

## Code red, code red: this time no drill



**TALONS, FLOCKING TO SAFETY:** Rumours flew across the field and students remained calm despite the word 'bomb' being on the tip of every tongue. 1300 Gleneagle students patiently wait in Scott Creek Middle School for the all clear from Gerald Shong, principal. Students were later released upon permission from parents.

**JENNIFER KOU & NATALIE KRAEMER**  
Staff reporters

Gleneagle students and staff were evacuated on November 28 following a phoned in bomb threat against the school. After an initial 15 minute Code Red lockdown, students were evacuated to Scott Creek Middle School under the direction of the RCMP.

The caller explained that there would be a certain amount of time for the students to leave the building. After evaluating the situation, the administration decided to call for a code red lockdown and contact the RCMP for further instruction.

"We went to the code red lockdown because bomb threats are most likely not true but shooters are far more often the case," replied **Gerald Shong**, principal. "We had time to lock down and make sure the police would arrive to get their advice. We wanted to make sure if we took kids out of the building that the outside area would be secure for a more realistic threat."

At that point the RCMP advised the school to stay in a code red lockdown. They quickly arrived and did a sweep inside the building and outside on school grounds. Once no imminent danger was detected, safe passage for students to leave the school in order to head to Scott Creek Middle school was arranged.

During the code red lockdown, **Sean Mawhinney**, grade 10, said the students knew "absolutely nothing except that there was a code red and we are all being evacuated. So this is probably not an elaborate drill and I assume something has actually happened."

"My intuition told me it was not a drill because our daily announcements were cut off suddenly," said **Lavender Huang**, grade 11. "The whole class was really calm as we followed the procedures in order, which really impressed me."

Both staff and students responded to the situation quickly and efficiently. "Immediately

after [the call] Mr. **[Jerry] Areshenko**, [school counselor] . . . and Ms. **[Bindy] Johal**, [school counselor], came out of [their] offices and they started telling everyone in there to get to the back," said **Michelle Per**, grade 12, who had a free block at the time of the call. She added, "None of us really knew what was going on. [Johal] didn't know either so we got the feeling that it wasn't a drill."

After the student body arrived at Scott Creek Middle School, everyone waited on the back field for further information from the RCMP. Close to noon, students were released from the field, either through verbal parent consent or were picked up directly from the field.

"From information police had and the search that ensued, there was no real threat to student life," said Shong.

"We did a release because . . . we discussed the options with the police, and the relative time of us getting back to the building would have been closer to the very end of the school day," Shong added.

Throughout the initial code red and the evacuation, "overall the students were excellent," said Shong. "For the most part there was great order . . . and students caring for each other."

Once students arrived at Scott Creek many felt that "We're pretty safe here," said **Troy Brown**, grade 10. "If we got moved here and the RCMP are on the scene I think we'll be pretty safe. I don't think there is too much need for a concern."

"I was quite impressed with how my classmates handled such a serious situation, and I'm glad we're all safe," said **Seiji Story**, grade 10. "Hopefully nothing like this [will] happen again, but if it does, I hope we'll all remain as calm and collected as we were this time."

Previously, Gleneagle has had many drills to prepare students for emergency situations. "Drills give students an idea of what we need to do . . . whether we do a fire drill,

an earthquake drill or a code yellow, code red," said Shong. "I think one thing it does, is when you do routines it provides a sense of comfort and calm . . . even though students didn't know the full extent of it."

Students reinforced this idea by responding to the situation as they had in previous drills.

"I honestly thought everyone was following orders without any hesitation," said **Huang**. "We evacuated the building swiftly without any pushing or shouting. The only hiccup was trying to keep students in straight lines while on Scott Creek's field."

With so many drills, **Elle McCleave**, grade 10, found that "because of all the drills we've had there was very little urgency to the situation, which is good" but she went on to add that "in a time sensitive situation it may be a problem."

**Maddy Chad**, grade 12, said "I was very nonchalant about [the code red] because we had so many drills before," and that "it wasn't a big deal" to her. Chad added that

"Everything was fine, it was really calm." She also noted that "lots of people were nonchalant about what was going on."

**Max Pang**, grade 11, had a different perspective. "I think because we have so many drills, it makes it more fake in a way because you don't expect it to be real, you expect it to be a surprise drill. The more drills we have the less real it feels."

"I feel the school should tell us that it is not a drill next time," added **Josh Lin**, grade 10. "Some people was goofing around as they thought it was a drill. If they knew that it wasn't a drill, they would have behaved better."

But, "the drills definitely make a difference," said Shong. "It makes a difference for [administration] in how we do things, it make a difference to the kids and how they receive the news and how they perform, and our staff in how they look after the kids."

"We did our job that day and I commend the students for that," said Shong.



**THE GREAT GLENEAGLE MIGRATION:** Gleneagle students are guided to safety at Scott Creek Middle with the help of RCMP.

### INSIDE

**SHOP 'TILL YOU DROP:** Or maybe not. Columnist warns of the perils directly related to a consumer based society.

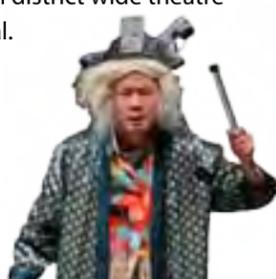


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**5 FASHION ON DISPLAY:** Gleneagle students strut their stuff on the cat walk in the first annual fashion show for Gleneagle.



**TIME TRAVELLING MADE POSSIBLE:** Drama students take us *Back to the Future* in the annual district wide theatre festival.



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### ONtheCALENDAR

- DECEMBER 12 Winter Formal
- DECEMBER 18 Christmas Music concert
- DECEMBER 20 Last Day of School Before Winter Break
- JANUARY 6 School Resumes



# Searching for real meaning of Christmas - fighting off commercialization of holiday season

In the US, the day following the national day of giving thanks, a chance to appreciate what we have, is called 'Black Friday'.

It's aptly named.

It is the true national holiday of our generation. A day celebrating masses of people who drop before they shop, who spend eighteen, twenty four or even more hours standing and sleeping in line for the chance to get their grasping hands on a discounted, over-priced flat screen TV.

Seven people died on Black Friday.

Seven lives were lost to the chaos of rampant consumerism.

It only gets worse from here. This marks the start of sale season, a bombardment of ads telling us to BUY BUY BUY; but also what can be the most spiritually and emotionally empty time of year.

