

Gleneagle's Student Voice

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the Edge

Students showcase talents to raise money for charity

MARIE TURCOTT

staff reporter

Students sang their hearts out for a good cause at Gleneagle's Voices performance on the evening of Friday, April 26. The event, organized by Global Issues, was a huge success for the audience, performing students, and the supported charity. \$1500 was raised for Doctors Without Borders, a medical humanitarian organization that provides emergency aid to people in need.

"Voices is a benefit concert and an outlet, a way for young bands to get known while helping a cause," said **Sepehr Rashidi**, grade 11. "I think it's a great opportunity for the organization, as well as for the bands." Rashidi performed with his band, Alluvium, consisting of himself, **Sina Maloufi**, grade 10, **Clayton Dowdell**, grade 11, and **Samantha Dowdell**, Heritage Woods graduate.

"I think it's just cool to play music for a good cause. We got to see other bands performing music and to meet a lot of other bands as well," said Maloufi. "It's good to play music, to see other people play music, and gain experience."

"It's not just about raising money, but it's also about getting exposure for local bands to come together," said **Kelly Bryant**, grade 12, Global Issues member and organizer.

Many of the students who performed were new to this kind of performance, and were able to gain valuable experience.

"Voices is really good because you don't have to be professional to be on it. I watched it last year, but I wasn't thinking of attending because I never got that nervousness out of myself, and to perform a solo was too much for me," said **Amy Han**, grade 11, who performed *I'm Through* by Ingrid Michelson. "It's a good experience because you get to see your friends and people your age with the same interests on stage perform with you."

"I personally don't have that much experience in this sort of thing, so I just tried my best and put it all out there," said **Megan Lao**, grade 11, from the band Blue Code.

"I was thinking that I should support this cause because it was for something greater than myself. It benefits people who have less than me," added Lao. "The performers made the concert happen, so I just wanted to be a part of that and put on a good show for the audience who donated."



Should I stay or should I go? Grade 12, performs classic hit by The Clash and Elvis' Jailhouse Rock with his band. Voices attracted over 170 people and raised \$1500 for Doctors Without Borders.

"The song that we performed was three minutes long, but we practiced for around 20 hours," said Lao. "That sounds so sad, but I think it paid off in the end."

"Although the talent show was so much more, 'Oh look, we're better than you,' in Voices, you could go backstage while someone was performing, we would be able to all sing High School Musical songs together," said **Faly Mevamanana**, grade 11, who performed two originals. "The crowd was really nice and supportive, and it helped that I had friends in the audience. When I was on stage, it felt like everyone was listening."

"I was supposed to sing with **Cassidy [Stahr]**, grade 10 and having to perform alone was a pretty big challenge," said

Han. Illness prevented Stahr from participating in Voices. "I learned that once you take the first step, no matter if it's good or bad, you experience it all," Han added. "You keep practicing, and it eventually gets better. The first time, you're shaking because you're so nervous, but you still enjoy it."

Despite a few technical and communication issues, everyone agreed that the show went exceptionally well. A lot of time and effort were put into this for one special night.

"Preparation starts in December: it basically comes down to sponsorship, finding performers, and organizing everything," said Bryant. "I am really happy with how it went this year. In previous years, we've sold maybe 100 tickets, maybe if we were lucky, but this year we sold 171 tickets."

Stories of tragedy enlighten students about anti-racism

JASON ROBERTS

staff reporter

"Our communities were destroyed. Our families were uprooted and very few returned. We survived the Holocaust but the tough part was still to come," said **David Erhlich**, recalling his experience as a survivor of the Nazi death camp in Auschwitz. Erhlich was one of eleven Holocaust survivors participating in the 38th Annual Holocaust Symposium at UBC last week.

Lois Axford's History 12 class was part of over a thousand students taking part in the event. Two university professors and eleven Holocaust survivors spoke at the event advocating anti-racism and retelling their first hand experiences.

"If we today know so much more than people knew in the 1940s about genocide, do we in fact have a greater obligation to stand up and say and do something about these things?" asked **Chris Freidrichs**, UBC history professor.

This was the message echoed throughout the event, not only remembering the Holocaust but educating students about genocide so as to try and make a difference in worldwide genocide prevention.

"While students who attend the symposium learn from eminent scholars and speak with Holocaust survivors, our hope is that students emerge with memories of their own - with things that will stay with them beyond the candle lighting ceremony," said **Adara Goldberg**, education director at Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre. "You might be struck by a specific fact, figure or image, by an emotion observed or felt, by a particular turn of phrase, maybe even by a moment of silence as a speaker struggles to find the words to express an answer to one of your questions.

Students then share these ideas, emotions, or questions with family members and peers, thus expanding their knowledge and combatting stereotypes," she added.

All through the day students were taught and exposed through lectures and short films to the horrors of genocide, the pain it brings and how we can prevent it. Friedrichs provided a lesson on the history of genocide; New Hampshire Professor of Genocide Studies **James Waller** provided insight into some of the mindset behind genocide and a glimpse into its future.

"I wish I could sit here and be telling you about the history of genocide as if it was all in the past, but this is not the case: sadly genocide is still going on in the world today," said Waller.

Accompanying the lectures were the emotional and heart wrenching stories of those who survived the Holocaust.

"The man who gave me my uniform [inside the concentration camp] asked me whether I had said goodbye to my family," said Erhlich, forcing back tears, as he remembered the murder of his family.

"Why should I? I will see them tomorrow,' I said. I had visions that all of us men would go to work and my mom would stay home and cook for us. He took me to the window and showed me the chimneys and explained that, while we were taking a shower, my family had been gassed and, as we spoke, they were being cremated."

"It was an incredible and unique experience... being able to hear the story of someone who experienced it firsthand is something that most people won't be able to do and being one of the few who has, makes it that much more special," said **Federico Cerani**, grade 11.

As these survivors age it's becoming more apparent that this generation of students will be the last to be able to hear

the survivors' stories first hand.

"Every time I have the opportunity to take kids I'm going to do it, because these survivors are getting old and very soon there's not going to be any firsthand witnesses of what happened," said Axford. "My students right now have this opportunity; I don't want them to miss it."

The whole event concluded with a candle lighting ceremony in remembrance of all who fell during the horrible events. Several grade 12 students were paired with survivors and lit the candles as part of the ceremony, including Gleneagle student, **Ye Eun Park**, grade 12.

