



ALIROD AMERI/SCOTT FINDLEY PHOTO

Gleneagle heating going sky high

RAISING THE ROOF: School district workers were quick to dig in and get to work on creating a removable cover on Gleneagle's roof last week in order to prepare for the arrival of a new heating system over the winter break. The school's primary boiler (top right), located above the science wing, will be replaced after over \$700,000 of funding was secured from the province at a board meeting on November 17. A crane will be assembled outside of the school during the break to lift the old boiler out and put the new one in through the newly created cover on the roof (bottom right).

New York Christmas arrives at last night's winter formal

AUDREY HAR
Staff reporter

Students had a chance to have a night-out in New York last evening, thanks to student council's "Christmas in New York" winter dance. Special features included student DJ, **Thomas Caya**, grade 12, complimentary drinks, snacks, and a photo booth.

"I'm pretty excited," said Caya. "It's something that I've never anticipated before and it wasn't a possibility before, so I'm excited. I think it's going to be great," he continued.

Caya has previously DJed for events in downtown including an event on January 2, 2016.

In hiring a student DJ over working with a professional service company, student council was able to pay more attention to the decorations and visuals.

The "Christmas in New York" theme was decided upon after two weeks of discussion that took place within the council.

"Although our budget is smaller than in previous years, the design team is trying our best to make the most out of our available funds. Through the work of our talented designers and artists, we've been very creative with how we have emulated 'Christmas in New York' at the dance," said **Theresa Lee**, grade 12, design director.

City skylines, taxis, and the

Statue of Liberty simulate the bustling vibe and insane traffic jams of New York City.

"I can proudly say that I am happy with the members on my team and their efforts so far," she added.

"I think it's a very appropriate theme, with Christmas coming up," said **Axel Figueroa-Sanchez**, grade 10. "And New York seems to be a fancy place for giving the environment semi-formal but fun environment,"

"I think [this dance] will really show the diversity and talent Gleneagle students have to offer," added Lee.

"The preparation is going very smoothly" said **Cheslie Chan**, grade 12, vice president.

"I'm pretty excited. It's something that I've never anticipated before... I think it's going to be great."

—**Thomas Caya**
grade 12

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ARTONA

"Our different event committees are handling various tasks and each of the committees are progressing really well. The executive team is really impressed with the level of engagement of members of the council" continued Chan.

With over 400 tickets sold as of

Tuesday afternoon, Gleneagle is set to run its biggest dance to date.

"I feel like it's always an exciting time of the year when you get to have a fun time with the entire student body, instead of just your classmates," stated **Adalynn Mai**, grade 11.

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CONSUMERISM DURING HOLIDAY SEASON: Christmas materialism has grown larger than Santa Claus himself



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SPIRIT OF GIVING: Concerns of sincerity surface with the handful of seasonal fundraisers at Gleneagle.

GLENEAGLE SPICES UP METFEST: Theatre Performance 11 students perform the Spice of Life at Metfest 2015



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ONtheCALENDAR

- DECEMBER 16 Christmas Music Concert
- DECEMBER 18 Last day before Winter Break
- DECEMBER 19 Winter Break
- JANUARY 3
- JANUARY 12 Gleneagle's Got Talent
- JANUARY 21-22 Cross Grade Final Exams
- JANUARY 25-28 Provincial Exam Week
- FEBRUARY 2 First day of Semester 2



"Perfect Christmas" comes from connecting not consuming

On Christmas Day 1914, tens of thousands of British and German soldiers on the front lines of the Great War dropped their rifles in favour of the embraces of those across "No Man's Land". Opposing forces shared stories, broke into song, and even played a friendly football matches. Christmas kindness had been epitomized within one of the most devastating wars known to man.

Fast forward one hundred years, the true virtues of Christmas season are ever so distant from the camaraderie witnessed in the heat of war so many years ago. Companionship has morphed into consumerism, and the matter is exacerbated through neglect for the good will traditionally accompanying the holiday.

In our time, toy stores become the violent battlegrounds, where parents furiously skirmish for the last Lego box on the racks. Parents work long hours, spending less time with their families, to ensure that their children are not disappointed by the year's haul of Christmas gifts. They will spend hours in shopping mall lineups so that their kids can take their annual pictures with a big, bearded stranger adorned in red and white - for the low price of \$19.99!

Our lives are dominated by corporations and advertisements,

which have somehow convinced us that happiness and joy is found gift-wrapped in festive paper and bows, waiting for us at the bottom of an artificial pine tree on Christmas morning.

With each passing year, we continue to demand commodities that might eventually sate our desires: Bigger presents, fancier trees, flashier lights.

We have arrived at a point where Christmas materialism has grown larger than Santa Claus himself. It is almost foolish to wonder why the significance of emotional connection has waned during the Christmas season.

Regardless of our faiths, the consumerist lifestyle is one that we have bought into, and Christmas is nothing more than the medium through which this attitude is displayed at its prime.

But perhaps materialistic behaviour is not the inherent harm. Many have grown comfortable with pursuing materialistic goals, and lead happy lives in doing so.

Rather, the issue lies in that our altruistic actions are rapidly being stifled by our growing appetites for the bigger and better mentality.

Christmas is a time of giving and sharing, yet our compassion is dominated by our ambition to experience the "perfect Christmas" sold to us by TV ads.



No matter our upbringing or cultural heritages, we all remain heavily impacted by the holiday season that quickly approaches and it is our responsibility to preserve the kindness of the season that grows unfamiliar.

Take the time to show gratitude towards your friends and family, and give them your full

empathetic attention, to which no inanimate gift can compete. Drop the laundry list of presents and instead get one gift that holds deep meaning to the person it.

