In this edition:

Be carried away to other places with poetry

CREATIVE CAPTIONS NEEDED!

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Read the Principal's Creative Writing Award Winning entry!

Lachlan reviews Batman: Arkham City

We interview School Captain Ryan Maguire
Another school year coming to a close. It’s hard to believe that this time next year I will have finished my HSC and be anxiously awaiting my results – nail-biting optional.

As we begin to wind down for the Summer Holidays (yay!), we look back on 2012 with fond memories, a year full of energy and excitement.

We also cast our eyes ahead to next year, which we can only hope will be even better than this one.

Recently, in English Advanced, I was introduced to Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs, a diagram similar to the Food Pyramid. Maslow says there are five areas of “need” for humans – Physiological, Safety, Love/Belonging, Esteem, and Self-Actualisation, each encompassing different things in life. Physiological needs included things like water and sleep, the basics, while self-actualisation included areas such as creativity and spontaneity.

While relaxing and recharging is vital over the coming break, I hope we all also have time to explore and be creative and be spontaneous and be enlightened.

They say that at the end of your life, you regret the things you didn’t do more than the things you did. With this in mind, remember – “You only live once. That’s the motto, brother, YOLO”.

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and have a safe and enjoyable holiday break.

Ryan Maguire - Year 12

Henning Balaster, a young man from Germany is here for six months on exchange. He flew in to Australia on the 10th July 2012 with a smile on his face expecting to have an amazing time.

Henning is extremely excited to be here, to make new friends to remember forever and hopefully come back and visit again someday. He enjoys and is talented in many activities including Athletics, Tennis, Snowboarding, and loves to play the Electric Guitar.

He also loves to learn new things, including at school where he enjoys all aspects of learning, his favourite subjects are History, Science and especially PE. He would also love to try surfing, learn the game of Touch Footy, and visit Queensland’s famous Gold Coast.

His goal in life is to perfect his English as best as he can, travel, experiencing many of the world’s wonders, and to have stories to tell to his family and friends. His favourite memories have come from his travels, Australia is his favourite so far. He also remembers mountain bike riding with his dad all around Germany and Netherlands.

We wish Henning all the best on his future travel and hopes he comes back to visit us soon!
The opening door could not have been a more unwelcoming sight. Thin tendrils of light crept in from the grey brick hallway to invade the backstage room, a place of solace.

"Hi. How are you?" The meek voice of that uninteresting PR woman came from behind the cold grey slab door. The accompanying head, as unremarkable as the voice, slowly moved into view.

I searched for a witty, overly-convoluted response; one that could be misconstrued in a feeble and blatant attempt to hide.

"Not good." To no success.

The rest of her small framed body squeezed through the open gap and quickly waddled over in her pink high-heels, an action that would have otherwise been comical, if not for the prevailing mood.

"You were going so well. What went wrong?" Did she mean the interview or my life? Anyway, I hadn't the time to come to a conclusion, for, in a fit of ill-considered rage, a book's nifty transformation into a projectile, escorted the woman out of the room.

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Bright lights trained on me and ridiculously silly fanfare music was my greeting as I took my seat. "Welcome Sky. Sky Ruperts everybody!" the hostess called out to the adoring crowd. "Sky," she laughed, "How are you doing?"

"Just fine, thank you." I would normally not indulge in lying through my teeth.
"Last Story, your book is a modern day classic and a massive hit. You are absolutely adored by fans the world over. Quite a success story, and still, you remain modest and down to Earth; we all find you admirable. For those who don’t know, what is your book about?"

"Well, it's essentially about an author, John Hurst, who, well, he hasn't got long to live; he wants to finish his last work, a statement of his life, his last words as it were, but finds his inspiration has left him. He has to come to grips with this and ultimately try to overcome it, all while burdened with this depressive state."

"It's just amazing, the amount of care and precision that has gone into the writing of this novel. Where'd you find your inspiration?"

"Obviously, writing is something very close to me. I try to draw as much as I can from personal experience. What's it they say, about art imitating life? Or along those lines."

"I hear that you have another book in the works."

"Yes, my publisher likes to let small things like that slip," I said with a nervous laugh. "But yes, I am currently writing another novel."

I could not write. Not in this state. Where, in this bleakness, is inspiration? Maybe art was a precursor for life, and not an imitation after all.

"Has the success gotten to you? Are you still the same young, rosy cheeked Sky Ruperts who first entered into the publishing world?"
"Success is a funny thing. We try to find satisfaction through its fleeting existence and are all too caught up to catch a glimpse before it disappears. We are all guilty of trying to satisfy ourselves with success... No, success is an obligation."

Confused eyes were the only responses.
"Can't you see? I can't redo what I have done. I can't be successful again. I'm done, no inspiration. Success is fleeting, and my glimpse is gone."
I decided to stop talking the second I realised I was borderline incoherent. This was rather unbecoming.
"I'm blabbering."

I could feel that the rest of the interview was somewhat strained.

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I sat with my back to the grey slab door, my fingers running through my hair. The running fingers soon turned to scratching, as if clawing at some invisible beast. Eventually I succumbed to just rubbing the wall, for no conceivable reason, just to give my hands something to do. Maybe something was wrong.

I know that you want an end to my story, to conclude this complication. But I'm afraid it isn't like that. It doesn't just end. Not this wrong, not this pain. I could tell you that I lived happily ever after, but then again, I am an author, and make things up for a living.

