

issue #4 2012-13

THE

LYON

elizabeth zhu

ask. challenge. form opinions. read. rant. roar.

## FROM THE LYON'S DEN

We made it. We made it through another year, Mackenzie, another year closer to finishing the high school experience forever.

Although there are a wide range of emotions as we are getting closer to walking out those doors for the last time, it is important to remember that the things we learn here are the ones that will stick with us forever. As cliché as it sounds, high school is where you meet the friends that will last you forever, make the memories that you will never forget and learn the lessons that you will later teach.

Everyone learned their own things during their experience, whether it be a math formula, how to write an essay, what to do with a paintbrush or where a country is located on the map; the greatest lesson you have learnt is how to stick up for what you believe in.

You wrote a speech on the rights of the oppressed, protested the gross cafeteria food and picked up a copy of The Lyon - you made a difference.

As I write the last letter from the editor for the year, I hope that The Lyon has served you justice as your student voice, that you picked up an issue confident that you would relate to what was being read, that you wrote that article to inform and trigger change and that you will leave those doors the last day of your exams remembering to ask, challenge, form opinions, read, rant, roar.

-Shenhab

### MS. BEN DAVID

The 2012/2013 school year marks the 28th and final year that Ms. Ben David will be teaching at Mackenzie, where she has also taught Hebrew and ESL courses. Aside from being one of the school's most favored and well-known English teachers, she has also formerly worked as a Mackenzie librarian and guidance counselor. Her hobbies include, but are not limited to gardening, literature, music, and art. She has thoroughly enjoyed her involvement at Mackenzie and lists being both a teacher and a mother at the school, when her children attended, as one of the most unique experiences, which was particularly interesting when her children's friends, also her students, came over to study or to party. She looks forward to travelling next Fall and Spring, the two seasons when a teacher's time travel is limited & studying art and film part-time at university. She has also lead the Rainbow Club for numerous years and The Lyon for one. Although Ms. Ben David will be retiring at the end of the school year, her positive influence and endless contributions to William Lyon Mackenzie will be long remembered.

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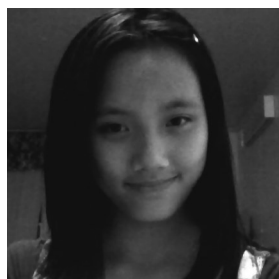
## FEATURED LYONS

### SHENHAB ZAIG



Editor-in-chief of The Lyon, Shenhab describes herself as creative, fun, and always down for an adventure. On a given weekend, she can be found spending time with her friends and making memories. A frequent reader, one of Shenhab's favourite authors is Sarah Dessen and she is a huge fan of Ellen Hopkins' Crank series. Shenhab is also an electronic dance music fanatic. The eleventh-grader looks forward to another year at Mac after a fantastic summer.

### HELEN MA



The one word that Helen would use to describe herself is "chaotic." An avid fan of the outdoors, the ninth grader enjoys a variety of activities such as biking, running, playing sports, and taking walks in the park. Helen also occupies her spare time by reading, listening to music, and watching movies - she loves Thirteen Reasons Why as a favourite and enjoys music by Maroon 5 and Bastille. One of her favourite movies is of course, Mean Girls. She is often found expressing her good mood by singing.

### LISA NGUYEN



Lisa is a grade 11 Mac student who enjoys wasting money, sleeping in and overeating. Her first year writing for The Lyon, Lisa is an experienced writer and reader, having read over 300 books. She is a Broadway geek and can always be found seeing a play or musical. Lisa's favourite bands are Florence and the Machine and Imagine Dragons and she loves playing the piano.

### ILAN KOGAN



As a senior student at Mackenzie, Ilan is known for his outgoing personality and sense of humor. He has also made himself recognized through his passion for baking. Ilan keeps himself busy by running a successful food blog, where all of his recipes can be found. Aside from baking, some of his hobbies include seeing plays, overeating, and naturally, sleeping. Ilan has expressed a desire to work in the legal field, although his main aspiration at the moment is to get as much sleep as possible. Visit his blog at [www.ironwhisk.com](http://www.ironwhisk.com).