Avoid scarfing down the turkey and instead spend time reminiscing with your family about the experiences you have shared.

If soldiers in the dreary trenches

of the Great War were able to find solace and comfort in the few hours of spontaneous celebration with nothing more than embraces for gifts, there is no doubt that we are able to do the same.

The Edge welcomes letters to the editor. They can be given to any English teacher or sent to theEdge@sd43.bc.ca

Social media addiction can devastate more than just good night's sleep

SUNGWOO HWANG
Edge columnist

You can see it everywhere you look. At bus stops, the cafeteria, the hallways, the mall.

Instead of talking to others, many of us decide to stare at our phones, texting or going on social media, even when we're with our family or friends.

Why is it so hard for us to keep our hands off our devices?

Is it because we're really engaged in social media? Is it because we constantly need to check for messages? Or is it just so we can avoid talking to each other?

We all have social media accounts that we use for various reasons. Whether it is to work or to socialize, we can't deny the fact that almost everyone has an account these days.

However, many of us get caught up with the benefits of social media that we become oblivious to how much it is also a distraction.

Social media has become a huge part of our lives. We get drawn into using it mindlessly.

Psychiatrists call this phenomenon social media addiction, which is when people feel isolated and empty when they're unable to contact their group of friends.

We've all seen people who feel that not being able to go on Facebook or Twitter online who end up feeling abandoned or desolate. In some cases, it even causes extreme mood swings.

We see these social media addicts being constantly distracted by notifications from group chat messages, making them unable

to concentrate on tasks at hand.

The addiction also causes us to lose face-to-face contact with others. Since we can now talk to each other by texting, we don't end up bothering to communicate with people face to face, and we are losing touch with each other.

Social media is also one of the main reasons why cyberbullying

is so devastating.

We are brazen and completely ignorant about typing random things on keyboards and sending harmful messages to others.

This gives us a false sense of superiority behind anonymous accounts because we can say anything we want behind computer

“Many of us are so emotionally attached to social media that a fifth of us wake up at night and log on to ensure we don't miss out on our friends.”

Sungwoo Hwang
Edge columnist

screens, completely ignoring the consequences of our words.

We don't recognize that whatever we type can easily hurt someone just as if we said it in front of their face, and we often end up hurting each other.

Not only does social media cause serious addiction and cyberbullying, according to psychiatrists, it

also triggers mental problems.

Dr. Heather Cleland Woods from the University of Glasgow found that engaging in social media causes teenagers to have health issues, such as damages to their sleep cycles and an increase in the risk of anxiety and depression.

Many are so emotionally attached to social media that a fifth of us wake up at night and log on to ensure that we don't miss out on our friends.

Some of us get so anxious to the point where they can't sleep because they need to be updated about all their friends. It is ridiculous how addicted we are getting.

Whenever we post a picture, we are always sensitive to how many likes we get, or what others comment on it.

It has become apparent that social media is taking over our lives. A lot of people say that losing their

phone makes them feel isolated and even causes anxiety because it makes them miss out.

They become so worried that not contacting their group of friends is going to make them feel lonely.

Many other problems occur because of social media. While it's challenging to fix all of those issues, it is imperative that we address them and find solutions.

In order to solve these problems, we should start learning how to control ourselves by keeping track of how much time we spend on social media. We should try to talk to others face to face instead of just typing a few simple LOL's on our phones.

We could also remind each other about the dangers of social media so that we can help each other. It might seem easier said than done, but we can't let the cyberworld lure us into it. We have to cutting the cord of social media and take charge of ourselves.

The Edge welcomes letters to the editor. They can be given to any English teacher or sent to theEdge@sd43.bc.ca

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ARTONA

Believing in Santa still strong in today's culture as another Christmas comes

BRAEDEN MANDRUSIAK
Edge columnist

Spoiler alert: Santa Claus isn't real. But if Santa isn't real, why do our parents tell us he is?

Since the early 1700s, Santa has been a part of worldwide culture. Like the Easter Bunny, believing in Santa has brought children, throughout the world, happiness and joy.

In an article by PBS Kids, written by **Laura Brown, Dr. Benjamin Siegel**, professor of pediatrics and psychiatry at the Boston university school of medicine, said, "kids up to four, five, six, seven live in what we call fantasy life magic years."

"They get very excited about characters in their life that have special meaning for them," stated Siegel.

For many families, the excitement of counting down the advent calendar, getting pictures taken with Santa, and opening presents goes into a special subcategory of family uniqueness.

Many parents choose to share the story of Santa because of tradition, and, most likely, that's what they learned while growing up.

"If I had children, I would tell them he's real because I think it's a fun, harmless, and magical thing that they can pass on if they wish," said **Lyle Hendriks**, grade 11.

Santa isn't only one story. Santa is a combination of stories, which are combined into one person. Many parents take advantage

by reading their children stories about Santa, which relay the fundamentals of sharing, goodwill, and kindness.

In the same PBS Kids article, **Marisa Conner**, youth services coordinator for the Baltimore county public libraries, said, "as an educator and as a person, I find that fantasy books do engage the imagination," later stating, "children learn at some point what's

Parents choose to tell their children about Santa because he's a man who can bring about many magical experiences.

"If I had children, I would tell them he's real," said **Axel Figueroa Sanchez**, grade 10. "The reason I would do this is because I grew up in a house where I believed in Santa, and it was an overwhelming joy to wake up on Christmas and have Santa bring you pres-

Perhaps, belief is sometimes best, even in someone as fantastical as Santa, because it gives people hope."

