



## An Art Performance

*Templestowe Heights Primary School organises a community art show every second year. From the first day of school, the art program is in full swing, making sure all students produce art work that they are proud to showcase to their family, friends and the wider community. I always tell my students that it takes courage to create art, and then to showcase it in an art show. It also takes a lot of effort and months of organising. The art committee was formed at the beginning of the year; this was represented by both staff and parents.*

As part of our Art Show celebrations, an art incursion was organised for all students. Surfing the net for an engaging art incursion that catered for all levels, I came across a speed artist from Western Australia, Phil Doncon's Paint Storm. Phil is a speed artist who paints to music on a huge canvas. His website showed part of his performance, which caught my attention; I had a good feeling so I made the call. Would he come to Melbourne? Unfortunately 'no' was the

answer. But luck was on my side, Phil was prepared to organise a family holiday around our art show. Wow! a speed artist from WA was visiting our school. Was I making a huge mistake booking an artist from interstate? All my fears were quickly squashed the minute Phil started his shows at school. Phil blew the socks off everyone. He was captivating and dynamic, paint was flying onto the canvas and our students were up painting with him. Phil's canvases stretched over 10 metres. That alone looked impressive. The performances were jaw-dropping, the energy was contagious, and the school was alive with paint and music.

After many telephone calls and emails, Phil was able to cater for our students needs and organised a performance which included a junior show, a senior show, a whole school seminar and two shows for the wider community during the art show. We booked Phil for two days to cover all the shows and seminars.

The key in organising an incursion from interstate is good communication. Phil was able to cater for all of our students, he

created a show that engaged everyone and his seminars were educational, focussing on different elements in art. Students were able to make connections and celebrate their efforts in art with their peers, families and the wider community.

Our school has been overwhelmed by positive feedback from the art show and Phil's performances. An art show doesn't need big rides and fete style days to make it a huge success. We included craft stalls with handmade goods, free art activities and engaging performances that complement and reinforce that art is alive and well, especially at our school.

Paint was flying off the walls this year and we loved every minute of our arts celebrations!

Templestowe Heights art show was a huge success. Please visit our website for more photos from our art show <[www.templestowehts.vic.edu.au](http://www.templestowehts.vic.edu.au)>

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