

Jazz gala's "sweetness" set to showcase student skills

NATALIE KRAEMER
Staff reporter

Jazz and cuisine will be featured on February 28 at Gleneagle's annual Jazz Gala, in the MPR.

"The jazz groups have been preparing the [upcoming] tunes for a couple months," according to grade 12 music student **Sepehr Rashidi**. "The vibe is completely different, there's a certain sweetness and professionalism at the jazz dinner because of the lights, professional musicians, and food." Rashidi said. It's what "sets the Gala apart from a concert."

Cassidy Stahr, grade 11, added "at this Gala, no one gives us a medal or placement. We simply perform as many songs as we have ready for an audience to showcase what Gleneagle's music program is capable of."

Musical director **Ed Trovato** said that it is his job to "make sure every music group is ready to perform, that's vocal jazz, jazz band and jazz combo. I also organize the guest musicians." Trovato said that "the rest of it is taken care of. The setup is handled by wonderful parent volunteers and the food is handled by the chefs, whom I've already

spoken with and the menu sounds really classy." He also reveals that "world class professional jazz musicians **Alan Matheson, David Branter and Rob McKenzie**" will be performing on stage as well as the students.

"The fact that the jazz groups are much more condensed [than concert band] and the sound is way different," said Stahr. She added that, "more challenging pieces are being worked on."

As a singer herself, Stahr is able to tell that "**Lexi Burgess** [grade 12], **Amy Han** [grade 12] and [herself] will all be soloing with jazz band accompaniment."

There will be several non-vocal solo improvisation including Rashidi, **Aidan McDonald**, grade 9, **Nick Chew**, grade 10, **Sina Maloufi** and **Sean Huggins**, both grade 11, **Nolan Speller**, grade 12.

"Jazz improvisation is not something that is easily perfected, as you can't read notes off a page like classical music," Rashidi said. He also added that in order to improvise jazz "you have to have a working vocabulary of riffs and a large knowledge of music theory."

Rashidi concluded that "you can bend the rules in jazz, but if you try to bend classical music it'll snap in half."



ALL THAT JAZZ: Vocal jazz students are mic'd up at one of their rehearsals prior to Gleneagle's annual Jazz Gala.

NATALIE KRAEMER PHOTO

Students earn four medals at Vancouver United Nations Conference

MARIE TURCOTT
Staff reporter

Students tackled real world issues as they represented countries at the Vancouver Model United Nations from February 14 - 15, winning four medals. **Sean Lee**, grade 11, won best delegate. **Julio He**, grade 12, **AJ Lahouaoula** and **Eric Liu**, both grade 10, all won honourable mention.

MUN is an organization with the aim to open students' eyes to what is going on around the world. The event took place downtown at Hyatt Regency.

"MUN is a kind of simulation of the United Nations," said **Lavender Huang**, grade 11. "It's usually a two day or

three day conference, and we stay there and we represent a country [in] a committee." She is representing Indonesia and the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

"There are various topics you debate about," said Sean Lee, representing France and the World Health Organization. "Throughout the conference, you act as the representative of your own country and take your country's policies and their perspectives and you use that towards decision making throughout the conferences."

Sarah Lee, grade 11, provides an example. "I am in MUN Human Rights Council and the two topics we're going to be talking about throughout the whole conference are human

rights in prison and religious discrimination in the Middle East and in Africa. You get a country, so I'm Botswana, and you debate and come up to solutions to those topics."

Model UN is an opportunity for students to spend a weekend as world leaders, as well as develop confidence in numerous areas, like public speaking and debating.

"I wanted to broaden my knowledge about world issues and work on my public speaking skills," said **Jeffery Gao**, grade 11. "I am looking forward to just having a fun time [in] downtown, in a hotel. When you're not in a committee they actually throw parties."

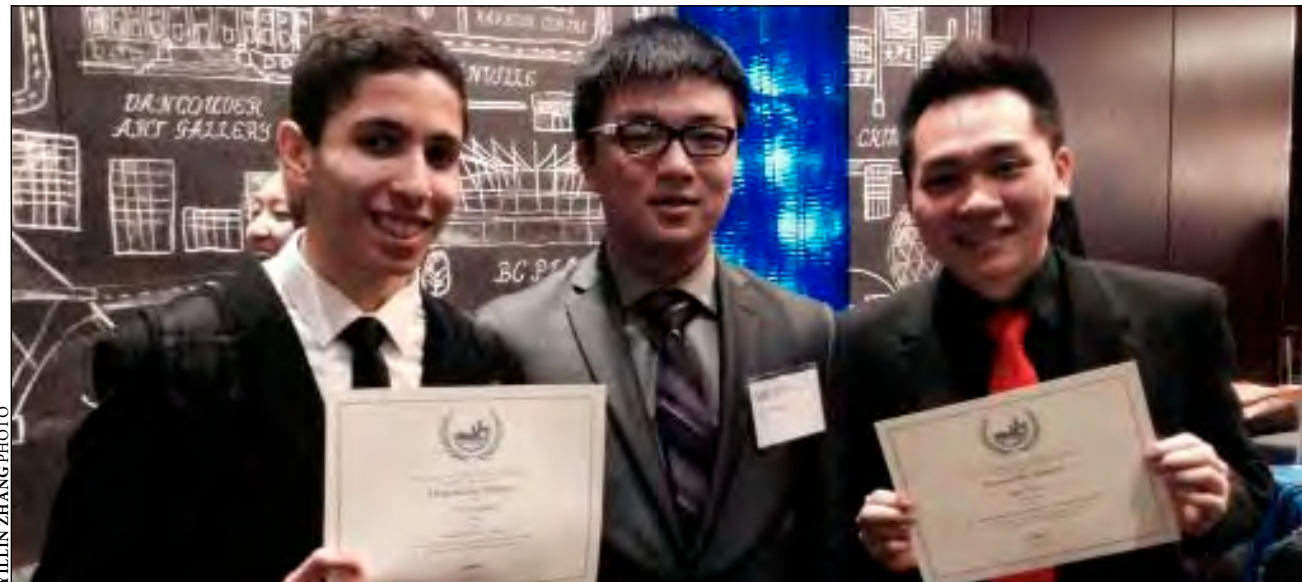
"I go there mostly to meet new people because it's a really good place to expand your network. I also just want to know more about what's going on in the world," said Sarah Lee.

Gathering downtown to interact with other people with similar interests is exciting for the students. "You just get experiences like this, you get to go for a weekend with your friends, you get to meet new people, learn about things and issues around the world, and you get good food," Sarah Lee added.

Many students feel the need for preparation, and organize themselves for upcoming events.

"Before each conference based on your topic, your committee may require you to write a position paper," said Sean Lee. "It's basically kind of an essay outlining your views on the specific topic and you need to submit that before the conference and that's basically your guideline of all your research," he added.

"The best part about being a member of this club is how much you're able to see," said Huang. "I get to see a lot of different people from around the world. VMUN is the biggest conference in Vancouver, so there are people from the states. I just really like interacting with those people because of their talents and all the things they've done."



WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS: Gleneagle debaters proudly display their awards after their performances at the Model United Nations conference downtown last weekend.

YILIN ZHANG PHOTO

INSIDE

OPPOSING PUTIN: With the Olympic games in Sochi now in full swing, a student addresses the anti-gay stance Russia's president continues to promote.