Braeden Mandrusiak
Edge columnist

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make-believe and not."

A popular notion among children is, by being good, Santa will leave presents.

"If the myths are good and talk about sharing and helping your neighbor, then that's really nice," said Siegel.

"Parents, who assess the value of being good, determine whether the myth encourages their moral values, which cause them to drill the value of being good into their children," continued Siegel.

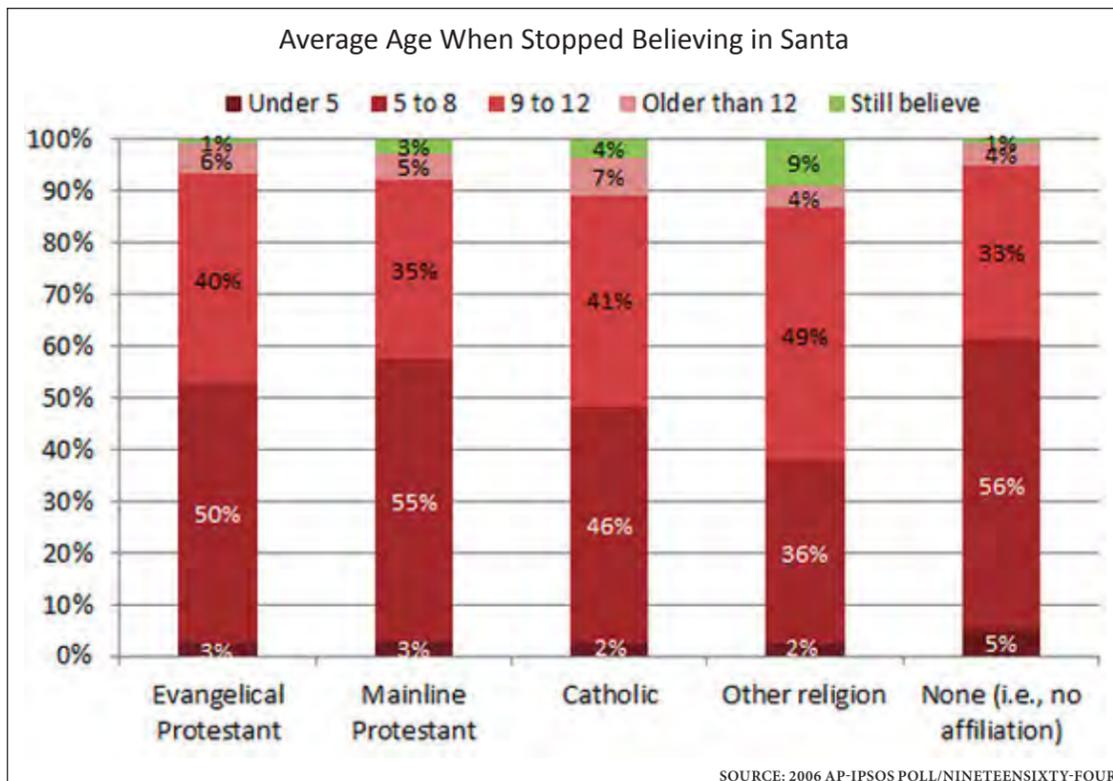
Once a child comes to the realization that Santa is non-existent, the belief is lost.

ents," added Sanchez.

In the crazy, hectic world we live in today, we should be thankful for the long-held tradition of Santa that our parents have continued, and that we will continue, with our children.

Perhaps, belief is sometimes best, even in someone as fantastical as Santa, because it gives people hope. Hope, in general, is what the world needs, in its ambition for a better future.

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GOT something to SAY? Don't just think it... **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

LETTERS to the EDITOR are welcome

TALONSTalk

With Christmas coming up, The Edge asked:

"What's the best gift you've ever received?"

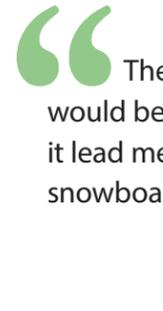
The best gift I ever received would be the ability to have three children."

—*Nevena Savovic*
mathematics teacher



The best gift I have ever received would be a drone, because it can do flips and shoot cool videos."

—*grade 9*



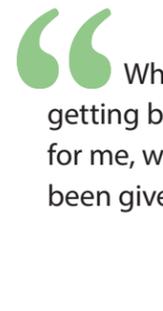
The best gift I ever received would be my first snowboard, because it lead me to pursue my passion of snowboarding."

—*grade 11*



Last Christmas, I recieved Calvin Klein Euphoria Gold Cologne, which is the best gift I've ever received."

—*grade 12*



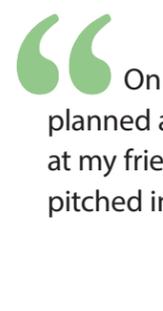
When I was in grade 3, I was getting bullied, until someone stood up for me, which makes this the best gift I've been given."

—*grade 9*



My parents' once gifted me a giant teddy bear, providing me with a sense of comfort."

—*grade 11*



On my 30th birthday, my fiancee planned a surprise birthday party for me at my friend's guitar studio. All my friends' pitched in and bought me a \$5000 guitar.

—*David Salisbury*
mathematics/science teacher



A ticket to Costa Rica, because my family lives there."

—*grade 10*

Spirit of Giving

Glendale Talons open their wallets quite a lot for various groups and organizations around the school.

SHARE Society Project Angel

Project Angel by SHARE Society is up and running at Glendale until December 11. Project Angel collects toys to donate to families in need living in the Tri-cities.

“Doing something like this is a great way to start out doing more charitable work,” said **Dominic Cunningham**, grade 12.

