

Gleneagle's Student Voice

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the Edge

Spreading holiday cheer at Gleneagle

KAREN LAU

staff reporter

A number of student initiatives have been launched these past few weeks, all with the common goal of improving the holiday season for others within the school and community.

Gleneagle's Leadership 11 class, in conjunction with SHARE Society, has brought back school classic Project Angel, which will run until Friday. As well, the Re-act team has been responsible for two activities, one of which took place earlier this week.

"SHARE is a local organization that provides multiple services to people in need . . . whether it be a food bank [or] counselling services," said **Adam Hayes**, leadership teacher. "And they've let people in the Tri-cities know what kind of need there is, [especially] in the way of youth and children who don't necessarily have a great Christmas in front of them."

The goal of Project Angel is to provide these children with a much merrier Christmas through the generosity and goodwill of our students.

The process itself is simple, according to Hayes. Students who wish to take part simply have to visit the counselling office, where a tree has been set up with paper angels hanging as ornaments. Each angel contains the name, age, and some general interests of an underprivileged child within the community. Students may take an angel, purchase a small gift for the child, and place it unwrapped beneath the tree for SHARE to distribute during our winter break.

"We're basically giving to and helping kids in our community. It's a good thing," said **Lorie Tade**, grade 10 and chairperson of Project Angel's six member committee. "Just organizing the whole thing with [SHARE] was a lot of work . . . but definitely, it was worth it."

Anywhere from 150 to 300 children will benefit from Gleneagle's contributions. From the Tri-cities, about 3000 gifts are donated each year. Hayes believes that, the more people in our school get involved, the more likely it is for "the culture of giving . . . to be heavily entrenched in our school."

"I really want [students] to know that they're helping people in this community . . . We could be helping someone walking by us on the street," said Tade. Something more



PHOTO BY SOPHIA CHAN

'Tis the season to be jolly: Students who wish to help out an underprivileged child can stop by the counselling office and purchase a small Christmas gift for the child whose name is written on a paper angel that they select.

school-based, however, is Free Hugs and Cookies day, which was organized by the Re-act team, a club dedicated towards random acts of kindness and making differences step by step.

"On Monday, we hand[ed] out free cookies and [gave] free hugs around the school at lunchtime," explained **Raiya Suleman**, grade 11, one of the group's student leaders. "We want [students] to know how a small gesture like that can improve someone's day."

Veronica Wu, grade 11, also believes this to be the main purpose of their club. "We hope that if people get out there and do stuff like random acts of kindness, [we'll all] be happier," she said.

"For some people . . . every day [is] a bad

day and it's just the little things that could make their day better," said **Marisa Wang**, grade 10, who delivered free cookies. "Even if it's an organized thing, it's nice to know that someone is willing to try to help you."

"In fact, it's been scientifically proven that if you hug, a hormone [is activated] inside you, and you feel good about yourself even if you don't know it," said **Amy Leem**, grade 10, one of several free-huggers.

"We're just trying to brighten up peoples' days," added **Meghan Foster**, grade 11.

In addition to free hugs and cookies for the school, Re-act has also provided for others within the community. Similar to Project Angel, members of the club bought and

decorated Christmas stockings, then filled them with items necessary for a less-fortunate young person during the winter season.

"There were 14 stockings in total," said Suleman. "[Each stocking] had toothbrushes, socks, toques and scarves. They also suggested we put in a toy . . . because technically it's supposed to be like a gift from Santa. So, there's stuffies, Webkins, and all that kind of stuff too."

"Christmas is the time for giving and not expecting anything in return," said Wang. "Random acts of kindness, and just giving should be things you do all day, every day," she added.

"All the members seemed really enthusiastic about it," added Suleman. "We think it could really make a difference for those kids."

Students sprint their way to serve others in Amazing Race

EMILY KIM

staff reporter

An unanticipated twist ended the Amazing Race on Friday, as students rushed all over our local community to win as one unified group.

Teams of four travelled from our school and all the way downtown, to carry out charitable tasks in order to receive a clue leading them to their next challenge and up to the final pit stop.

"I was inspired to come up with an accommodating activity that would be outside of the school boundaries. Take away the safety of the walls, so that way, they can see how they behave in the real world from moment-to-moment, day-to-day," said **Adam Hayes**, leadership teacher, who organized the race.

Alex Li, grade 10, added, "[Hayes] is giving us complete freedom to do whatever we want... It's like [the show], how

we all get into groups of four and then we have to go around the Vancouver area—the lower mainland... we can't use cars, we have to either use walking or public transit."

From 8:30 in the morning to 3:00 in the afternoon, students started by completing a challenge in Gleneagle's kitchen.

They then headed off to Scott Creek Middle School to teach a group of grade 6 and 7 students team-building activities, to SHARE's food bank where they either sorted food or carried it for half an hour, and to Lougheed Mall to sing Christmas carols in front of strangers.

Opportunities to work with bigger organizations were met downtown with the Salvation Army, where they constructed gift bags, and Covenant House, where they filled backpacks with goodies.

Prior to the race, several students made preparations for the big event but

not without mixed emotions including **Gabrielle Tin**, grade 11, and **Michelle Kwee**, grade 12.

"We're going to have the rest of the time to look for buses around there and plan some routes we're going to take downtown," said Tin.

"[I felt] kind of nervous. I don't know if I'll be able to know where to go and whatnot. I guess the nervousness brings excitement," said Kwee.

Expressing leadership is one main concept students have hoped to understand by the end of the race.

Tin hoped to acquire "better communication [skills], and to be in other people's shoes and learn what their point of view is," while Kwee hoped to "learn how to act under pressure."

Ultimately, a collaboration was made, ending the event with a surprising twist: All teams ended up coming out on top as they stood around the centre staircase chanting "win-

win," refusing to move until Hayes understood they wanted to win as a class rather than individual teams.

"They're providing service and there's no greater leadership than being of service to others," concluded Hayes.