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WRESTLERS READY: Three of five Gleneagle wrestlers have a chance to bring home medals from the provincial tournament, which takes place next Thursday.

MURDER IN THE THEATRE: A musical theatre fundraiser has Gleneagle staff investigating a murder in the 80's.



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ONtheCALENDAR

- FEBRUARY 21** District Pro-D day
- FEBRUARY 28** Jazz dinner and dance
- MARCH 4** Semester 2 interim report cards sent home
- MARCH 7** Musical theatre fundraiser
- MARCH 12** Parent teacher night
- Spring music concert
- MARCH 17** Spring Break
- MARCH 31** School re-opens



Students take risks, Olympians take plunge

With Valentine's Day already behind us, we're already up to our knees in the new year. Most of us are starting to get into the swing with our new classes, and the rest of us, well, we're getting there.

It's difficult enough trying to balance all the different activities in our lives, not to mention the constant demands of our teachers, parents, and peers which can definitely take a toll on our mental health.

Sometimes we can feel suffocated by the amount of work piling up, maybe because we've been pushing it off to the side time after time. We become trapped under the weight, with no escape.

Desperately, we grasp for any distractions that can carry us away from the never-ending stress. Thank the higher powers that the Greeks decided to throw each other around in the ring almost 3000 years ago to give us the Olympics.

Today, the Olympic Games still hold a significant place in the lives of billions of people around the world. This special celebration brings together over a hundred diverse countries as thousands of athletes battle it out for the gold.

The whole world watches the competition, cheering on their own countries, with appreciation for the numerous talents of individuals and teams across the globe.

The whole event is unique as it advertises the uniting of different nations, while forging connections between us in our own countries. People are funny in the sense that we bond through the mutual challenges we face, and the Olympics are something that all citizens can feel personally and patriotically engaged in.



We all need something every once in a while that can sweep us away from the mundane, day-to-day tasks that consume our lives.

Tasks like projects, work, chores, school assignments, and the list goes on. Most of these responsibilities leave you on your own, feeling very rather isolated.

While being alone can be a lovely thing, sometimes we just need to get outside and

interact with the many beautiful beings in this world. It may seem difficult or uncomfortable to attempt, but now is as fine a time as any.

While we are aware that we cannot forget our responsibilities forever, something on scale as grand as the Olympics gives us the chance, and the perfect excuse, to get out there and realize maybe we aren't so different from these athletes.

It is imaginable that right before the athlete leaps onto the luge, even prepared as they are for the plummet, they have a moment of "Oh goodness me!"

This is similar to us as students, we are trained our whole lives to take that test, write that essay and get that grade. No matter how ready we are though, that "oh goodness me" moment is as unavoidable for Olympic athletes as Gleneagle students.

Western media disregards humanitarian crisis in Ukraine

Edge columnist

The battle for justice and basic human rights has been raging on since the Arab Spring, a series of revolutions throughout the Middle East against totalitarian governments, in late 2010. Although these demonstrations and protests are not limited to a single issue, they have in turn shown the world that humanity will no longer stand for injustice. The most recent protest has been a wave of revolution throughout Ukraine.

On November 21, 2013, a spontaneous protest erupted in Kiev. **Viktor Yanukovich's**, president of Ukraine, decision to back away from plans to establish free trade and political cooperation with the European Union, an agreement seen as a possible precursor to EU membership, in favour of establishing closer ties with Russia. This sparked outrage and motivated thousands of citizens to march the streets in protest.

Although rising to power through democratic elections, Yanukovich has created a massive divide between the wants of the government and the needy of the people. Promised and given over \$15 billion dollars from **Vladimir Putin**, Yanukovich has further increased Ukraine dependence on Russia and demonstrated the ease at which he disregards the opinions of the Ukraine people.

Yet as tensions rise and violence surges, there is barely more than a whisper in Western media. News of protests and human rights violations are replaced by celebrity gossip and sensationalist news on many of our top media

agencies. The Sochi Olympics dominate our attentions and Yanukovich's aggressive actions are swept under the rug.

After the protests gained momentum, central metro stations were closed, the headquarters of the opposition party was raided, and power in Kiev was cut off. On December 11, thousands of internal troops and police surrounded the Maidan square to clear out all remaining

“ Since Ukraine has no independent judiciary to nullify the illegal laws, if the people do not stand up in protest, their civil rights will be stripped away and Ukraine will become a totalitarian police state.”



Edge Columnist

protestors. After the troops departed, the barricades were rebuilt and overnight, the activists formed self-defense groups to guard Kiev's city hall.

Police were permitted by Yanukovich's government to increase measures in stopping escalating violence. Police were now able to block roads to restrict access to the city, and allowed the use of water cannons against rioters regardless of temperatures. Numerous protestors were treated inhumanly, forced to strip naked even temperatures

under -10° C and beaten unconscious.

Despite this, demonstrators in Kiev continued to grow by the thousands and the issue became more than about simply signing the agreement; protesters began calling for the resignation of the current government. By January, crowds of over one million gathered for rallies in Kiev's Independence Square.

In another attempt to quell the rebellion, the government illegally passed brutal legislation without following proper parliamentary procedure. Since Ukraine has no independent judiciary to nullify the illegal laws, if the people do not stand up in protest, their civil rights will be stripped away and Ukraine will become a totalitarian police state.

In January, confrontation degenerated into riots; protesters torched police buses and hurled paving stones and petrol bombs at lines of riot police. Police responded with tear gas, rubber bullets and water cannons. Two people were shot and another found in a forest near the capital, dead with torture marks.

The protestors have tried peacefully protesting for months. They have been beaten. They have had their right to protest taken away. They are at the edge of the cliff, and if they don't fight back they will fall.

What started as a local, domestic period of unrest has now snowballed into a struggle for Ukraine's future. Sparked by the protest has become a fight for freedom under a corrupt regime, fueled by a common will to change life in Ukraine.

Maybe with the Olympics coming to a close, we can focus the spotlight on events that will change history.

TALONSTalk

With the Olympics taking place in Sochi, The Edge asked: "What sport would you add to the Olympics?"

“Probably some sort of really good computer game.”
—Grade 11



“I would put hot dog eating into the olympics because it takes skill, persistence, training and dedication.”
—Grade 10



“Pole dancing.”
—Grade 11



“Bag piping.”
—Grade 9



“Snow Angel Design.”
—Grade 12



“Snowball fights because it's fun and engaging.”
—Grade 10



Russian LGBTQ discrimination draws criticism at Sochi

Edge columnist

“Excuse me sir, do you know who Putin is?”
“Poutine? You mean the delicious dish with fries covered in gravy and molten cheese? Yum!”
If you asked this question prior to the Sochi games many high school students would not know the answer that Vladimir Putin is the current president of Russia and not a French Canadian dish.

The Sochi games have brought many benefits; it gave Canadians more knowledge, promotes fair play, and brings entertainment to everyone. However, the Sochi Olympic

have been criticized for its anti-gay stance. Putin's Russian government enacted a nationwide law banning distribution of “propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations” among minors, which makes it illegal to speak in defense of gay rights, hold any gay pride events, or suggest that un-traditional sexual relationships are equal to heterosexual relationships.