Talons can donate a toy in the counselling area by taking an angel off the tree and taping it to an unwrapped gift, then placing it in one of the boxes beneath the tree.

Toys are categorized by age and gender. Groups go up to 16 and there is the option to donate gender-neutral toys. Toys must be new, or unused. Educational toys, such as puzzles, or books are encouraged.

Members of the Glendale community have expressed much support for the program, describing it as heartwarming, sweet, and inspiring.

A committee of leadership 12 students are running Project Angel. “SHARE can’t do it unless there are people like us in our community,” said **Emma Waterhouse**, grade 11, a member of the committee.

Everyone has the option to donate and support the cause. “Think of all the kids that don’t have presents,” said **Fatima Otu**, grade 9. Contributing to Project Angel will help less fortunate families celebrate Christmas. Last year SHARE gave away 1603 presents in just the Tri-cities.

Donations must be in before December 11 in order to be opened by a child on Christmas.

— Porsha Schaffer

Remembrance Day Poppy Sales

From November 1-11, Talons raised over \$1000 to the Royal Canadian Legion.

Threads of Gold

Started six weeks ago, it’s goal is to donate essential goods like diapers for teenage mothers through the YMCA Child Care program.

Con-X Waffle Fundraiser

The Con-X team raised over \$1000 for the Union Gospel Mission, or the Tri-cities Homeless Initiative during November 25-30.

Movie Night

On December 4, non perishable foods were accepted as payment for those wanting to watch movies and donate to the SHARE foodbank.

Hot Chocolate Sales

On December 4, students were able to pre-order hot chocolate and support BC Children’s hospital.

Donations for Refugees

Come spring, leadership and Con-X students will promote donations to accommodate the refugees coming to our community.

It’s that time of year when Christmas charity is expected and embraced, yet Edge columnist Pourochista Rahmati wondered:

Is spirit of giving genuine at Glendale?

POUROCHISTA RAHMATI
Edge columnist

In Charles Dickens’ *A Christmas Carol*, the iconic character Ebenezer Scrooge is blinded by his own wealth and privilege, but is redeemed and learns the value of charity during Christmas.

Glendale is an upper-middle class neighborhood, with all of the privilege that comes with it. Yet there are many of us that are more Scrooge than Saint Nick.

Grade 12, **Yasaman Hoofar** said, “am I gonna get judged if I say this? ‘Cause honestly, I think the kids in this school aren’t charitable. We had this other charity a while back, and I knew that [the kids] had money on them, like I told them even a dollar is fine. They told me they had no money. I’ve had people walk away from me while I was talking to them.”

Do we as a community care about charity, especially during the holidays?

Or do we only care about the volunteer hours we can put on our university application forms?

Is there an actual spirit of giving, a passion, and a drive to make things better in this world rather than to absolve our own

“People think that ‘oh I lost my money’ when it’s not true, you didn’t lose it, you helped someone.”

—Yasaman Hoofar
grade 12

most to them, it doesn’t matter what I think, it doesn’t matter what others do,” states Hayes.

“Your values will determine your behaviour, and once you act on that behaviour and you see that it has positive ripple effects, if you’re following your values not just what you feel you must have or need, but really what you care about, what matters most, those intangible values,” concluded Hayes.

These larger initiatives organized by leadership and Con-X tend to be better known, and run year round. Yet there are new groups and clubs at Glendale that also seek to help in the community.

Threads of Gold, is the six-week old brainchild of Hoofar. Its aim is to create 30 stockings filled with essentials such as diapers, bibs, blankets, and candy, for the 17 teenage mothers at CAFE secondary, through the YMCA Child Care program.

“We’re trying to get donations of diapers, things that teen moms would appreciate,” said **Susan Priestly**, teacher sponsor. “We have some plans for the second semester, with some spring dresses to donate. Lots of the kids are brand new to sewing, but they’re also happy to donate and give to other kids,” Priestly continued.

Do all these events, and the money raised, really show Glendale’s spirit of giving?

Not to sound cynical, but “spirit of giving” is an abstract concept. Since it’s an abstract concept, how can we define it by the money raised?

“I think that it’s not just Christmas. I know that Christmas is a time that we all come closer together, but I think that it’s not just Christmas,” said Hoofar. “We should always think of how privileged we are. People think that ‘oh, I lost my money’ when it’s not true, you didn’t lose it, you helped someone. That goes towards creating a better quality of life for all of us,” concluded Hoofar.

Is it fair to say our school has a better spirit of giving compared to schools in lower income areas with less money to give in the first place?

What’s the point of writing a self congratulatory piece about our school anyways? Local school article about the school written by someone who goes to the school says the school is great and super charitable!

How about this: we should give because we have enough to give to those who don’t

have what we have and because we feel it’s right.

Not give because we feel obligated to or because we want to add another line to our resume or application.

Truly, there are people who only do these things to alleviate a guilty conscience, and

“We should give because we feel it’s right, not give because we feel obligated to or because we want to add another line to our resume or application.”

—Pourochista Rahmati
Edge columnist

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to make themselves look better.

Nevertheless, there’s also many people in our school doing this because it’s what they think is right.

They can see the impact in their own community, and so they can feel that they’ve done something to impact people on a larger scale.

There are people who’ve come to sympathize with situations they’ll never have to experience in their lives. People who carry these things into their future because it touches them emotionally.

Yet, there’s a problem with charity being seen as the end all be all of activism. Fundraising, soup kitchens, and donations alleviate the immediate problems, but will it address the long-term needs and systematic inequalities that led to the situations in the first place?

You can’t fundraise away the racism behind the disproportionate amount of Aboriginals in poverty.

