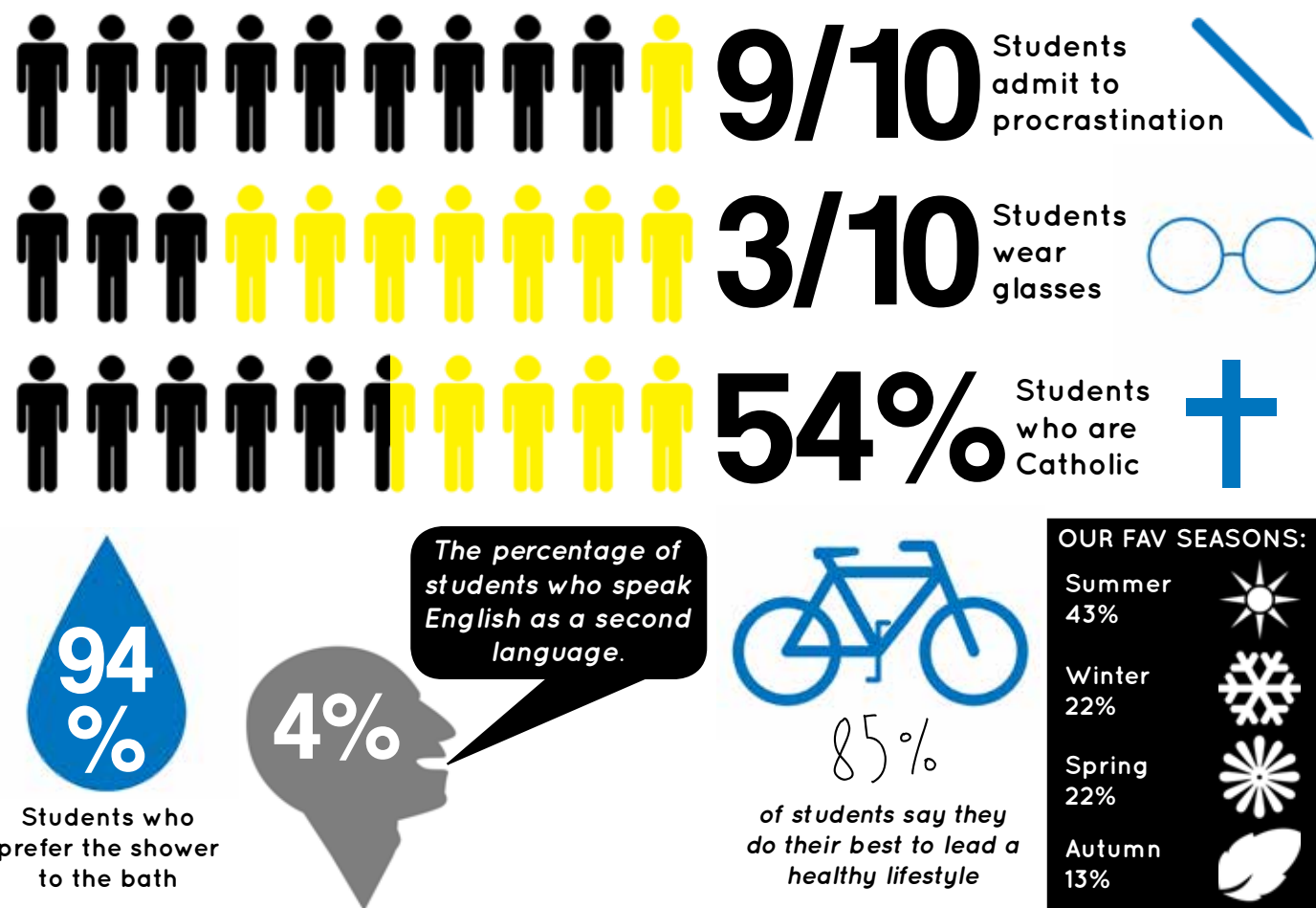
"I'd take a long lunch and call it a 'business meeting'."





