

Gleneagle's Student Voice

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the Edge

MEGAN LAO

staff reporter

Held annually at Gleneagle for the sixth year, the Global Issues Club organized the VOICES benefit concert on April 18 to raise money for children born with facial deformities.

The club raised over \$850 for the event and a hundred people attended. Originating in 2005, VOICES was created as a benefit concert with a goal of giving "voices and opportunities to the victims of suffering."

"This year, [VOICES] was for Operation Smile, which is an NGO that works to provide children across the world with surgeries, [to] help with facial deformities such as cleft palate and cleft lip," said **Katie Fajber**, grade 12 Global Issues organizer. "These kids are born with these deformities and it really affects their ability to eat, to talk . . . interact with other people and to smile. So we thought it was a very striking cause; it was something different," she added.

Every three minutes a child is born with a cleft which is a birth defect that affects the upper lip and the roof of the mouth. Many of these children are rejected and unable to obtain the surgeries they need to live a normal life.

Fajber and **Louise Hung**, grade 12, organized the entire event with the Global Issues Club under the supervision of teacher sponsors, **Lois Axford** and **Kelly Cooper**, while **Bryan Jackson** coordinated with DS106 live radio to stream the concert live.

The night included a solo act from **Faly Mervamanana**, grade 10, and performances from a series of bands such as Beyond the Rooftop, Hello Ground, Alluvium SAAS, Accent, Tuesdays at the Marquee, and The Knots.

"We are always looking at giving back to whoever we can," said **Jeff Huggins**, 2011 Gleneagle graduate, pianist and lead singer of The Knots. "It's always nice to come back and see old teachers and old friends," he added. Another 2011 graduate, **Kyle Araki**, was also performing with The Knots on drums.

"I decided to perform for this fundraiser because I knew it was for a good cause," said



Grooving to the tunes: Though from different bands, all grade 10, come together as an ensemble at the end of the concert. The benefit concert raised over \$850 for Operation Smile.

Jessica Zraly, grade 11, lead singer of Accent.

The event was hosted by the Masters of Ceremonies, **Myles St. John** and **Julie Cho**, both in grade 12.

"The MC's did a great job of keeping the audience entertained; the night was just full of fun," said **Marie Chan**, parent.

Band members mostly came from Gleneagle, but other bands from the district also volunteered to support the cause.

"Everyone attending VOICES may not know the depth of Operation Smile. All of the performers gave the audience a chance to be there as a social event for a good cause," said **Derek Wong**, grade 10, the guitarist for Beyond the Rooftop.

"What my group did was we basically entertained the guests; we made the money they donated worthwhile," said **Sepehr Rashidi**, grade 10, the pianist and saxophone player for Alluvium SAAS.

"Literally, my goal was to have fun . . . I knew it wasn't that much of a stressful performance because it's among our peers and family," said Zraly. "We had a lot of fun prior to the performance . . . before we performed, we jammed back stage just to calm our nerves," she commented.

"It's a very satisfying feeling because you feel like you've balanced out— that you've given back to the community a bit. It's definitely something I would do again," said Wong.

"After the gig, a couple of people came up to me and said I made the night memorable," said Rashidi. "I think our energy kind of added to the night and made it memorable for people. And if you create a positive memory when people are giving . . . to a cause, I think it is effective in further motivating them to give to causes such as Operation Smile," he added.

"I was very happy with the work that Louise and I did," said Fajber. "I was really happy with the work the Global Issues [Club] did, the performers, teachers, and everyone that supported us. I only hope that the turnout gets bigger in the future because I think it's a really great event," she stated.

Gleneagle student headed for national Skills Canada competition

KAREN LAU

staff reporter

Following just one year of drafting and design training, a Gleneagle student has won Skills Canada B.C. and will be heading to the national championship in Edmonton next month.

Kasra Vahidi, grade 11, while interested in engineering, had very little experience in architectural design prior to this September, but it didn't show two weeks ago in Abbotsford when he was called upon to redesign a penthouse in just three and a half hours.

"There was so [little] time for this project," said Vahidi. "I had to change the [design] and redraw it. They hadn't given many dimensions, so I had to find them using the imperial and architectural scales. That was the hard part."

"There was a lot of stress going on during the challenge," said **Wayne Biley**, technology education teacher. "I think [Kasra] had some practice with [time constraints] because he was also in the UBC physics challenge, and his team won a silver medal," said Biley.

Biley believes Vahidi's win was due to a combination of character and skill.

"Kasra . . . struck me as one of the most hardworking, polite and caring individuals I've known," said Biley. "Certainly a

non-selfish person, and I think all of that added up to why he was able to do so well."

As well, Vahidi's willingness to take advantage of learning opportunities was a major factor, according to Biley. Even outside of drafting class, Vahidi used the AutoCAD program, an engineering industry standard, to produce extensive drawings for other subjects such as social studies.

"Interestingly . . . he was far more confident than I was that he'd won it. Because he knew what they had asked, and he understood what the problem was, and he knew that he did it for them," added Biley.

"When I went, I expected to win a medal, but not the gold one," said Vahidi. "I was actually so surprised."

Vahidi believes he will face much greater challenges in the national competition starting May 13. The competition runs for three days, with contestants allowed to work for six hours on each of the first two. The final day is reserved for medal presentations.

"Since I'm very hardworking, I'm working on my [skills] on my own. Obviously nationals are going to be hard. It's like twelve hours of work, and this was just three and half . . . But I really hope to win a medal there," said Vahidi. "If you win the gold medal, I think you're going to be on Canada's team for the international [competition]."

According to Biley, more than a dozen Gleneagle students have previously won medals in the regional competition, which encompasses just the Fraser Valley. However, just four Talons have won gold in the provincial, with Vahidi being the first to do so in the architectural drafting category.

Grade 11 students rarely win gold in the Skills Canada Competition, and Vahidi may be eligible to enter again next year. He hopes to pursue civil engineering in the future.

"I would like to thank Mr. Maclean for the support, and Mr. Biley for the great training," said Vahidi. "I haven't experienced anything like this before."

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY 8-10, 16, 17
SPRING MUSICAL

MAY 18-21
4-DAY WEEKEND

Good-bye summer vacation? Hello year-long schooling?