Christmas used to be a religious holiday. It honoured the birth of the Son of God, Jesus Christ, and provides a joyous celebration for Christians as they give thanks to God for his love and mercy.

Since then, Christmas has been adapted into popular culture. Christians and non-Christians alike celebrate Christmas on December 25. But the religious and spiritual context has been lost.

Instead, we idolize a jolly old man who wears red and white and builds gifts with his elves that are gifted to the good children of the world.

Children are encouraged to write letters to Santa detailing everything they want under the tree on Christmas morning.

And what do they have to offer in exchange for these generous gifts? A few last minute good deeds to get on the nice list.

We are taught to find value in giving while we think of what we will receive. We sit on Santa's lap and promise to be good in exchange for the toy of the season.

Christmas reminds us of the shopping we have to do and the presents we have to buy. Is it any wonder that Christmas has become nothing more than a glorified gift exchange?

The meaning of Christmas has shifted and changed and has now been lost to the materialism and consumerism of modern society.

For many stores, Christmas is their highest grossing season. Entire industries are built on selling holiday joy to the



masses. Christmas has become commercialized and ready to be bought and gift-wrapped, for a fee of course.

On the other hand, Christmas, as well as other holiday celebrations, is also a time for family and friends. It gives us a chance to leave behind everyday stress and sit around the dinner table with the people we love.

No matter how you celebrate and what quirky traditions you have, Christmas reminds us of the love we all have for each other and the joy we can find in each other.

At the same time, it's undeniable that Christmas inspires many to embrace giving back to society. Even just within

the school, we see clubs take this opportunity to raise awareness for issues within the community.

Students are taking initiative to create change. Operation Christmas Child, Project Angel, and the many food drives and donation funds taking place in these few weeks are only a small portion of the charity being given, and hopefully students will learn to give outside of the school environment.

So is Christmas forever lost to us? Perhaps not. We need to see through this frenzy of sales and last minute gift hunting and realize that like the Grinch, our hearts have the capacity to grow three sizes too big.

## Advertisements - cause of never ending consuming cycle

### Edge columnist

Last weekend was Black Friday and the obvious thing to do would be to shop. And I did.

However, it was a disaster as usual in the States with horror stories popping up from coast to coast all over North America. Just go on Reddit and you'll know what I am talking about.

I am just glad we are in Canada, not the US where the reality is that Walmart in California had to hire police guards.

You may not realize this but the constant ads we see all day have pulled us into a never ending consuming cycle.

I swear it is all part of some evil master plan of those major American corporations to control us and take over the world. Advertisements and media are so focused on getting to us that they pay millions of dollars just for one minute of our time.

The average Canadian sees about 1000 advertisements a day and that's low compared to the Americans who see about 3000 advertisements daily.

The point is obviously to make us unhappy with what we already have and who we are.

“ We see commercials that tell us our hair is wrong, our skin is wrong, our car is wrong, our clothes are wrong, and ultimately the message is that WE ARE WRONG. And everything will be okay if we shop.”

—Edge Columnist



We see commercials that tell us our hair is wrong, our skin is wrong, our car is wrong, our clothes are wrong, and ultimately the message is that WE ARE WRONG.

And that everything will be okay if all we do is shop.

I am not saying that Black Friday is bad, I just hope we won't go overboard like the Americans.

What sucks even more is that people go to

work and pay off their bills from shopping, come home exhausted and watch TV and then feel like crap, and shop to feel better and on and on and on. Ha!

So much for entertainment and 'keeping up with the Kardashians!'

I used to be a shopaholic myself back in middle school but not anymore.

There is no way to stop this unless you stop watching TV. Sure we all like new stuff and throw out the old things unless they are dear to us and hold memories.

But the psychological impact we receive from all the commercials, believe it or not, is actually affecting us.

For example you may have a sudden random craving for a certain product. The reason for that is because your mind has been polluted by the constant ads you see at the mall, on TV, and online.

It's really stupid because if you happen to make minimum wage, you'd obviously buy cheap stuff that is DESIGNED to break down easily so you'd buy another one.

Once again, this contributes to the consumerism cycle.

Corporations: 1, consumers: 0.

# TALONSTalk

With the holidays almost upon us, *The Edge* asked: "What was your reaction when you found out Santa's not real?"

“ I was deeply saddened because I could've been naughty for the entire year. ”

grade 12



“ He's not real?!”

grade 11



“ I cried and threw my food on the floor. ”

grade 12



“ I wasn't really shocked because kids at school were like it doesn't exist. ”

grade 9



“ I asked about the tooth fairy and easter bunny right after. ”

grade 11



“ I was really young, I was sort of devastated. Now I'm fine with it because of my religion I didn't really believe in it. I was whining to my dad why it's not real. ”

grade 10



## Solution to clumsy life lies in laughing with, instead of at

YILIN ZHANG  
Edge columnist

Don't you hate it when you're walking around but trip on nothing? Or perhaps you're moving furniture and bang your pinky toe on the leg of a table. Maybe you're trying to catch the ball but somehow you miss it by a few inches and the ball smacks you right in the face. Congratulations! welcome to the clumsy life.

All those times you embarrassed yourself in gym, at home, or during hang-outs. Well don't feel alone, because there is an inner clumsy person in all of us. Being a very clumsy person myself, I understand that mortifying moment when you do something embarrassing and the whole class laughs at you.

So speaking from experience, I can tell you that after a few — okay maybe more than a few — of those embarrassing

accidents, you will get used to it.

Let me tell you one tip for letting yourself off easy: laugh with them! Just laugh it off, and show that you also have a good sense of humor. It'll wash away most or all the pain of embarrassment.

Oh, and those of you who think “Psh,

“ Most clumsy people already feel quite self-conscious about their mortifying blunders, so why point it out and make them stand out even more?”

Edge Columnist



who's clumsy? Me? Never.” And laugh whenever someone else unfortunately tumbles down. Well let me tell you, there probably was a time, and there will be many

more times, when you also have a clumsy moment in your life.

However, for those clumsy people out there, don't give up hope of becoming that graceful butterfly that glides smoothly through the air.

Everyone has a beginning, and more often

No! It takes years and years of hard-work, dedication, and motivation to improve and get to the level they are at.

So if you're the kind of person who runs after the basketball every two minutes during PE, or if you dislike that feeling of being the person with “butter fingers”, then practice! Practice how to catch the basketball, practice how to dribble it, and practice how to do those fancy tricks so others will gasp at your astonishing skills instead.