Individuals violating this law can be fined to a maximum of 100,000 rubles, and can be detained and arrested to a maximum of 15 days. Many countries have condemned Russia for this law, including 27 Nobel Prize winners.

President Obama of the United States of America said “I think Putin and Russia have a big stake in making sure the Olympics work, and I think they understand that for most of the countries that participate in the Olympics, we wouldn't tolerate gays and lesbians being treated differently.”

“They're athletes, they're there to compete. And if Russia wants to uphold the Olympic spirit, then every judgment should be made on the track, or in the swimming pool, or on the balance beam, and people's sexual orientation shouldn't have anything to do with it.”

Many argued that Russia has contradicted the Olympic

spirit and equality by enacting this discriminatory law against LGBTQ groups, and suggested Canada take action by boycotting the Sochi games.

Clearly Canada did not boycott the Olympics; however, Russia has violated everything the Olympic Games stand for to its very core. It is a direct violation of Article 6 of the Olympic charter, that “Sports does not discriminate on grounds of race, religion, politics, gender, or otherwise.” The anti-LGBTQ law passed by Russia is clearly discriminating by violating basic human right of protection against discrimination.

Putin said that sexual minorities “are full-fledged members of our society and are not being discriminated against in any way.” He argues that this law will not limit speech and free assembly of LGBTQ individuals, and is enacted only to serve the sole purpose of protecting children from being exposed to homosexuality and pedophiles. “It's not about imposing some sort of sanctions on homosexuality... It's about

protecting children from such information,” Putin added. However, four Russian LGBTQ activists were arrested for holding up a sign quoting Article 6 of the charter, showing that Putin was lying, and the basic rights of LGBTQ individuals in Russia have been violated.

The Sochi Olympic Game is similar to the Berlin Olympic Games held in 1936 by Nazi Germany. Both countries imposed discrimination against a specific group of people. Nazi Germany persecuted and discriminated against Jewish, Gypsy, and African athletes while hosting the 1936 Summer Olympics. Hitler refused to medal **Jesse Owens**, an African American athlete who won 4 gold medals, or even shake his hand. The Sochi Olympics is doing the same thing, but against a different group of people. Many gay right activists are comparing Russia to Nazi Germany, and Putin to Hitler.

However, according to a survey conducted in June 2013 nearly 90 percent of Russians support the anti-gay propaganda law. Thus, the Putin government is in fact being very democratic, and following the opinion of the Russian citizens.

As the law did not ban un-traditional sexual relationships, but only imposed a sanction on the propaganda relating un-traditional sexual relationships. The LGBTQ individuals are not being directly discriminated against, but their freedom of speech has been limited.

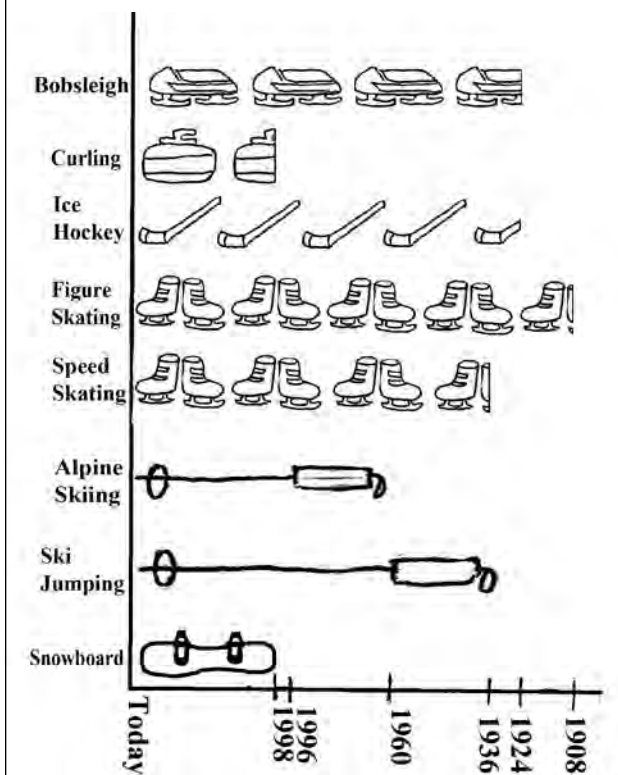
“Clearly, Canada did not boycott the Olympics; however, Russia has violated everything the Olympic Games stand for to its very core.”

—Edge Columnist



TALONSFacts

How long have these winter sports been in the Olympics?



LETTERS to the EDITOR are welcome

GOT something to SAY?

SPEAK Out!

Just type it, be free of libel, sign it, and submit it to an English teacher

OR

email it from your student account to theEdge@sd43.bc.ca

Don't just think it...

Club takes first steps to celebrate multiculturalism



OLIVIA SUN PHOTO

SYMBOL OF FORTUNE: Grade 12 multiculturalism club members make dumplings to celebrate Chinese New Year.

OLIVIA SUN
Staff reporter

Bowling and hosting a dumpling feast after school started off the multicultural club for Chinese New Year.

Gleneagle's multicultural club was created

last year in December by founders **Marilyn Wang, Bill Zhao, and Julio He**, all grade 12. "We wanted to start a club to make [international students] feel welcome," said Wang, "[so we] three founders are international students and we have experienced [similar] difficulties before."

The club commenced with the celebration of the Chinese New Year festival where Wang came up with the idea of making dumplings.

Since Chinese international students are away from home and required to come to school on the holiday, the club stayed afterschool and cooked several hundred dumplings.

Wang brought vegetarian and pork with cabbage stuffing and dumpling skin purchased at T&T.

According to the two teachers and club members, the dumplings tasted delicious being simply boiled in water and dipped in the traditional rice vinegar and soy sauce.

The club's second milestone was a bowling field trip on February 5 sponsored by the school from a fieldtrip fund for international students.

Several teachers accompanied 64 students to Zone Bowling for the afternoon, including the multicultural club sponsors are **Lori Gregory**, student services teacher, and **Jo-Anne Leblond**, teacher librarian.

"It was interesting because some of [the international students] have never bowled in their life, so it was quite interesting to watch their technique," said Gregory.

It was a good time to mix with a whole bunch of other students and socialize. It was a good experience for them."

"There were a lot of balls flying in the

air," commented Leblond, "gutter balls as well, some low scores, but I saw a couple over a hundred." The club recently met on February 12 and discussed future events.

"A few people are thinking of going to Flying over Canada [at Canada Place] or having a picnic at Bunsen lake or rocky point," Wang said. "Skiing was also an option considered."

The next event is expected to be after spring break and the club hopes it will gain even more members, has been promoting on Facebook, through emails, and posters will soon be posted around the school.

"[This club is] a great and interesting way to involve in school," said **Zsofia Slamani**, grade 10, club member.

"Canada is a multicultural country. I feel like the club is good for learning where we live in the world. Canada is a composition of a bunch of different cultures and by getting out and experiencing [them], we learn more about this so called Canadian culture," Slamani added.

Although most of the club members are international students with a Chinese cultural background, the club encourages everyone and anyone to join.

The goal is to create a welcoming experience for the international students and find a medium between assimilation and preservation.