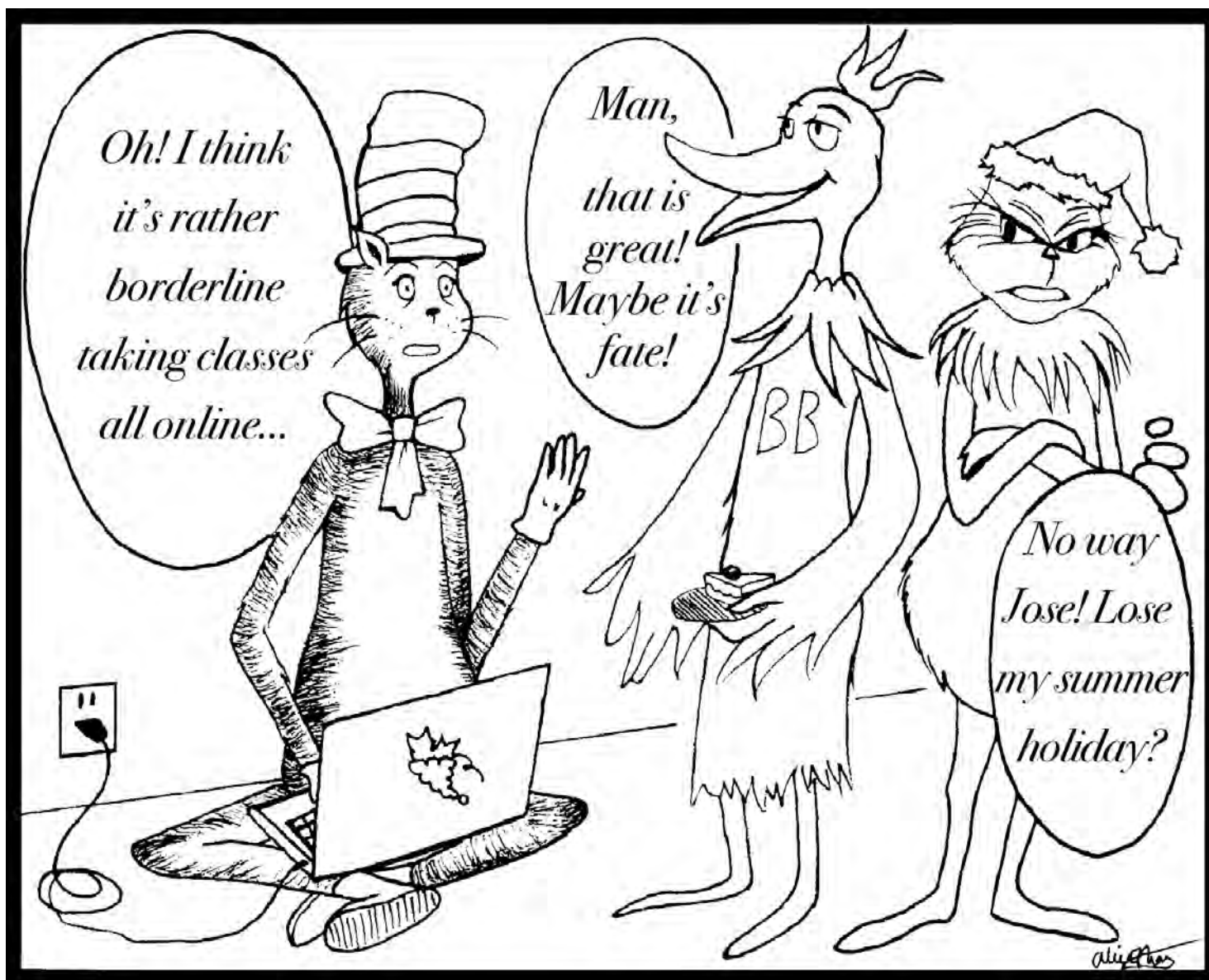
Imagine a world where you wake up in the morning and log onto your computer to 'take attendance' instead of going to school. Your two months of relaxing on the beach for summer vacation, is replaced with school work, tests and provincial exams. This world can grant you the ability to get credits for your courses through your home computer instead of attending a classroom where you are taught by a teacher. And imagine your sister in grade two doing the same thing.

Though it may seem like a strange world, this may be the reality we'll live in soon. The British Columbia government has proposed new legislation that frees up the school districts to alter the school calendar, possibly by removing our two month summer vacation and replacing it with learning, if SD43 decides to push through with this act. The term has been classified as "year - round schooling."

Traditionally, summer vacation first became introduced when the government decided that eliminating July and August freed many children who were needed on the family farm to harvest crops. Since we are past that era, research has shown that student learning isn't aided by the long break in the summer. Although this new schedule would retain the equivalent instructional hours as a traditional school year, the breaks are distributed more evenly throughout the year.

If this act is proposed by our district, many students who are not getting the best start at school may find that a well-balanced year can be beneficial for their learning. A ten week break may pose as an unnecessary interruption where learning can be continued; year-round schooling reduces the gaps in learning and prolongs the school year so that the curriculum can be absorbed.

Aside from altering the traditional school



calendar, the legislation will also permit students in Kindergarten to grade 9 to take a combination of online learning and traditional school courses, something only grades 10 to 12 are able to do under our current policies. Although on-line learning

may work in some circumstances, receiving education through a home computer limits a student's experience of a dynamic, intricate class setting and communicating with peers face to face.

This law promotes an alternative for dis-

tricts to subscribe to year-round schooling. As we move forward into the 21st century, it is evident that society is changing and will continue to transform. Organization of school calendars may change, but work ethic should not diminish.

Advances in technology leading to extinction of handwriting



edge columnist

There is no doubt that technology—and therefore computer literacy—is important, especially at this point in time. But would you say technology is more important than

the ability to handwrite your own name?

American schools in states such as Indiana and New York seem to think so. Many schools, mainly elementary, have already said "Out with the cursive script and in with the keyboarding lessons." They have adopted what is called the "Common Core" system which drops the formal need to teach how to write the letters of the alphabet.

Following in the footsteps of our

"There's no telling what prolonged exposure to computers might do to us... socially"

neighbour, Canada is also beginning to question the art of penmanship. British Columbia and Alberta are predicted to be the first provinces that will stop teaching handwriting.

It's true that typing is lovely. There isn't much else to say. It's faster, neater, more practical, less wasteful, et cetera, et cetera, et cetera. I'm sure a number of people who

have witnessed my horribly disfigured letters and digits would agree. If we want to, mimicking cursive characters with certain fonts, is also an option.

But when it comes down to the core of our origins, the idea that cursive script will become extinct altogether is rather unlikely, absurd, *unfathomable*. But right now, the entire notion is like the creation of cars and planes: just because most of us

have easier means of transportation at our convenience, does not mean we don't appreciate the morning jog or afternoon walk in the park.

For you science fanatics, believe it or not, penmanship helps you develop the skills necessary for learning to read and communicating verbally. Have a test coming up? Hand-printing your notes instead of typing

them may assist with that too.

Plus, for all the fitness gurus out there, here is another way of looking at it: physically, despite the ergonomic designs of mouse pads and whatnot, the need for rapid remedies to arthritis and carpal tunnel may increase at the same time as the number of clinically obese North Americans will.

With that said, there's no telling what prolonged exposure to computers might do to us mentally, emotionally, and socially. It would be like a replay of *Wall-E*, except without the G-rated ending.

No matter how well designed or digitally mastered, it all comes back to how I would miss receiving those cards around the holidays with the aesthetically pleasing loops and curves. I couldn't imagine the dismal world in which those didn't exist.