I'm sure if you set your heart on a specific goal, and are willing to work for it, you will get there.

Most clumsy people already feel quite self-conscious about their mortifying blunders, so why point it out and make them stand out even more?

I guess what I'm trying to say is that when we clumsy people do something mortifying, unintentionally, don't laugh at us. Instead, laugh with us.

## LETTERS to the EDITOR

[Re: Political correctness- prejudice prevention, or censorship?]

I thoroughly enjoyed Jennifer's article speaking about how society's political correctness has gone too far, as I feel the same. One situation that significantly bothers me is the suppression of Christmas because not all people celebrate it. At my younger sister's elementary school, throughout the year there will be signs promoting Chinese New Year, Diwali, and many other holidays from other cultures. However, when it comes to Christmas time no signs are displayed; the “Christmas Concert” from when I was younger has become “Winter Concert,” as school officials don't want to offend someone. How is celebrating other holidays “multiculturalism”, yet celebrating my own holiday “racist and inconsiderate”?

—Jacqueline Schaffer

This is a very well-written article, highlighting not the bad things people say about certain groups of people, but rather the reluctance of people to talk about this kind of stuff. Any attempt of discussion, and you're immediately shot down, and told to shut up. Maybe this article can bring some awareness to the topic.

—Miro Lee

I agree with the outcome of this article—that social justice warriors should stop

fingerwagging at anyone with the slightest curiosity about the differences between races and genders that make us all unique. I do feel however, that there is a wide difference between curiosity and people who stoop low enough to make jokes and rude comments about other genders and races. They should fear being labelled “racist” and “sexist” because those types of jokes and comments are offensive and out-of-date.

—Alexandra Horncastle

[Re: Honouring those who fought for freedom, year-round]

I think it's sad that soldiers who are dismissed from the military due to their injuries don't get repaid by Canada. It's not fair that if you've served for less than ten years, but had a serious injury, you don't get a pension. They deserve something for all their hard work.

—Alison Chung

I agree with this article. As soon as November 11 is over, no one talks about remembering those who fought for their country, the brave people who put other people's lives before their own. Due to lack of physical and mental wellness, they are forced to leave with no pension. I hurt to learn these facts today.

—Candice Ker

[Re: Tobacco companies prey on teens, desperate to stay in business]

It's sad to see smoking cigarettes advertised to be “sexy” in media today, especially in music videos where artists use prop cigarettes while their fans might be compelled to smoke real ones. Education is key! Value health!

—Amy Leem

I completely agree with this article - many young people don't realize how dangerous smoking actually is. Peer pressure is a huge influence in teen's lives, and many are only thinking of “looking cool” than the health risk. It is good to make teens aware of these issues and hopefully help to reduce the number affected.

—Taylor Mauer

[Re: Student Council collects screams, fear, donations for SHARE]

I think the Gleneagle student council did a great job with this year's Halloween events. The haunted house was well planned and executed; my friends and I really enjoyed it. The scary movie night was also very successful, even though it had to be pushed back a week.

—Alirod Ameri

[Re: TALONS students impersonate notables in learning experience]

I think this article was really interesting

because that kind of project seems rare. We often learn about people in school, but only for what they achieved. I think learning about the human being they were is much more engaging.

—Emily Murphy

[Re: Grade 9's on road to find their future career]

I really enjoyed this article and hearing about other students experiences. I had never really put much thought into all the career choices there are until Take Our Kids to Work Day. I think it's important to know what you want to do, but also know there are plenty of options out there.

—Claire Lunden

[Re: TALONS bring drama to New York with hip style]

I enjoyed reading the article about drama students going to New York. I'm quite biased because my brother, Andrew, was interviewed, but I really enjoyed seeing what my new peers thought about going on an amazing trip. Naturally, I envy them, but I am happy that they were given such an amazing opportunity to travel. The students are role models to me and with all their dedication to the arts, they deserved the memories they made. I'm hoping to have this opportunity in a few years as a grade 9 student and now as an aspiring actor.

—Kristin de los Reyes

# In spirit of new year, Re-Act club decorates bags

JENNIFER KOU  
Staff reporter

The Gleneagle Re-ACT club is working on multiple projects to help promote kindness and safety for this holiday season.

The club is working on a project to raise awareness against drunk driving by decorating paper bags for liquor bottles. **Nicola Cridge**, youth worker, proposed the idea to the Re-ACT members.

"I had been told about the campaign being done in other schools in Coquitlam and I thought this would be something really good for Gleneagle to do," Cridge said. "It's just a gentle reminder when [people] bring their bag to a place and they see these designs that remind them . . . bad things happen when you drink and drive."

"I think any little thing we can do is helpful for the community," added **Emlyn Swartzberg**, grade 11. "If these paper bags can save people and stop them from drinking and driving then that's worth it. It's worth the 500 bags we are decorating."

Through Operation Christmas Child and decorated stockings, gifts will be sent to families with children who may not be able to afford gifts.

This project consists of filling shoeboxes with various items such as hygiene products, school supplies, and toys,

that will be given to children between the ages of two to 14 in developing countries. The Re-ACT team has decorated and filled 17 boxes that have been sent out already.

"I've done this project since I was three, and it holds a special place in my heart," said **Stephanie Lui**, grade 12. "It hurts me to see others in pain, and through this project, I can bless a child overseas through these simple items that we take for granted."

Re-ACT is also helping the children in the community as well. "Right now we are working on filling and decorating

stockings for charity," said Swartzberg. "We're sponsored by Telus and they give them to families in need."

"We have different age groups for each stocking. So based on that, we are filling them up accordingly so they are a bit more personalized . . . putting in necessities as well as toys," said **Nasime Sarbar**, grade 12. "We just want to make sure that those that are less fortunate can still have a Christmas."

"We know that when the children get them, it's going to make their holiday a bit better and that's what we are aiming for," added Swartzberg.

## Holiday bazaar tests student marketing skills

OLIVIA SUN  
Staff reporter

Can't find time to do your Christmas shopping? Why not do it at school? From December 9 to 13, the Marketing 11 class will be hosting a 'holiday bazaar' that sells a variety of knickknacks and goods. It will be in the kiosk and the foyer. Some items include stationery, phone cases, Nutella baked goods, t-shirts, and shoelaces.