Talons debate way towards provincials next week

BRIAN CHEONG
Staff reporter

Three Gleneagle students will test their debating talents with students around the province in the Provincial Debate Competition hosted by the Debate and Speech Association of BC. **Jordan Flatman, A.J. Lahouaoula** and **Reza Zarebidasky**, all grade 10, will travel to the Pacific Christian School in Victoria for February 28 to March 1.

"We have to argue both for and against in each topic. I think that this makes [the competition] much harder and a lot more research takes place," said Lahouaoula.

They will also have to debate on a topic that will be given to them at the competition with only 10 minutes to prepare.

"This is, in my mind, the hardest part of the competition. You have to be really good at thinking on your feet and be good at improvising as well," said Lahouaoula.

The competition this year is fierce as there are 7 regions in British Columbia that are competing. With only 4-6 winning teams advancing to the nationals in May, all the competitors are nervous.

"Going to the nationals will be an amazing thing to accomplish. However, still making it to the Provincials and competing in it is really a once in a lifetime opportunity," said Lahouaoula.

Zarebidasky however has been through this process last year as he advanced to the Canadian Junior Nationals Debate Championships after a successful run at the provincials.

"I'm still nervous in [debating] with the chance of going to the nationals on the line," said Zarebidasky. "I think everyone who is competing is feeling the same way."

For Flatman, this is his first time ever competing in the provincial debate championships.

"This is not only my first time ever competing in the provincials but also my first year trying out debates," remarked Flatman. "I'm just really nervous about competing with guys who have a lot more experience than me."

The debate competition is structured that each team consists of two students. Lahouaoula and Zarebidasky have been partners throughout the year while Flatman was in a partnership with a grade 10 Gleneagle student **Eric Liu**, who didn't score enough points to advance to the Provincials.

"I'm going to be partnered up with another student in Port Moody instead of Eric. I don't really know how the guy is going to be like or how good we will work together," said Flatman.

If any of these Gleneagle students are able to be successful in the provincials, they will advance to the nationals held in May.

Re-Act helps less fortunate through sandwich alliance

ALISHA LEE
staff reporter

Re-Act has recently teamed up with the Coquitlam Alliance Church to spend a day distributing free sandwiches to the less fortunate in the Downtown Eastside.

"Our next big event is sandwich making which will happen on March 7 [and] handing out the sandwiches will happen on [Sunday, March] 9," said **Natalie Kraemer**, grade 10 and co-chair of the Re-Act team.

"I got in touch with Coquitlam Alliance and asked what they did in terms of feeding the homeless. . . They have had a program in place for some time: that once a month, they make then deliver sandwiches. [We are] just supplying the manpower, so to speak."

"The girl who founded Re-Act, **Raiya Suleman**, a Gleneagle alumna, always wanted to do something like this but we just never had the time or resources," Kraemer added.

"In the year that Raiya mentored **Emlyn Swartzberg**, grade 11] and [me], she won a \$300 scholarship for Re-Act to use. It was my idea to do this with Re-Act this year, mostly for those on the Eastside, but also to accomplish something for Raiya. I want to make her proud of what we've continued to do," said Kraemer.

This project is open to anyone willing to help out and make a difference in Vancouver.

"It's the little things that count. People won't remember what you wore, or what you got on that test, but they will remember how you always held the door open for people, never forgot to say thank you, or that you never hesitated to lend a hand," Kraemer said.

"Projects like these need more than support; they need willing volunteers. If anyone at Gleneagle needs volunteer hours, or just wants to help out, I would really encourage it," added Kraemer.

SPOTLIGHT

TALONS GET READY TO JOIN REP BAND: Five Gleneagle students, two grade 12, one grade 11, one grade 10, one grade 9, are the five Gleneagle students who were handpicked to practice, participate and perform with other keen and talented young musicians of the Lower Main Land. In all there will be 28 musicians in the junior rep band and 29 in the senior.



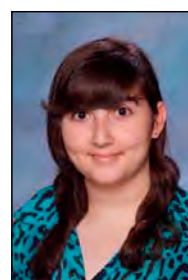
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Talontine's day spreads appreciation with roses, crafts

JENNIFER KOU
Staff reporter

Valentine's day evokes images of romance, but Gleneagle students from the student council skill development program and promoted it as a day to show appreciation for everyone.

Student Council creatively dubbed the day 'Talontine day' and sold over 200 roses. Delivered on February 14 during block three, the flowers and personalized notes made students feel "very special and loved," said **Kristina Eng**, grade 11. "I felt very happy that someone was thinking about me."

"Many people think of Valentine's Day as a romantic," said **Sang Lee**, grade 12, but she believes that "it can be platonic; it's about love and love is universal."

Further contributing to the spirit of appreciation, student council delivered roses to teachers. "It was a way of saying thank you and as a random act of kindness to show we appreciate you," said **Sarah Lee**, grade 11.

Decorations in the foyer set the mood for students walking in that morning. Photo booths, with multiple backdrop choices, were also set up for students to take pictures with their significant other or their friends.

Student council's "goal is to promote school because . . . we really want students

to have a good time," said **Derek Wong**, grade 12 and student council president. "It's something that everyone can do and everyone can enjoy. It's fun to receive a rose."

Wong believes that distributing these roses helps foster "a communal spirit that shows everybody that people care about each other and that has merit."

Shakiba Zahabioun, grade 11, said her favourite part of the day was when "[we delivered] the roses and seeing the surprised look on the peoples faces . . . since they didn't know they would [be getting] roses."

Skill development students sold handmade crafts for Valentine's Day as well.

Under the guidance of **Rachel Vaessen**, skill development teacher, **Abdul Salami**, grade 12, **Jeffrey Fregan**, grade 9, **Martin Cameron**, and **Joe Kang**, both grade 10, as well as peer tutor **Jennifer Jang**, grade 11, created cards and candy cups to sell for Valentine's Day.

Using a variety of materials, from chocolate to stickers, they made cards, cupcakes, and other treats for Valentine's Day. But the favourite, by far, was the candy cups, containing chocolate, salt-water taffies and other sweets.

"I like all the colours," said **Gleb Kharkovski**, grade 10, whose favourite part was "putting [candy] in the cups and making it look nice."

The craft sale provides the students with



GOOD THINGS COME IN SMALL PACKAGES: Students are packaging hershey kisses and hearts in cups to sell for Valentine's day.

a "chance to practice [their] literacy skills when thinking of what to put in the cards," said Vaessen. "It gives students a chance to be independent and express themselves artistically."

As well, the students are "practicing [their]

money skills in a real setting," Vaessen added. "It gave us a chance to get our faces out there and be a little bit more familiar to the school. One of my goals is to make sure that my students are well known and are an essential part of the Gleneagle community."

Returning Talon grad among new semester teachers

KAREN LAU
Staff reporter

The arrival of second semester has brought with it a modest flock of new teachers, all ready and willing to integrate with Talons in various subject areas.

New faculty members include **Kevin Comeau**, English, social studies and learning centre teacher, **Mason Foulkes**, entrepreneurship and ELL teacher, **Anne Lim**, Mandarin teacher, and **Jeff Smith**, keyboarding, marketing, and business computer applications teacher and 2005 Gleneagle graduate.

Comeau, a former Talon, had previously taught at Kwayhquiltum Middle School and Centennial Secondary, as well as at Gleneagle as a substitute teacher.

"A lot of the staff is the exact same, and the school looks the exact same as when I was here which is pretty interesting," said Comeau.