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 16
Last Day of Classes

January 3
School Reopens

January 20
End of Semester

Season's stresses: it ain't all about joy, you know

With just two days until winter vacation is finally upon us, it has become more apparent than ever that the holiday season is far from just tinsel and garland, presents to be unwrapped, and the prospect of a white Christmas to be spent with family and friends.

In fact, for many of us, it may just be the opposite.

Despite a number of dates matching up on the school calendar as expected, an undeniable fact that teachers have noticed already, is the shortened term, with just two weeks in December as opposed to the usual three.

Those of us with impending provincial exams have surely observed the sudden change of pace.

Bits and pieces of curriculum have been forcibly overlooked, and work is being piled on, contrary to the steep decline into relaxation that we may have experienced in our elementary or middle school years.

Grade 12's, whose university applications are due in mere weeks, however, have put those days behind them as they are launched straight into two weeks of form after form after form.

And let's not forget, with tomorrow's shortened classes, numerous teachers have scheduled all our tests for the same day—today, no less—in hopes of getting them done before we even try to catch a break.

As well, a significant lack of class time has been offered for any projects, leaving them for the supposed “vacation.”

Besides fitting in as much work as pos-

sible in the final week before break, we have other worries too.

Many of us are workers as well, and we know how stressful it can be. The promise of our friends and relatives gathered around a Christmas tree come that Sunday morning is exhilarating, yet the costs of gift-giving can be financially crippling for those working for minimum wage or less.

Being the younger generation that we are, perhaps the expectations of our families aren't as high as we think, which is a comforting thought. But what about the Whistler trip, the family dinner with too many cousins? Sure, we love them, but is now really the right time?

Somewhere within each of us, is the notion that “Yes, this is the season of work.” We're all just trying our best to get along, and the result is a frenzy of school, work, and life-related stress that does little to spur the holiday spirit in each of us. Within our school walls, a significant workload has dampened our spirits and, inadvertently, our anticipation for the holiday itself.

So, take a step back. Exhale, and watch your breath dissipate before you inhale the cool air.

Remember all you've accomplished this year, and give the new year your all. Spend time with your loved ones, and perhaps Christmas will once again be the simple, merry holiday that it once was for us all.

Winter has always been the season of giving, receiving, and spreading cheer. Why should it be anything otherwise?



Your money or your feet : which will give out first?



edge columnist

Christmas, hectic but memorable, is a special time in the year. It is a special event that ends off our worn old year and brings us into the next year on midnight of New Year's Eve. It is a precious time to spend together in the presence of loved ones, a time to think about those multi-coloured presents under the brightly decorated Christmas tree.

When uncles and fathers sat by the dinner table remembering stories of Christmas's past, mothers and grandmothers scurried with plates full of turkey, mashed potatoes and salads prepared for the festive dinner. However, what is best is not just the food; it is the presents.

With many sales from many stores to buy from, millions of people hand out presents for their family, friends, and co-workers during Christmas season.

But by doing so, are we using Christmas as an excuse to give?

Every year thousands of Canadians spend several millions of dollars for one out of 365 days in the year. All bought from large malls, local stores and the limitless Internet, we have thrown away our earnings to purchase items, that will inevitably be garbage. It all started with the media's clever idea of giving.

Now I'm not against the act of giving. It is a humble and selfless action. Nonetheless, not many people would spend hundreds of dollars on clothing or toys for any other given day other than Christmas. Because of the media's hot cocoa full of heart-warming “spend your money and be a good person” tricks, Christmas has turned humans into

wild animals diving for the best deals, racing for the last product, and fighting through crowds of people.

Malls and stores have become the safari, and as animals, who are a part of this wild territory, we search for more things that we hope bring delight to others.

50% off latest brands. Buy one get the other half off. Buy three tires and get the fourth free. Sale after sale after sale. They are everywhere you go and see. On televi-

“50% off latest brands. Buy one get the other half off. Buy three tires and get the fourth free”

sion, at the mall, and on billboards by the highway, producers try and succeed in convincing consumers, like you and me, that Christmas is about buying things for others.

Sure, it is thoughtful and considerate except it is not the only way.

No one needs to spend hundreds of dollars for a gift to make Christmas special. It is more important to spend time with one another. And no matter how cheesy or over-used this phrase is, it is true. You can change a person's life just by talking to them.

If Christmas is the only season we care about others who are homeless and living in poverty, then what about the other eleven months when there is no Christmas? Their problems, much like everyone else's, do not disappear with a swift wave of a wand and an *Expelliarmus* charm.

When you give, it should be daily not seasonal. When you give, it is not always something you purchase like a bag, or an Xbox, or a phone. Millions of people live in pov-

erty everyday and one month of Christmas giving should not be the only way to give.

When your friends are going through the worst, be there by their side, and listen to them.

When a classmate has trouble with work and comes to you for advice, be helpful.

When one person has no lunch to eat, offer some of your food.

Little things everyday can lead up to meaningful giving that lasts all year long. Do not depend on Christmas as the only excuse to give to others.

theEdge

The Edge is the independent voice of the students of Gleneagle Secondary produced by the Journalism 11/12 class. It conforms and adheres to the standards and style of the Canadian Press.

Letters to the editor are welcome and will be printed as space allows; letters must be signed and

free of libel. The Edge reserves the right to edit for accuracy, spelling, and grammar.

Additional articles, opinion pieces, and features may also be submitted and will be printed as space allows. The Edge reserves the right to edit any submitted material for brevity and style.

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What's a classic Santa memory you have?

YOU SAID IT!



Grade 9
"One Christmas, my mom dressed up in a Santa suit, but I didn't know that. I called out Santa, ran up to hug 'him' to find that it was my mom."



Grade 10 "Santa came down my chimney and knocked out all the ashes from the fireplace onto the carpet."



Grade 11
"Finding wrapping paper tubes in my parent's room and seeing my mom put presents underneath the tree."



Grade 12
"I was a big, fat Santa in a grade 9 play, without the stuffing."