"There are ten to eleven groups in the class and they are all selling different things from cosmetics to foods," **Cherie Nagra**, marketing teacher said.

"I get my supplies from China, Japan, Korea, as well as

some local stores," said **Alison Kim**, grade 9, "and my product is stationery," she added.

The purpose of the project is "basically to learn how to operate your own business, manage your own money, your own inventory products, and ultimately to earn money," Kim commented.

Another group called Sikk Bands will be selling Gleneagle wristbands.

"Our goal is to provide our school community with a new affordable and trendy way to display school spirit," **Kimberly Woo**, grade 11 said.

"They will be black with Gleneagle Talons in gold for \$2," she added.

## Students take initiative in preserving environment, maintain trails

AMY LI  
Staff reporter

Maintaining Scott Creek Trail, one of Coquitlam's numerous nature pathways, will continue to be Gleneagle's responsibility. Students and staff members are to preserve and protect the natural environment of the trail by keeping it clean, green and safe. The City of Coquitlam has many diverse and beautiful trail systems, according to Adopt-A-Trail Stewardship Program, many of which are divided into sections to be maintained by a partnership between the city and its citizens who are willing to perform duties to improve the

appearance of their community.

**Emma Field**, grade 9, took the initiative of organizing a training session from Adopt-A-Trail for Gleneagle on behalf of the Green Team. Training was provided by **Dana Slocum**, a City of Coquitlam representative and the natural areas volunteer coordinator.

Slocum informed the Green Team and their sponsorship teachers, **Quirien Mulder ten Kate** and **Tessa Voykin**, of the following conditions: safety standards, litter pick-up and graffiti removal procedures, awareness of cougars, coyotes and bears and West Nile Virus knowledge. All equipment required for maintenance of the trail is provided by the city.

By joining this session, students and teachers have committed to a yearlong adoption of Scott Creek Trail and are expected to perform selected duties to the best of their ability.

"[This] program has [created] a positive effect on our local community, and will continue to thrive as more and more people become involved," Field said.

Students will "be monitoring the trail, hopefully, twice a month, every second and fourth Tuesday," said Mulder ten Kate, "This is a catchment area of our school and many students use it to walk home so it'll raise awareness for the creek's habitat. Salmon have now laid their eggs so it's

really important for people to stay out of the creek," she added.

Slocum said the goal of this program is "to reach as many people as possible . . . and for them to see the benefits of our urban forests. Since 2004, Adopt-A-Trail has grown a great amount; we've gone from four groups that were involved all the way up to 33 groups," one of which is Gleneagle Secondary School.

Slocum added, "I really appreciate Gleneagle's [involvement] in this program; it's great to see young people take initiative and ownership over some of these areas. You guys have set a great example for people in [our] community."

## Law students see supreme court in action, second degree murder case

DELARAM HOORFAR  
Staff reporter

"I see the very best and very worst of humanity," said **Madam Justice Fenlon** on Wednesday November 27, when Law 12 went on a field trip to the Supreme Court of B.C.

Cases in the court on that day included: sexual assault, perjury (making a false testimony) and some civil cases. There was also a second degree murder which got a lot of attention from the students. The case had two accused from the Hell's Angels gang. There also was a case in which the crown wanted the accused to return to the U.S, where he committed a crime.

"The purpose of the field trip was to observe how the various theories that the Law 12 students have been learning in my classroom are applied to real situations with real people in the Supreme Court of the province," said **Mike Milliard**, teacher.

"It's important for students to realize that our courts are used to settle a myriad of disputes that citizens may experience, including lawsuits, challenges of our rights and freedoms, and criminal acts such as assault, theft, drug trafficking or murder," he added.

After observing the court, the students had a 30 minute questioning session with Fenlon. She was a lawyer for 25 years before becoming a judge.

In her opinion, "the worst cases are murder and sexual assault of children."

When someone asked if we need appeals courts, she replied, "The decisions we make can change someone's life profoundly and it is good to have a court of appeal to fix mistakes."

"We have courts to protect people from an arbitrary action and government," she added.

**Jonathan Zhang**, **Emily Hewer**, **Nicholas Smulja**, **Maddy Chad**, all grade 12, were the curious students who asked questions from the judge.



**LISTENING TO THE JUDGE:** Gleneagle grade 12, sit in the prisoner's box and listen carefully as Madam Justice Fenlon answers questions in B.C. Supreme court.

"My favourite part of this field trip was seeing how the law system actually works," said Zhang. "We read a lot about it in the text book but it is nice to have a first time experience to see how it works," he added.

"The language was a lot more technical that I was expecting. You need to be precise about everything and there was

a lot of sections of law that were referred to," Zhang said.

"I learned more about how the court room actually works and how they run the cases," said **Zoe Payan**, grade 12. "The most interesting cases are the intense and the dramatic ones because there is so much more action in the court room," she added.

# Artists work arduously on portfolios to impress universities

**ANIKA LEE**  
Staff reporter

Gleneagle art students have a unique opportunity to showcase their work to prospective universities tomorrow at Emily Carr. The students will get the chance to line up in front of the universities that they are interested in and receive individual critique on their portfolios.

"I'm so glad that my students get the chance . . . of having their portfolio evaluated by someone other than their teacher, but instead by talented artists with different perspectives," said **Melanie Stokes**, visual arts teacher.

"I think the art portfolio day is amazing because we get a chance for college representatives to tell us what to improve on and what things to focus on," said **Lynn Ra**, grade 12. "It gives us another chance to better ourselves before all our final university applications."

"I hope that I can show off many different areas of skills," said Ra. "I'm trying to show them that even if I apply as a fashion designer, I can do a lot of other things such as drawing, designing and painting."

"I want to showcase my skills and my artistic thoughts. Hopefully, through my art I can really display who I am and my personality," said **Sarah Choe**, grade 12. "Later when we apply in January, I really think the art portfolio day will have helped us as the critique that we receive on that day will tell me what to improve on."

Students dedicate a lot of time and effort to creating their portfolios. "It's so much work. I started my portfolio last December, almost a year ago, working from Monday morning to Sunday night every week during the summer, but I'm still not satisfied with my work," said Ra. "The university I want . . . is renowned, so a lot of people are applying to this school and I feel like my work is not yet good enough to compete with everyone else."