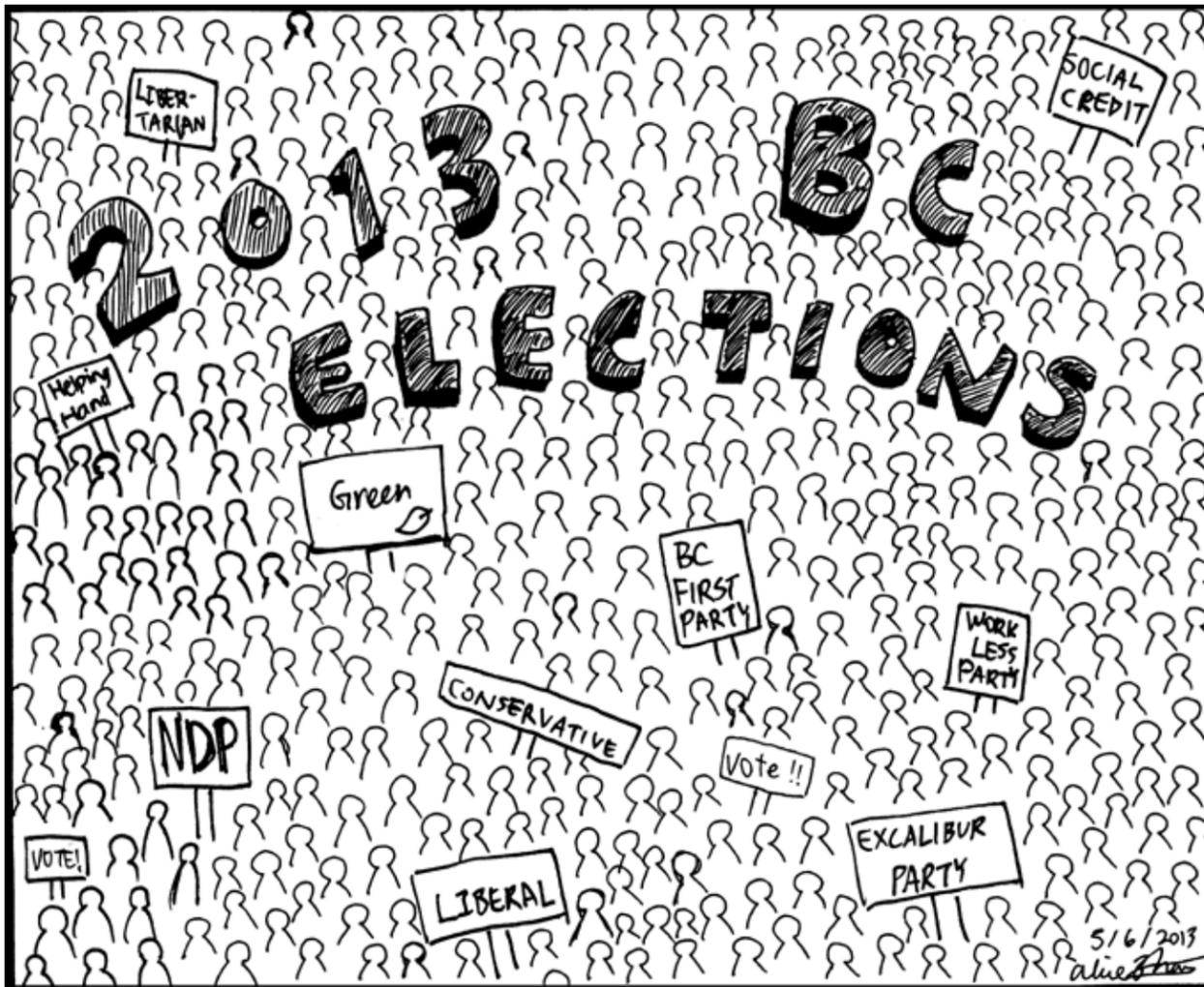
This is the sixth time Axford has taken one of her classes to the symposium. "I think it's really valuable for kids to get that firsthand experience of how destructive prejudice can be," she said.

UPCOMING EVENTS
Thoroughly Modern Millie
May 8-10, 15-17

Victoria Day
May 20

Pro-D Day
May 21

Students step up, take responsibility for real world problems



It's time to wake up.

As students, being sheltered by the walls of high school may feel like we are not responsible for the issues that spring up in the real world. Those problems are distant, far from arms reach.

Instead we preoccupy ourselves with irrelevant facts about Justin Bieber and Selena Gomez's rekindling relationship. But our young bodies and minds are not only meant to feed on junk food and reality TV shows.

Thinking out of the confines of our age group, Gleneagle students have taken initiative in current issues and ultimately their future.

The Student Vote Initiative saw a group of Talons raising awareness about the upcoming elections, bringing in candidates from each party, showing that students can take the reigns of a topic that can be daunting – politics.

The future of public education is in question due to a significant increase in debt and the introduction of steep budget cuts. It is now increasingly vital for students to drop apathy at the door, as this issue leaks into their territory and affects them directly. This was brought up during the Student Vote assembly, as questions sent in by students revolved around their education and what the government can do to improve student opportunities.

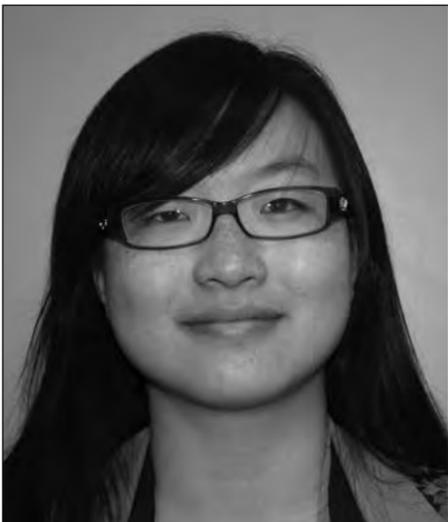
We may be young, but as everyone says, we are the key to the future. Yes, it's a cliché, but it's true.

We are capable of more things than memorizing the names of every Kardashian, or avidly following the twitter feeds of our favourite celebrities.

We won't be students for long; soon we will find ourselves mixed in with the real world and all the baggage that comes with it. When we're there, indifference is not something we want to have on our backs.

It's time to wake up.

Too preoccupied with celebrity lives to live our own



edge columnist

– our attention.

Celebrity obsession has become a social phenomenon that's not only bigger than life; it's bigger than ever.

Celebrity culture has taken over the nation and there is nowhere to turn without being confronted by their glib smiles, airbrushed to perfection. Incidents in a celebrity's life often make international news. Even some of the most significant events headline for only a few days before a story about a drunken actress takes over the front page. International tragedies now have to compete for attention with marginal celebrities, and major news networks like CNN feature the latest gossip on the front page of their website.

People are entranced by the lives of the privileged— but why?

Celebrities act and behave in a way we wish we could. They live over the top and exaggerated lifestyles, thus, allowing everyday people to vicariously experience their decadence. It acts as almost a release valve for some people, allowing temporary escape from the frustrations that perforate our normal lives.

As the interests of the people shift towards the glamorized and staged lives of the rich and famous, mainstream media follows. Hackneyed and mundane aspects of celebrity lives are being reported with ineffable gusto; major news networks are starting to focus more and more

attention on the exploits and scandals of these celebrities than over-seas wars and government policies.

The unbalanced, over-hyped, celebrity-ridden pieces of garbage fill our airwaves while actual news is left unheard. People are starting to take ignorance to a new level, a level that approaches oblivion.