How to conquer the "mischievous imp": writer's block



edge columnist

Nearly everyone falls victim to the moments where they give their PC monitor a long, cold stare while drumming their fingers on the keyboard, thinking of how much

further to trudge through their essay before reaching the conclusion, the repetition of thesis, and at long last, and finally, the sweet keystrokes of the closing statement. But now, the screen projects no clear path, no exit to the highway of the body paragraph. "Should I even make it this long? What if it gets too wordy?" "What point was I even making?" "Or maybe I should just start over again because this looks all wrong to me now..."

Be it a school composition or free writing solely for pleasure, there will be times where amidst the production of a sentence of gold, a mischievous imp makes its way into your brain and steals that golden idea humming at the tip of your fingers, waiting to hit the flat screen.

The next thing you know, those words are totally lost. Your brain becomes a stark canvas without a single brushstroke; a tunnel of darkness with no light to point out the exit. It is a nasty, congested feeling, like being in a car waiting at the long line at the US bor-

der on Black Friday. Should have left home a few hours earlier.

Perhaps inspiration needed a vacation, rendering you unable to produce another sentence. Most of the time, writer's block hails from lack of inspiration or motivation to think.

Stress, depression and failure in other areas of life are also contributors. Basically, the bigger the firewall that is set against writing that dreadful essay that must be handed in for tomorrow, the less motivation and will there will be to finish it and get it out of the way.

Cheer up, and think of the difficulty and boredom as a challenge. It will help.

Solutions are various, but while trying to work towards one, keep in mind the density and depth of your words. Sometimes, flowery wording can be difficult to perceive, and weaving too many into an essay makes it harder to make a point and move on from there.

Not every sentence has to contain a meta-

phor, an allusion, and three types of imagery, so simple is best in some cases. Icing the cake is enough, so there is no need to fill up the inside with frosting too!

If that does not work, get away from the mind-numbing Word document and get up for a stretch, keeping that composition out of the mind. After a few minutes, read over what is already there, make the necessary changes, and there will most likely be a path cleared.

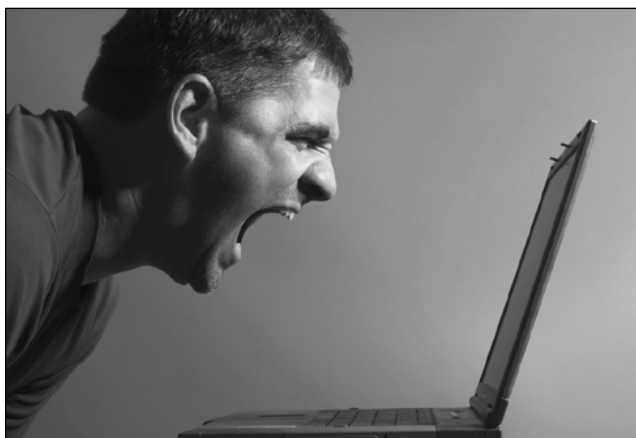
Also, ask advice from someone else who is trusted. Make a decision on how to word the statement and decide on the better way through revision and elimination.

So there they are, some facts and remedies on the worst pitfall a writer can reach. I've probably drawn mind blanks twenty or more times while writing this. But nevertheless, I have succeeded.

Now, continue on with that social justice essay and polish that soon-to-be Newberry novel.

Happy writing Gleneagle!

Letters to the editor:



[Re: Misunderstood youth of today struggle with stereotypes, labels]

In Emily Kim's article, "Misunderstood youth of today struggle with stereotypes, labels," she argues that adults make assumptions about our generation.

I agree with Emily because when I go to the neighborhood 7-11, I am asked to remove my backpack as I enter.

I have never stolen anything in my entire life, yet they assume, based on my age, that I am a thief. People are quick to point to racism and sexism, but ignore the obvious signs of youth. We don't deserve to be discriminated against based on the crimes, actions, and faults of a small minority of our generation.

- Riley Tylla

[Re: Gleneagle class mentors local primary students]

Karen Lau comments, "[...] students must also focus on the influence they have on the younger students, as everything they do has the potential to make an impression on the child's life." This statement could never be so true.

I truly believe that everyone has an unbelievable amount

of influence on younger children and without realizing it, they're always looking up to us and watching our every move. So what's keeping us from tapping into this wealth of potential and changing the world, one child at a time!

- Jonathan Tan

[Re: Global Issues Club recognizes Violence Against Women Day]

Stephanie Lui said that the Global Issues Club is raising awareness about domestic abuse towards women and I agree it is a big problem, but abuse for men in domestic partnerships is also a large deal. Women rely on chivalry [the unwritten rule that men can't hit women] while abusing their spouses both physically and mentally.

- Matt Carter

[Re: Pregnant for a day: students surprised at the trials, tribulations.]

It's funny to read about how the girls managed with the pregnancy belly. It was good to see a lot of the girls saying, "I don't want to get pregnant anytime soon."

- Caitlynn Chilman

[Re: Outdoor club challenges elements in first camping trip]

The outdoor trip sounded like lots of fun. I hope the lake still looks beautiful. It's a long hike up the mountain, and I'm proud of all the outdoor students. As an ex-Coast student, I know how hard it is to make it to the top, but once you get there, the view of the lake and the mountains are amazing.

- Duncan Priestly

[Re: In support of Slutwalk: victims not to be blamed]

I'm not truly in support of the Slutwalk. I agree that people should wear whatever they want and that women don't ever invite men to rape them, but the Slutwalk may not be the best way

to protest the unjust perception people have about provocatively dressed women being raped. It's great that women are going to show their confidence and defiance, but the Slutwalk is probably going to attract a lot of creepy, nasty people who aren't going to make the situation better. The more conservative community is probably going to criticize the Slutwalk quite harshly and public perception of these liberal women won't get better. A different approach would probably be better.

- Louise Hung

[Re: In support of Slutwalk: victims not to be blamed]

In Sophia Chan's "In support of Slutwalk . . .," she explains the victim-blaming in our culture that the Slutwalk is trying to eliminate. I wholeheartedly agree with the movement. The right to self-expression should never be used as an excuse for the lack of respect some show toward women in our society. The blame for rape rests solely on rapists - women should never be found to share the blame.