"Many people think that if you're an art student, you don't have to study. But the total opposite is true," Ra added. "For instance, Emily Carr requires outstanding grades in three to four academic courses, so we have to manage our time doing our art and studying . . . But I think it would be much more difficult for us if we didn't have this class to help us



**REFLECTIONS:** Grade 12 art student adds the finishing touches onto her self portrait. She is one of the many students to seek early admission into the visiting universities.

with our portfolios and whatnot," Ra added.

However, the art students are grateful that they have the chance to work on their art in school.

"Gleneagle is the only school in SD43 that offers Art Careers and this is a whole course that allows them to prepare for their art portfolio, so they have time in school to actually work on their art," said Stokes.

"And also we constantly have people coming in to help them," she added. "For instance, this week I had two reps

coming in to talk about their programs and give critiques on the student's portfolios. Tuesday, is when the California College of Art rep [came in] and Thursday [was] the representative from the University of Maryland."

"Even if the art class takes a lot of my time, I feel like it's really worth it because I'm doing something I love," said Choe. "I'm also so thankful that I have the ability to work on my art in school and have an amazing teacher to help me instead of having to do this by myself," she added.

## "May the odds be ever in your favour" this holiday season

**JENNIFER KOU**  
Staff reporter

The global issues club will be running a Hunger Games themed food drive during the second week of December to collect cans for SHARE. "We will be having different teachers signing up as tributes and each class will be assigned to a certain district based on [their] block two class," said **Megan Edmunds**, grade 12. "When [students] bring in cans, the points will go towards [their] district tribute."

When districts reach a certain amount of points, 'gifts' will be given to their tribute to help them win in the games. The global issues club will then "craft a story centered on the tributes that [will run] on the announcements each day," said **Richard Zhang**, grade 12.

The idea started when members of the club "thought that the Hunger Games was a funny pun about food and hunger," said **Zoe Fajber** grade 12. "Then somehow we made a story about teachers in a hunger

games scenario, but without violence and killing."

"It's a food drive with a twist," added **Jennifer Allott** grade 12. "It would provide incentive for students to bring cans but we also hope people would bring food out of the goodness of their hearts."

In past years, global issues has run a food

## First ever masquerade fashion show at Glen struts its stuff

**YASAMAN HOORFAR**  
Staff reporter

Gleneagle's hairdressing department held a masquerade-themed fashion show on December 4 to show off their styling talent. Keeping in tune with the growth in the hairdressing department, the class sponsored the show which was open to the public.

It is the first time, the hairdressing department held a fashion show to show the passion and talent of students. Students suggested the idea to have this fashion show in September.

drive ever year. "We are using this idea as just another way to create a fun experience and hopefully get people motivated to bring in food," said Edmunds. "I think it's always around Christmas, when you are getting presents and everything is very much about how lucky we are . . . that we can use these happy feelings to help people who are in

"We want the hairdressing program to be known. We want reputation and want to start this year, by being well known in school," said **Kimia Maleki**, grade 12. "This year the program is very successful. We have great teachers and students. We're like a family," she added.

The event is held to raise money for the hairdressing class. It is sponsored by After Five Grad Clothing, Blanche Macdonald, KMS and L'Oreal.

"Ms. [Janet] Kim was very supportive with the idea of holding this fashion show," said Maleki. "Also Mr. [Jeremy] Clarke, [vice principal], and Mrs. [Susan] Priestly were

situations where they might not be able to relax so much and have all the benefits we have," she added.

As the food will be donated to SHARE food bank, the idea of helping those in need in our community was a strong focus of this project. "There are still people locally in the Tri-cities who are struggling," said Allott.

highly supportive and contributed to our program," she noted.

40 models participated in the fashion show and more than 100 tickets were sold. "We are doing great. My students are very passionate and motivated. They are willing to do well," said Kim. "They want to do more than just hairdressing. They will be great hairdressers," she added.

"The fact that Gleneagle's very first fashion show is being held is extremely exciting!" said **David Hui**, grade 12.

"It's innovative, and it challenges us as aspiring hairstylists to be creative beyond our comfort zones," he added.

## Winter formal next week set to be "best dance Gleneagle has seen yet"

**KAREN LAU**  
Staff reporter

Next Thursday evening marks Gleneagle's Winter Solstice – the school's second dance in as many years, after a six year drought.

Organized by the student council, tickets for the event are \$7 and are on sale all this week. Talons will be expected to dress formally, and the music choices will cater towards a classier atmosphere as well.

"We've worked with the same production [company] as last year, but did our best to provide more for our students while keeping the price friendly," said **Sang Lee**, grade 12,

student council marketing director.

"For the grade 12's, [this] will be their one and only winter formal, and we want to make a lasting impression," said **Sean Lee**, grade 11, student council treasurer. "I'm looking forward to see the student body suit up and look sharp," he added.

"I want people to come to realize that dances in high school are a lot better than in middle school," said **Derek Wong**, grade 12, student council chair. "The DJ company that's hosting it . . . is extremely professional, has excellent setups . . . and [creates] a good atmosphere."

With such high expectations, the student

council has been working to ensure their plans go through. Coming off a series of Halloween events, they immediately began organizing the dance and contacting sponsors.

"As of now, our biggest concern is ticket sales. Last year, we received astounding numbers . . . we hope to raise the bar this year," said Sean Lee.

Though Sang Lee believes "ticket sales are an advertisement in itself," the outcome of the dance is highly dependent on the interest of student council members and the dance's attendees.

"Everyone needs to be enthusiastic

about the event . . . to make it a success. Social media can only get us so far, and word of mouth is something that's really important," added Wong.

The spring fling last April was just "a sign of greater things to come," according to Sean Lee. In making school dances a tradition, the student council hopes to raise awareness, promote school spirit and develop Gleneagle's social scene for years to come.

"We've heard many people discuss and wish to have another dance," said Sean Lee. "We think we can overcome the challenges and deliver the best dance Gleneagle has seen yet."

# Student debaters triumph over teachers, admin

AMANDA HUANG  
Staff reporter

Can you ever win an argument with a teacher? Apparently you can. Gleneagle students are standing their ground and winning arguments against their teachers in the student versus teacher debates sponsored by the Me to We Team.

The event began with **Jonathan Zhang**, grade 12, debating against principal **Gerald Shong** on the topic of capital punishment on November 25. Shong was for capital punishment and Zhang opposed it. After minutes of rebuttal, Zhang was declared the winner over Shong with the audience votes of 24-17.