The internet has made this infinitely worse. Websites are constantly updated to report the latest on who's dating whom, and who gained weight.

“Our attention spans have become shorter than those celebrity marriages we love to follow . . .”

This fast-paced, easily accessible, one-click 'news' is giving rise to a culture of misinformation. People are not checking the sources of these stories and this often result in biased, or blatantly false, rumors. Accuracy is quickly becoming a thing of the past as people ignore precision in favour of speed.

Social networks like Twitter and Facebook, where fans can interact 'directly' with their idols, allow people to feel closer than ever to these stars, all the while never having met them. News and media are beginning to lack any and all substance in their content. Information is being processed and abridged into small, easily digestible pieces that require little thought to read and to write.

We watch with rapt eyes as celebrities bloom and wilt faster than the sped up life cycle of a flower, all the while ignoring the dying cries of journalism. We are letting the inane take hold of our attention. Being constantly attacked with an incessant stream of information, we have adapted to only skimming the surface.

Our attention spans have become shorter than those celebrity marriages we love to follow; and, sitting through anything longer than a few minutes' causes us to

instinctively glance at our phones, zealously awaiting the next tweet from Lady Gaga.

The world is changing and growing at a rapid pace. Wars are being waged and people are uniting to change desperate situations. There is a colossal wealth of information and international connections available to us, and yet all that is ignored in favour of stalking online profiles.

In a world where a national protest that leads to a cultural revolution that causes political and economic reform can be started on Facebook and members of online communities can band together to help third world small business owners, why are you sitting at home watching interviews on YouTube?

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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Which celebrity would you want to be and why?

YOU SAID IT!



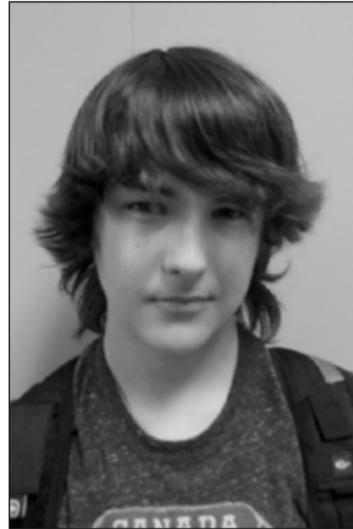
Grade 12

"I would be a mix of three people. Aphromoo (Zaqueri Black), Will Smith and Morgan Freeman. Aphromoo is an amazing pro-gamer, Will Smith is the perfect example and pinnacle of a black man, and Morgan Freeman because he has the voice of an angel god."



Grade 11

"I would be Beyoncé because she is so booty-licious."



Grade 10

"I would be Tom Cruise because he does his own stunts, and is a raving lunatic who believes in scientology."



Grade 9

"I would be Beyoncé; that way I could be queen bee."

Social media just the latest tool of human communication



edge columnist

The world we live in today is defined by the media. Streams of information can be spread instantaneously anywhere in the

world within seconds.

When two bombs went off at the Boston Marathon on April 15 near the finish line of the race injuring over 200 and tragically killing three, it was being shared worldwide within seconds. News travels fast, especially bad news, and with the influx of social media today, it would be impossible to stop it.

Is this necessarily a good thing though?

The illusion of privacy takes blows due to social media, as well as the possible

The concept of a quiet afternoon has been lost to most, as the need to be constantly in contact with one's friends or significant other seems to be increasing and new technology is allowing this; everything that happens in a person's life, significant or not, is being shared.

The amount of time a teenager spends online sharing information, and talking to people has only been increasing and an end isn't in sight.

This constant communication and

but the problem is finding that reliable source. Knowledge at users' fingertips is unbelievably convenient and it's become such a big part of the education system.

In fact, using the internet to find information has become a tool that students, secondary and post-secondary, are taught and expected to utilize - of course only when students aren't using the internet to implement an emotional fight club with their peers.

Don't get me wrong though, I'm not saying

Once upon a time, people had to use books to research a subject. And even further back, word of mouth was one of the main forms of communication.

epidemic of widespread misinformation. As the Boston bombings investigation was in its early stages, the speculation about what or more specifically, who was to blame, was ridiculous.

Everyone had something to say and there were countless forums at their disposal for their theories.

Websites such as Twitter and Facebook are enablers that current generations take full advantage of.

Social media is a fixture particularly in youths' lives nowadays.

exposure is unnecessary especially when it turns ugly through cyber bullying and abuse.

Not to say that Facebook is the sole cause of every instance of bullying ever since its invention, but there is a line where too much information is on display and we're starting to see many cases where that line is being crossed.

Despite the out of control enabling and availability the internet causes, the amount of useful tools and resources it offers is amazing. Accurate and important information is easily available

information distribution is some new idea.

Once upon a time, people had to use books to research a subject. And even further back, word of mouth was one of the main forms of communication.

The invention of the world wide web and the impact it has had on media and people's everyday lives has caused such progression and innovation in the world of communication that maybe we won't know the full effect it will have on us for years.

At any rate, our society is certainly not lacking information.

Letters to the editor:



[Re: Does the media fuel eating disorders?]

As two Gleneagle students suffering eating disorders, we feel your article did not truly express the dangers of eating disorders. Both of us suffered from this disorder for numerous years and we know that eating disorders are not a "trend" or something cool to do. The media has no

effect on eating disorders and does not pressure us to look a specific way, or eat a certain way to look like "Victoria's Secret models" or "Calvin Klein models."

We feel your story was one sided because eating disorders affect both males and females. Not only does it affect teenagers in high school, it can also affect elementary school students, seniors, or anyone in [any] age range.

We were offended that your research seemed to be done from Google... for it only shows a fraction of what these disorders really are. You did not mention other eating disorders; there are more than just anorexia and bulimia. There are binge eating disorders, orthorexia and EDNOS. For sufferers of those diseases, they do not get as much attention as the two mentioned in your article. The media is now on the trend of "embracing your curves" and "loving your body," for example: Beyoncé, Tyra Banks, and Ryan Gosling. The media's trend is also promoting healthy eating, not diets. Yes, there are some articles about fad diets, but teenagers and other sufferers are smart enough to know their limit. You do not wake up one day and decide

"I'm an anorexic today," or "I'm bulimic today". It is also funny how you only interviewed women for your article when the aspect of men suffering from eating disorders is just as severe. Yes, the media does show "skinny" or "perfect model bodies" but it doesn't mean one day the readers or viewers of the form of media will decide to have an eating disorder.

It is a disease and disorder that carries on for most of your life unless you get special help. It has nothing to do with the "image of perfection" or because we are "under the stress of achieving beauty." It is a coping mechanism to deal with traumatic events in your life. The image of the girl with the measuring tape featured in your article is offensive due to the caption of "can you fit the standard?"

When you are writing an article about how eating disorders are bad, you should not mention the "standard" or having a "waist size double zero."