- Kiko Blake

[Re: In support of Slutwalk: victims not to be blamed]

In response to, "In support of SlutWalk . . ." I would tend to fully agree with the author, Sophia Chan's, point of view. In our society we are told to "celebrate self-identity" and I feel that society as a whole needs to step back and determine if true self-identity is actually accepted in our world. Constable M. Sanguietti had the audacity to criticize women for the way they dressed and additionally placed partial blame for them being "victimized" (raped, sexually harassed, abused). If self-identity was really promoted in our world, then events and quotes like Constable Sanguietti's would never be spoken, because people would respect others no matter how they dressed and entire blame would be placed on those who are really responsible: the perpetrators of these vicious acts.

- Ben Olafsen

T-shirt sales raise funds, promote hope for cancer research

SCOTT LEE
staff reporter

With the month of “Movember” past, grade 12 student, **Juanpaolo Mercado** continued the momentum in December with a second cancer initiative, alongside the student council, that involves selling shirts with proceeds going to research.

“It came as an opportunity. Our sponsor teacher for student council, **Mrs. Peri Morenz**, showed me boxes of unused cancer t-shirts that she had and it was something they sold in years past,” said Mercado.

Nicola Cridge, youth worker at Gleneagle, approached Mercado and asked if he wanted to work with student council in selling the shirts. The shirts were originally ordered in conjunction with the annual Relay for Life Cancer Fundraiser.

“It actually happened by luck. The caretaker clean[ed] out underneath the stairwell...and we found boxes of t-shirts. Mrs. Morenz was all over that,” said Cridge.

“We looked through the boxes and to our surprise, the t-shirts were only in large and above

sizes...so we really couldn’t sell them to students,” said Mercado. “We initially decided to transition from selling it to students to teachers,” added Mercado in response to the twist.

Due to a surprisingly large demand, Mercado and the student council opened up sales to students, where they almost sold out their supply.

The t-shirts says, “Hope, our reason to relay,” in blue text behind a white background.

“The t-shirts [were] only \$5.00, which is a really great deal for [their] quality,” said Mercado. “You can even wear it to school or at home for pajamas.”

Mercado’s inspiration for this project does not come from anything, but experience.

“Cancer is such a broad topic. I have had family members affected by cancer and it is something that is personally close to me,” said Mercado.

The spirit of “Movember,” a moustache growing charity event intended to promote awareness and prevention of prostate cancer, is something both Cridge and Mercado wished to see continued



PHOTO BY SCOTT LEE

Spreading the hope: Student proudly holds up one of the t-shirts for sale to promote awareness of cancer.

with the sale of the t-shirts and it has been successful.

“As much as cancer has been ad-

vertised a lot...it is necessary to advertise it a lot,” said Mercado. “Even if we [sold] only five t shirts,

it’s still 25 dollars that are going somewhere. It’s something we didn’t have before.”

Online courses definite option for self-motivated students

YOUNG HAN
staff reporter

“Are they an independent learner? Will they benefit from it? Will it help them in the long run?”

Gleneagle counsellor **Bindy Johal** says these are some of the questions that students need to think over before they choose to take online courses.

“Almost everything can be offered online. For those who excel in their area and want to finish courses faster, it’s easier for them to do it that way,” said Johal.

Gleneagle Writing 12 Online teacher, **Scott Findley**, recognizes the advantages of courses delivered this way.

“Advantages of an online course are that it allows students to do work at anytime from anywhere,” Findley said.

“It allows them to pull in resources, to collaborate and communicate in other ways such as using wiki, and Facebook groups in a way to help one another out,” he said.

Both Johal and Findley agree that for students to be successful in online courses, they have to be independent, self motivated,

“For students . . . the biggest challenge is organizing their time to complete work.”

and have good time management skills.

“As a counsellor, one of the cons I see is that it’s hard to track students who are doing stuff online,” Johal said.

“I don’t know what their marks are; if they are failing a class I can’t follow up on that,” she said.

Coquitlam Open Learning academic advisor **Kim Cuellar** says online courses leave students lots of flexibility in time, place, delivery mode and some flexibility in pace.

But on the other hand, it’s “not as good for students with difficulty reading on a computer, have little self-management skills, or

for those who really like to learn in the classroom environment,” said Cuellar.

“For students who take self-paced or flexibly-paced models, the biggest challenge is organizing their time to complete work,” said Cuellar. “As well, online learning does require some basic comput-

er skills [from both students and teachers].”

Initially as an online component for long-distance learning, online courses gradually became what we see today, being differentiated from the traditional paper-based delivery models.

They meet a wide variety of needs: for students who need flexible course offerings to allow special time tables, students who want to take a course multiple times to improve a mark, and students who need or want a course that their particular school doesn’t offer, are just a few examples.

Juna An, grade 11, was one of those who chose to take Planning 10 online.

“I think online courses are very convenient when you want to be ahead by taking some courses you are confident in online,” said An.

“We were told to hand in assignments every Saturday [instead of everyday]; it gave me a lot more time to improve my assignments and achieve higher marks in the course. I also had more time to focus on other subjects,” she added.

“Online learning can be a paradigm shift for both teacher and learner with regards to how learning happens,” said Cuellar.

Many of us have grown up in bricks and mortar schools, and the vast majority of students still attend bricks and mortar schools. Learning and teaching online requires a different paradigm,” she added.

Cuellar believes that online courses are “a growing field and I strongly believe in its ability to better meet some student needs and also in its potential to be transformative,” she said.

Green team raises awareness: how much waste do you make?

JADE NGUYEN
staff reporter

Gleneagle’s Green Team tested the students’ knowledge on waste management issues earlier this month, while raising awareness of the club in the school.

The club members marched around during lunch on December 1 with tin boxes of cookies and a camera, stopping students and testing their knowledge of waste management issues.

“We went around asking questions such as “How long does it take aluminum to break down?” Some of us then filmed the responses so we could document how they reacted,” said **Jenni-**

fer Allot, grade 10. “Some of our members encountered people who were very enthusiastic about the cookies we were handing out. Most people were either very happy that they got the answer right, or surprised and shocked by how off they were,” she added.