Better hold on to that math homework, because you'll never know how much sentimental value anything handwritten may hold in the future.

theEdge

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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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Is it the Grinch, Sam I am, or Cindy Lou Who? Which Seuss character is the favourite for you?

**YOU
SAID
IT!**



Grade 9

My favourite character is Sam I Am, from *Green Eggs and Ham*. He's the only one I could remember.



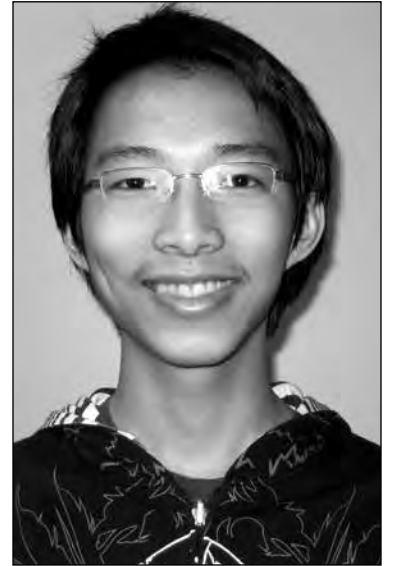
Grade 10

My favourite Dr. Seuss character is The Grinch. He's evil in the beginning, but he's so awesome in the end and he gives them Christmas back. I'm really sentimental, so I relate to him well.



Grade 11

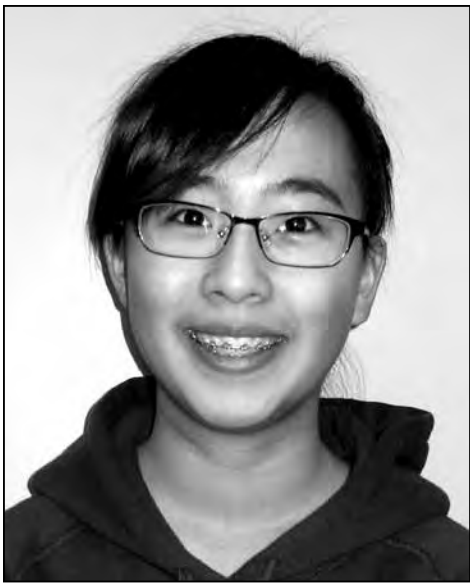
I like *Fox in Socks*, because it's a great rhyme.



Grade 12

The kid from *Oh, the Places You'll Go*, simply because the kid is just so free-spirited...he'll embark on a journey, he doesn't really care about the obstacles. I really respect that.

Losing yourself in fiction: escapism provides relief to life's stresses



edge columnist

Tightness squeezes in your chest, then everything seems to let go. You feel like you are floating; your feet no longer connect to the ground, like you are slowly drift-

ing away. The sky is a calm shade of turquoise decorated with the familiar white shapes of childhood fairy tales, animals, and objects. There are no worries, just freedom. Your mind begins to shut off as you enjoy the embrace of nothingness. It is living in perfection. Suddenly, a shriek erupts through the peace. You cover your ears trying to block out the noise, but to no avail. The clouds begin to swirl around you rapidly as you flail helplessly through the vortex. Then everything stops.

Zippering back into reality, you place down your novel with a heavy sigh. Your alarm clock is signalling your presence at the work table with papers piled high. Prepare yourself for another tiring physical and mental battle against life - stress.

Stress is a very common term in this day and age; most people have experienced some form of stress. Stress is actually a natural part of life, and although we often think of stress as negative, some stress is actually positive.

It can give you motivation and energy

to accomplish great things. Yet many times, stress becomes something that cannot be dealt with, and life becomes overwhelming.

Right now in Canada, many people are stressed beyond what is normal or healthy. They may be stressed about finances, job security, health issues, juggling family and work, or studying for final exams in school.

Nowadays, even children are affected by stress. Not only is there stress in many homes, but there also is pressure at school, where children spend a great deal of their time. There is a strong push for reaching certain levels at each grade and performing on tests. Teenagers are particularly victims of such anxiety at home and at school. They endure stress from family, peers, themselves and teachers. There is a great deal of stress to succeed in the fast-paced culture which can interfere with learning and is a major cause of failure.

But there is nothing to fear. There are many ways to reduce stress, such as medi-

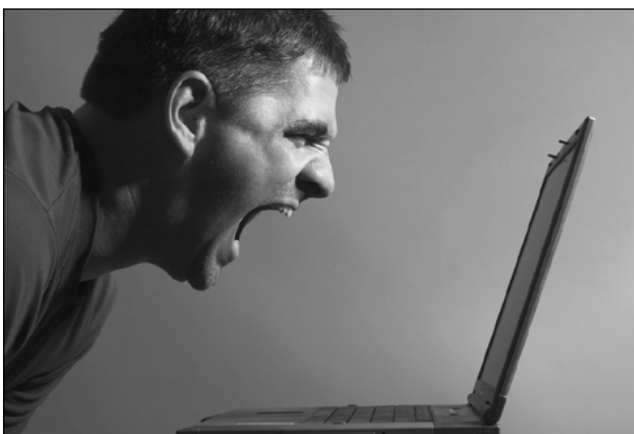
tating, exercising, listening to music, reorganizing your life, participating in sports or a hobby, helping others or taking a vacation. A common way to "de - stress" is to do something that you enjoy. For many people, that would be reading a book. According to new research, reading a book can actually reduce stress more than many other typical stress relievers. It appears to work better and faster than listening to music, going for a walk or sipping tea.

Researchers at Mindlab International, at the University of Sussex, found that reading reduced stress by 68 percent. Listening to music reduced stress by 61 percent, having a cup of tea or coffee, 54 percent, taking a walk, 42 percent, and playing video games, 21 percent.

So whether you are reading a book on how to save the world during an apocalypse, or a book about how to ask someone out, reading is a great way to escape daily stress.

Go to another world; read a novel; relaxation is calling for you.

Letters to the editor:



RE: *Drooping eyes, staggered strides: epidemic of sleep deprivation.*

I agree with Alice Zhang's article "Drooping eyes...", and personally, as a grade 12 student, I honestly can't remember the last time I had a full 8 hours of sleep, and I know I'm not the only one. Students are always busy, especially in their grade 12 year when stress is at an all-time high. It's not really a matter of managing our time like Zhang said in her article; it's more a matter of there not being enough hours in the day to get everything done.

Danielle Melvin

RE: *Media deceives women, feeding insecurity about looks*

Media certainly affects people's opinions today, especially in appearance. It gives us insecurity when we compare ourselves to those photoshopped cover girls in magazines. I agree with Sumbul Vallani because true beauty is in ourselves; and that is called "confidence."

Jenny Chang

I agree with Sumbul's article on women and our body image. I personally am very insecure about my appearance even though I'm not overweight or "fat" as I will often catch myself believing. I would never resort to extreme measures to make myself thinner, but I have known people who have.