If you do write an article about body image, please write one about loving your body and embracing what you have instead.
- Submitted Anonymously

New approaches to post secondary: collaboration not competition

REBECCA MACDONALD
staff reporter

41% of employers feel that university graduates are unprepared and lack the basic skills necessary to be hired, according to a 2012 study by Maguire Associates Inc. Yet, undergraduate students pay an average of \$23,000 in post-secondary tuition fees, in the hopes of having the necessary edge to get their foot in the door.

Our current education model has changed very little since its conception hundreds of years ago. While everything else about the way we live has advanced and improved over the years, students continue to shell out money in order to sit in a lecture hall and listen to an expert tell them things that are just as easily found in a book or on a website. Many university-level classes lack communication and interaction: a prof speaks, hundreds of students write down what is said, and then memorize it all in order to write an exam a few months later. There is no teamwork, no critical thinking, and no interpersonal skills, all of which are essential in nearly every occupation.

School is designed to teach students content and information, but it should also be about providing necessary life skills. Graduates should leave with the skillset necessary to work with others, and think for themselves. Sometimes in the workplace it is necessary to be self-directed or independent; flexibility and problem solving abilities are also crucial in any position. But instead we are taught to compete against each other. In many classes, we are expected to take everything at face value, never questioning or seeking ways to improve.

Nine years ago, Dr. **David Strangway**, former president of UBC, was offered a grant to build a new university from scratch, with the opportunity to design his idea of an ideal university. In 2007, Quest University opened its doors to its inaugural class of 73 students. The private, non-profit university is the first of its kind in Canada, and one of the most unique schools in North America. Nestled in the mountains of Squamish, BC, the school is designed to offer a liberal arts-style education to only a few hundred students each year.

Now run by **David Helfand**, a theatre major turned astrophysicist from Columbia University, the school runs on a unique block plan, where students take only one intensive class at a time, over the course of three and a half weeks. This gives students the opportunity to really delve into a



Digging for knowledge: Volcanology class in Hawaii gets hands on experience excavating a site. The Quest students display a unique approach to learning.

subject and explore a broad range of classes, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts and Sciences. Not only do students gain a broad knowledge base, but they learn valuable skills necessary for future success.

“Quest looks for students who don’t necessarily know what they want to do in the future,” said **Keely Stott**, director of admissions. “We [accept] students from all over the world, with different ideas of what education should look like, and put them in small classes where the focus is on teamwork as opposed to competition. [It’s] a huge change for many students, who have spent their entire lives trying to outdo their classmates.”

Ultimately, it is teamwork, not competition, that is necessary for success in life. With classes of no more than 20 students, Quest encourages students to help each other learn and explore, as opposed to memorizing content and trying to get the highest score on tests.

“I [was a part of] Quest’s first inaugural class,” said **Spencer Miller**, Quest graduate and admissions counselor. “It was completely new to me, but school hadn’t really

worked for me and it was time to try something new. . . It was weird at first, [having] only 70 odd students and nothing to model our work after. We were truly starting from scratch, and it [continues to] change every year,” he said.

While Quest has received much criticism for its different approaches, especially their Concentration program, where students take ownership of their own degree by developing an inquiry question and creating their own ‘major’, many are starting to see it as a cutting edge university with a better approach for educating undergraduates. Though the only school of its kind at the moment, more schools are now leaning towards more flexible programs in order to meet the ever-changing needs of the Canadian workforce.

With more students obtaining bachelors degrees, the value of a postsecondary education is beginning to change. Employers don’t just want a piece of paper anymore; they want to see that you have what it takes to contribute to a successful workplace. Universities and other postsecondary institutions need to start meeting these needs and training students for the future.

Learning to drive - teenagers’ first steps into adulthood



Takin’ the wheel: Grade 10, steers into the next stage in her life. She prepared for this with many practice tests, getting ready for independence.

KAILA GUIMOND
staff reporter

Some could say driving is like a right of passage into adulthood: you go through your adolescence being driven around by your parents, thinking about how cool it would be to drive yourself around. Moving into middle school, most think of driving as a freedom. “I [wouldn’t] have to rely on anyone to drive me around to my friend’s or work, or even school,” said **Alisha Will**, grade 9. People just shy of sixteen continue to wonder about how cool it would be to own a car and be able to drive yourself to the mall and show off your car to your friends.

Now, in high school, we are at the age where getting your license and learning to drive is finally achievable, and most students waste no time in gaining this freedom. “Being able to drive means that I’m taking my baby steps into self-sufficiency and in turn, it means that I finally don’t have to rely on my parents so much,” said **Max Pang**, grade 10, who has his L. “Being able to drive is pretty fun because in the future if I want to drive somewhere to take photos – I can,” said **Simon Chi**, grade 11, who also has his L.

The first step in achieving your license is studying for your written test to attain your learner’s. “I’m excited because by passing the test and getting my L, I’m

one step closer to getting my license and having more freedom,” said **Aisa Akhavan**, grade 10.

Before taking the test, many students fear that it will be a challenge. “I feared failing,” said Chi.

“The driver’s test is not very difficult and they give you an online test that randomizes from its bank of questions, so I was pretty well prepared,” said Pang.

The website: www.icbc.com, has practice quizzes on the information that you will be tested on. According to the website, “The knowledge test is based on the safe-driving guide, *Learn to Drive Smart*. There are 50 multiple-choice questions on the test. To pass, you need to correctly answer at least 40.” Everybody has to bring I.D., the test fee, which is fifteen dollars, and ten dollars for the license, plus you must have parental or legal guardian consent before taking the test.

“Honestly I don’t think the test is as hard as people think. Actually if you read the whole book you’ll be fine because [the material on the test] came from the book,” said Chi.

“Don’t do all your studying in one night, like I did. Spread out the studying and don’t cram it,” said **Colin Fowler**, grade 10, who also has his L.

Unfortunately for people who have a fear of moving forward with their license, the L doesn’t last forever. “They expire after two years if you don’t either move on or renew them,” said **Julie Cho**, Gleneagle 2012 graduate, whose learner’s license expired.

A common experience for drivers is developing habits considered either weird or dangerous, and some students are already imagining what theirs will be. “I would probably pull over every three minutes to change the music,” said Akhavan.

Pang is beginning to believe that he will “get unreasonably anxious when the police are around,” whereas Cho can see herself “swearing in Korean, tapping the wheel, and being way too slow all the time.”

Students also have to learn to overcome obstacles and learn quick solutions to problems they meet while driving.

“It’s not trial and error on the road,” said Pang. “Start driving, do something wrong, crash, don’t do it again the next time. [I’m just practicing] slow driving and basic turning on residential streets. Now I’m just driving myself when I can with one [of] my parents on the passenger side telling me if I do something wrong,” he added.

“So far, the biggest obstacle I have is switching from brake to gas. It’s why I haven’t driven anywhere yet,” said Fowler.

With driving comes a huge responsibility. “Passing a 30-minute road test doesn’t mean you can drive properly, in my opinion, so I’m going to learn to drive properly [before going anywhere],” said Akhavan.