"[The victory] felt a bit awkward," said Zhang. "I felt like Mr. Shong did a better job, and it was quite a close vote."

The student debaters' victory continued on the following day when **Zoe Fajber**, grade 12, discussed abortion with socials teacher **Andrew Lloyd**. Fajber's humorous use of language often made the crowd burst into laughter. In the end Fajber successfully convinced the majority of the audience that it is legitimate for women to make the choice to abort.

"I spent about three days [preparing]. The night before the [debate] I was up. I felt like a university student again," said Lloyd. "I learned that debating is really difficult in front of the audience. It taught me the pressure that students feel when they have to create presentations or debate."

In the third debate, **Nick Smulja**, grade 12, had a heated discussion with vice principal **Mike Parkins** over gun regulation. Smulja compared data from different countries and impressed both his opponent and the audience.

"I really like his point of comparing



**CENTER STAGE:** Gleneagle Grade 12 student gives his statement opposing gun regulation against Gleneagle staff. Students versus teachers debate last week involved controversial topics such as abortion, capital punishment, and nuclear energy.

Switzerland and Congo. It was really impressive," said Parkins. "He deserved to win the debate."

The event was originally planned for November 25 to 28, but two of the debates

were postponed due to the code red lockdown. Each debate was about 20 minutes long including an opening statement, closing statement, and rebuttal. In the end, audiences got to vote for the debater they

thought was more convincing.

The final debate was held yesterday with Shong debating **Richard Zhang**, grade 12, over nuclear energy. The result was not available at press time.

## Leadership students race to challenge selves, serve others

YILIN ZHANG  
Staff reporter

Leadership 12 students will be racing through charitable tasks in the Amazing Race, Gleneagle style, throughout the Lower Mainland, on December 13.

The students will be taking on tasks and challenges throughout the entire day, either as a team or individually to move on from one location to another either by foot or transit, and eventually end at a surprise location called the pit stop. Some tasks are physical, while other tasks challenge the group mentally. But what makes this race so special are that every task is charitable, which means every team is performing a service to give back to our community and making a difference as they complete the race.

Gleneagle students won't only be giving back to the Tri-Cities. Instead they're performing generous tasks that stretch from Gleneagle all the way to Vancouver. However, each task must be performed in a certain amount of time, and each team has to check in with **Adam Hayes**, leadership teacher, on a regular basis. If the time limit has not been met when the teams are checking in with Hayes, then he will send that team directly to the pit-stop.

The students will be interacting with twelve different agencies outside the school. Some are charities, some are government agencies, and some of them are businesses. There will also be four notable people participating in the amazing race as well.

"I'm excited to see what activities [there] are," said **Sarah Lee**, grade 11, "and experience what it is like to work with my

Leadership 12 class to overcome some challenges."

"I've heard fantastic things from previous participants," said **Sang Lee**, grade 12. "So I'm hoping to have a blast!" she added.

Leadership 12 students do a lot of experiential learning, and throughout the semester they've learned about the important values they hold, and how those values translate into behaviors which they can apply in the amazing race, according to Hayes. Everyone will be using their decision making skills and problem solving skills to get through the race. Since the teams are made by Hayes, each team has a variety of leadership styles, so everyone have to adapt, make changes to their own style, and adjust to the group that they are in to work with the different personalities. This race will show who can perform under pressure, and what

behaviors will show under stress.

"If I have to use a word to describe their skills," said Hayes "it will be applicable."

According to Hayes, the amazing race is a good opportunity for the Leadership 12 class to bond, become a little closer, and grow as a little family who cares about one another.

Over 30 hours were spent on organizing this race, because people's schedules have to be coordinated and the timing of the tasks has to make sense as well. Preparing this event alone, Hayes think that coordinating the time is always a struggle.

It is undetermined whether semester two will also have an amazing race, since this is the first year that Hayes has a semester two Leadership 12 class. However, he promises that he has something else that will be equally challenging and different.

## Successful Toastmasters complete cycle, encourage newcomers

JENNY YANG  
Staff reporter

The Toastmasters club has successfully completed their first series of meetings. They will meet again in February to restart their second session after meeting eight times between October 3 and November 21.

The club provides each person a chance to try out the different roles: the speakers, the evaluators, the timer, the grammarian, the chair, and the table topic masters. The table topic is for impromptu speaking done spontaneously. Also, the grammarian chooses the word of the day and the speakers have to use it when they are speaking.

"We always change the roles. The idea is not everybody speaks every time," said **Andy Albright**, Toastmasters

club supervisor.

"You speak when you are ready to speak. We are not going to force people. We might try to encourage people to get up and do one of the table topics if you don't want to do the longer speech," he added. When you "walk up to the podium and speak for a couple of seconds and you walk back, you've started," he added.

"I found myself willing to take the risk," said **Shakiba Zahab**, grade 11. "Every role challenges the person in one way or another, and I learned something new about myself every time after the meetings," she said. "I learned to think outside the box, to organize my thoughts quickly so I can talk about a subject in a limited amount of time, and to take pauses when presenting," she added.

The Toastmasters club encourages more students to join.

"The best cure for [fear of] public speaking is just to do it," said Albright.

"It is good for people who are shy, like me, to practice," said **Shannelle Saujani**, grade 11. "People are not judgmental, and we all understand each other," she said. "I think that's what makes the club really fun."

The Toastmasters club is a new club at Gleneagle and encourages more people to join next semester. The club welcomes students who have a fear of public speaking. Each session runs for eight weeks in a row and the members meet every Thursday.

The club is supported by members of the Rocky Point Toastmasters club, who work as mentors to help Gleneagle students improve their presentation and time management skills.

# Confident, practiced seniors in shape for great season

**MARIE TURCOTT**  
Staff reporter

Senior boys are off to a strong start with a win in overtime against Pitt Meadows Tuesday night. They had a 89-37 win in their first game against Enver Creek on Tuesday, November 26. They faced a close loss on Friday's game finishing with 69 - 56 against Walnut Grove. The boys feel quite confident for the coming season.

"For the first half [of the Enver Creek game], the boys played really strong," said coach **Tony Scott**, "but in the second half they were confident that they were going to win and didn't put as much effort in."

With six non-returning players, the team faces the challenge of continuing with only ten players.

"I think we have some opportunity to do well. I'm kind of worried because we don't have as many of the past players in . . . the senior group," said Scott.