When my little sister was four years old, she stopped eating rice because someone told her it would make her fat. When she started eating only a few bites of dinner before being "full," I showed her a photo of an anorexic woman and told her she would become that repulsive if she didn't eat [in order] to be skinny.

Although she now is comfortable with her body, I am not with my own. I hope she doesn't follow my footsteps and judge herself too harshly when she is my age.

Alexandra Galan

RE: *Blind Eye to troubled society*

Although it's good that Jade [Nguyen] is trying to draw attention to our local impoverished, I feel her article misses its chance to say anything substantial. She doesn't offer any real solutions. Charity is just a temporary fix for a problem that is rooted in social disparity. Plenty of people stop and ask why people end up in slums, and the answer is clear: because the structure of society puts them there.

Eric Milligan

RE: *Facebook...*

I disagree with Stephanie Lui's report on Facebook hurting human interaction, because I believe Facebook brings people closer, maybe not in a close radius, but long distance, it really helps communicate. Also, it is very helpful to get a hold of people you need quickly and efficiently.

Nima Pakseresht Esmaeili

General Comment

It's great to hear about all the rugby teams' successes. I'm proud to be in this school, but the thing that I'm kind of disappointed with is that there are all kinds of topics except academic news. Our Physics Olympics team achieved great success at UBC, and not a single line was written in this newspaper.

Khashayar Noroozadeh Rahimi

Paralyzed founder provides home, love, education for orphans

JADE NGUYEN
staff reporter

"Be the change you wish to see in the world," Ghandi once said, a simple statement that has become one of the most recognized world-wide. For **Co Suong**, the founder of the Hong An orphanages, the quote proves to be alive as she changes the lives of young children every day.

For 25 years, Co Suong has run Mai Am Hong An, which means 'the Blessed Sweet Home' in Vietnamese. It is actually two orphanages, one housing fifteen children while the other houses thirty. While that in itself is incredible, it's the story behind her that makes her a truly remarkable person.

Before the Hong An orphanages were built, Co Suong lived in the rural areas of Vietnam, taking what little money she earned in the markets to buy food for her family, and offering what she could to the poor families in her village.

As Co Suong grew older, she took her dreams of building an orphanage and made them real with the help of her mother. While the orphanages are in no way luxurious, they are enough to supply a home for the orphans.

"I've found children on the streets, on the side of the road. I've found children in trash cans. If I'm lucky, the parents are kind enough to bring their child down to the orphanages. Many of the parents are college or high school students, and sometimes, there are parents with impaired children or children with disabilities who just don't want to have to deal with them," Co Suong said.

"I hurt for the children who want someone to hold them, to feed them, but don't have anyone to do that for them. I just wanted them to feel the love that I was given so liberally by my own mother," she added.

Co Suong married in the first years she was running the orphanage, but after an accident left her paralyzed, her husband left her, leaving her to care for herself and the orphanage on her own.

Co Suong, however, does not regret what happened or ever wish otherwise.

"I am a strong believer in God," she explained. "I am thankful for all he has done for me, and for all the children he has given me to care for. I am thankful that even though one may look at me and think that I am done, . . . I know for a fact that I am making a difference, no matter how small."

The difference, however, is not small in any way. The impact that Co Suong has made on children in her care is immense. The children really do see her as a mother.

"I may not have the money, but I can give them the love that they are deprived of. I'd much rather meet the parents and have them come to me than find a crying child on the side of the road," she said.



Love conquers all: The Mai Am Hong An orphanages welcome grade 11, to Vietnam. Founder **Co Suong**, pictured on the right, has been managing the orphanages and caring for children for 25 years.

Co Suong travels back and forth between the two orphanages to care for the children she has taken in. She has also taken in women from the rural areas, women who are poor and without jobs. As Co Suong cannot afford to pay for staff, the orphanages are run solely by Co Suong and the homeless women. The women help Co Suong nurture and teach the children, and Co Suong provides a place to stay as well as food.

Many of the orphans are disabled or have impairments. One with severe disabilities is a fifteen year old girl.

She cannot hear, talk, or walk and can hardly see, and crawls to get from place to place, dragging her belly along the floor. When Co Suong took the girl in, she was only seven years old. She hasn't grown much at all, and still looks around seven years old. Her parents had given up on her and left.

"When I took her in, she was completely blind and didn't know what was going on around her at all. So many people

told me to give up on her, and told me that she was going to die, but I didn't believe that. I kept praying, and I got a miracle. She can see a little now, and sometimes she'll respond the best she can," Co Suong explained.

Another boy, only three, has a brain impairment. His parents had been university students, and his mother tried for an abortion that didn't succeed. However, he is still very bright. Many of the children are very bright children who wish to go to school.

"My only wish is that I can care for and teach these children and raise enough money so the children can go to school, and make a future for themselves," Co Suong said.

The orphanage relies on local and international charity, with donations of food or money. Time is another aspect that the orphanage greatly appreciates. For the children who cannot yet go to school, the only human interaction they experience is with the other orphans and the women living there.

Pen spinning turns ordinary writing utensils into extraordinary art

JOYCE CHANG
staff reporter

Intended to keep boredom away during class time, pen-spinning has surprisingly attracted millions of children and teens to this simple, down-to-earth form of art. This world-wide sensation has brought people of all ages together through competition ranging from friendly to fierce.

Thanks to our lovely internet

and globalization, pen spinning has grown immensely popular over the years.

News from Japan about the latest trend blasted throughout Asia, Europe, then across the sea to North and South America and other countries as students watch classmates twirl dancing pens on their fingertips.

As for **Daniel Luo**, grade 10, his new hobby began when his attention was captured by his grade

eight teacher who kept spinning his pen during class.

"I kind of noticed it one day and I went like, 'Hmm, that's pretty cool. Maybe I should learn how to do that.' So I went home that day, took my pen, and tried and tried for 15 minutes to get the thumb-around [until I got it]," Luo said. "From then on, I [practiced]. After a few weeks in, I began seeing it catch on in my class."

A fad that started out a couple

of years back, this seemingly easy sport is more complicated than you think. Pen spinning involves maneuvering a pen, or pencil, between your fingers and thumb at remarkable high speeds. When you have achieved the basics and a few tricks, the next level up includes manipulating on and around the palm(s), knuckles and wrist(s).

Modified pens that are longer than usual size were invented especially to support this fine art. The advanced writing utensils are basically just pens with two caps and two grips on either side, which makes it more stable and balanced compared to normal pens.

There are several different types, depending on your preference. They "vary in thicknesses, grips, and the amount of weight on each end," said Luo. Most mods can be written with, so they are still useful in class. As well, homemade modified pens, attached with all sorts of miscellaneous details, are quite creative.

Luo said, "[Pen spinners can] spend hours and hours playing around with sawing off barrels, breaking off parts of the lids, and attaching diverse grips."