“Practice every day . . . go out, and enter the real world,” said Will. “Getting rear ended is my biggest fear [along with] crashing and getting injured,” she added. “Vehicles are heavy machinery with huge potential to cause physical damage to myself and others. That really scares me,” said Cho.

Party leaders pitch their platforms to students

ALEXANDRA COOPER
staff reporter

Either passionate about politics or woefully uninformed, the Gleneagle Student Vote is open to all students wanting to be involved in the upcoming election. On May 14, all students are going to be able to vote for one of the five parties running: Conservative, Liberal, NDP, Green and Libertarian.

"It seemed like a really interesting idea and something that would get students involved [in Canadian politics]," said



Balanced debating: Libertarian candidate Paul Geddes explains small government.

Liam St. Louis, grade 12, member of the Student Vote committee. These five parties all had their candidate for the Coquitlam – Burke Mountain riding come to Gleneagle and talk at the All Candidates Meeting on Thursday, May 2.

"[The All Candidates Meeting] is not actually a part of the Student Vote program . . . but we thought we should try to take it a step further," said Kelly Bryant, grade 12, member of the Student Vote committee.

Each candidate had three minutes to speak about his core ideas and then the candidates answered a series of questions written by students. Subjects broached were the new pipeline transporting oil from Alberta to BC to be exported to Asia, youth voting, the education system and BC's economics.

"I think it opened their [students] eyes up to politics and they seemed interested for the most part," said Iman Lahouaoula, grade 11, member of the Student Vote committee.

"We wanted to have more debating between the candidates but [we couldn't] because of time constraints," said Bryant. The candidates were eager to share their views and their party's platforms with Gleneagle students.

"We are about protecting BC environment," said Ron Peters, Green Party candidate.

"My vision for our province is a balanced, responsible, diversified society," said Chris Wilson, the NDP candidate. "We need more youth out voting."

The candidates all shared the same view on young people being a part of Canadian politics as an integral action needing to take place.

"It's very important [for youth] to be engaged," said Douglas Horne, the Liberal party candidate running for re-election.

The Libertarian candidate, although controversial, definitely made an impression. "We believe in less government in your personal lives, more freedom and choice and responsibility for you," said Paul Geddes, the Libertarian candidate. "Do you think the government should tell you who you want to marry? What to ingest?"

"We were talking in my Comparative Civilizations class about to what extent the All Candidates Meeting made you want to vote . . . and the general consensus was we want to vote so that certain people do definitely not get in," said Bryant.

"I think [the strongest candidate] would be Douglas Horne from the Liberals. Even if you didn't agree with his views he was definitely the best speaker," said Lahouaoula.

The meeting was held in the gym in block two and students from all grades were welcome to participate.

ARTchitecture Odyssey

JENNIFER KOU
staff reporter

Gleneagle's Odyssey of the Mind team is headed to the World Finals, taking place on May 22-25, after winning a double gold on April 20.

Leanne Felton, Jennifer Stevens, Faly Mevamanana, Emily van der Velden, Clayton Dowdell, Kelsey Williams, and Sara McMahan, all grade 11, represented Gleneagle at the provincial competition.

"I was so happy. I haven't had a gold medal before this year . . . I was absolutely thrilled," said Felton.

The team competed against four different schools from districts across BC, across two different problems: 'ARTchitecture-The Musical,' and 'It's How You Look At It.'

They created one performance that had all the criteria for both problems. It was a slight challenge to try and put the performance together but it worked out very well in their favour.

"We didn't expect to actually succeed in both of them. We geared this more towards one of the problems. We ended up surpassing anybody's expectations," said Dowdell.

"We all worked really hard and won together," said McMahan.

"I can't really believe it. I'm really proud of all of us," said Van der Velden.

This year, they focused on trying to "make

The student committee who organized the event was pleased with the results.

"Ideally when the next election occurs, something like this will happen again," said Bryant.

Next week, students involved in the Student Vote program will be setting up voting stations in the foyer to encourage all students to come down and cast their ballots. The ballots will be collected, tallied and published as part of a provincial program to be compared to other schools across BC.

it really professional looking as opposed to normal Odyssey performances, which are a bit more haphazard," said Felton.

The team put in "a lot of thought and hard work, and we looked at some of our shortfalls from our previous tournament and tried to improve on those and made sure we would have high scores in every category," said Dowdell.

"We rehearsed a ton right before we went on; we'd all been working really hard on it and we had a really solid plan," said Williams, regarding their performance.

This year, the team focused on organization and teamwork.

"This year we had a lot of Google Docs going. We talked a lot and thought through everything as a team, and it all came together," said Felton.

Learning to work as a team and a unit have really helped improve the group's performances and smoothed out the creative process.

"I want to do a good job for my friends and the biggest thing is knowing I have other people to rely on. If I have problems getting my creative juices flowing, they are helpful for input," said Williams.

The team is now getting ready for the international odyssey competition, taking place from May 22 to 25 at Michigan University; there will be over 800 hundred teams competing.

Teachers wax legs for Doctors Without Borders

CASSIE BARATELLI
guest reporter

Students gathered round in the MPR on Wednesday, April 24 to watch the men of the socials department have their leg hair waxed off by the hairdressing students in order to raise money for charity. "We [chose] Doctors Without Borders MSF, which is a global organization. They take the money and they provide medical aid to third world countries who can't afford medical care or medical infrastructure," said Cheyenne Manning, grade 12. "They kind of do the arrangements of making sure that doctors get out there, which is I guess 'doctors without borders'."

Wax On Wax Off was publicized as a Facebook event along with posters all around the school, and donations were collected the week before. Each socials teacher had his own jar for students to donate to, and as predicted, in the lead was Peter Poka, socials teacher.

"It was really funny to watch Poka scream like a little girl," commented Manning about the waxing.

"We went around talking to [the socials teachers] and they're all for just having fun, but to really close it off we told them it was for charity," said Iman Lahouaoula, grade 11.

"They [the socials teachers] are very able-to-laugh-at-themselves kind of people,

and they like the attention, so they were really chill about it happening," said Kelly Bryant, grade 12. "Their one condition was that they didn't want it to be a competition," added Bryant. "They didn't want one of them to get really attacked by it so they basically said that they'll all do it in the end." And of course, having all of the socials teachers having their legs waxed brought a large turnout.

Wax On Wax Off raised over \$200, higher than the original goal set for this event, and in collaboration with Voices, the total came to \$1500.

"We went over [our goal], and that was amazing," said Lahouaoula. "We were aiming for actually \$1000 so when we got \$1500, it was crazy."

"Our goal was to raise at least \$100 [for Wax On Wax Off] and we ended up raising close to 300 dollars so that was nice. We were not expecting to get as much support as we did," added Bryant.

"This event was done a few years ago, just in a different way," commented Lahouaoula.

"They did chest hair for that and we thought we'd give them a break and do their legs instead," added Manning. However, hopes of having Wax On Wax Off redone next year were shot down. "It's one of those things where you actually want their leg hair to grow back and not have them totally damaged for the rest of their lives because of too many waxes," laughed Manning.