Though relatively new to the school district, Smith grew up in Coquitlam as well. He has taught at Moody Middle School and Port Moody Secondary, and been a TOC mostly in elementary classes.

"The staff [at Gleneagle] have all been

“My parents were teachers, and growing up I got to kind of see their lifestyle and how they enjoyed their career. That pushed me to do it. As well, I like helping people.”

—Kevin Comeau

super friendly," he said. "For the most part, the students have been really good and I've enjoyed getting to know some of them."

Foulkes is taking up "his first position at a high school." Despite his previous teaching experiences being at elementary schools, he

enjoys that Gleneagle students "are willing to be silly and have fun but also work hard."

"A lot of the class clowns are also hard workers," he said, "which is the way school should be."

Lim "taught at a private school for seven

students who have no idea what the culture is all about," she said.

The new teachers each attribute their career choice to a long-time passion for teaching and helping.

"I just felt the love to teach when I was a little girl," said Lim. "That was just something very natural for me to go on to do in university."

Although Smith initially "took a different path and ended up [teaching] later in life", he believes it is important to assist students both in classes and with whatever else they happen to be involved in.

Foulkes feels teaching more to the latter may be even more significant than instructing based on curriculum.

"I try to teach [students] a couple things about a couple subjects, but more about life and that they should just stay young, have fun, and add energy," he said.

Politics club provides forum for world problems at Gleneagle

JENNY YANG
Staff reporter

The new Gleneagle politics club is initiated by **Colin Fowler**, grade 11 and **Jeffery Gao**, grade 11 at the start of second semester to discuss political issues.

"[The] Politics club is mostly a forum for discussion right now with no hardcore commitment so that we can have a friendly atmosphere where everybody can come in and talk without needing to feel pressured into coming to every meeting," Gao said.

The meeting on February 12 involved a discussion about political ideologies and which party club members felt affiliated with ideologically.

Members discussed whether they support or accept right-wing or left-wing political parties such as the Green Party, Liberal Party, and New Democratic Party. In the process, the participants were asked to take

a short quiz that identified which party sided with the issues that they found were most important to them.

"I feel that it is important to know what is going around the world and understand why different political groups think the way they do," said **Sarah Lee**, grade 11.

Past discussion topics have included the Iranian warships that sailed close to the US for a show of power and the recent protests in Venezuela that are almost on par to the Arab Spring demonstration. Also, they conferred about the role of international affairs, political correctness, and influential factors in countries such as USA, Canada, and China.

"Every event is different and everybody has differing opinions as to what to do about it, who is in the right or wrong, and how this will affect the world at large," said Gao.

"Some issues are more straight-to-the-point than others and there's always a wide

variety of news around the globe so we try to keep our issues as varied and plentiful as possible," Gao added.

Recently, the members discussed the issue of the Sochi Winter Olympic including hotel construction delays.

According to the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympic organizing committee, only six of the nine media hotels in the mountain area were fully operational two days before the opening ceremony.

"I think our discussion on Sochi before the games and the controversy surrounding it generated a lot of input from members," said Fowler.

"I was a little unimpressed that they didn't have the hotels ready because it seemed quite last minute," said Lee.

"If they're this unprepared, does that mean the audience is forced or are they just unprepared? Plus, since it was a smallish town and had to be prepared for

a global event it's very difficult compared to Vancouver or Beijing or London," said **Benny Huang**, grade 11

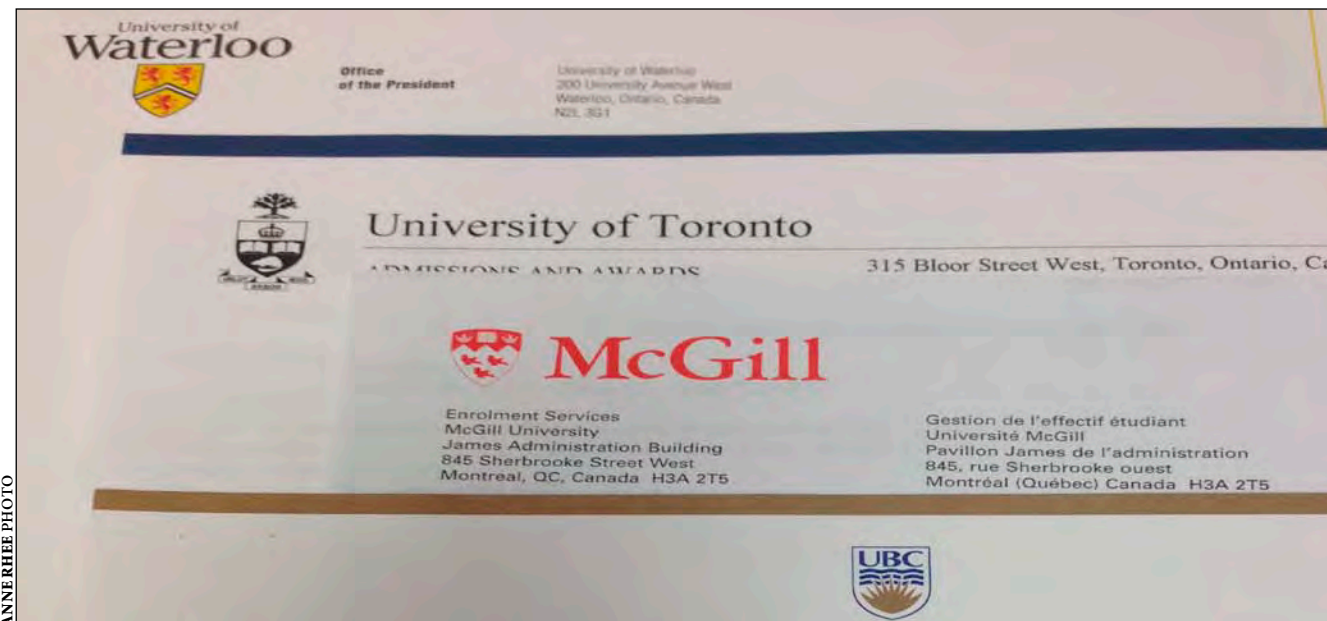
"The Olympic games has the potential to pull any country out of a hard time. The Sochi Games is a great show of culture and beauty from a country which is being plagued by terrorists and a crippling low birth rate.

Jonathan Ok, grade 11, said: "It is unfortunate that the media is exploiting only the minor faults of the games."

In the future, they are hoping to have some members of parliament, as well as MLAs to come and speak.

"We try to mediate discussions so that everybody has a voice and those who want to speak do get a chance to talk. I'm sure that there are more people in the school that would appreciate the forum to discuss issues and we are always welcome to new members coming," said Gao.

Application, deadlines stress out both student, teacher



BLANKET BOMBING APPLICATIONS: Students are anticipating to hear good news from post secondary institution near end of April, but the process provides stress even for teachers.

ANNE RHEE
staff reporter

Every year, January deserves to be called a month of doom, stressing students and teachers out. Students in grade 12 have to take exams and write applications to post secondary institutions.

"Finals are probably the most stressful thing now because I have three unit tests this week, three finals next week, and two English projects left all crammed in two weeks!" said **Janice Wu**, grade 12.