Various stunts include the sonic, charge, fingerpass/passes, fin-

gerless, rounds/spins, counters, misc, aerial, fakes, devils/demons, wipers, infinites and figure 8's. The charge, for instance, is when you "have the pen between two fingers and spin it around in a circle," according to Luo, which is the most basic move.

Now don't think this is merely some lame, boring sport that you see happening around the school.

Annual world cups, world tournaments, national competitions, and league games are attended every year because of this exciting activity. There is even a Pen Spinning Association of Japan, which consists of fascinated Japanese students and a few pros.

According to Luo, "It's becoming more and more popular, especially in Asia. You [can] see a lot of people associating pen spinning with other Asians. From what I heard, it's pretty popular in Thailand, China and Japan."

Yet, this is not a sport just for, per say "Asians". Pen spinning is shaking up a universal storm from north to south, and from east to west.

Careful not to underestimate the student beside you who seems like they're pen spinning out of boredom. They just may be the next world champion.



Boredom or talent: Daniel Luo, grade 10, twirls an average pen into a blitz of tricks and stunts, moving faster than the eye can see. Penspinning is reaching international proportions.

Living, breathing history at Devil's Staircase

JOYCE CHANG
staff reporter

Backpacking into complete wilderness for three days and two nights, the COAST kids experienced, learned, struggled and endured one of the most beautiful environments in BC: the Stein River Valley.

"The trip had a lot of nice views and it wasn't too difficult...[compared to] the bike trip," said **Courtney Bains**, grade 10.

Adam Hayes, COAST teacher, added, "It has so many unique cultural pieces to it, and there's this feeling you get when you're in it that can't really be described until you're there."

The idea of hiking along a valley with 40 pound backpacks wasn't very appealing to anyone at first. However, the simplicity of the trip proved to be more attractive as it progressed.

Because this trip wasn't as demanding in specific skills, the COAST students grasped the opportunity to really interact and engage with one another during various activities throughout the day.

However, adversity struck the group on the second day. Problems pelted down like rain, everything ranging from time management to communication trouble, to emotional and mental challenges and injuries.

"We had people who faced anxiety on the trip...people who had injuries going into the trip and others who were suffering some issues," Hayes said.

"I think the biggest challenge for students was honestly the mental toughness...because it had the biggest impact on our trip. It affected how far we got," he said.

Yet, as the mountain of dilemmas grew bigger, the bond between the students continued to develop and mature as they faced the hardships together.

"Any given situation that has been thrown at us has developed [a] special bond of bringing us closer as a team," **Nadia Huebner**,

grade 10, said. "How we bond on trips really helps how we bond when we're back at home together."

Geocaching, the "new thing" in COAST is still continuing. This time, another paperback copy of *Never Cry Wolf* was hidden behind "a couple of rocks on a mountain," Bains said.

Krista Bogen, the COAST teacher who took up the challenge of geocaching, plans to hide a copy of the novel on every trip they go on.

Stein River Valley is also known for its intriguing history, an interesting aspect of this trip as the class discovered pictographs and drawings strewn on the rocks along some parts of the trail.

"The historical background is actually kind of cool," Bains said.

"What the natives would do is send their kids [into the valley alone] to find out who they really were and what life was for them, as well as what life will become, and the meaning of it," she said.

"The kids would [then] supposedly have a dream [during the night] and stay in the forest until they really discovered what life was," Bains added.

The class rose early on the morning of the third day in preparation for a 10.5 km hike back to the bus in four hours.

Surprisingly, the hike went faster than planned and they made it to the bus half an hour early.

"I had a sense of accomplishment when I realized that I [had] made it through without any problems, and [also realized] how far we hiked up the Devil's Staircase," said **Jordan Gahan**, grade 10.

Devil's Staircase is the campground the students settled in on the first night. Known for the intense and steep hill beside it, the students hiked for about ten to 15 minutes to their next destination. The trail eventually led them to a narrow ledge around the mountain.

This week, the COASTies are on a five-day kayaking trip on the Sunshine Coast.



Isn't that peculiar? Krista Bogen, COAST teacher, observes a detail worthy of note while hiking. COAST students spent three days exploring the Stein River Valley.

Walking the walk of teenage motherhood

EMILY KIM
staff reporter

Pseudo babies and parents will be occupying the local community as Child Development students take home multicultural electronic infants this weekend.

Prior to the computerized new-borns, Gleneagle was able to get a taste of the RealCare program by Realityworks when female students began sporting 25-pound sacks under hot pink shirts with the phrase "Pregnant for a day" printed on the front.

"The whole purpose of it is to show how difficult it is to be a teen parent, struggling through taking care of [a baby] at night and all the crying and how stressful it is," said **Jamie Yochim**, grade 11.

"[I just want] to get the experience—good or bad. Having kids can be kind of bitter-sweet, so I hope I get a taste of both to really get an idea of what it's like," said **Zoe Payan**, grade 10.

Similar to mothers and fathers in real life, participants are asked to bring their baby wherever they go, unless at work or at other commitments. In addition, they are also required to wear irremovable I.D. bracelets which allow for print-outs describing how students execute their paternal responsibilities.

"They're only allowed to arrange for a sitter for a total of four hours over the entire weekend. I mean, they have daily responsibilities. They have to feed the babies, burp the babies, change the babies, rock the babies," said **Billy Demonte**, Child Development instructor.

Although the list of standard tasks grows to surpass these four, the faux parents generally have a positive outlook on the project.

"I'm actually so stoked just to have the experience of taking care of a baby! It's so real, and it will do all the baby things, including waking you up at 3 a.m., but that's still

something I'm looking forward to because I love kids," said Payan.

But like any other assignment, there are also factors which evoke a sense of nervousness or impromptu failure.

According to **Taylor Jordan**, grade 12, an example would be "not being able to figure out what makes [the baby] stop crying", as well as dropping it.

Correspondingly, Payan will be sure to look out for the child's apparently fragile neck while **Blake Berg**, grade 12 and only male student, dreads the sleepless nights soon to come.

"They only have two minutes to figure out what the babies need. By the end of the weekend, they figure out the different cries for the different needs," said Demonte. "Some of them catch onto it right away, and others have a harder time figuring it out. Some just panic because everybody's staring at you when they see a baby crying and such."

Yochim adds, "I'm excited to take it out in public and seeing people's reactions. I expect to probably get a lot of dirty looks."

With Demonte's many years of teaching expertise and numerous videos and activities, participants are very well prepared. A select few also have former experiences working with children whether it be from baby-sitting or younger siblings—both in Yochim's case.

Being a veteran to the course, Jordan is confident in knowing what to expect, while Payan has an older sister who had also enrolled in the course.

Furthermore, Berg is planning on earning a licence issued by Red Cross specifically for the aid of younger age groups.

"I want to learn how to raise a child or at least take care of a baby because I know it'll help me when I'm taking care of kids for families that I babysit, but it'd also be a good learning experience for when I have my own kids one day," said Berg.