We’ve been throwing money at the downtown eastside for years, the single worst neighborhood in Canada with regards to poverty and drug use, yet what’s come of it?

We haven’t addressed the issues behind homelessness, untreated mental illness, drug use, and in the case of aboriginals, centuries of systematic racism.

I’m glad we raise this money, although I believe its benefits are short term. I’m glad there are people who’ve come to sympathize with plights they’ll never know. I’m

“The first thing I do with them is ‘Why do you want to do it?’ and then they have to answer that. Once you can articulate that, you can tell everybody why it’s important, and guess what they’ll want to come and support you.”

—Adam Hayes
Leadership teacher



so glad that we can make even a miniscule difference.

But, does all our fundraising, no matter the motivation, translate to a community wide spirit of giving? Not just through money, but through giving our compassion, our emotional and physical labor?

I’d like to hope so.

•The Edge welcomes letters to the editor. They can be given to any English teacher or sent to theEdge@sd43.bc.ca

Artists showcase talents for portfolio day



CHARLES LEE PHOTO

PORTFOLIOS ON THE GO: Grade 12 Gleneagle artist (pictured left), polishes her portfolio during lunch. Grade 12, shows off her artwork.

CHARLES LEE
Staff reporter

Gleneagle art students showcased their work to their dream universities at the National Portfolio Day hosted at Emily Carr on December 5. In all, 27 universities were represented, including prestigious schools such as the Art Institute of Chicago and the Parsons School of Design in New York.

University representatives examined student's portfolios, gave feedback, and some students were invited to apply or even get early admission within two weeks.

Many artists lined up for the crowded event, with some students only managing to meet two university representatives. "I was standing in line on Saturday in the rain for two hours with a broken umbrella," said **Makena Mills**, grade 12 and aspiring artist.

Prior to the event, students worked to create their portfolio. Most universities require 15 or more pieces that demonstrate creativity and a variety of styles.

"One of the challenges...is having a diverse portfolio, because art schools don't go for seeing that you can draw," said **Yasaman Hoorfar**, grade 12. "They also want to see that they can make sculptures and look at your surrounding and get inspired."

"It's very stressful, but it's also very rewarding, because you get to learn how to photograph your pieces, and also get critique on one, so that we can apply to art universities," said **Eileen Huang**, grade 12, who received early admission to the Art Institute of Chicago.

Many of the students doing portfolios are in the Art Careers 12 class, taught by teacher **Melanie Stokes**, which prepares students

for a post-secondary art education.

"The course is designed to help them get into art schools by getting them to create really solid portfolios," said Stokes.

This year's class is Stokes' largest with 22 students. "It's wonderful because so many kids want to go into the visual arts, and I do have very high expectations of them, because these are the kids who know what they want to do, have really good solid skills, and they are applying to some of the most prestigious visual art schools."

Creating an art portfolio is stressful for students as they have more to worry about than just simply painting.

"It's basically having a creative mind, and being able to incorporate that in the portfolio. [The universities] don't just want to see you meet their requirements. They want to see creativity," added Hoorfar.

Movie night fails to connect with Talons

ASHLEE AHN
Staff reporter

Poor advertising was one of the causes that led to low attendance at last Friday's Share food bank movie night. Only 15 students attended the MPR event where donations and non-perishable food items were accepted as payment to watch the holiday-themed movie "A Christmas Story".

"The event didn't go as well as I wanted it to," said **Elisa Testa**. "I learned to put first things first, synergize, and begin with an end in mind," added Testa.

Snacks were also available for purchase with all the proceeds that went towards supporting the Share food bank for the winter time.

"I thought the event turned out better than it was going to turn out, but I don't think we advertised enough," said **Emily Phillips**. "[It's important to] really get the cause out there and tell people why we're doing this, I feel like if we stated that more people would've come," added Phillips.

The movie night was hosted by five leadership 11 students, who had hoped to have lots of fun during the process. "We didn't reach out to the right people," said **Aahliya Bano**. "We could've contacted student council, but we did get good donations from the people that came."

"I personally thought it would be good to donate to the SHARE food bank because it's winter time and more people are going to be in need especially due to the weather," said **Sabrina Dyni**.

"I had a friend who had a single mother when she was younger and used to go to the food bank so I understood the situation, and it meant something to me," stated Bano.

Despite the lack of audience, the movie night committee still managed to get three full boxes of non-perishable food that could bring positivity to their neighbourhood.

Coast kicks off new year with new recruits

VICTOR XU
Staff reporter

The COAST program is on the threshold of several new beginnings as it gets geared up for second semester. 26 grade 10 COAST students will start their second semester with a massive amount of outdoor activities while taking six courses at the same time.

"I feel pretty confident with a great group working as a whole. Overall this crew is great together," said **Gavin Findley**, grade 10 and new COAST student.

While these grade 10 students are getting ready to start the program, current grade 9 students are already starting to apply for the 2017 semester.

This application and advertising about the course started in October with past COAST students visited grade 9 classrooms.

On November 9 a video of past trips was shown in the MPR. A pizza lunch was also hosted on November 25 for interested students to talk to past COAST members. The final stage of the process was the parent information night was held on December 2.

Interested grade 9 students then do an earlier enrollment in the program and will have a follow-up interview in January. Students are required to have a positive attitude in participating in the outdoors.

"They learn as much outdoors as we do indoors," said **Krista Bogen**, COAST teacher.

"We spend a lot of our times visiting museums. Also winter programs will be integrated to the water programs as the weather goes tepid," added Bogen.