# CLASS OF 2013

BY IETA SHAMS

As I'm sitting here on my back porch, listening to the sounds of children playing, there's a sinking feeling in my stomach and a taste of nostalgia on my lips. I was once them, playing jump rope and freeze tag, with not a worry in the world. Yet, here I am, in my last months as a high school senior and about to enter the "real" world as a full-fledged adult. It feels like nothing has ever prepared me for this. Four years ago we walked through Mackenzie's doors pubescent and utterly unsure of whom we were. We were young and naïve. Scared and out of place. We were a bunch of tadpoles let loose in the ocean. You get the picture. Everyone told us this would be the best four years of our lives. In hindsight, they couldn't have been more right.



For me, high school has been a medley of impactful moments, a compilation of firsts- the first time I broke my curfew, the first time I failed a math test and the first time I fell in love. No number of parental lectures could have taught me the lessons I learned in these four years. By being part of a team, I learned that accepting a loss is just as important as celebrating a victory. By taking chances that pushed me out of my comfort zone, I learned that nothing you set your mind on is unattainable. Yet, I've also learned that sometimes you have to roll with the punches. Like many, I've had my heart broken, felt rejection, and fallen on my face time after time only to get back up. These are the lessons that I will always hold with me; these are the experiences that have molded who I am.

But eventually, the moments we've spent in high school will become fading memories, and the place we once called our home away from home will become unrecognizable. Yet, what we will always have are the friendships we've made, the families we've formed. I just know that one day, 20 years down the line the 'Roti Gang' will be arranging play dates with their children and 70 years down the line the 'Wolf Pack' will be sitting in a senior's home, all together, reminiscing about their high school days. Each of us have met people who have inspired us, loved us, and in doing so have made us better versions of ourselves. While the photos may fade, the friendships we've made are like gold, everlasting, precious, and lifelong.

Although derivative laws and thesis construction may one day come in handy, our teachers have taught us things that go beyond the walls of a classroom. They have motivated us, guided us and seen potential in us even when we didn't.

Who would have thought that those daunting walls would become our home away from home; that those confused kids would grow up to become beautiful men and women. This has been the best four years of my life. I have felt pain and joy and everything in between. While we continue on this crazy ride, Mackenzie will always have a special place in our hearts. This one's to us, the class of 2013- to who we were, who we are, and who we'll one day be.

# COOLING DOWN

BY SHENHAB ZAIG

Living in Toronto those forty degree summer days hit us like a tsunami of sweat. No water, ice, freezies or mini fans can save you from the heavy humidity sitting on your shoulders. Logically, dousing yourself in the Arctic Ocean seems like the solution to your sweating buckets, but when you lack a boat and the time to visit Santa, GTA beaches are the only option.

I know, I know, who wants to take a swim in Toronto water and come out with a third eye, but surprisingly most of Toronto's lakefront swimming areas have received the Blue Flag Eco-Label; an internationally recognized label that takes into consideration a variety of environmental factors in order to determine the health safety of swimming.

Woodbine, Kew and Balmy beaches are very different to each other but in such close proximity that if you're bored of one you can take a stroll to the other. Woodbine is known for its beach volleyball. The other two are farther east and quieter, in case your worried about getting a concussion from a volleyball gone astray. Hanlan's Point has a clothing-optional area and a clothing-required area for those who aren't down for a full-body sunburn. Sunnyside beach has beautiful scenery but going in the water isn't always as safe as we'd like to be, chancing it with E.Coli isn't always fun. if you're getting in the water, remember to stay hydrated, put on sunscreen and a life jacket, have a life guard around Cherry Beach has a rustic charm while Bluffer's Park is widely praised as a great beach for bonfires.

Toronto has it's fair share of beaches, but when you're tired of

the city just beyond the sand, it's time to head farther out to places like Wasaga, Muskoka and the Sand Banks.

Wasaga is probably the most known beach in driving distance, however if you don't have a car for the three hour drive, don't

like crowded, popular beaches or are interested in exploring a unique beach as opposed to the classic type beach, the Sand Banks might be the place to head. A provincial park, the Sand Banks are exactly what they sound like - huge hills of sand. The beach is shallow, calm and clear, and a trip down memory lane while building a sand castle or rolling down the hills is always a great time.



Sunnyside Beach, from **BlogTO.com**

For the outdoorsy type, Muskoka's serene beaches are known for their cottage type atmosphere. Filled with docks, boats and other water activities, they're located close to forests and are great to experience water sports, hiking, barbecues and camping.