# Stats.

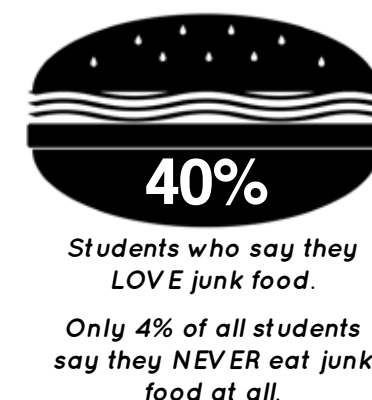
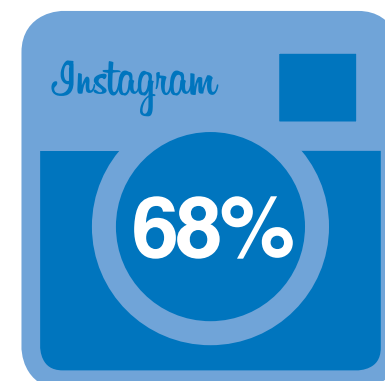
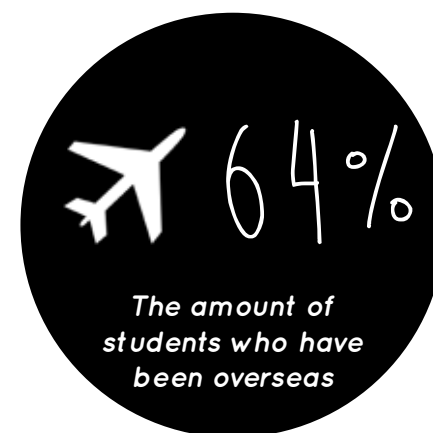
The numbers that reveal your interests, backgrounds, and opinions



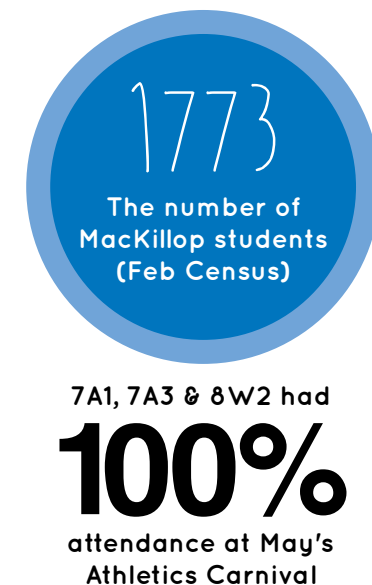
## #Trending.

The TOP 5 Trends of 2013, at MacKillop and the wider world.

- 5. VINE.** Vine was the video answer to Instagram and probably would have taken off if it wasn't for Instagram adding a video feature to its own app. While the app itself wasn't a smash hit, Vine compilations on YouTube have definitely taken off.
- 4. 'STACHES.** For those who can grow them, moustaches are back in fashion in 2013. For those who can't, moustache accessories, such as pins, necklaces, fake moustaches, and pendants have become popular this year.
- 3. HEALTHY LIVING.** A shift in the thinking of food experts means the modern diet has changed and more people are eating organic. A holistic approach to health is leading people to 'clean eating' and exercise, which is good.
- 2. SNAPCHAT.** Snapchat has hit the mainstream. In similar fashion to Facebook and Instagram, Snapchat has honed in on the idea that humans like to share their lives with others. The beauty of Snapchat is you have ten seconds to view it and then it's gone.
- 1. CANDY CRUSH** For some, this game is an addiction. Candy Crush Saga was released for phones at the end of 2012 and has already been downloaded over 500million times. We have no choice but to give it top spot in our biggest trends of 2013.



**OTHER SOCIAL MEDIA TRENDS:** Instagram is students' preferred form of social media, with 31% of students saying it's their favourite as opposed to 27% for Facebook. Facebook is still the most-used form of social media at MacKillop, but less people are using it these days. In 2011, 89% of students said they used Facebook, but that has now dropped to 74%. Snapchat is just as popular as Instagram, with 68% of students using it, while only 4% still use the once-popular Bebo. Poor Bebo.



## IT Statistics:

35gb - the average daily download  
700gb - average downloads per month  
2924 - the amount students googled 'google' in October  
76,000 - amount facebook gets blocked per month  
360,000 - hits that HotMaths receives per month  
1,197,036 - visits to google in October  
25million - website hits per month