"I would say university applications are the main source of grief for me," said **Derek Wong**, grade 12. "I spent Tuesday night and Wednesday morning working on a Queen's [university] Application and submitted it hours before it was due because I forgot about the deadline."

Students are also stressed because their marks have to be high in order to meet the requirements that post secondary schools demand.

"[Students] put a lot of stress on themselves and maybe that's something coming from their parents," said **Cherie Nagra**, business teacher. "They put a lot of pressure to just get in or to get

that mark. But that's not the only way to pursue an education."

The pressure students are feeling sometimes frustrates teachers. "I find that marks, percentages, and letter grades are more of a motivator than actually learning," said **Indra Erlendson**, English teacher.

However, as students become grade 12s, "their attitude towards studies changes and they become more focused," said Nagra.

Different universities have different requirements but most schools ask for grades, reference letters, and paragraphs or essays. However, "one thing that is common for all universities is that they all require you to pay an application fee. No fee, no application!" said Wu.

When writing essays, "I needed to reflect a lot on what I learned through my activities," said Wong. "For competitive programs, everyone's grade point averages are insane and it takes strong extracurricular and community involvement to distinguish you. For example, leadership 12 gave me significant material through which I could demonstrate my growth as a leader and person. Being able to reflect is something universities look for I think," he added.

"I did a lot of volunteering, joined a few school clubs, and

have done extracurricular activities, like accomplishing piano to the Performer's ARCT level in the past few years," said Wu.

"All these experiences allowed me to have stories to tell about how I have grown and matured over the years. These experiences have definitely shaped who I am today and that's what some universities are looking for in your essays and paragraphs that they require you to write," she added.

In addition to writing essays and doing extracurricular activities, students also have to go to teachers and ask for reference letters as "universities need someone to vouch for kids to say that they are good candidates to go to that school," said Nagra. "I think getting someone who would be able to speak about your character would be beneficial."

"I get students to give me a resume so that I can find out some things that are good to mention that I think future admissions personnel would want to see," said Erlendson. "I might ask teachers that I know taught that student, their opinions but if I usually don't know that person very well, it's not an overly long letter. It's pretty short."

"I put it back on students. So my policy is, I usually get students to write their own [letters] ... because I don't know everything [they] do, and then I change it to what I feel comfortable with," said Nagra. "It makes it easier for me because I don't know everything and also students would be able to highlight the things that they want to talk about."

Within the same grade, students in art have different schedules and goals from their academic peers, as their focus is more on portfolios.

"Art students have to create a portfolio ... depending on the school, it's usually ten different pieces on average," said **Joyce Chang**, grade 12. "We have to get good marks [on some academic courses] and create projects along the side."

While working on portfolios, "I just did what I liked. I tried to do best of what I can do and tried not to go over ... the limit because it stresses me out," said **Sakura Asano**, grade 12.

As students in grade 12 are expecting to hear back from schools in April and May, they realize their high school years are almost over.

"I feel quite ambivalent about graduating but I definitely feel more excited than sad, especially when I finally get to enjoy a summer," said Wu. "I know six months will pass by very fast, so I have to remind myself to really treasure my last six months in high school."

Violent video games keep parents struggling to keep tabs

BRIAN CHEONG
Staff reporter

Videogames are a great way to escape from the demands of the real world, socialize with friends and meet new people. It's a great way to relive stress for both children and adults. Right?

This is not the case at all. In fact video games lead to violence and behavioral problems, especially to children who start to play at a young age.

"Even though there isn't really hard evidence to prove that video games lead to violence, there has definitely been an increase in kids needing my help in the past decade," said **Min Young Hwa**, a child physiologist.

This lack of evidence has prevented cracking down of underage kids playing and purchasing violent video games from the market. Even though there is an Entertainment Software Rating Board (ESRB) to regulate the content for videogames, laws are hardly enforced.

"You see elementary students playing very violent games that are really intended for adults," said Hwa.

Why is this the case? Why are children playing violent games like Grand Theft Auto 5, which is rated mature by the ESRB?

"Parents have a responsibility to prevent kids from getting their hands on these violent games in the first place. It's the parents' responsibility," according to Hwa.

Despite this, other people have a completely different viewpoint.

"As a parent, it's really hard to check on my

kids for everything they are doing online," said **So Rung He**, a mother of two. "I realize that parents have a role in [checking on kids] but parents need the help of companies and such to prevent kids from getting violent video games in the first place."

The emergence of online gaming and the internet in general has been detrimental in the ability for parents to monitor their children. Parents are losing control of the things children are taking in and playing online.

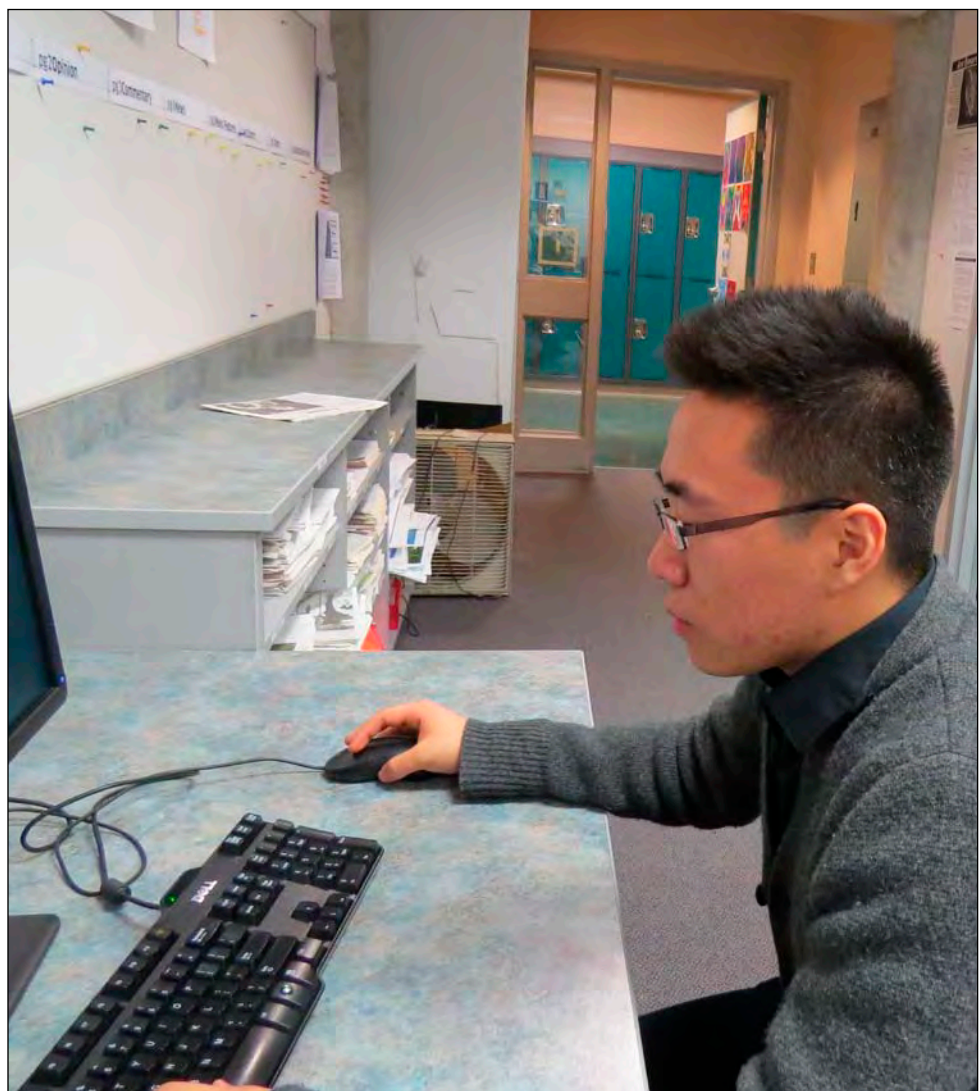
"Almost all games I play now are online. And to be honest, the type of games I play is definitely not something I want to show my parents. There is a lot of blood, gore, shooting and killing involved," said **Andy Kim**, grade 10.