However, there's always a pool for you. You can walk to it, tan, hang out with friends and still make it back home for your favourite show.

Whatever way you choose to cool down this summer - \$! drinks being my favourite - if you're getting in the water, remember to put on a life jacket, have a lifeguard around and take precautions. Breastroke, sidestroke and fancy diving too, now get to the beach because we know you have nothing else to do. Visit **summerfunguide.com** for more summer activities in the GTA including hiking trails, beaches and public parks.

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## COOLING DOWN IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Cooling down in the neighbourhood is easier and more convenient than making a trip down to The Beaches or the few hour car ride to the farther beaches. If Tim Hortons ice caps and lemonades aren't your style and you much prefer swimming with the option to tan, neighbourhood pools are available to the public. The Antibes Community Center offers a free indoor pool to youth as well as many schools in the area including Northview and CW Jeffereys offer free leisure swim for youth. Outdoor swimming pools are also available at Irving W. Chapley Community Center on Wilmington and Fairbank Park on Dufferin. Wading pools and sprinklers are also a fun and cheap way of cooling down as well as right in your neighbourhood. Stay safe and stay cool.

# SUMMER MUSIC FESTIVALS

BY MAHFAM NIKOO

Let's face it; summer is the most ideal time of the year for letting work sit while you get to things you've been missing out on during the school year. For many of us, this means taking full advantage of the gold mine of concerts and music festivals this year. With Toronto being one of the biggest Canadian hot spots for music, it's safe to say that everyone is bound to find an artist they like who's playing live soon.

If you happen to be the variety type and enjoy catching whoever's playing, make sure to check out music festivals like Veld (\$180), Digital Dreams (\$172), or a new addition this year, Sensation (\$143). All three are run over two days and include acts such as Above & Beyond, Deadmau5, Sub Focus, Porter Robinson, Tiësto, Mr. White, and Otto Knows. Another familiar event is Warped Tour (\$62), taking place on July 5th and featuring Bless The Fall, Allison Weiss, Citizen, Sleeping With Sirens, and The Summer Set.



From **BlogTO.com**

Believe it or not, going to a festival instead of a couple of concerts can save you money. A lot of the time, most people consider festivals pricey at first, but they're really the equivalent of 10+ concerts for the price of one or two, and they tend to be filled with more experiences because of the events happening besides the performances. "I went to Warped tour last year, and even though there were thunderstorms the whole time, it was still a great time, with great headliners and worth the money!" Says Zoe Sinukoff, a graduating Mac student. Check out more music fests at [musicfestivaljunkies.com](http://musicfestivaljunkies.com). This is generally a more ideal choice for the all around music lover, but that doesn't mean that you have to rule out

your concerts, either.

Since the summer is major touring time for more popular artists, there will definitely be shows that are usually more of a rarity during the school year. **Concertsto.com** keeps an updated list of all concerts coming up in Toronto and where to buy tickets. Some of the major headlines for July and

August are Bruno Mars and Ellie Goulding, Fun. And Tegan & Sara, Weezer/Passion Pit, Imagine Dragons, Maroon 5 with Kelly Clarkson, and Ben Howard. The tickets usually range anywhere from 30-200 dollars, so ticket hunting might be necessary if you're looking to catch a major headliner. **Rotatethis.com** is an exclusive seller that always has some extra tickets for a sold out show, so it works well for last resorts.

Generally, the more you love the act, the more worth it the concert will be. Since some artists are given smaller venues—which is almost always—it will be slightly more cramped and rowdy. So if you're not

there for the music, you might want to take the experience to a festival. Otherwise, a concert is a great way of having an amazing night without having to compromise interest or time. "It feels really liberating to know that you are in a room full of people who share the same passion for music as you do", says Tony Todorova, a grade 9 MaCS student.

Music is one of the best things you can invest your time into this summer, because it will most definitely keep your mood bright and your energy endless. So even if concerts and music festivals aren't your thing, don't pass up music related events going on all throughout the city this summer. For alternative music events, check [outtoronto.com/events](http://outtoronto.com/events).

# SUMMER WRITING

BY SIMON SPICHAK

Do you like English? Do you actually enjoy writing those supposedly boring essays? Do you sometimes get the late night craving to pick up a paper and pen? If so, then you might be a writer (or a hypochondriac).