**Most searched things:** Prezi, Cool Maths Games, Vans

## Lookalikes.



Declan MacGinley Jamieson, Year 12  
Oscar Wilde, Writer



Ashleigh Lester, Year 12  
Daenerys Targaryen, Game of Thrones



Jake Dromgold, Staff  
Mike Posner, Singer



Lara Cameron, Year 12  
Allison Reynolds, The Breakfast Club



Joshua Thomas, Year 10  
Domhnall Gleeson, About Time actor



Harry Brill, Year 10  
John John Florence, Surfer



Gregory Fatiaki, Year 12  
Llama, Planet Earth





## The curse of the Smartphone

Amber Fletcher

**M**Y NAME IS Amber Fletcher and I'm an iPhoneaholic... but the chances are you are, too.

Believe it or not, there was once a time in my life when I was able to hold a full conversation without once checking my phone for new messages, emails or Facebook notifications. I didn't count time in half-hour Candy Crush lives or know the most flattering selfie angle. Back then my phone was a prepaid Nokia C3 (with a real keypad!) and I only used it a handful of times a week. However, early this year I decided it was time to finally grow up, ditch the immature concept of 'credit' and sign my first two-year contract with Vodafone for a shiny, new iPhone 4. My friends all had iPhones and I was attracted by their sleek design and seemingly endless possibilities. After years with a phone that could barely access Facebook, the dual camera and Apple App store were beckoning me with a force I could not resist. Little did I know that my beautiful new phone would not make me the mature and sophisticated adult I had hoped, but instead slowly turn me into a bleary-eyed zombie whose attention span is comparable to that of a goldfish and whose worst fear is a battery level below 10%. Unfortunately, my smart phone is making me dumb.

Apple released the first generation iPhone in July of 2007 as I was nearing the end of primary school. Six years and four generations later, iPhones have transformed their image from a luxury item, initially scoffed at as too expensive to make a desirable mobile phone, into the social norm upon which many

people have actually come to rely. Along with the Apple iPhone, a whole plethora of similar Smartphones have been made by different companies to accommodate different tastes and needs, most notable of which are currently the android operated Samsung Galaxy and HTC One. With wave after wave of competing smartphone models, each boasting numerous high-tech functions and features, joining the market the humble mobile phone is being made practically obsolete. In a study by Margin Media earlier this year, it was discovered that over 50% of Australians own a smartphone and this figure is still increasing drastically. Ironically, this shift is largely due to a change in the primary function of a phone. Mobiles are no longer used mainly to call people, with even texting on the decline. Approximately 78% of Australian smartphone owners now like to use their phone to access specific social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter, and

65% use their phone at least once a day to access the Internet. On top of Internet access, tens of thousands of available Apps, games and other distractions provide a further incentive to switch to a smartphone.

These distractions, however, are exactly the reason our smartphones are turning our brains into mush with the tenacity that mobile phones could never match. In a literal sense the Smartphone is making us dumb by distracting us when we most need to be focused on learning. From college classrooms to boardroom meetings in Governmental departments, it is now common practice for people to sit their smartphones on the desks in front of them and to check them occasionally over the duration of their stay. The importance of the situation is seemingly irrelevant as even US senator John McCain was busted playing poker on his iPhone during a hearing on Syria in early September this year. iPhone zombification is a frightening global epidemic. I spoke recently to Mrs Rebecca, an English teacher at St Mary MacKillop College, about the effects of Smartphones on her student's attention spans. "Along with the increased popularity of smartphones there has also been an increase in students using these phones in my classroom, despite the fact they are banned in class," she said, "Students are constantly texting, playing games and even taking photos when to do well, they really should be listening to what I'm saying".

Not only have our smartphones distracted us from our more boring (if important) obligations, but they are also tearing us away from what we once considered fun: socialising. Templerun, Snapchat and Drawsomething are all examples of Apps that have addicted us to the extent that we often play them in social situations rather than actually hold real conversations. The desire to play these games as well as check for text messages and social media updates is so strong that many people are struggling to tear their eyes away from their screens and return to reality. Speaking somewhat shamefully from personal experience, I recently fell down a flight of stairs whilst distracted by my own iPhone kryptonite: the dreaded CandyCrush. Like the true iPhone zombie I am, my response was simply to stand up and keep playing (in my defense it was a timed level!).

## How I use my iPhone



Despite the comedy of the situation, when I reflected on it I began to find it scary how easily I neglected reality in favour of the possibility of switching a freckle with a freckle. "Staring at screens constantly takes you away from people and gives you a passive outlet where you don't have to interact with the world," Cary Cooper, a professor at Lancaster University in the U.K, said on the effects of smartphones of social interactions. "Like television, the light draws you in and numbs your senses."