“We just wanted to make people aware of what was going on, and of the Green Team’s presence in the school, so it went well,” Allot said.

Along with the little quizzes, some members of the Green Team designed a tree made of paper, a creative way to reuse newspaper and become an eye-catching art display.

The Green Team is gearing up towards a waste management pro-

gram that they are trying to install in the school.

Although it is difficult to tell what the system will look like at this point in time, the team hopes for an effective, accessible system that will integrate the current garbage, ‘refundables’(such as disposable water bottles), and blue

“We don’t want to do this half way, because it might fall through...”

bin recycling. In doing so, the decrease in actual waste will be significant.

The team is currently working on a comprehensive action plan to kick start the program and ensure

that the plan will follow through.

“It will be implemented over the next couple of months, really starting off in the new year,” Allot stated.

“It’s the main part of what’s going on [in the club]. So we’re kind of blocking other things and just being direct, so we can do this well

and make sure it continues on for longer this time.”

“We don’t want to do this half way, because it might fall through,” added **Megan Edmunds**, grade 10.

“A waste management program

has been attempted in the school, but it just kind of fell apart. It’s always been on the sidelines; it’s never been the focus, so it never ends up being completed fully,” she added.

According to Edmunds, even if the program cannot be fully implemented, the team is hoping to create a nice pathway for the upcoming year.

“We’re going to be discussing it over the next couple of days, so that we can really have a solid blueprint for what we’re going to do, instead of just trying something out and seeing if it works,” Allot said.

“This time, we’re going to plan well in advance,” she added.

Talons demonstrate spirit of giving – to friends. . .

ALICE ZHANG
staff reporter

Christmas Grams, delivered today, are a way for students to spread around the Christmas cheer.

“Christmas is always a busy time for students, so we just want something that is fun, or something that students can buy and give to others,” said **Paolo Mercado**, grade 12, student council member. It’s that time of year again, and Gleneagle’s student council captures the mood of the season by bringing out Christmas Grams, a yearly tradition meant to spread holiday spirit. The student council has put hard work into preparing and decorating several boxes for this year’s sale, and are hoping for not only positive net profits, but also to bring out the one thing that means the most in the Christmas spirit: giving to others.

“People get involved in the school and it’s a way of showing love and care. It’s nice to see everyone unify and connect to each other,” said **Grace Chang**, grade 12. Students gifting Christmas Grams to one another corresponds with this merry season of giving; it is an opportunity for every student to spread the heartwarming feeling of receiving a gift from a friend or sweetheart along with the satisfaction of giving one and knowing that the love has been spread. **Ronald Sz**, grade 12, hopes that “Gleneagle has the spirit of giving, especially, because it would just be nice to see kids buying gifts for one another.”

“This year, we really like our product,” said **Gabrielle Tin**, grade 11. The Christmas Grams being sold this year are comprised of chocolate candies all enclosed in a festively decorated box that looks like a doll. There is also space for a personal message. Each festively-decorated box is sold at \$5.00 for the standard size, and \$6.00 for a bigger size.

“We are aiming for a positive profit and for everything to be sold out,” said **Mikayla Kim**, grade 12 student council member. The previous year’s sales yielded profits for the student council, and they are hoping for this year’s sales to be equally or more successful. Kim also said the student



PHOTO BY ALICE ZHANG

Spreading seasonal smiles: Student council members, both grade 12, sell Christmas Grams to share bright holiday cheer. These bundles of joy will be distributed in third block today.

– to less fortunate throughout the Tri-cities . . .

JANICE WU
staff reporter

People naturally take things for granted and forget to appreciate what they have. The Global Issues Club is taking initiative in promoting the Christmas Collection, happening now until the last day of school before Christmas.

“There are so many people who focus on helping people in Africa, but I see many homeless people walk pass my house every single day. I even recognize them, so I think it’s important to help the people who are right here,” **Andrea Klassen**, grade 12, commented. Their goal is to donate as much food, clothing, and toiletries as possible to help the homeless people in the immediate community.

For the past week, the club has been working hard, decorating big cardboard boxes with designs such as reindeers and penguins. They are ready to be filled with lots of non-perishable foods, like canned vegetables, legumes, fruits, baby food, and pasta in the front foyer.

“There are two parts that we’re doing. We’re going to collect food and we’re also going to collect clothing for the homeless. At this point, we’re looking at collecting clothing in classrooms and then providing a breakfast,” **Katie Fajber**, grade 12, explained. On the last Friday before the winter break, the breakfast will be provided to the class that donates the most clothing.

Annually, Gleneagle works with an organization called SHARE that gives homeless people the food and items we donate at no cost. “[With a lot of other] food banks, people only get food if they have a permanent address,” **Louise Hung**, grade 12, explained.

“Well the fact is, we have 15.4 % poverty rate in BC. In our own community, we have people who can’t feed their families and need help,” **Kelly Cooper**, English teacher, said. “B.C. has the second highest rate of poverty in Canada.”

It’s a good time of year to start giving while raising awareness as well. “Things happen to people that aren’t always fair. They lose their jobs, they get sick, they experience situations that they can’t control, and they suffer,” Cooper said. “While we enjoy our lives and are thankful for all that we have, it’s important for young people to be aware that not

council is “going to donate [the profits] to a charity.” The money raised from Christmas grams will go toward a good cause and give something to others less fortunate in the

community. Portions of profit may also be used to fund another event for student council to carry out.

Christmas Grams will be delivered to the recipients today.

everyone has the same benefits, and that we can’t sit back and watch. We can actually do things to help others.”

“A lot of people are concerned [that] homeless people use the money they were given to buy drugs,” Klassen explained. She suggested that some other ways to help the

homeless could be to give sandwiches or to donate the money you planned for a Starbucks drink, to help someone who maybe didn’t eat for the past 24 hours. “You can always get coupons from restaurants, like a \$5.00 voucher from McDonalds, and you can go hand those to them,” she added.