It's not only the types of games that are available online that seem to be the problem. It's also about how easy it is to install and play these violent games that are supposed to be restricted from kids. All it takes is to simply lie about your birth date.

"I don't really know how to use the computer like my kids do," remarked He. "If they don't want to tell me something, I won't ever know what they do on the computer or what kind of games they play."

If this is the case for most parents, how can parents monitor their kids in the cyber world and learn about the types of games they play?

"One thing that comes into my mind is to teach parents about the different types of games [kids] play and inform them about the risks [of kids playing violent video games]," remarks Hwa.



LOST IN THE GAME: Grade 10 student immerses himself in the world of video games that are sometimes just too easy to access.

Senior girls basketball hindered with virus, inexperience

YILIN ZHANG
Staff reporter

The senior girls basketball team played their way into the Fraser Valley this week, starting Monday in hopes of advancing into BC Provincials.

On Day 1 of the Fraser Valley Regionals, the girls played against Fleetwood Park at Holy Cross Secondary. The girls lost 59-51 against Fleetwood, and on Tuesday the girls played Terry Fox, but information on the scores was not available at press time.

The senior girls need to win five games to qualify for the BC Provincials, but if they lose two then they're out of the tournament.

There are 16 teams in the Fraser Valley Regionals, but only the top six can make it to Provincials.

"All the players need to step up their game," said **Patty Anderson**, coach. "If we don't, then we won't get through the next level," she added.

A challenge the senior girls face is that they're inexperienced compared to the other teams. For many of the players this is their first year on the team. There are only three grade 12 players and one of the starters missed this week's tournament due to a COAST trip.

"We want to win," said **Sara Knowles**, a grade 9 on the senior team, "we need to work on boxing out" she added.

A flu virus wiped out half the team and they were sick for the last couple of weeks.

"The entire team was sick in our last tournament," said Anderson. "We lost to a weaker team and it hurt our seeding [to] 7 instead of 6" she added.

The girls played well despite illness, almost defeating Oak Bay of Victoria island, which was ranked number two at

the time.

"We were leading the whole way," said Anderson, "and ended up losing by just a couple [of points]."

The girls beat Maple Ridge multiple times this year, and won against Burnaby South which was ranked ninth in the province.

"If the girls play their best," said Anderson, "[making the BCs] could happen

Grade 9 boys ready to compete in Fraser Valleys

DELARAM HOORFAR
staff reporter

Grade 9's basketball team is getting ready for the Fraser Valley Championships with their first game on Tuesday February 18, against Unity Christian at Robert Bateman Secondary in Abby.

After beating Port Moody Secondary School by 15 points, the grade 9's finished third in the conference play offs surprising many who thought they would not make it this year.

"We kept working hard and stayed focus and we always believed that we would get better," said coach **Andrew Lloyd**. "This [achievement] is a collective effort between

coach **Jason Bingley** and me," added Lloyd. "Grade 9's have improved a lot. They are a great group of players, having very little basketball experience to developing as a great group of players to great group of people."

"They are excellent student athletes who are great ambassadors for our school," added Lloyd.

Lloyd's expectations of the players are to "play hard, be proud of their efforts and support their teammates." He believes that if they do this regardless of the score, they have been successful.

The team will be heading to the provincials if they get a good result on the Fraser Valley Championships next week.

Sr Boys seek provincial berth

YASAMAN HOORFAR
staff reporter

The senior boys basketball team will be playing tomorrow in search for a berth in the provincials.

The team won their last game on February 14 against Pitt Meadow Secondary School in the Fraser Valley North Conference Championship game, scoring 73-57. Tomorrow, they will be playing a home

competing with other teams in the Fraser Valleys.

"We have beaten all the top teams," said **Tarik Scott**, grade 12. "We need to stay focused, keep working hard and practice. I think we should work more on our defense," he noted.

"We are playing really good," said **Jake Stuart**, grade 11. "We are really trying hard and we are pushing in the practices and we are getting the results in the game," he

“Our team’s expectations are that we play to the best of our abilities each and every game.”

—Tony Scott
Coach



game, facing the winner of Delta vs Centennial Secondary.

"Our team's expectations are that we play to the best of our abilities each and every game. We would hope that would lead us the BC's," said coach **Tony Scott**. "We hope that we can do well enough at the Fraser Valley's so that we receive one of the seeding places for the BC's," he added. So far, the team has had 21 wins and 8 losses, and is

added.

By winning the game tomorrow, the team will be able to play another game which will give them the key to enter the provincials. Currently, **Kayvean Tabrizi**, grade 11, has an ankle injury.

"In the start of the year, we were not really ready as a team," said **Brenden Bailey**, grade 12. "But now we are playing as a team and working really hard," he noted.

Wrestling team wins medals despite various injuries



NO PAIN NO GAIN: Wrestlers medalled despite injuries during the wrestling.

AMANDA HUANG
staff reporter

Gleneagle wrestlers impressed the crowd at St. Thomas More Collegiate on Friday, February 14, with three out of five wrestlers advancing to BC Provincials. The team placed seventh out of twelve in the Lower Fraser Valley Zone Championship. There were a total of 120 wrestlers who came from all over the Tri-Cities, Burnaby, and New Westminister. Three out of five wrestlers advanced to the Provincials.

Captain **Malique Giordano**, grade 12, was awarded a gold medal in the 63kg weight class. **Aarman Bondar**, also grade 12, won third place in the 66kg class. **Leo Chen**, grade 10, placed seventh in the 60kg class.

Throughout the season several of the wrestlers suffered minor injuries. Bondar underwent surgery on his hands and was not able to play in any tournaments for two months.

"The competition wasn't really that hard," commented Bondar. "They were mostly grade 9's, 10's, 11's. It's the injuries that made it harder."

"After two months of being off for my surgery, this is my first tournament back. I only practiced for a week and I got third.

I'm pretty happy," added Bondar, who has been on the team for four years. "Dealing with [the injury] was the toughest. It's still not one hundred percent recovered."

This year's team was small with less than ten members. "We were disappointed with the overall number [of medals] this year, but out of 12 teams we are by far the smallest team," said **Collin Chung**, wrestling coach. "We are usually in the top three's...but the team's performance was good considering our number."

"We have a very small team this year. Every year we have people placing first, second, and third [in the tournament]," said Bondar. "We have been really strong."

This is also the first time Chen played in the Fraser Valley Championship. However, his knee was also hurt and made it so he "couldn't really move that well."

Both Bondar and Chen agreed that they could have been more assertive during the matches.

"Our fitness is good, but we need to be more aggressive," said Bondar.