Writing is a wonderful form of self expression and with summer just around the corner, there's plenty of time to work on this craft. It's time to flaunt that spectacular vernacular. All you need is a pen, some paper and a lot of imagination. Head to the park, look around for the perfect spot. It's on a patch of green grass, and surrounded by tall trees which provide some shade. Take in every smell, every sight and every sound. Now you're ready to write.

There are multiple different genres of writing and I would recommend trying a bunch of different ones. My personal favourite is satire, by the way for a good read; check out Jonathan Swift's "A Modest Proposal". Always get people to proofread your work. Always choose that friend that's going to



be brutally honest and tell you where your writing needs improvement. It's also good to take a step aside from your writing and get rid of any emotional attachments. Prematurely naming and nurturing your story will only make it harder to edit, change and even complete.

Writer's block is a special type of invisible kryptonite that impedes on creative abilities. It can be overcome by listening to music. I like to listen to something lyrical or something with a jazzy beat to get me started. Do some research on something of interest. Or just forget about it for the day and go to sleep. I've gotten some of my best ideas after

sleeping. Eventually, that perfect idea is going to pop into your head.

Lyons, keep writing.

I'd like to thank everyone who's read it to the end. Maybe you'll even be writing for the paper next year.

Stay cool Mackenzie.

# CHOCOLATE CAKE

BY ILAN KOGAN

With the heat comes all the cravings for chocolate cake. When complaining about that bikini body that you couldn't have this year - but will for sure have next year! - what's more perfect than a fluffy chocolate cake with spiked whipped cream and chocolate curls?

## Ingredients

### For the cake:

Butter, for greasing the pans

2 cups (250g) all purpose flour, plus more for pans

2 cups (400g) sugar

⅓ cup (58g) cocoa powder

2 teaspoons baking soda

1 teaspoon baking powder

1 teaspoon salt

1 cup (250ml) milk, at room temperature

½ cup (125ml) vegetable oil

2 eggs, at room temperature

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

1 cup (250ml) hot coffee

1 tablespoon lemon juice

For the spiked whipped cream:

2 cups (500ml) whipping cream

2 tablespoons sugar

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

3 tablespoons whiskey (optional)

For the chocolate curls:

Thick (~2 inches tall) blocks of chocolate (white, dark, and milk)



## Method

### Prepare the cake:

Preheat the oven to 350°F. Butter and flour three 9-inch round cake pans. Line the bottom of each pan with parchment paper. Sift the flour, sugar, cocoa, baking soda, baking powder, and salt into a bowl and mix on low speed. In another bowl, combine the milk, oil, eggs, and vanilla. Slowly add the wet ingredients to the dry ingredients while mixing. Add the coffee and stir to combine, making sure to scrape the bottom of the bowl. Mix in the lemon juice. Pour the batter into the pans and bake for about 30-35 minutes. Cool in the pans completely.

### Prepare the spiked whipped cream:

Whip all the ingredients together until stiff peaks form.

### Prepare the chocolate curls:

Warm up the chocolate in the microwave for about 20 seconds or until it gets soft. Slide a vegetable peeler along the side of the block of chocolate to create curls. Let the curls fall onto a piece of parchment paper. Let the chocolate come to room temperature before handling.

### Assemble the cake:

Place a layer of the cake on a plate and cover with a third of the whipped cream. Repeat with the other layers. Arrange the chocolate curls on top.

# HOW I'M SPENDING MY SUMMER

BY JEREMY MOLKO

As we all know the end of the school year is coming closer, and now is around the time when we start planning our summer vacations. For some summer is full of fun, parties, and sleeping in until 2 o'clock in the afternoon. While for others summer is just school away from school. I for one, will be holed up inside all summer in front of my computer writing pointless blog posts with a bowl of ice cream to cool me off. I know there are others like myself who do not like to go outside and enjoy the weather. Don't be ashamed! Stay in bed! Pull the covers up! Lie there for hours as you play Solitaire on your cell phone. Despite what your parents may tell you, it is acceptable to have zero social interaction during this two month period of time. Of course some of you will argue that summer is the time to hang out with friends, and that is a good use of your time. Party hard, maybe too hard; it's the summer you don't have to get out of bed the next day. School is school, but summertime is where it is at. If you aren't much of a party-goer might I suggest bowling? How about bingo night with the seniors, they know how to have a good time let me tell you. And how can we forget all the hard workers who spend their summers with their noses in the textbooks they'll be getting next year, or those who've enrolled in summer school, if you want to learn, all the power to you. Learning is good for you (or so I hear), it can do wonders for your marks. But in between your studying, partying, or blogging remember to say hello to all your friends working at Canada's Wonderland.