– to developing countries through charity work with local church

MEGAN LAO
staff reporter

The Gleneagle TALONS organized, packaged, and sent 23 boxes for Operation Christmas Child to third world countries through Eagle Ridge United Church last month.

Talons students, **Stephanie Lui**, grade 10 and **Marie Turcott**, grade 9, and the Global Issues club organized and planned the whole operation while **Quiren Mulder Ten Kate**, supervised and watched them work wonders.

“Our focus . . . was to make it as student run as possible,” explained Mulder Ten Kate. “The students have to initiate the project and if they run into any challenges then they approach me. They handled it very well and they filled up a lot of boxes.”

“It’s basically where you take shoe boxes and then you fill them with items that are necessary for daily life like hygiene items, toys, and stuff to give kids for Christmas. Then, you wrap it in a Christmas shoebox and . . . send it to third world countries [in places] like Africa. And the kids will get it for Christmas,” said Turcott.

“When I heard that Stephanie was going to do the same project this year, I went home and told my mom and then we dug through our big box of stationary. We took out lots of pencils, and we had dolls and teddy bears and a notebook in there too. Last year we got a lot of boxes and I was hoping to get close to that,” said **Iris Hung**, grade 10.

“We wanted to send around twenty boxes to the other countries,” said Turcott. “Since we are in TALONS, we are hoping that a bunch of people from TALONS can help out because then we can bring our own stuff in too, and hope-

fully get other classes from around the school to [fill boxes],” she added.

Jonathan Zhang, grade 10, assisted with the packaging of the boxes.

“I helped sort [the items into] the boxes, so we got a whole bunch of things collected from all the classes. We sorted them by age and gender into different boxes so that we can hand them out,” added Zhang “I found it really fun because it’s great imagining all of the children that would be really happy when they get these gifts.”

“By doing this project we realize how fortunate we are and that we can live with a little bit less”

The importance of this operation is the act of giving, a long standing Christmas tradition.

“These kids don’t get anything on Christmas; they don’t have anything to look forward to, so I think it’s really good because you get stuff so they should get stuff too,” remarked Turcott.

“Hopefully, by doing this project we also realize how fortunate we are and that to know that we can live with a little bit less and share some of our fortune, materials and resources that we have with others,” said Mulder Ten Kate.

“It felt really good to [pack shoeboxes for] children because it felt like you were actually helping somebody,” stated Turcott.

Boxes for Operation Christmas Child were sent to Eagle Ridge United Church on November 26.

Gleneagle welcomes Lower Mainland competition



SHARON TANPHOTO

Dominating the court: Battling a Seaquam Seahawk, grade 12, controls play as he moves up court past his check. Gleneagle will be hosting a must-see tournament from December 14 to 16.

SCOTT LEE
staff reporter

With an overall record of 2-2 and a league record of 1-0, Gleneagle's senior boys' basketball team is preparing to host the Talon Challenge Tournament, hosting several schools from across the Lower Mainland.

From December 14 to 16, the Talon Challenge Tournament is hosting schools such as Pinetree, Centennial, Carson Graham, Sir Charles Tupper, R.C. Palmer, Sutherland, and Byrne Creek.

"The final day of the tournament will allow our own students to watch games all day, since the games will start at 8:00am . . . The

final will start at 1:15pm," said **Tony Scott**, basketball coach and P.E. teacher at Gleneagle.

The boys have played Seaquam, Fraser Heights, Walnut Grove, St. Thomas More, and have recently participated in the Candy Cane Classic at Walnut Grove.

They were eliminated in the second round against Heritage Woods

with a narrow score of 58-54.

Last year, Gleneagle entered their first AAA Provincials in six years, with the help of a strong team.

"Last year's team had several players that had played together for several years and they had built a bond on and off of the court," said Scott.

"This year's team will go through

a lot of growing pains, but I hope that through those times, they will learn how to play together as a team and develop some sort of bond off the court," Scott added.

"[Last year] we had 3 ex-provincial players who could carry the team, but I think this year it's going to be a lot more rounded," said **Steven Haer**, grade 12.

"It can be better for the team, as we are not reliant on a couple of key players to make the baskets. This will give more opportunities for players to take ownership," said **Josh Langhans**, grade 12.

According to both Haer and Langhans, they recognize that the hard work and commitment required by coach Scott will pay off in the season.

"Our team goal is to improve on our previous performance. I hope that we can show improvement and put ourselves in a position to enjoy the post season tournaments," said Scott.

According to **Kevin Kim**, grade 12, during home games, the number of fans showing support is dismal, and the team would like to see stronger school spirit and support for the sports teams at Gleneagle.

"We would hope that the Gleneagle community can come out and support their team," said Scott. "It would be nice to have as many students, staff members and parents come out and cheer on their team. The more fans there are, the more fun everyone can have," he added.

Threefold wins pave path to successful season for junior girls

MEGHAN HENDERSON
staff reporter

The junior girls basketball team has chalked up three victories in the opening games of their season.

In their first league game they defeated Terry Fox Secondary on December 7. This was following two wins against Earl Marriott and Elgin Park.

"I think we actually played really well. We're getting closer as a team and it's good," said **Ariana Baratto**, grade 10.

Although it is very early in the season, **Jason Bingley**, coach, says that the team "is possibly one of the strongest junior girls teams we've had probably in the past four or five years."

Bingley's goal for the team is to get them to provincials.

"These girls work hard and they are committed to improving. They've got a chance to do something quite well, which is to get to provincials," he said.

The team will be headed for Victoria in early January for a tournament. They will go up against some of the best Vancouver Island teams.

"Then we are pretty much into our league play in Coquitlam. This is a tough district to get out of so every game that we play in our league will be a battle," said Bingley.

Effort is being made to prepare

the team as much as possible for their upcoming matches.

"[From past games] I think we could have played better defense for sure . . . we will be working

on our defense in particular," said Baratto.

Practices are taking place four or five days a week along with two or three days in the weight room.