"We have some core players, and then the supporting players; some who are less experienced, in the sense of playing basketball, but seem to be making some great progress in the last month or so," Scott said.

"I think we're a good team; we're going for it," said **Brenden Bailey**,

grade 12, point guard. "We have good chemistry because we've played together for the last three years. But we all have big egos."

"We're much more experienced than last year; everybody is more skilled, stronger, quicker and we're ready to have a good year," said **Grant Galbraith**, grade 12, center. "We've got really good guard-play, and we're really strong inside and outside, making us really balanced as a team."

"I don't really think we have any weaknesses. We just need to keep focused and think about coming games instead of the past," said **Mathew Goroza**, grade 11, forward. "Really, our overall game has been improving."

The rest of the team agrees that they have few obvious weaknesses.

"We have a lot of skill on our team, great talent. We have a lot of players who play for elite teams during the summer, and should be good for the season," said **Cordell Parker**, grade 11, forward. "I feel like we're gonna win it all."

"Every day you're working on something to improve your skill. The big thing now is just trying to get [the boys] all relatively close to the same level, so we don't drop off in our performance," said Scott. "The challenge of being able to perform at a high level every single game, and the challenge every



**SHOOTING FOR THE STARS:** *Gleneagle student, grade 11, takes a shot against Enver Creek last week. The boys won by a landslide in their first home game of the season.*

single day of trying to get better will allow us to be successful throughout the year," he added.

"We have a few tough teams in December. [Last] week we played Walnut Grove, who's currently ranked number three in the province, and we'll also play Tamanawis in a few weeks, so those are big games,"

said Galbraith.

"I'm looking forward to a great season," added Goroza.

All the boys will work to pass Fraser Valleys into provincials.

"We just want to try to get better every single game, every single practice and hopefully that allows us an opportunity to get to our goal," concluded Scott.

"People can come out, watch us play, be good spectators, have some fun, and support the boys," he added.

Next week, the team will participate in the Walnut Grove tournament from December 10-12. The next home game will be on Saturday, December 14 against Tawanawis.

## Senior girls b-ball optimistic, ready for fierce competition

**ERIC LIU**  
Staff reporter

The senior girls' basketball team had a decisive victory over Byrne Creek this Tuesday, winning 70-25. Previously, they played in a tournament at Byrne Creek last weekend, placing ninth in a 16 team competition. They lost their initial game to St. Thomas More on Thursday, November 28, but won the next three games over Terry Fox, Burnaby Mountain, and Richmond.

They had to go to the St. Thomas More game without their uniforms or their shoes after the evacuation last Thursday. "The evacuation didn't affect us; the girls rallied together when they went home, and gathered stuff from last year," said **Patty Anderson**, coach.

The girls also lost a close game in exhibition play earlier against Enver Creek, 60-28. "We tried our best, and if we played the way

we played in the last five minutes the entire game, we would have won," said **Chiara Bordignon**, grade 12.

Coach Anderson was pleased with the girl's effort in that loss. "I thought the girls did awesome," she said, "because that was the number one team for the double A in the province that we played against. I thought the kids did great. But I think they were a little bit nervous in front of the big crowd," she added.

The team is led by three seniors, **Bordignon**, **Lauren Pettifer** and **Courtney Bengo**. The team is composed of all grades. "I believe in the varsity system, like they run in the States," said Coach Anderson. "We are smart; we work hard; and work for each other. The older girls help the younger girls. The older girls . . . do a lot of role modeling, and show a lot of leadership."

Pettifer is optimistic about their chances this year.

"We have a small team, number wise," she said, "but it doesn't seem to make a difference to our play. So far we're doing good things," she added.

Bordignon agrees. "I feel we are a really strong team and we will have a good season, despite the loss against Enver Creek," she said.

Anderson believes the team will develop in the future "if they keep developing their skills, know each other a little better, and just keep working hard."

"I feel like we are coming together as a team," said rookie **Sara Knowles**, grade 9. "We did really well against the best team in the double A," she added.

## Wrestling team trains to win

**NATALIE KRAEMER**  
Staff reporter

The Gleneagle wrestling team is primed and confident for the season to come. They went to their first meet at Terry Fox Secondary yesterday, but results were not available at press time.

Even though there are only eleven students on the team this year, the "dedication to practice is strong" according to **Aarman Bondar**, a returning senior wrestler. "What we're doing right now is practicing Monday, Tuesday and Thursday after school to get ready for our coming meets" said **Mark Tustin**, the teams coach. "Most of the team is returning. Out of all the kids on the team this year, only one is new so they know what they're doing," he added.

"There is a whole series of skills that these students develop," Tustin said. "They learn a lot about their own self-control, especially in competition when things get really intense." According to Tustin these students learn about "the pressure that other people put on their bodies, as well as the pressure that they put on themselves." Plus, he added "They all work really well with each other." Bondar is adamant that attendance at all practices is "really important because if your training partner isn't there, you have no one to wrestle with."

Evidently this year's wrestling team is

smaller than usual, but that is not necessarily a bad thing according to the team. "The coaches are able to focus more on what you're doing individually," said **Brandon Gair**, a returning wrestler. The decrease in numbers in this year's team makes **Amy Amirjabbari** the only girl on the team. "It's not so bad though," she said. "It's actually really fun, because in wrestling we train as a team, but when you're out there it doesn't matter if you're the only girl on your team because you're the only one in the ring."

Amirjabbari thinks that "we're going to do just fine this season; we all have experience." New to the team this year is **Aidan MacDonald**, grade 9, who has already been wrestling for three years. He says that the "major difference between this team and my middle school team is that the practices are a lot more intense."

Tustin said that one of the "hardest obstacles to overcome is being able to sustain a high level of activity and intensity even when you're exhausted. You've got to be the fastest one out there."

Something that Tustin has noticed in the past few years is that "competition is becoming more foreign to students as they come from middle and elementary schools where they are encouraged to participate, rather than compete with others." He says he finds "competing with others is a way for students to achieve their personal best."

## SPOTLIGHT



**SMILING FROM THE PODIUM:** *Gleneagle students won double gold in relays at the provincial swim championships in November. A grade 11 student also won gold in the individual breast stroke finals, while a grade 12 student took bronze.*

# Gleneagle drama students blast to past with Metfest play

ALISHA LEE  
Staff reporter

Last week, the Gleneagle drama department performed the play, *Back to the Future*, as a preview for Metfest.