# SUMMARY OF 2013

BY SANDRA NYMAN

This year at Mackenzie was defined by the teacher's union strike, which halted extracurricular activities, teams, and events from October until March. Despite this, Mackenzie students took advantage of the time they did have to hold some exciting events; grade 9 day, pink day, and Culturama, some of Mackenzie's most anticipated festivities, took place as always, with great turnouts. The end of the year also brought along the return of clubs and sports teams, a welcome relief for all students alike.

Although the strike did prevent the school from holding some well-loved events, it also inspired students to remember old events they had loved from the past, and think of new ideas for years to come. In the halls of Mackenzie, students recalled events that they were sad to have missed out on this year, and would make great additions for the next. Music lovers recalled Battle of the Bands, singers and dancers remembered Free the Talent, and many mentioned fashion shows and speech competitions. When asked what she would like to see at Mackenzie next year, grade 11 student Helin Ulutaş said "I'd love to see the school play on stage next year. I think it's a great showcase of Mackenzie's creative side and the year was definitely lacking without it." One

common suggestion for next year was expanding student government, bringing back assembly council, or at the very least creating an outlet for students to voice their ideas and concerns about school issues.

Officer Chris was another new addition to Mackenzie this year, and most students felt that he was a positive addition to the school; his welcoming attitude ensured that students felt comfortable and accepting of a new figure in the halls. Personally, it always seemed strange to me that Mackenzie was one of the only schools without a police officer. I'm glad there's more security at Mac now. Going forward, it would be valuable for staff and administration to form more personal relationships with the students; students feel much more comfortable approaching staff with concerns when they can relate to them and talk to them on their own level. With the teacher's strike in the past, next year is sure to more than make up for what we missed out on this year. Mactoberfest, spirit week, food days, talent shows; next year is sure to have it all! When asked about a memorable event from the year, grade 11 student Hojin Mok remembered the snow day. What are his hopes for next year? "I hope to see TDSB finally call a snow day if the snow ever reaches my neck again".



## THE MACKENZIE SHUFFLE

COMPILED BY  
LISA NGUYEN

"Red Hands"  
by Walk Off the Earth  
-Erica Yeo, Grade 12

"All the Way" by Frank  
Sinatra  
-Brian Pho, Grade 12

"Can't Hold Us" by Macklemore  
-Salonee Patel, Grade 10

"I'm Yours" by Jason Mraz  
-Ieta Shams, Grade 12

"Kiss Goodnight" by Tyler Shaw  
-Emily Markowski, Grade 9

"Of Space And Time" by City and Colour  
-Korina Gov, Grade 12

"Mr. Sandman" by The Chordettes  
-Dasha Olexandro, Grade 9

"Radioactive" by Imagine Dragons  
-Sydney Yalowsky, Grade 11

"Jesus of Suburbia" by  
Green Day  
-Hojin Mok, Grade 11

"Girls Love Beyonce" by Drake  
-Nehi Prajapati, Grade 11

# What was your best memory at Mackenzie this year?

## COMPILED BY

**DAVID YEGHSHATYAN**

Watching our co-ed volleyball team bring home gold!

- Stacy Ma, Grade 9

My favourite memory is lunchtime with my friends.

- Noa Friedman, Grade 11

The Grad Breakfast!

- Zoe Sinukoff, Grade 12



CCK!

- Angelina La, Grade 11

Winning regionals!  
- Jay

Patel, Grade 11

Watching the Russian version of the Hobbit during lunch!

- Amin Jafarov, Grade 11

Culturama was great, all the delicious foods and beautiful performances were amazing.

- Tanya Khazin, Grade 11

My favourite memory of this year was seeing all of the talent and cultures showcased in Culturama.

- Julia Siegel, Grade 12

Wearing a fox mask to every class for a month!

- Dasha Beskova, Grade 9



**Thanks for a great year Mac! See you after the summer.**

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