Wrestlers victorious at SFU War on the Floor

SUMBUL VALLANI
staff reporter

Members of the Gleneagle wrestling team demonstrated their various defence tactics at one of the biggest tournaments of the season last weekend at SFU. The War on the Floor Tournament was divided into two days: December 7, the Novice Tournament and December 8, the Elite Tournament. **Anton Siedlecki**, grade 12 competitor, said, "The SFU tournament basically shows the team who we will be competing [against] at Fraser Valleys and gives us a sense [of] what to expect."

The tournament did not consist of only one match; in fact, the number of people a person had faced ranged from five to eight in one day. Gleneagle wrestlers competed in a total of about 81 matches and about 46 of them were wins. **Aarman Bondar**, grade 10, placed second for the 63 kg, **Malique Giordano**, grade 10, placed third for the 60 kg, **Stephanie Ma**, grade 11, placed first for the 43 kg and **Julie Cho**, grade 12, placed third

for 60 kg.

Earlier this month, the team participated in two different tournaments to begin the season after a couple of informal meets within the district.

The Novice Tournament was just for the students who are newer wrestlers and getting used to the sport. Students competed against schools from the Fraser Valley and other advanced wrestlers competed against students from all over the province at the Roberts Rumble event.

A league meet took place as well at Terry Fox on Thursday, December 1. "The idea of the League Meet was for the kids to practice all the things that we have worked on at the school during practice time, so that they can practice their takedowns," said **Mark Tustin**, coach. "And once they practice their takedowns they work on their ground techniques and also . . . their defence and their counter moves," he added.

Cho said, "We had a pretty impressive showing at the Novice Tournament, with **Alex Li**, grade 11, and [I] bringing home gold med-

als, **Trevor Ennis**, grade 12, a silver, and **Malique Giordano** a bronze. In fact, Malique pinned one of his opponents in a record-breaking seven seconds," she added.

"Generally what you're finding is that we actually ask the kids to do an evaluation of themselves so that they can understand the areas where they need improvement, and also areas that they've had success and for them to continue to practice those moves that brought that success for them," Tustin said.

Students try to spend the time they are given for practicing to work hard and learn from their previous matches. Knowing that they are responsible for themselves plays an important role in their motivation level as well as the support they receive from their friends and coaches before a big game.

Working on different strategies and newly learned techniques, such as takedowns and sprawls, helps them pay attention to the moves of their opponents which helps increase their level of performance as well.

coach, stated.

Baratto says "we are a little bit stronger than last year; still have a lot of improving to do. But we have the whole season to work on that."

Some competitors consider breathing, keeping focus, and not rushing as examples of key elements needed to keep a person improving at the sport.

"Motivation for wrestlers is often times internal and the kids know when they walk onto the mat that there's nobody else there to help them," said Tustin. Gleneagle graduates from previous years have also been coming down to the team practices to help support and assist the competitors while they have been training.

The team will be participating in a dual meet event that's a head to head competition with Terry Fox, one of the biggest wrestling teams in the province, this week. There are many other upcoming events against different schools later on in the season as well.

"We have eight more tournaments scheduled for the new year including provincials for those who qualify. Four of them are optional, and one of them is a junior tournament," said Cho.

Doug Mancell and **Collin Chung** are also coaches for this year's wrestling team.

Senior girls in winning form even facing 5 on 2 odds



THEO ANG PHOTO

The best defence is a good offence: Monday night saw another victory against Centennial for the senior girls as they head into Riverside's Tournament for Emily, where the province's top teams are competing until tomorrow. The team continues to build momentum with a season record of eight and two.

THEO ANG
staff reporter

The Talons continue their dominance in league play defeating Centennial 78-54 earlier this week. This brought their record to eight wins and two losses.

The team placed second in a Victoria tournament last weekend. In their first game they defeated Spectrum, 59-53. They triumphed over Harry Ainlay winning 73-39, and on Saturday, they defeated the number two ranked team in the

province, Brookwood, 67-60 in the semifinals. They lost in the finals to Oak Bay, 61-42.

Their most dramatic victory came December 1 and 2 in the Byrne Creek tournament against crosstown rivals, the Terry Fox Ravens.

Losing by 15 at the half, the Talons ended up in foul trouble. With only six players, when **Jessica Jazdarehec**, grade 12, fouled out the girls were playing five on five. **Brittani Yee**, grade 9 fouled out. **Jaime McLaughlin**, grade 12,

fouled out. With 48 seconds to go, **Breanna Yee**, grade 11 fouled out leaving **Chiara Bordignon**, grade 10, and **Jenna Bentley**, grade 10, with five Ravens to fend off.

And the Talons still managed to win the game beating Fox by two points.

"I think win or lose, that game created an atmosphere for our team that set the bar very high," said **Patty Anderson**, coach.

In other games at the Byrne Creek tourney, the Talons defeated Carson Graham, 65-12. The

team's sole loss in the tourney was to York House, 59-34.

The girls played Yale earlier this week but scores were not available at press time.

They are currently in competition at Riverside's Tournament for Emily.

Upcoming action sees the Talons head to Las Vegas for winter break tournament action. The team will be having a rematch against Oak Bay and Claremont after facing off against the Sierra Vista team in Las Vegas.

"It's not the size of the dog in the fight; it's the size of the fight in the dog," stated Anderson.

"We're starting to gel as a team better," said McLaughlin.

"I think we're working really hard and we're working together, but I still think we need to work on the details," agreed Brittani Yee.

Bordignon agrees. "I think we're working really hard right now and we're starting to understand each other so I think we're [going to] go really far, like the provincials."

Junior boys setting impressive record early in season



STEPHANIE LUI PHOTO

STEPHANIE LUI
staff reporter

The junior boys basketball team has had a blazing start to their season winning six of the eight games so far.

Their first league play was yesterday against Riverside, but results were not available at press time.

Bumps and bruises could not stop the boys from finishing first in Walnut Grove's Gator Candy Cane Classic, defeating Fleetwood Park Secondary in the final on Saturday, December 10. The team won the semi-finals against Walnut Grove on December 9, after beating St. Thomas More in their first round on Thursday, December 8.