"Metfest is a district-wide theatre festival that is meant to support enrichment in performing arts," **Ashley Freeborn** said. "Every high school is usually involved, except for Port Moody this year, and we each bring up to one hour of our very best work, and we are adjudicated professionally by someone in our local theatre community."

"We get a professional adjudicator who gives us tips and a talk about our show after it's done, like what we can improve on, what was good," said **Andrew de los Reyes**, grade 12, who played Marty McFly. "They also pick the best play to go to provincials and actually, last year's Metfest [we were] determined as the best play but we didn't get to go to provincials because it conflicted with musical theatre; however, this year it should be different," he added.

"Before last year ended we decided throwing around the idea of *Back to the Future* to Ms. Freeborn and because she's an awesome teacher, she decided that if we wanted to do it, and if we think we can do it, we can do it," de los Reyes added.

"The only thing that was standing in our way was how do we get a DeLorean time machine," Freeborn said. "So once my dad agreed, after much, much coercing, to create a DeLorean time machine, I figured we could go ahead with the show."

With de los Reyes as Marty, George McFly was played by **Dylan Araki**, **Jennifer Gillis** played Lorraine McFly, Doc Brown was played by **Albert Cao**, and **Mitch Howey** took the part of Briff Tannen. All are grade 12 students.

"My character is Lorraine Baines, so she's Marty's mother and she actually is very in love with her son back into the past so it's really funny to play," Gillis said. "Lorraine is kind of a damaged character. At the



SEARCHING FOR A WAY BACK: Gleneagle students are getting ready to return to the future by fixing the flux capacitor on their time machine.

beginning, or in the future, she's actually an alcoholic and she's really overweight and a mess. When we go back into the past, we kind of see her journey from being this innocent girl to slowly becoming and giving in to peer pressure, and drinking, and smoking, and going down the wrong path which leads her into becoming an alcoholic and kind of a mess when she is a mom. I've never played a character like that before. I've never played a mom, never mind an alcoholic," Gillis added.

"We've enjoyed every second of it. We're all huge fans of *Back to the Future*, so we tend to have a lot of fun working together. We work really hard, but it's hard work that we love doing," said Freeborn. "I think that

the character work that the kids have done is outstanding. They put their heart and soul into this and it really shows," added Freeborn.

"My favourite scene probably has to be the scene between George and me, when I first meet him, my father, when I go back in time," de los Reyes said. "This is the first time I realize that I'm looking right at my father . . . you're introduced to Biff, the antagonist, and then you're introduced to George and tons of other characters and it's really fun to do," he added.

"[My favourite scene is] the dance or the bedroom scene. The dance is where George and Lorraine fall in love and they kiss for the first time and the moment that Marty

has been working so hard for and wanting to make happen finally comes true," said Gillis. "It is a bit creepy in the beginning scene when Lorraine first sees Marty and that love at first sight with her son, that's the bedroom scene. She is very much all over her son, which is kind of weird but it's very funny and humorous and it's fun to play that up."

"I'm just excited to get the show going because the rehearsal process has been tough but everybody has been putting so much hard work into it and I think it'll definitely show," de los Reyes added. "I'm just really excited for the performance nights to bring this up to Metfest and show the community what we've got."

## Great future chances for art students at post secondary night

ANNE RHEE  
Staff reporter

Future art and media gurus discovered a variety of career options at Gleneagle's post secondary night for visual art, digital media, film, and animation on Wednesday. Nineteen post secondary institutions presented their programs to students from Coquitlam and surrounding districts and gave parents and students the opportunity to ask questions.

This night was an "attempt to give students the opportunity to look into a lot of different options that the post secondary institutions are offering," said **Mike McElgunn**, visual arts teacher.

Post secondary art institutions, including Emily Carr University, SFU, Kwantlen Polytechnic University, and Capilano University presented their programs. Specifically, SFU presented both their Contemporary Arts and Interactive Arts and Technology programs. Kwantlen Polytechnic University presented both their studio arts and design programs and Capilano University presented their IDEA, Motion Picture Arts and Animation programs.

Students get "basic information about what programs are being offered, what the admission requirements are, or what the work load would be like," said **Jodey Udell**, digital media, film and animation teacher. Furthermore, "[students] really want to find out [if] this [will be a] survival option for them for living," he added.

There were students who attended the event for the second time "because they wanted to see some different programs than what they saw last year or wanted to go back to the one they saw last year to make sure it is the right choice for them," said Udell.

For the past few years, post secondary art institutions stopped coming because not many students participated. Starting last year, Udell and McElgunn worked hard to restart the post secondary night for art students. "It was an immense amount of work that two of us put in," said Udell. Consequently, more schools were interested in coming, such as UBC and BCIT. Starting next year, another high school will be responsible for the art post secondary night.

This event at Gleneagle benefited "students and parents because they could go in and listen without having to go around to different open houses all over the Lower Mainland," said McElgunn. "I think the people who are able to listen to things like that are better informed than

the people who just hear things from other places or try to do the research on their own," he added. "To read it on a website - you know information. To have someone come and talk to you and show you work, gives you a better feel of what the program is actually like," said McElgunn.

"On a post secondary night, there is only one school in [each] classroom, so it was so much easier to ask questions," said **Sakura Asano**, grade 12. "I can also ask detailed questions without having to e-mail them back and forth." However, Udell emphasized the importance of researching basic information before going to the post secondary night.

Grade 11's were also encouraged to come to start making decisions about which courses to take in grade 12. "I'm still searching for [a field in] art that will fit me and lead me to my career," said **Bowen Fong**, grade 11.

"I hope to be enlightened about the process and the work that we are required as preparation [for the post secondary schools]," said **Shannelle Saujani**, grade 11.

"Students should be active in making their decisions," advised McElgunn. "They [should] go out, listen carefully and ask questions. Get the information that you really need. If you don't think you've got the right information, ask questions. But this is a really good way to gather information to help you make a decision about possible career or training," he added.

"If [students] are not sure it is [their] passion or not, then they need to spend a lot of their free time doing this type of work because then they will find out very quickly," said Udell.

"If you like something, just stick with it because you'll find more opportunities," said Asano. "It is [as if] there is one road and there are different paths to it."

Coming with parents to the post secondary night is great because if they see and hear about the different art programs in post secondary, parents are likely to support what their children want to do, McElgunn said.