However, knowing how much of a big hit Wax On Wax Off was, Manning commented "They'll probably think of some sort of other creative event [for next year]."

"I think that Global Issues and all of our events are in very good hands for next year," said Bryant, who's leaving Lahouaoula and Zoe Fajber, grade 11, in charge next year.



Agony at its finest: Neil Canuel, social teacher, yelps in pain after having a spot of leg hair ripped clean by hairdressing student Courtney Haerber, grade 12.

Wong to represent Gleneagle at Fraser Valley competition



ALICE ZHU PHOTO

Soaring with the shuttlecocks: Grade 11, prepares to smash his opponent during a hard match.

MAUREEN LAO
staff reporter

The badminton team is smashing through a very successful season making it to the Upper Frasers and Fraser Valleys.

The junior boys doubles, **Max Pang**, grade 10, and **Josh Li**, grade 10 won gold in the districts, placed third in Upper Frasers, and eighth overall in Fraser Valleys.

"I think the Districts, the Upper Frasers, and the Fraser Valleys were a good experience. Over all, it was rewarding," said Li.

"Winning gold was the most rewarding and exciting thing that happened because I won it with my best buddy, Max Pang," he added.

Dawn Fung, grade 9, and **Claudia Lam**, grade 9, junior girls doubles, also made it to Upper Frasers, placing third in the districts, sixth in Upper Frasers, and ninth in the Fraser Valleys competition.

The senior team was also successful as **Derek Wong**, grade 11, and **Alice Zhu**, grade 12, made it into the Upper Frasers as senior boys singles, senior girls singles, and mixed doubles together.

Wong and Zhu placed fifth for singles and sixth for mixed and moved onto the Upper Frasers where Wong placed fifth, and Zhu

placed eighth.

"I feel great because it's the first time we've had more than one player make it into Upper Frasers," said Zhu.

"The senior team had some really shining moments, and [some] not so shining moments," said **Nicola Cridge**, badminton coach. "People had the opportunity to play as much as possible. Unfortunately for the senior team, none of the doubles made it but we had two singles that made the Upper Frasers," Cridge added.

Although Gleneagle was up against tough competition such as one of the topped ranked schools for badminton, Pinetree Secondary, they were determined to push through.

"Every time you make it. . . from the districts to the Upper Fraser Valleys it is exciting because there is a huge level of competition and the competition is very strong," Cridge said. "When you make it in the top four within your own district that in itself is a feat," she added.

"I'd say badminton is more of an underground sport, but it's growing in popularity," said Wong.

Although for the junior badminton team, the season has come to an end, Wong is still pushing and practicing for the Fraser Valleys which will be next Friday, May 17.

Soccer team aims for improvement for upcoming seasons

STEPHANIE LUI
staff reporter

"Every new game is an opportunity," said **Ariana Baratto**, grade 11. "Whether we win or lose, we are playing our best each time."

Despite this positive attitude, the team will not be furthering their season into Fraser

Valleys this year. Winning one game in the season, the girls "hate losing, but as long as we learn from our mistakes, we can still change [the outcome]," explained **Bronwyn Vaisey**, grade 10.

With a team made up of grade 9's, 10's, 11's and 12's, the girls bring in different skill levels, building a sense of character and uniqueness to the group. "This [team] is definitely an amazing group of girls,"

said Baratto. "We all add each of our own learning techniques to the training to help the team improve as a whole."

"We are a close group," said **Brita Marshall**, grade 11. "We know each other well...I think this is what makes us play better, but not enough to win."

The girls soccer team also had their lows. "I think we were lacking in communication," stated Vaisey. "It's

difficult to execute each pass perfectly, and with some miscommunication [it] could change the outcome."

"We worked really hard but we could have worked more on communication and getting cleaner passes," said Baratto.

Though the girls had played a rough season, the team closes on a hopeful note, "Next year we will come back stronger and prove ourselves in the games," Marshall concluded.

Strong competition, improvement - story of tennis team's season

KRISTINA ENG
staff reporter

The tennis season ends today with a final match against Heritage Woods. "They have a U- 17 guy whose serve I cannot reach so I look forward to playing him again," said **Shahriar Nabipour**, grade 11. On Tuesday their game against Pinetree ended in 6 - 5 victory.

The team was forced to forfeit matches, due to a missing player. "We only have four girls and you're supposed to have five," said **Art Abram**, tennis coach.

"We don't have any club players or ranked players. Usually there are about five to six teams in the league and we usually end up being the fourth or fifth out of six teams," Abram said. "A lot of the other schools have players that are ranked. We have a couple of players that take lessons. That's one of the reasons why we kind of are average or below average because most of them are just recreational players," he continued. "Some of the other schools, like Terry Fox, practice all year."

On April 30, "we played Terry Fox and we got annihilated, 10 games to 1. They're the top team around, but a couple of games were close," said Abram.

"[Our games went] better than usual" said **Lazar Atanackovic** grade 11, after winning both games against Port Moody on May 2 with doubles partner Shahriar.

"Against their doubles A's it was 6 - 0, and against their double B's it was 6 - 4," Nabipour confirmed.

Jeff Huang, grade 9, hasn't been expecting to be winning as many games as he had. "I think I won more than half my games," he said.

Through these practices, several individual improvements and goals have been met. "Before I joined [the] tennis team I couldn't serve well, but now I can hit the ball in court at first serve," said **Bill Zhao**, grade 11. **Benny Huang**, grade 10, said that he "learned how to serve and how to do team work with positioning and where to go."

"My ground strokes are better and more consistent," said Atanackovic.

"We had a slow start but now I think we're getting the hang of things and it's getting better," said Nabipour.

"Starting from day one, we've improved so much just as a team in general," said **Kimberly Woo**, grade 10.

"A lot of us don't play doubles and a lot of games that matter are doubles. So definitely working as a team and coordinating with your partner is important," she added.

Senior boys rugby team fails to meet goals

DAWSON DROLET
staff reporter

The senior boys rugby team finished off a disappointing season Wednesday afternoon with their last game of the year. The game was a consolation as they failed to make the playoffs. The team's final record this year was 2-3-1 (wins-losses-ties).

The team's last game of the year was against Port Moody which resulted in a very close 40-33 loss. "We had no answer for their offensive push," said coach **Clayton Richardson**.

"They would score a try and rather than go and get fired up and tie the game, we got down on ourselves, and they built a lead that we couldn't come back from," he added.