Winning the Charles Best Invitational on December 2 and 3, the boys have demonstrated a significant improvement compared to last year's record. "We beat Kitsilano in the semi-finals and they are a strong team," said coach **Andrew Lloyd**. "Last year they beat us . . . this year, we beat them by 10 [points]."

The team started their winning

streak, defeating Seaquam, on November 30.

"I think our team chemistry has really developed," said forward **Conrad Chow**, grade 10. "We feel like a family."

"They're a great group of kids," said Lloyd. "[They] understand the game now, and will sacrifice for each other."

Practicing hard for their second home game on December 22 against Pitt Meadows, the boys are a threat.

"We have strong interior and perimeter play," said captain **Grant Galbraith**, grade 10. "We are strong in these areas, but we want to improve on executing offense, rebounding and repossession."

The reason behind their successful teamwork is "[their] close relationship and [that] everyone cares for each other," said **Matt Poka**, grade 10.

Forward **Omi Ahsan**, grade 10, wants to "start strong and finish strong."

"[I hope] that we could all improve everyday," stated Galbraith. "Make it [to provincials] and win the next three years."

A winning combination: Grade 10's demonstrate their skills during a team practice, training for what is shaping up to be a successful season.

Emerging Talent pieces open to interpretation

HELEN DOO
staff reporter

Gleneagle's grade 12 art students prepare to drop the jaws of judges, a Gleneagle art department tradition, as their masterpieces await the fifteenth annual Emerging Talent show at the Evergreen Gallery.

"The Emerging Talent show is a collaboration between the gallery and the art teachers of SD43, Coquitlam. The gallery tells us that it is the most popular of all their exhibitions," said **Melanie Stokes**, art teacher.

"This is a particular opportunity for graduating grade 12 students, who are planning to go to post-secondary art schools and institutions, to show up to three pieces of work at a public gallery," continued Stokes.

Ivy Chen, Xena Choi, Nailya Gafitulina, Gloria Han, Donna Kim, Caroline Kwon, Christine Park, Anna Semyonova, Michaela Stebbe, Lauren Vance, Yilin Wang, Spencer Wang and Hee Jo Yang, all grade 12, submitted up to three pieces of original artwork to an independent panel of judges for entry into the show. A total of 28 pieces were submitted.

"Drawings, paintings, photographs, sculptures, mixed media, film, animations, graphics, anything that comes under the umbrella of visual arts [will be shown at the exhibition]," said Stokes.

Han had two pieces of art chosen: a sculpture called *Carpus Corparis* and what she described as a "shampoo face thing," called *Secrets in Black & White*.

"[*Carpus Corparis*] has a bunch of people climbing up over each other, trying to get to the top. It describes how people would step all over each other to reach [success]. It was made with a wire frame that I put some paper mache on, with more paper mache for the figures. [*Secrets in Black & White*] has letters that are actually words from a shampoo bottle that forms hair, a background and a face," said Han.



Side by side: **Donna Kim**, grade 12, juxtaposes the portrait of a terrifying Greek mythical creature and an ordinary plate of pasta in *Spaghetti and Medusa*. This is one of the several works to be displayed at the Emerging Talent show.

Kim had three of her drawings chosen by the judges: *Father*, *Silence*, and *Spaghetti and Medusa*.

"*Father* is a portrait of my dad. It doesn't really have a meaning behind it. I just wanted to capture an expression, all the ideas, high contrast and everything. I drew it with pencil," said Kim.

"*Silence* is a whole bunch of blotches, all tangled up, and it turns into a face. This one was to show my emotions and fear, not

being able to say things when I wanted to, however the way I wanted to say it. It was made with pen and watercolour," she said.

Kim knows art is always open to interpretation. "[The message] depends on who sees it. They might not get the same feelings that I got when I drew the pictures, so it might be different for everybody, but I just want them to look at it and go 'oh' and just get some kind of a feeling," continued Kim.

"Traditionally, Gleneagle sends the most

amount of work, and has the most amount accepted into the show. I have a very strong Art Careers group this year, so I am fully expecting to see some really good work in the gallery," said Stokes.

The Emerging Talent show will be exhibiting student artwork from January 15 to February 18, 2012. An opening reception will be held on Sunday, January 22 from 4:00 pm to 7:00pm at the Evergreen Gallery in Coquitlam.

Gleneagle musicians well-received at annual Christmas concert

MARIANNE ALCALA
staff reporter

With a few musical notes and jazzy tunes, the audience at the Christmas music concert swayed along to classic Christmas songs and carols played by the Gleneagle music department.

Eddie Trovato, music teacher, conducted both bands and choirs at the annual winter concert last night in Gleneagle's multipurpose room.

"We've been working pretty hard. And we've had our moments that we don't do very well but we always practice more and fix our problems then. I think always after a concert we do pretty well," said **Liam St Louis**, grade 11.

St Louis has been a part of the music department since his first year as a member of the choir. At the concert, he sang *Believe* by Josh Groban as a solo.

The choir sang a variety of numbers, such as *Can You See What I See?* and *Come to Bethlehem*. The jazz choir sang a unique version of *The Twelve Days of Christmas*.

As well, the choir and senior band performed a rendition of *Oh Come, All Ye Faithful* in the concert's finale.

The sense of energy was high at the concert. Everyone came cheerful, both performers and members of the audience.

"I get to play. It takes me away from school sort of," said **Katrina Jang**, grade 11, a clarinetist in the senior band.

The band played a number of songs like *Santa's Journey* where **Kristina Kapitza**, grade 11, played her solo on the oboe.

"It's a really cool experience," Kapitza said. "You get to show off your skills with other people. It's a lot of fun."

This year, not only did those who attended

the concert hear the sweet tune of the bands and choir; anyone who tuned into DS 106 FM Radio had a chance to listen to a live broadcast of the performance by students.



Sing like a nightingale: Music teacher **Eddie Trovato** warms up his students for choir practice Monday afternoon, two days before the annual Christmas concert. The choir performed two pieces and also participated in the grand finale.