Donating fuzzy friends for foster kids

YOUMY HAN
staff reporter

Three students from the TALONS program have decided to share warmth and comfort with foster kids by collecting stuffed animals for them to bring to their new homes.

The group of three started off with two bags of stuffed animals in March, left over from a swap meet as well as a garage sale.

The final count of stuffed animals donat-

these children]," she added.

However, the bins have been out for months now, and Williams' father suggested that she should donate the stuffed animals from her childhood.

Since the TALONS students have a Leadership course project in which they have to "do something good for the community," Williams decided to undertake this stuffed animal drive as her project.

Lexi Burgess and **Emily van der Velden**, also grade 10, joined in with Williams,

"The whole idea is getting to choose a new friend"

ed was 150. All of them will be going to the Child Protection Car office located in downtown Vancouver.

Kelsey Williams, grade 10, got the idea after hearing about Child Protection Car from her father.

The organization's main purpose is to "check on kids whose situations aren't the best. And if it hasn't gotten better for a really long time or if it's gotten worse, they take the child out of their home and put them into foster homes," explained Williams.

"When they take the child back to the office, there are bins filled with stuffed animals. The whole idea is getting to choose a new friend, and it's a new beginning [for

and they have been planning this event since September.

TALONS teacher **Quirien Mulder ten Kate** explained these projects are "student driven and [implemented]; the focus is to give them as much of the responsibility as possible."

"My role is supporting...their [role] is to basically learn how to take on a project from beginning to end, to be able to figure out the steps they need to take to implement it," said Mulder ten Kate.

Williams explained that if anyone still wishes to donate new or used stuffed animals in good condition, they can drop off the stuffed animals in room 204.

Environmental reform: turning found objects into art

ALICE ZHANG
staff reporter

Getting in touch with the earth, Gleneagle's TALONS students offered critiques of society through art pieces made out of re-

cyclable materials, displayed in Gleneagle's hallway throughout April.

"Installation art is to make a statement, to bring an issue or cause to the front and to use in a creative, unusual way," said **Qui-rien Mulder ten Kate**, TALONS teacher

and director of the environmental installation project. The purpose is to gather materials and arrange them in an artistic way using a certain amount of space. The space is to be used effectively and must work together with the rest of the art piece. Artistic quality is an aim, but certain concepts and meanings must also be incorporated into the art piece and they should be inspirational for viewers. TALONS student **Zoe Fajber**, grade 10, described the project as "a giant experiment."

Though the art pieces were done in only a few class periods, the process of turning scrap materials into meaningful art pieces was lengthy and required knowledge on the use of many tools.

From glue guns to power drills, a wide range of tools were introduced and utilized. The greatest tool, however, was creativity. Sources of their inspiration were a

principal came to remind us that the motion sensors in our school are very sensitive, so we weren't allowed to have anything sway slightly," said Mulder ten Kate. "All of a sudden, [students] had to change their designs. That's why you see a lot of the strings going to the ceilings or the glasses. [Students] ended up taping them on the windows so that they wouldn't trigger the motion sensors." While the actual ideas were not very difficult to come up with, it was the use of space and organization that was difficult. Fajber says it's because "you want to make it so that [the project is] noticeable but not too in the way of the students who use the hallways." Along with space issues, possibilities of vandalism and fluctuating weather make it difficult to do outside projects as Mulder ten Kate had hoped.

The TALONS students' hard work yielded much positive feedback from students

"Installation art is to make a statement...to use in a creative, unusual way"

PowerPoint presentation on environmental art examples and art samples from recognized environmental artists **Fae Logie** and **Tiki Mulvihill**.

"When people see this piece, they question what's going on and will hopefully wonder what the artist had intended to do with the piece, [then] make a statement about the world and the place we live in," said Mulder ten Kate. Aside from artistic quality, the art pieces of each group have a special meaning or representation of our current society. As Mulder ten Kate puts it, the students "used those materials to get a message across about past or present" and also to "juxtapose those materials with [a] message." Fajber's group painted many cardboard boxes in bright colors and used twine and coat hangers to make people. She refers to it as a "commercial web." She states that the focus was on commercialism and "[the viewer] is kind of blinded by bright colours."

"We were almost done and then the vice

and staff. Mulder ten Kate says that "some teachers took their ESL classes [to see the] pieces and write about them...caretakers came to us and told us how much they enjoyed [the art pieces] even if they made their cleaning a little bit more challenging for the week."

"It was a good experience overall. I think [my group] really came together and we did something that we all liked," said **Richard Zhang**, grade 10 TALONS student. "You got to do more hands-on [activities]."

"It was really interesting just looking [at] and positioning things [while] using space effectively," said Fajber.

"All of [the projects] were so different from each other and the messages they were trying to portray were very distinct too," said Mulder ten Kate. "I think overall it was very successful and the students learned a lot. I would definitely do this again, but I would like to find opportunities to do it outside because I think we would have had a larger audience."



MARIANNE ALCALA PHOTO

Going for big impact: Created with plastic goggles, bottles, and yarn, this piece imitates the floating posture of a jellyfish. TALONS raised environmental awareness with art displays.

Student performs genetic research at professional institute

SCOTT LEE
staff reporter

Rather than seeing the world of genetics through a textbook, **Lauren Wilson**, grade 11, put her classroom knowledge to the test as one of the Gene Researchers for a Week, hosted by *The Canadian Gene Cure Foundation*.

Along with 58 successful applicants from coast to coast, Wilson took the opportunity during spring break to use the latest in genetic technology and receive guidance from top scientists in conducting real, hands-on experiments such as proliferation of DNA.

Wilson was specifically placed in the Children's Family Research Institute at the Children's Hospital in Vancouver. Her assignment was to research diabetes, a major health issue affecting millions around the globe.

"I've always been interested in science, but this experience provides you with an opportunity to experience science in a completely different way than the classroom. Their experiments don't already have an ideal conclusion and you're working with some of the most expensive equipment," said Wilson.

The research Wilson had to play around with was not about the ordinary pH strip that changes colour, but about the transcription factor Myt3, and the ramifications it has on beta cells in the pancreas. Wilson and **Bryan Tennant**, Ph.D candidate at University of British Columbia, specifically worked on how Myt3 affects insulin production and beta cell function, an important breakthrough in diabetes research.

"I was helping him with his project, or more learning about it really," said Wilson.

In a lab full of Ph.D students and top experts, a regular high school student may feel overwhelmed at the level of knowledge in each vial of DNA, but Wilson's perspective on the situation was enlightening. She learned the essence

of team work in the pursuit of humanity's success.

"I walked into there, knowing very minimal about what to even expect. I found this out through my week there... that scientists aren't competing with each other. They all help each other out and share their knowledge about whatever it is that they know in hopes that it will help," said Wilson.

The program which hopes to provide young scientists with opportunities to learn about human genetics research, and to network with the scientific community has resonated in Wilson's memories. Her most memorable experience was dealing with expensive research equipment, ones similar to those in TV shows such as *House* and *Bones*.