"We broke down when their number ten got a 60-70 yard try on us, we kind of stopped trying after that," said senior

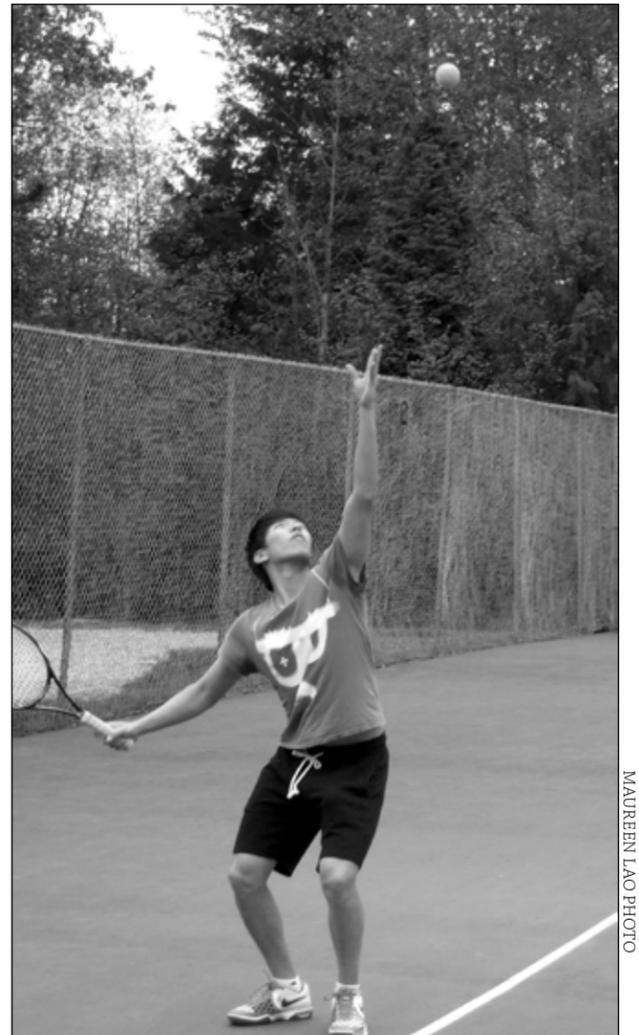
Jamil Adamu.

"We brought [the game] within 5 points, and almost tied the game. But that was within the last 15 minutes. If we would have played like that for the entire game we would have won," Richardson added.

Although the team didn't live up to their own expectations this year, there were still some bright spots on the season. The team went 4-0 during their rugby tour, and had one stunning performance against Heritage Woods mid-season. The team was largely made up of grade 11's and lacked experienced seniors. "It looks promising for next year," said Richardson.

"The juniors came through very unexpectedly and they helped us throughout the whole season. They were consistent and they played good for us," said Adamu.

Richardson is hoping some current grade 9 students could possibly make the step up next year to senior. "**Arman**



MAUREEN LAO PHOTO

Serving the competition: Grade 12, tosses the ball in an attempt for an ace.

Bondar [grade 11] will again be a star on the senior team," Richardson added.

The team played Wednesday in a consolation game. Results were not available at press time.

Senior girls rugby team hopes for strong finish

JORDAN LOUIE
staff reporter

The girls rugby team definitely gave their all during last Thursday's game. They ended the first half of the season with a 37-35 loss against Elgin Park. "It was a heartbreaking loss; two points is nothing . . . They won by a kick, so that's just getting lucky," said team captain **Shaelynn Zaurrini**, grade 12.

"As a team, we played a really, really good game, but we just didn't have much luck on the field," said **Amy Leem**, grade 11.

"We beat them up. They had six players taken off the field because we beat them, physically. Physically, we won that game, so walking away from it, I felt really strong," Zaurrini added.

The team will be seeded third or fourth in the upcoming Fraser Valley playoffs. Provincials are May 23 to 25.

The game prior, April 25, the girls defeated Charles Best with an impressive 39 - 0. "It wasn't really a challenge in terms of skills because we're miles ahead of them in just knowledge of the game and skill and our ability to play," Zaurrini said.

"We ran really hard; we ran through them, we ran around them. We tackled them and they weren't tackling us," added **Veronica Robbins**, grade 12.

Even in such a decisive victory, the girls have some improvements to make. "It kind [of] took our team the whole game to get into playing the rugby that we want to be playing," said **Stevie Schnoor**.

The girls have seen positive change since the beginning of the season. "I feel like after all the practices we've been to, we've really improved as a team because everyone's been out and we've been using all the skills we've learned in practices and games," said Leem.

"We need to improve on flow within the game - really utilizing all of our skills and putting it together and coming out as a really strong team," Zaurrini said. "We have the skills; it's just a matter of using them all together."

"At the beginning we had a lot of new players so we



On the battlefield: Grade 11, charges up the pitch in hopes to score a try. The girls pushed hard but did not get the result they were looking for as they lost to Elgin Park last Thursday.

were really lacking in experience, which is what you really need in rugby, but I think we improved by better communication in the team and better passing and kicking skills," Leem added.

"[Our] weaknesses I would say [are] our intensity and . . . we have to make sure we're all doing our part in the game

and all coming up hard in defence," Robbins said. "A lot of the girls are brand new this year and didn't even know you had to toss a ball backwards and now some of them are starting in the game and doing really well."

The girls play Clayton Heights Secondary today at 4:00pm at Harrier Field.

Talons impress at district championships despite numbers

ISABELLE DOCTO
staff reporter

Despite this year's small turn out for the track team, Talons still proved that quality triumphs over quantity at last week's district championships. The majority of the ten-member track team had stellar performances and qualified for the Fraser Valleys.

"I think that considering our team was way smaller this year than years past, the kids still did very well," said **Billy Demonte**, coach.

Ally Mandley, grade 12, placed first in senior girls long jump, second in 100-metre sprint, third in the 200-metre sprint and **Kyle Smith**, also grade 12, finished third

in 3000 metres. **Cheryl Chow**, grade 9, placed first in both junior girls long jump and triple jump. **Justin Questro**, grade 10, placed first in junior boys long jump and **Eric Chatten** and **Adam Chatten**, also grade 10, finished first and second respectively in the junior boys high jump. All qualified for the Fraser Valleys.

With a smaller team, competing in team events was not in their cards.

Mandley felt that it was unfortunate that they could not do relays. "It's my last year and I really wanted to do the 4x100 relay," she said.

A few injuries also stalled the chance for some team members to move on to the

Fraser Valleys.

Conrad Chow, grade 11, reinjured a hamstring that kept him from competing at the district championships, preventing him from a shot at the Fraser Valleys.

Smith was also injured, but was fortunate to compete for the first round of the district championships, landing him a spot in the

Golf team takes home gold

KAILA GUMOND
staff reporter

Gleneagle took home their sixth golf championship title on April 30. The senior team won by three strokes over Heritage Woods and Terry Fox.

"Our top golfer was **Henry Lee** [grade 9] who had the lowest score," said **Brian Unger**, coach. "He's one of the best golfers in the province and we were really happy to see him play to his potential. [He's only] in grade 9 so watch for him to become a real star in high school golf," he added.

"We had great performances from our other golfers and it was really great to see **Olivia Babichuk**, [grade 12], have a solid round. It was really her score that allowed us to finish in first place," said Unger.

"It was great to see **Paul Kim**, [grade 12], come out, because he has played off and on for the last few years and he clutched up for us as well," he added.