The BC Provincials is held in Prince George Secondary in Prince George on February 27.

"The Provincials is next week and hopefully we can bring back some more medals," said Bondar.

Murder Hoedown

at the

Spend an evening in the 80's & join us on Friday, March 7, 6 - 9 PM, for an interactive murder mystery event to support our spring musical 'Footloose.'

Our theatre will be transformed into a country burger joint, full of cowboys, cowgirls, and cold-blooded murder. Someone gets 'offed' and guests will use their wits to sleuth out the murderer.

A delicious barbecued meal, dancing, and entertainment provided by the musical theatre students are included and prizes awarded for successful sleuthing.

So throw on your best cowboy hat and get ready for a good ol' fashioned country hoedown. Tickets are \$30 per person. Contact Lisa Apps at lapps@sd43.bc.ca or Rachel Vaessen at rvaessen@sd43.bc.ca.

Emerging talent show spotlights talented Talons



ANNE RHEE PHOTO

EYE-CATCHING: Literally pulling you in, grade 12 **Lynn Ra's** mixed media piece stares creepily at you, effectively capturing the essence of "desire" and greed.

ANNE RHEE
staff reporter

Grade 12 art students shed their identity as students and became young professional artists by displaying their art works at the Evergreen Art Gallery from January 18 to February 27.

The Emerging Talent show has been running for 17 years as a "collaboration

between Evergreen Cultural Center and school district 43 art teachers," said **Melanie Stokes**, art teacher. "The intent of the exhibition is to show the best work done by individuals in grade 12, students who are planning to go to post secondary art education," she added.

Students hand in their three best pieces to jurors, retired art teachers from school district 43, and they choose which ones to

put up in the art gallery. To help students, the art teachers in Gleneagle prejudice students' work prior to handing them in.

"Over my career in teaching, I have seen so many different wonderful art pieces and what I always try to do is look at each piece individually," said **Aryn Gunn**, art teacher.

When those three pieces are chosen by the teachers, the students then frame them with **Mike McElgunn**, art teacher, and digital work with Gunn.

"We are very lucky here in Gleneagle because we all work together as a department and help students to get their work in the gallery," said Stokes.

It is a very big event "for artists to have [their] works displayed on the gallery the first time, whether they are seventeen . . . or twenty six," said Gunn. "It means their work has been juried as being interesting enough and technically good enough that other people would want to see it in a gallery and that doesn't happen very often to grade 12 students," she added.

"I think it is quite honorable because there were many pieces that were submitted and I think the people who displayed their works in the gallery should be proud of themselves," said **Lynn Ra**, grade 12 participant.

While displaying works in the gallery is a great experience, it also gives advantages to student's art career.

"Over time, students build up a resumé by having their work in different shows," said Gunn. "So the beginning steps for them is having their work in the gallery and knowing what that feels like and hopefully, it will inspire them to want to continue with their art work," she said.

"It is something that you can feel good about since the works were juried, which is a very big deal," said **Joyce Chang**, grade 12. "You can also put it in your resumé and in

your university application."

Although students from other high schools also put in outstanding works, "Gleneagle has the most amounts of students submit their works to the jury and the most amount of work that is accepted," said Stokes. "That part is because we have the Art Career class and that allows us to be focused and to be very organized," she said. Specifically this year, of 100 pieces in the exhibition, Gleneagle has 28 works created by 11 students.

Students hand in their works in many different forms such as sculpture, mixed media, oil painting, photography, and drawing because what students hand in "is entirely their own work and it's entirely their own choice," said Stokes.

While working on the pieces that could be displayed in the gallery, "time management was the most difficult thing because I had to balance all the projects and my school work," said Chang.

Students had to bring in their works to be photographed and for teachers to mark but because art works are very delicate and fragile, they had to be very cautious about it which was also considered as one of the difficulties.

"Because one of my pieces was made out of clay, some parts cracked," said Ra.

"To make sure that things don't break was difficult since there's hazard in putting things in the classroom," said Chang.

Similar to most professional art galleries, which have a formal opening, the Evergreen Cultural Center Gallery had an opening reception on January 26. The representatives and judges from the exhibition gave brief speeches to the participants and guests.

At the exhibition, "I was amazed at the interesting and beautiful art works done by students from other schools," said Ra.

Murder mystery set to raise funds for musical theatre

ANIKA LEE
staff reporter

Gleneagle's drama department will host a murder mystery on the evening of Friday, March 7th featuring performances from musical theatre students. The performance is a fundraiser for their upcoming musical "Footloose."

Teachers are expected to dress up and fully portray their characters set in West Virginia during the 1980's. "All participating teachers will be acting as cowboys and cowgirls in a murder mystery," said **Lisa Apps**, student drama teacher. "The point is to figure out who the murderer is" added Apps.

"I think it's amusing to see teachers become engrossed in their character and become someone they aren't normally like," said Apps.

"I have high expectations for this year's fundraiser. Last year, we earned \$1,300 and I'm hoping that we either match that this year or earn more money," said **Ashley Freeborn**, the director of this year's play.

"Our profits come from the tickets and the profits from the bar. Something special this year is that the food will be catered and some teachers are even helping us bake some food for the fundraiser," added Freeborn.

The musical theatre students hope that ". . . this event goes well, it's the only way our musical theatre program can collect money for new props, stage equipment etcetera, which can add up to be quite costly," said **Kevin Stack**, grade 11.

Participating teachers are assigned their roles beforehand and are given time to study their characters and practice for the fundraiser.

"This year I'm playing the role of a religious fanatic who thinks everyone in town is deemed for hell because of their immoral behavior. I'm for sure dressing up this year and am very excited," said **Cindy Quach**, English teacher.

"The musical theatre program is amazing. Some of the shows that I went to are better than professional shows that I pay a lot of money for. The money and time I'm putting in for this fundraiser is heading into a really great program," added Quach.

Students will be performing excerpts from this year's play Footloose on the stage at the fundraiser.

"Some teachers have talked to me about how they're excited to see parts of the play as the musical theatre students are always amazing. And they truly are. This year like always, musical theatre students are absolutely phenomenal and we

also have some amazing powerful singers this year," said Apps.

"Musical theatre is a great opportunity where one can discover themselves and be part of a welcoming and inclusive family," said **Max Hall**, grade 10.

"Musical theatre means the world to me. I've found that each year I come back, it's like being reunited with a new family. And it truly teaches us a lot too," continued Hall. "While our priority is the show, we learn life lessons like priority, commitment and acceptance, so I'm so grateful for the fundraisers and the teachers who pitch in to keep our program running smoothly," he added.

"It really is nice to see all the teachers contributing and supporting drama and I'm very thankful for their support," said **Amal Ahmed**, grade 12.

"Unlike other departments, Drama is only really run by Mrs. Freeborn. It's basically a one-woman show. So the fundraiser is quite crucial for us," added Ahmed.

Footloose will be ready for showtime by mid-May. So, get excited and bring your friends to watch what will be "the best show of all time, suited to all age groups. Your parents will love, your siblings will adore it, and so will you," said Ahmed.



PHOTO MIKE MCELGUNN

DEMON COME OUT?: **Cindy Quach** performs a religious ceremony on **Ashley Freeborn** and **Chris Turpin**, all teachers to purge them of their sins.