Composting bins make greener school

STEPHANIE LIU
staff reporter

Gleneagle's green team is actively promoting a greener community through the new blue and green recycling and composting bins around the school.

"[The green team] is trying to implement a recycling program at our school to take a small step in saving the environment," said **Zoe Fajber**, grade 10. This project will complement the paper parade recycling that is collected weekly from classrooms.

The project was an idea the team had wanted to bring to life since last year. The planning continued intensively since the beginning of the school year, slowly building up through smaller projects like the "newspaper tree" and "garbage awareness."

"We wanted to inform the school first regarding the amount of waste we produce and the harm it could cause to the environment," said **Iris Hung**, grade 10. "Then we could implement the compost bins and take action."

"There was one where you could put a nano drop of a substance you mixed, and when you programmed what protein it should look for, it could tell you the concentration. Another one could multiply the copies of DNA and make DNA from RNA," listed Wilson. "Every piece I used was different and there were so many amazing things."

The road to becoming a genealogist is one full of rigour and intensive knowledge. While she may not stay on the road, curiosity has definitely been sparked.

"You aren't just doing it to advance yourself, but you do it so that everyone can have a better understanding to a better life," said Wilson.

"We're hoping that we could have a greener school with less garbage going into landfills," said **Megan Edmunds**, grade 10. "A large percentage of items that are thrown away could actually be recycled."

Getting a go ahead from the administration, the team placed posters on the bins explaining what items are recyclable and what should not be placed in those bins.

"The blue bin contains recyclables such as bottles and cans while the green bin is for compost like food scraps," said Fajber.

Though the project has already hit the rails, obstacles and worries are insurmountable.

"People may get lazy and improperly place the garbage in correct bins," stated Edmunds. "Bottles, cans, and tetra packs need to be rinsed before they are placed in the blue bins."

"I hope that students would become more aware of these bins in our school and use them respectfully," said Hung.

"We are excited that the project is working, and hopeful that [the recycling bins] could become a permanent part of our school," said Fajber.

Talons rip Lord Tweedsmuir to make way into Fraser Valleys

SUMBUL VALLANI
staff reporter

A victory over Lord Tweedsmuir last Thursday will take the Gleneagle girls rugby team to the Fraser Valley quarterfinals with only one defeat on their record. So far this season, they've played Port Moody, Semiahmoo, Walnut Grove, and Carson Graham, their lone defeat being a game against Carson Graham on Thursday, April 19.

"Our main goal is to take home a banner by the end of it," said **Lisa Snyder**, grade 12. The team scored 31-14 against Lord Tweedsmuir. "We kept up a constant fight, and saw everybody on the team putting in substantial effort," she added.

A major win against their rivals, Port Moody, occurred the week before Carson Graham, as well as a win against Walnut Grove prior to that game. The team has been spending a lot of time preparing for their upcoming matches.

"The day before a big game we have very intense practices filled with game situation prep. We try to get our heads in it starting from the night before [and] on game day, we like to spend lunch hour together and talk about game strategy," said team captain, **Shaelynn Zaurrini**, grade 11. "We also spend time with the boys teams. Being in an environment where rugby is a main topic of conversation is definitely a big part of our game day ritual," she added.

"An important thing to remember during a game is to always pass backwards, opposed to forward. It's one of the skills we've learned in the times we've had practice," said **Aileen Saadatmand**, grade 9.

They've been devoting many hours to practice with their coaches, **Stevi Schnoor** and **Christina Bordington**, former Gleneagle rugby players, who constantly encourage them to run hard, play hard, and commit to whatever they are doing on the field. However, the senior level players on the team also spend time encouraging and supporting the younger members.



Pain is only temporary: As grade 10, is tackled she has only one goal in mind - to keep the offload alive to fellow teammate, grade 12. The girls annihilated their competition and move to the Valleys confidently.

"Preparation for a match varies for each player, but as a team we do our best to focus on our last practice before the game. We meet at lunch to discuss plays and answer any questions, especially for the younger players. [We] emphasize . . . being physically and mentally motivated for the game ahead of us," said Snyder. "I believe the most important strategy in any game is to play as a team, rather than

playing for ourselves. We can achieve so much more as a unit. Our tackles, runs, and tries are all made for the entire team," she added.

The team has good numbers this year. "We are very fortunate to have a lot of fresh faces," Zaurrini said.

The girls compete in their first playoff game tonight at home against Elgin Park Secondary.

Junior boys defeated by number one team in region

THEO ANG
staff reporter

The junior boys rugby team faced a difficult game against the current number one in the whole Fraser Valley last Monday. The junior boys rugby team played off against Yale and lost 39-12.

Last week the team had a trip to Merritt and Kamloops and played two games. On April 18 the boys played against Merritt Secondary and beat them in a game

with the juniors and seniors mixed. The following day the boys had a trip to Kamloops and played a tight game against South Kamloops Secondary and tied 10-10. On April 16 they played an exhibition match against Riverside where the juniors and seniors joined together and won 48-5.

Though the team is having a good season so far, there are some areas that need improvement. "One thing we need to work on is leadership and communication [because]

we're getting caught off guard in defense a lot," said **Aarman Bondar**, grade 10.

His fellow teammate **Jason Yen**, grade 10, also agrees that communication is an area that they need to work on. **Chris Turpin**, the coach of the team says, "[They need to increase] their understanding of the game."

Even though it has been a hectic time for the team because of the recent job action, most of the players agreed that this was an enjoyable season.

"My experience this year was much better than last year because last year there was no junior team, so it was just seniors and the one junior," said Bondar.

"This year it's been a great experience because I've been able to bond with my teammates and I've been able to see grade 9's . . . and also grade 10's develop as a whole, not only as an individual," he added.

"I hope the boys will continue to have fun and play hard and enjoy the sport as much as I do," said Turpin.

Despite tough scrums, senior boys fall a try and a kick short

JADE NGUYEN
staff reporter

After a tough game against their

rivals last Thursday, Gleneagle's senior boys rugby team lost 14-5 to Port Moody Secondary.

Despite this, the team still has a

good shot at playoffs, currently sitting at second place in the district with Port Moody Secondary in first and Riverside in third.

The team went into the game knowing that it would be their toughest yet in the season, according to coach **Clayton Richardson**.

"A loss is a loss," said **Marcus Sheardown**, grade 12. "It doesn't discourage me because it was a close match, and I know we have complete potential to win in the future."

"The loss was definitely hard to take in," said **Brian Song**, grade 12. "It made a dent in the team's morale, but despite the loss, it was the best game we've played so far in terms of structure and teamwork."

"We were pretty upset, because we definitely should have won that game," added **R.J. Lee**, grade 12. "We played our best, and we played way better than [Port Moody], but the reffing just wasn't there."

Trey Levy, grade 11, added that "it was a learning experience for the team."

In their first playoff game the team knows that they will face tough competition.