"I learned a lot about myself and new skills that I will keep with me forever," said **Alex Fierro**, past COAST student, grade 11. "The positive attitude it taught me cannot be forgotten."

The revamping of the COAST website is also in process. The website will explain

how to apply with access to the application form. It will have pictures and videos from the past years and answers to any frequently asked questions.

"We are hoping to provide more information about how the program works what trips we go on and our goals and objectives," said **Shawna Smith**, COAST teacher.

Interested grade 9 students can see Bogen in room 104 or Smith in room 117 for an application form.

Work experience give hands on training to grade 12 students

ERIKA LEE
Staff reporter

Grade 12 work experience students have started placements for this year getting an opportunity to get first hand knowledge about potential career fields.

Placements range from physiotherapy offices to firefighter halls. "Working at Hawthorne Seniors Care Community gave me a good experience because I want to go into the medical field," said **Maggie Ma**, grade 12.

Teachers **Joanna Horvath** and **Lori Gregory** have prepared students with a 30 hour pre-employment course that gets

them ready for the 90 hours of unpaid work experience.

Suitable placements are made following an outline of several steps to find an occupation that interests the students.

"It's really just about putting yourself out there in a professional environment," said **Jeremy Au**, grade 12.

Work experience provides both skill development but also personal growth.

"It really is eye opening, shadowing these professionals at the bank definitely intrigued me and I may even anticipate a career in banking," said **Liam Law**, grade 12.

"What you put into a course is what you'll get out," concluded Au.

SPOTLIGHT

A TALE OF A CHRISTMAS STORY:

Although "A Christmas Story" might not have caught the Talons' attention at the Share movie night, it has been Christmas favourite for many years.

Directed by Bob Clark in 1983, it follows the exploits of a young boy trying to convince his parents to get him a Red Ryder BB gun for Christmas. While not as popular when it was first released, with iconic moments such as the leg lamp, Chinese turkey, and the frozen tongue to a lamp post, "A Christmas Story" has become a huge film classic in recent years.



Takedown tourney lets wrestlers get grip on preseason



ALIROD AMERI PHOTO

HITTING THE MATS: Wrestlers grade 10 and grade 11 practice their throws and falls in advance of the Burnaby Take down Tourney held on December 1, where eleven wrestlers competed.

BORIS KIM
Staff reporter

The wrestling team started their preseason at the Burnaby Take down Classic tournament on December 1. Eleven wrestlers competed at Burnaby Central against competitors from Pinetree, Centennial, Terry Fox, Burnaby Central, and St. Thomas Moore Collegiate.

There were no placings as it this a semi-casual tournament to ease new wrestlers into the sport.

"I felt a little nervous at first but I knew it wasn't like an official tournament so it wasn't that bad," said **Shoma Asano**, grade 11.

"Normally I get really nervous before tournaments but this one was like a take down tournament,"

said **Hannah Wood**, grade 10. "They don't keep score and the time limit is half of what it is normally and it's the first to five take-downs. The match ends when someone gets five take downs or when the three minute time limit is up," added Wood.

Coaches **Mark Tustin** and **Collin Chung** were satisfied with what they saw in performance and personal improvement but they knew there was still a lot more room for improvement

"Everyone starts at a different point," said Tustin. "For the kids that have never wrestled before, their goals was for them was to again work on proper setups and to execute their take down moves as well as they could," added Tustin.

"It's the beginning of the season event and it's meant for first experience especially for the new wrestlers," said Chung. "It wasn't full wrestling rules; it was take downs only so it was meant to ease a lot of athletes into the season. It was a little bit less formal, but it was matches. Everyone got to do at least two to three matches so it was a good experience for them."

The athletes also had some good results in some of their matches.

"My win was very tough," said **Sam Yi**, grade 11. "It was my last match so I had a better idea of what to do. I stuck to a technique I knew I was good at and it went pretty well for me. By the end of it I couldn't even stand upright because I was so tired."

After the tournament finished,

“I like how wrestling teaches the athletes to not give up on something. It’s something that teaches you humility.”

Collin Chung
Wrestling coach



ARTONA

the team had a clear outline of season goals.

The coaches agree that wrestling is not only a sport, but something that improves the overall character of the athletes.

"I like how wrestling teaches the athletes to not give up on something," said Chung. "It's something that teaches you humility. You're not always successful,

sometimes you lose but do you curl up into a ball and go into a corner? Or do you work hard to come back?" added Chung.

"The kids that are on the team right now, we're looking at them improving not only their wrestling skills, but their leadership, sportsmanship, and all those intangibles that help build a person," concluded Tustin.

Junior boys basketball get first win in decisive game

SUNGWOO HWANG
Staff reporter

Junior boys' basketball won their first game 49-30 against Similkameen on December 5 which brought them to a 1-3 record in the early season play.

In previous league play, the boys lost against on December 2 against with 54-31 and December 4 against Panorama Ridge 56-32.

In a tight game against Port Moody, the boys lost 35-30 on December 5.

The team is small, but that allows the players to get to know each other.

"Since we only have twelve guys, we know each other well and the chemistry seems to be good," said **Leo Cho**, grade 10.

"I had them last year and they

were a pretty determined group," said **Jason Bingley**, team coordinator. "They knew they are not a big team so they're going to have to outwork others to win."

"We don't have any tall giants so we have to run and practice harder," added Cho.

The coach, **Christopher Ren**, and the team members have a great connection with each other. "Personally, I really like Mr. Ren and his dedication. Even though he works as a TOC at Pinetree, he comes to Gleneagle every week," said **Sam Jung**, grade 10.

"Coach Ren is doing a remarkable job with our team and I wish that he could be a full time teacher at Gleneagle so we could get more practices," said **Vafa Mohammadramezanizade**, grade 10.