Unger sees good things for the team's future. "The younger players [who] are coming up through the ranks are developing and are encouraged by their enthusiasm. They are a couple years away from being really competitive," added Unger.

"I've been playing rather well these last couple of tournaments and I've been scoring pretty well and our team has been doing well this season," said Lee.

"Gleneagle had a strong team playing and we came out on top," said Babichuk.

Fraser Valleys.

Demonte adding that the district championships are "kind of like a preview...the Frasers are usually a better indication of what the competition's like."

The Gleneagle Talons track team will compete at the Fraser Valleys on May 13, 15, and 16 in Abbotsford.

"We [the junior team] came in third but we could have done better," said **Riley Baynton**, grade 9.

"I think I'm improving pretty well since the first game. Learning how to hit further and straighter and working on fixing a couple mistakes," Baynton added.

"As a whole, the team should improve by working on their game independently," said Babichuk. "Working on their strengths and weaknesses, like for me, it's putting. If I get my putting down, it will improve drastically. So if we all focus on one item then I think the team would improve a lot. And I think we should get to know each other more because we don't really talk that much so our teamwork could be improved as well," she added.

Baynton agreed. "[I want to improve on] mainly chipping. I feel like I don't hit the ball well."

"We always like to have more people join, who are reasonable players," said Unger. "Not a lot of people are avid golfers but I'm glad we had a lot of grade 9's join this year," he added.

"You don't have to be a Tiger Woods type of golfer to play on our team. But you need to have a bit of experience and enthusiasm and just more participation from interested players would be great," Unger said.

The Western Fraser Valley Championships were on Wednesday May 8. Results were not available at press time.



Off to the races: Grade 12, gets ahead with a fast start to his 3000 metre race in which he placed third. The Talons performed well in the recent district competition.

Thoroughly Modern Millie: roaring 20's visits Gleneagle

BRENDAN PARK
staff reporter

After nine months of rehearsals, practice and hard work, Gleneagle's Flock Theatre proudly presents *Thoroughly Modern Millie* bringing the 1920's back with its tap dancing and frilly dresses galore.

It's a New York full of intrigue and jazz -- a time when women were entering the workforce and the rules of love and social behavior were changing forever.

Millie double-casted by grade 11, **Jennifer Gillis**, and grade 10, **Cassidy Stahr**, meets Jimmy Smith played by grade 9, **Max Hall**, and love blossoms -- eventually.

There are a lot of strong female leads in this show and I wanted to do [a musical] where we could highlight this talent," explained **Ashley Freeborn**, musical theatre director. "I wanted to choose something more mature...so this is kind of our first attempt at doing something [different] to make sure our students get a wide variety of shows to work on."

"This is the year we've all sort of gelled together," continued Freeborn. "We have a big team. This is the first year that **Rachel Vaessen** is the theatre production teacher which is new because usually I was teaching that field. So it's definitely helpful."

"We've also had a student named **Donya Pourtaghi** [grade 12] who is assistant student director and she is also stage manager," explained **Lyndsey Britten**, grade 12, head choreographer.

"We've never had anyone to run that before. So it's a lot more organized because the roles are balanced between many people," she added.

Many students were pumped and excited for the musical's arrival, especially Gillis and Stahr.

"It's such an honor for me," began Gillis. "This is such a beautiful show and with everything that's happened this year with *Over the Rainbow*, and coming back to school, being cast with this part, it's all been an honour for me," she said, "it's become a dream come true. There's no place I'd rather be than the theatre."

"It's really exciting to be the lead of *Modern Millie*," said Stahr. "Especially because it's at school and normally it's a seniority thing, which gets the lead role. So I am very pleasantly surprised that I got the opportunity."

Other students are feeling the growing pressure as the premiere nears.

"I feel excited and nervous. It came up really fast for us but I think we're prepared," said **Emily Van Der Velden**, grade 11.

Musical theatre can seem intimidating for many people, especially incorporating both song and dance. For many students, it may be their first time learning a new genre of dance.

"For me the hardest thing about *Modern Millie* was learning the choreography, because I'm not a dancer," said **Ally Horncastle**, grade 11.

"Especially because I had a tap solo that was really hard for me. But Lyndsey Britten was a really great choreographer and everybody was so supportive, so you know after a few months of practice I got the dances," she added.

"The dancing for me was a little difficult to pick up, but once we started cleaning it up and practicing it more, I realized it wasn't as difficult as it seemed," said Hall.

"Being a dancer, it was a lot of fun, definitely harder than last year," said **Emily Black**, grade 12.

The months of practice were challenging. "It wasn't hard to follow the practice schedule," said **Sydney McArthur**, grade 11. "But when you have other things outside of musical theatre on the same days, then it's a little hard to do both at the same time. Either you leave theatre early to go to your other activity or you're late for your other activity because of theatre."

Students were devoted to creating *Modern Millie* and used their time efficiently and effectively, some even staying until 11 on some nights to finish painting set pieces, and making sure everything was in place.

"You're always doing something; there's never been a day where we weren't doing anything," said **Faly Mevamanana**, grade 11.

"We have a lot more props this year than last year. For example there are



And all that jazz: Grade 10, executes a well-choreographed move at a rehearsal for *Millie*. The musical is double-casted, with Stahr acting as one of the *Millies*.

these chairs that spin around on wheels with typewriters which took a lot of time. There are just a lot of set pieces unlike last year where we only needed a cage," Mevamanana said.

"People should come to watch *Modern Millie* because it was a real challenge this year for the kids to come out of their comfort

zones," began Freeborn. "The costumes are phenomenal, the sets are phenomenal and these kids have been working since September on this project. It has a lot of heart, a lot of energy and I really think that you're going to miss out if you don't come to watch the show."

Musical theatre is a course that is taught outside the regular time table at Gleneagle. Hall has had a big year in the theatre department, only being in grade 9 and being cast as the male lead.

"It was better than I expected. In my head of course, you always have that doubt that it's going to be a course where the girls are sassy with their groups and guys are there to make fun of you," Hall said.

"But it's completely different and it's where people all come together and become a big happy family," he added.

Freeborn is encouraging students to join the program.

"You should come and give it a go, because it can be really intimidating with all the singing and dancing and acting, and I know it takes a lot of courage to come to the first show and audition," she said.

"But I really think that once you get here that you have a lot of time to learn and that you'll feel comfortable with the singing dancing and acting. And that you got to take the leap, don't be afraid and give it a go," she added.

Thoroughly Modern Millie runs May 8 to 10 and May 15 to 17. Gillis will be starring on the 8, 10 and 16 and Stahr on the 9, 15 and 17. The show starts at 7:00pm. Tickets are \$12 per adult and \$8 per senior and student.



Dolled up dames: The cast of *Thoroughly Modern Millie* portrays the glitz and glam of the 1920's with their flapper dresses, their dapper suits and their fedoras. The musical runs from May 8 to 10 and again from May 15 to 17.