Smartphones appear to be here to stay but despite all their destructive qualities this is not necessarily a bad thing. Yes, they are making us dumb but only because we are relying on them as a source of distraction and entertainment. Used correctly, I truly do believe that Smartphones have the ability to make us smarter. I came to this conclusion upon studying my good friend Andrew's iPhone usage. Andrew texts and calls people as much as I do but the major difference between our usage is the way in which we waste time on them. Whilst I can easily pass the 5 minutes I spend as I wait for the bus staring blankly at an uneventful newsfeed, Andrew prefers to spend the time reading an article on Wikipedia or checking the news on the SBS news App. He feels no desire to shuffle candies over talking to his friends or to update his status on whatever cool thing he may be doing when he could be experiencing it first hand. This, I think, is the key to using the smartphone as a learning tool. Spend less time on Apps and more time reading, writing and talking. When you do download Apps, try to stick to ones that are engaging as well as educational such as Fun Fact or News Apps. Most importantly, understand that, like all things, iPhones have a time and a place. Perhaps try putting your phone in your bag, leaving it there and enjoying the beautiful and exciting real world around you. You only live once, so don't spend it acting like you're the undead.



13

Reasons why the number 13 is considered unlucky  
by Carrie Altinger

The College celebrated MacKillop Day on Friday the 13th this year, and Years 7-9 will collect this Magazine on Friday the 13th as well. All this in the year 2013. So why is the number 13 generally considered unlucky?

For a bit of background information, 13 is the natural number after 12 and before 14, and is the smallest number with eight letters in its name when spelled out in English. Thanks Wikipedia. But why is this number considered to be so unlucky? Is it just a legend created by people many centuries ago? Let's find some reasons why.

The following 13 examples illustrate why people with different religious, cultural, and scientific views have found the number 13 to be unlucky.

1. There were 13 people at the table of Jesus' last supper. Judas betrayed Jesus and was considered to be the "thirteenth" man.
2. There is a Norse legend that 12 gods sat at a banquet, and the "thirteenth" god, Loki, who had been uninvited, turned up.
3. Many believe that there were 13 stairs to the gallows, where people were to be executed for their crime, giving it an association with death.
4. Apollo 13 was the only unsuccessful mission to the moon.
5. There was a mass arrest and execution of the Knights Templar on Friday, October 13, 1307.
6. Although a coven is now just considered to be any group of witches, it was once believed that a coven was made up of exactly 13 members.
7. There's an old superstition that says if you have 13 letters in your name, you're bound to have the devil's luck.
8. In the late 1800s, there was a group called The Thirteen Club. Their purpose was to undo the legend that seating 13 people at a table would result in the death of one of them in the year to follow. They met on the 13th of the month and had dinner 13 people to a table. They also fined members who showed up late, 13 cents. Members of the club included five U.S. presidents: Benjamin Harrison, Grover Cleveland, William McKinley, Theodore Roosevelt and Chester A. Arthur. I'm not sure if it's worth noting that two of these presidents were shot, one fatally, of course.
9. Friday, October 13, 1972, was a bad day in the history of aviation. That's the day that Uruguayan Air Force Flight 571 infamously crashed in the Andes, killing 29 people. On the exact same day, 174 people were killed when a Soviet Aeroflot crashed in a lake about a kilometre from the runway.
10. A year with 13 full moons instead of 12 posed problems for the monks in charge of the calendars. This was considered a very unfortunate circumstance, especially by the monks who had charge of the calendar of thirteen months for that year, and it upset the regular arrangement of church festivals.
11. To the ancient Egyptians, we're told, life was a quest for spiritual ascension which unfolded in stages — twelve in this life and a thirteenth beyond, thought to be the eternal afterlife. The number 13 therefore symbolised death.
12. Mathematicians and scientists, meanwhile, point to pre-eminence of the number 12, often considered a "perfect" number, in the ancient world. The ancient Sumerian's developed numeral system based on the use of 12 that is still used for measuring time today; most calendars have 12 months; a single day is comprised of two 12-hour half days, etc. Following so closely on the heels of a "perfect" number, some argue, the poor 13 was sure to be found lacking and unusual.
13. Some people come to fear Friday the 13th because of misfortune they've experienced on that day in the past. If you get in a car wreck on one Friday the 13th, or lose your wallet, that day is bound to stay with you. But if you think about it, bad things (from spilling your coffee to, well, much more serious problems) happen all the time, so if you're looking for bad luck on Friday the 13th, you'll probably find it.

In reality, there are no lucky or unlucky numbers; they exist only in our heads — or in the heads of some of us — and they might become lucky or unlucky only if we make them as such.