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CHECKMATE: Grade 10 players work wide on the defense and protect the team. The teams dedication and sweat resulted in their first victory on December 5.

Senior girls third in Tri-Cities tourney hosted at Gleneagle



ALIROD AMERI PHOTO

SENIOR GIRLS' IN ACTION : Grade 11, battles to keep the ball from the Fraser Heights Firehawks at the Tri-City Opener tournament from December 3-5. In that same game, Grade 12 (top right) dribbles away from an attacker, while Grade 11, quickly out maneuvers an opponent.

BRAEDEN MANDRUSIAK
Staff reporter

The senior girls' basketball team came third out of 16 teams in the Tri-City Opener Tournament at Gleneagle from December 3-5.

The girls' started round-robin play last Thursday against Holy Cross, beating them 46-42.

Friday's game against Fraser Heights earned a 65-62 win.

During semifinal play on

Saturday, against ninth ranked Handsworth, the girls' faced a devastating loss 54-48.

That same day, the girls' rallied to beat Carson Graham 51-33, earning a third place finish for the tournament.

"Two out of the four games were within two baskets of each other," said **Kelsey Hazelwood**, grade 11. "It was touch and go for a while, but we all fought really hard and pulled through," added

Hazelwood.

The tournament was only the second time the girls' have played together in a game situation.

"For the amount of time we have spent together, and the amount of full practices as a team, I think it's a great place to start," said **Nadia Hakeem**, grade 11.

The girls' main drive in this tournament "was the ability to play well and show our true strength," expressed Hazelwood. "It was also

awesome that we got to play in our home gym, where we had lots of support from the students' of our school," added Hazelwood.

"29 games over three days, it was a success," said **Patty Anderson**, coach for the team in reference to the Tri-City Opener Tournament that Gleneagle hosted.

Although the team has a full schedule throughout the coming months, "the more time we spend on the court, the more we

understand each other and improve," said Hakeem.

The road to the Fraser Valley Championships, February 18-21, and the BC championships, March 2-5, is never an easy one, but, "I think we are going to have a great season, and I'm really excited to see the outcome," said Hazelwood.

Previous to this tournament, the only other game the girls' played together was against Pitt Meadows, winning 56-24.

Boarders, skiers set to hit Whistler slopes Sunday

ALIROD AMERI
Staff reporter

Fresh snow has hit the mountains and fifty students in the ski and snowboard club will have a chance to shred the slopes at Whistler Blackcomb this Sunday.

Nima Yazdi, grade 12, looks forward to "hitting the slopes one last time with the Gleneagle Ski and Snowboard crew before I graduate."

Owen Guo, grade 12, hopes to have "some very comfortable times with my grad buddies."

Sponsored by **Brian Unger** and **Bryan Jackson**, registration occurs every November with students paying \$95 for each trip.

"We have a record turnout this year, as all three trips are sold out," said Unger.

Students come to Gleneagle Sunday morning and take a two hour bus ride to Whistler.

Jordan Flatman, grade 12, is a snowboarder who is returning to

the club for a second year. "I felt that the entire experience from the early morning bus ride with friends up the Sea to Sky to the lessons we were taught from the Australian instructors was full of wonder," said Flatman.

During last season, many local mountains including Whistler Blackcomb suffered from poor snow conditions.

"You could see the ground through the melting snow on the lower runs," said **Jade Zhong**, grade 11. "I kept thinking my skis were going to get caught on some hidden boulder," added Zhong.

Guo said that the experience last year "was like skating. It ruined the edge on my skis."

This year, club members are optimistic about conditions. Whistler opened earlier than usual and has 307 cm of snow so far.

"Whistler has been getting the most snow in years, so I'm looking forward to some nice powder snow," said Zhong.



ALIROD AMERI PHOTO

MOUNTAINS OF ADVENTURE: Ski and snowboard club members will go to Whistler this Sunday and have a chance to enjoy some of the best conditions in recent years, with nothing but snow in the forecasts.

Unger started a ski racing team at Gleneagle 15 years ago, however, he found that "people were intimidated about ski racing." Unger later took over the ski and snowboard club after **Wayne Reid**, former sponsor and Gleneagle

counsellor, that retired in 2006.

"You get to hang out with your friends, you've got incredible views, and the sheer thrill of skiing and being on one of the best ski mountains in the world" expressed Unger.

In addition to Sunday's trip, the ski and snowboard club will also have trips on January 16 and February 20.

Students wishing to participate in these trips can be placed on a waiting list by contacting Unger.

Club set to recruit more Talons for Hullaballoo

NAZLIE NAJAFI
Staff reporter

The slam poetry club is hosting another lively event and this time around they're welcoming aspiring Talons poets to perform. The event is set to take place in mid-January at the MPR, open for any students who wish to qualify for Hullaballoo, the provincial spoken word festival.

The student leaders are looking to round up talented student poets to help bring home the provincial championship.

Leaders of the club **Emma Field**, **Jamie Fajber**, and **Lyle Hendriks**, all grade 11, have competed at Hullaballoo for two consecutive years. Last year they brought along grade 10's **Emma Macdonald** and **Minlyn Chen** and placed third in the province. "Competitors from previous years don't have assured spots on the team, so we're gonna be working hard to try to impress the judges," added Field. "We expect it to be the most competitive year because as the culture is growing within the school so is the club and we have more people interested in those spots."

While the slam night in November featured provincially and nationally ranked poets, the rules and format of a professional slam were not strictly followed.

With this event the slam poetry club is getting student poets familiar with the general rules of a youth slam.