"The Valley teams are very strong," said Richardson. "It's hard to say; we've never seen those teams before. They take rugby very seriously. . . not to say that we don't, but most of the athletes in their school play for the rugby

team, whereas that's not quite the case here."

"If we stick to our game strategy and give it our all, I have complete faith that we will come out on top," said Sheardown.

The boys have just come back from a recent trip to Kamloops, winning one exhibition game and losing one.

"I think as a team, we came out very strong after the second game, because we were going against a club team with twenty year olds who have been playing for years," said **Joseph Ko**, grade 12. "The trip was a great bonding experience and really revealed our strengths as a team."

The team as a whole has grown tremendously since the start of the season.

"You can really sense the team awareness. . . I'm so lucky and fortunate to be a part of this development for these kids," commented Richardson. "We have a ton of new players who have never in their lives played the game before, but we're continuing to grow and improve."

The boys will be playing a decisive game tonight against Charles Best to determine playoff status.



Pop the ball: Grade 12, swings a lateral to a fellow teammate for wide coverage against their Tri-cities rival, Port Moody Blues. The senior boys played a hard-fought game, losing 14-5.

Seussical the Musical debuts next week

JANICE WU
staff reporter

Are you ready for joyful tears? The Grinch and his friends are very near! With their first performance happening next Wednesday, Gleneagle's drama department is now polishing up *Seussical the Musical*, for their first matinee on May 8 and opening night on May 9. Matinee show times will be held on May 8 to 10 at 1 pm. The evening shows will be held on May 9 to 11 and May 16 to 18 at 7 pm.

"I think what's really cool about this musical is that this will now be the third year that our program has done a Broadway style musical," **Ashley Freeborn**, drama teacher and director, said. "I think it's really creative and interesting to watch, just because it has all the different books of Dr. Seuss wound into one. People will be able to watch and remember the stories of their childhood, if you're an adult, and of course, kids are going to love the show."

Myles St. John, grade 12, who plays Horton the elephant, agrees with Freeborn and describes *Seussical* as a show that will, "bring out the inner kid in adults . . . there will be lots of funny parts and some sad parts, so it's a well rounded show for everyone to enjoy."

Apart from the audience, the cast are already enjoying *Seussical* very much, embracing their characters. "I know I'm going to be in tears for the last performance," **Danielle Melvin**, grade 12, starring as Jojo, exclaimed. "I'm going to be so sad to let it go because it will be one of my last performances at Gleneagle before I leave," she added. "I've been very attached to the show and this character, so it will definitely be tearful, but I'll love it. Happy tears, I think."

No doubt, rhymes are a major part of their script. To St. John, "it is a bunch of tongue twisters that's hard to say in a row. I had a hard time trying to get my tongue around the rhymes." But to Melvin, "the rhymes actually make it a lot easier to memorize. It's because you can think in your mind what



Anything's possible: Seussical cast members working hard to perfect their number.

rhymes with [what] and then okay, that's my next line. But yeah, we've all started talking with rhymes outside of rehearsals, which sounds kind of crazy."

Other than memorizing lines and lyrics, dance moves are also a major part of a musical. "One of the hardest parts of choreographing this was the fast and upbeat songs because they're not only dancing, but they're also singing," commented **Lyndsey Britten**, grade 11 and choreographer of *Seussical*.

"I have to make sure the dancing doesn't take too much energy, so they can sing at the same time," she said.

As to the acting, "We try not to animate the characters too much. It's more like tell-

ing a story than being the character. So, the way we animate our character is with our voices, our faces, our songs, so it has more of a human aspect, but it makes your imagination go," St. John said.

Props and costumes are also in their final stages.

"It's been so much fun because everything is so colourful and bright and you can really use your imagination to create all of the props. I've had a blast doing it," Freeborn exclaimed.

"Some of the costumes [were donated] from the previous people who have already done the show. We've had lots of mums who [came] in and fixed up the

costumes to make them that much better," St. John commented.

Stress is also one thing that actors and actresses cannot avoid.

"There are definitely some rehearsals that are stressful and make you realize that we still have lots of work to do, [but] not much time left. We work twice as hard to get it all done," St. Johns said.

"It's the kind of stress that you get a huge reward after," Melvin commented. "You get to learn so much. It's definitely worth it. Rehearsals are always crazy. It's a very laid back environment, even though it is stressful, [but] we do get the privilege to joke around with each other."

Youth arts week at Evergreen Cultural Centre



In your face: Vancouver youth band GreenTree is one of the acts performing at Evergreen Cultural Centre this week.

MARIANNE ALCALA
staff reporter

A local public recreational centre is celebrating the variety of creativity and accomplishments of teens in the community through the annual Youth Arts week.

Starting yesterday through to Saturday May 5, the Evergreen Cultural Centre is hosting events and programs throughout the week.

"This is the first year we have been so involved in the Youth Arts week," said **Astrid Heyerdahl**, Evergreen's visual arts manager. "We just really want to celebrate the youth in our community."

"We want to give more opportunities for the artists," added Heyerdahl.

From May 2 to May 5, as a way to present the visual arts, a play will be featured every night. Beginning at 8 pm, STAGE 43 presents *PLAY ON* by Rick Abbot. They will be presenting various skits, pushing each participant's limits of acting.

Throughout the week, tickets will be sold for \$10.00 for ages 18 and under to watch these exciting skits.

Friday night also looks to be a rewarding night for music lovers. At 9 pm, a teen band called GreenTree is performing songs in a free concert for all-ages.

GreenTree is a band comprised of five teens from Vancouver. They have performed in various venues and events such as fundraisers for the BC Children's Hospital, Children of the Street Society, and To Write Love On Her Arms. GreenTree plays various genres ranging from musical theatre to pop-punk.

"GreenTree, we found out about them in a film festival,"

commented Heyerdahl. "[They are] amazing emerging artists. We are going to have a lot of people coming out and just experience the music."

"We really just want to have emerging artists, that are teens themselves, come perform for teens," Heyerdahl said, "for youth, by youth."

Another event presented by Evergreen is the Emerging Artist Market. Those between the ages of 13 to 25 set up tables where they can sell their own original art.

"It's for young artists who really want to sell their work and to put their name out there for the public," said Heyerdahl.

"We have a whole bunch of artists coming in to sell paintings. Some Hanna artists, paintings, photos, textiles, jewelers, and a nine year old even selling her handmade knits."

"We want to have emerging artists come perform for teens - for youth, by youth"

Some Gleneagle students, such as **Travis Anderson**, grade 11, are going to participate in the event.

"The emerging artist market is a great way for us young artists to have our name out there," said Anderson. "I want to become an animator so I've really got to build up my portfolio as well as get my name out there."

"We are hoping for a lot of people, both adult and youth, [to] come out to see the students," said Heyerdahl, "to be there to support the artists whether they be musicians, visual artists or performing artists and we hope it will be a lot of fun."