Rhys Oldham—
Year 10
Meet our new School Captain

2013 is such a short time away. Most of us are thinking about our summer break and having 8 weeks of freedom before getting back into the school routine. Although, Ryan Maguire has other plans, preparing for the year ahead as our School Captain for 2013.

Ryan was born in Mona Vale Hospital in 1995, and has lived in the same home in Narrabeen (on the Northern Beaches) his whole life. Ryan’s primary days were at Dee Why’s St Luke’s Grammar School where he was school captain.

He is a book lover, especially the classics by Ernest Hemmingway and Charles Dickens. He is a huge fan of spy novels and poetry, his favourite poet being T.S Elliot. Writing is also big for him, he says the most enjoyable part about writing is starting a creative piece and not knowing where it’s going. He says the mystery, discovery and exploration of the story, characters, setting, etc., is the best part. He also likes writing about everyday scenes - from a conversation with a friend to an observation and trying to make it very relatable. He also loves getting a bunch of random words and trying to integrate them into the story.

Ryan is also very dedicated to his studies, studying 4 hours a night. He loves social justice, public speaking and political science. He is also very approachable and to hear people out through rough times gives him great pleasure. Basketball is a big sport for him playing in the USA Basketball tour and ISA. He also actively enjoys fishing.

The road ahead for Ryan will be challenging and the demands as School Captain and his studies will be greatly increased leading up to his HSC. If you see him around give him a shout and have a chat; you will be sure to have a laugh.
**Batkman: Arkham City Lockdown**

Batman: Arkham city lockdown is a very challenging game. The game is based around completing different levels with set challenges. There are many different challenges ranging from defeating villains with a limited amount of health to playing with no gadgets.

Bosses: The game is very different to the platform game. In the iPod/iPhone version, you go through levels bashing up thugs until you reach the boss of each level. Each of the boss' difficulty raises each level, making it harder to complete the game. Once you have completed the game, you can replay it but every challenge will be even more difficult than before.

Costumes: During the game you can unlock different Batman's to play as from the different universes, comics and games. Although you have to buy most of the Batman's in the game, it can be worth it to better your experience.

Gadgets: You can also upgrade attack, health and buy gadgets which become very useful as the game gets harder. The gadgets can help you get out of tight situations, or can give you that little health boost you needed to finish the level.

Graphics and price: The graphics in the game are extremely vivid, as well as some of the other games by the same makers (for example, infinity blade and infinity blade 2). Even though this game costs $6.50, it is definitely worth it.

By Lachlan Crosweller (Year 9)

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**THE MATHS CORNER:**

As I was going to St Ives
I met a man with seven wives.
Each wife had seven sacks,
Each sack had seven cats,
Each cat had seven kits;
Kits, cats, sacks and wives -
How many were going to St Ives?

Some people say that the answer to this riddle is one: Only I am going to St. Ives.
However, maybe the man I met was one his way to St. Ives as well. In that case:

How many wives were going to St. Ives?
How many sack were going to St. Ives?
How many cats were going to St. Ives?
How many kittens were going to St. Ives?
How many kits, cats, sacks and wives were going in total?

Email your answers to the Maths brain teaser to rwong@saintaug.nsw.edu.au for your chance to win $5 credit (my shout) at the canteen.
Tonight the walls are thinnest
Between the breaths of the real
A whisper indeed could break them
Some formless presence mutters
through the voices of the trees
spilling thoughts best forgotten
Who would walk the crying paths
passing the ghosts of the day
Without hope or destination?
The fear that must foreshadow
the essentials of our being
bound for that short oblivion

Andre Demirjian—Year 9

The Outback

Golden brown filled the so barren outback. A slight
rise up a brown grass plain to the light blue that has
been smeared across the sky.

Few trees covered the plains. The ones that did were
gums. A whitey slightly yellow trunk with a few red,
oozing cuts. The green-brown leaves hanging in
bunches, waving in the wind. Whispering to adja-
cent plants.

CRACK! A tree branch falls to the ground. It angr-
ily broke into a thousand other pieces when it land-
ed, cursing and ending its life.

The spots that weren’t covered in brown grass
were red with anger. The deserted red desert sand.
Red like fire. The sand was fire. Angry fire.

Harry Coates—Year 8

Ocean Sonnet

The ocean is a vast desert, of green and blue,
With caps of white and squawking seagulls too,
It's vast beauty blinding both me and you,
When many see they know not what to do,

Its streaks of green, and blotchy bulbs of blue,
With depth the blue gets darker to a black,
The darkness of the bottom's not for you,
Contrasted, a light blue blanket on it's back,

But then again it's fierce and tears away,
The lives of many people with it's force,
Even now and then it makes life grey,
It causes humans and the land divorce,

Although so fierce and so vast,
Its vibrant magic will never pass.

Jordan Schweickle—Year 9
STUDENT SNAPSHOT: Dane Preston (Year 7)

How did you feel during your performance at Rock in the Quad?

It felt great; I felt I achieved highly. Everyone enjoyed it and so did I!

Where do you take classes for guitar?

I am learning here, at St Augustine’s.

What are your favourite songs?

Sweet child of mine, Knocking on Heaven’s Door and Summer of 69’.

How long have you been playing guitar?

3 years.
Artistic Additions

“100,000BC: Apple releases it’s first product.”

Charlie Sundborn

Congratulations to Adam Donabauer, year 11, who entered his drawing in the Warringah Art Prize and was selected for exhibition.

His drawing is a highly detailed and realistic portrait of the actor, Bryan Cranston, from the TV series “Breaking Bad”.

![Image of a drawing]