"This means rules, including time penalties, will be enforced more strictly than at the previous slam night, and our judges will be handpicked to be both experienced and unbiased," said Fajber.

"The whole thing about slam poetry and why it's scored is because it forces the poets to work hard to impress the judges; that format really helps you be your best poet and perform your best poetry," expressed Field.

Field and Hendriks expressed how transformative and beneficial Hullaballoo is for any young poets work.

"Hullaballoo holds a place in my heart; it's such a cool experience and it's so hard to describe to people how amazing it'll be for them" said Field. "In my first year at Hullaballoo it helped me get closer to myself as a poet. Hullaballoo really helped get me more in touch with the community and want to pursue it more" added Hendriks.

"The poets performing will be Gleneagle students, and its open sign-up for the entire student body, so hopefully some great wordsmiths will come crawling out of the woodwork," said Fajber. "I'm expecting a fantastic turnout to this show, after the full house from our Slam Night in November - this time around, the talent is all home-grown Gleneagle, so friends, teammates, family members and classmates should be flocking to it. You don't wanna miss out!"

“Hullaballoo really helped get me more in touch with the community and want to pursue it more

—Lyle Hendriks
grade 11

All students are encouraged to get involved and should listen to announcements for sign up dates. The judges, audience and slam poetry club hope to see you there.

Extra spice served up by actors at Metfest



Removed
as per
SD43
online
policy

Jamie Fajber
grade 11

Removed
as per
SD43
online
policy

Lyle Hendricks
grade 11



HOMEGROWN PLAY: Grade 11s (top center) as well as grade 11 and grade 10 (bottom right) held major roles in a play developed and written by grade 11s.

BEATRIZ ROQUE
Staff reporter

Gleneagle actors spiced things up at MetFest 2015, the district's theater festival on December 4 at Heritage Woods Theatre. The cast had their best performance of Gleneagle's student written play *The Spice of Life* at MetFest and were adjudicated by **Susan Betoia**.

The class had their largest performance in front of lively crowd which led to high energy levels from the students.

Jamie Fajber and **Lyle Hendriks**, two grade 11 students in the drama department were asked to write this year's play.

"When **Ms. Freeborn** asked us to write a play at the beginning of the semester, we didn't really know where to start," said Fajber. "But we looked through our old poems and we thought *The Spice of Life* had a very understandable and clear narrative arc that we could extend into a 45 minute production."

Six weeks of rehearsed production in class and after school was required to get the show ready for MetFest.

The Spice of Life chronicles a boy life, played by **Waleed Hakeem**, grade 11, as he grows up experiencing love and tragedy. As the boy goes through events, he plants herbs in his garden to represent them. "The herbs are a metaphorical tool to express different emotions that he feels in these points of his life," commented Hendriks.

"I was really lucky to have Jamie and Lyle with me," said Hakeem.

"This was my biggest role that I've played so far and it was really nice having the playwrights with me to see their vision and to see what I could make of it," added Hakeem.

New drama teacher **Amy Clausen** became the play's director halfway through production after Freeborn quit in November.

"My job was not to get them excited about the script or the story; I didn't cast the show, I didn't block the show, said Clausen. "What I did do was refine the show and

help the students find the best version of the show to bring to this stage, it was a treat," added Clausen. "The Spice of Life" has pieces of snappy humorous dialogue, intense themes, and it serves as a platform to showcase the unique element of slam poetry.

Throughout the play, Hendriks recites his original poem. "We thought that the spoken word elements of it would work well, in terms of giving it some flare and some edge," said Fajber.

Poets such as Hendriks all have their own personal style of writing. "In the case of the spice of life I came up with 'He had nothing but time on his hands so he went out to his garden and came back in with nothing but thyme on his hands and the rest followed,'" remarked Hendriks.

"I didn't expect that something from just a poem could be so amazing and have such a deep storyline. It's so emotional, expressive, passionate and sincere. I would have not have asked to be in a better play to be in," concluded Hakeem.

Christmas concert brings holiday spirit to Gleneagle

CATHY LIU
Staff reporter

The Gleneagle music department is back again to share their holiday spirit with the annual Christmas concert. Next Thursday Gleneagle's award winning music department will be coming together for the second concert of the year.

They will perform Christmas and winter themed music.

"We'll be covering everything from 'Jingle Bells' to 'Angels We Have Heard on High'" said **Eddie Trovato**, music teacher.

It will also tend to a wide variety of musical tastes.

"We are doing some really cool arrangements that are not well known, particularly

the vocal jazz group called 'The Pentatonix'. There's a huge variety of music, and there's something for everyone," added Trovato.

The students have been working hard to prepare for the concert. Jazz band, vocal jazz, concert choir and concert band have been practicing since early November. They're fully prepared to showcase how far they've come with their work.

"I find the students improve quickly after the first concert, because the first concert people are always rusty from after the summer. And then after the fall concert every concert gets stronger," stated Trovato.

Another music student, **Sydney Lynn**, stated "The highlight of the concert is performing with the choir. We always experience these performances together and as a

united front, and each concert is never the same!"

Audrey Har, grade 10 junior band student, said that "What I'm looking forward to is the mass band performance. It's always nice to hear what we sound as one, big group. It's also nice to hear some new instruments chime in when we practice together"

"One of the pieces we're doing, 'Jingle Bell Fantasy' seems simple at first but is actually quite tricky when you're trying to learn it. This year I think we're pushing through the piece much more quickly; this allows us to take the time to polish our performance, one of the most important parts of preparing for a concert," expressed Lynn.

Talons are looking forward to showcasing their musical talents at the Winter Concert.