



AMANDA DING PHOTO

LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT: Maria, played by **Hira Lalani**, grade 12, serenades Tony, played by **Christian Ramirez**, grade 11, from the balcony. (Left to right) **Tia Gschwind**, grade 11, **Alana Sun**, **Jobina Sitoh**, and **Madison McConnachie** all grade 12, dance and sing to “America.”

West Side Story premieres love, tragedy drama

AMANDA DING
Staff reporter

Drama and music will come together and put on a spectacular show of love, comedy, and tragedy for friends and family.

This year, the musical theatre and theatre production groups will present *West Side Story*.

“*West Side Story* is loosely based on *Romeo and Juliet*,” explained **Justin Maller**, drama teacher. “Instead of the Montagues and the Capulets, you have the Jets and the Sharks.”

“The story kind of follows *Romeo and Juliet*, where Tony, the Romeo character, and Maria, our Juliet character, fall in love even though they’re on the opposite sides,” said Maller.

“[There] are two different [groups] of immigrants, [Puerto Ricans and European], battling to belong in America,” continued Maller.

“The ending is a little bit traumatic. There’s a bit of violence in this show. There’s nightmarish scenes and a lot of really challenging and excellent choreography,” added Maller.

Christian Ramirez, grade 11, plays Tony while **Hira Lalani**, grade 12, plays Maria.

“Maria is definitely the heaviest character I’ve ever taken on,” said Lalani.

She described it being a unique experience that had many learning opportunities for her.

“Maria goes through a lot during *West Side Story*, and I feel what she feels,” added Lalani. “It’s emotionally draining, but in the best way,” explained Lalani.

Previously in the fall, the chosen musical was *All Shook Up*, however; Maller decided the musical was not challenging enough.

“After the first round of auditions, I felt [the musical] that was selected wasn’t going to challenge or meet the type of talent pool that Gleneagle has,” added Maller.

“The [musical] that really struck me and would suit these students was *West Side Story*,” said Maller.

The musical theatre and theatre production groups are talented, and with such a demanding musical like *West Side Story*, it displays the true aptitude of these programs.

“We are all an ensemble. We work together,

sing together, act together and all act as a unit,” said Ramirez.

“There were many [nights] where we stayed as late as 10 p.m. It was often frustrating to make time for theatre, but there are ups and downs to everything,” said **Annie Yin**, grade 10, lighting crew for the musical.

“Communication with each other is definitely key - when everyone is at odds with each other, it can get ugly, but we have those who have experienced this before and will solve the problem getting everyone to come together,” said **Hailey Kuang**, grade 10, sound tech for the show.

The connections made in theatre production and musical theatre keep the students motivated throughout practices.

“Luckily, all of that hard work comes with a lot of bonding, so by the time the show is ready to be put on, it’s almost like you’re doing it with family,” concluded Lalani.

West Side Story performances will be on April 30, May 1, 2, 8, 9, and 10, at 7pm. Tickets are \$15 for adults, and \$8 for students. A seasons pass, to go to all 6 *West Side Story* shows, is available for \$60.

Tea culture brews toxicity

ALEX ZHANG

Cutting Edge columnist

Information is a great resource. Students can learn a variety of new skills, keep up to date with current events, and form connections between one another. With advances in communication technology, such as the smartphone and tablet, sharing information has never been easier.

However, as the stories of individuals and their fellow peers become increasingly accessible, students are met with a greater responsibility in controlling what they share and how they present it.

Gossip has always been a way of keeping up to date with events. It can present itself in many forms, from small talk among friends to full conversations between large groups.

Furthermore, “tea” has become a widely used slang to describe hot gossip with phrases such as, “spilling the tea.” This tea culture exchanges personal information from other people for short-term attention.

Speculations and revelations made through these various exchanges can initially come off as exciting or entertaining; however, there are certainly many boundaries in place that individuals should learn to identify and recognize so that these borders are not crossed.

Gossip has a tendency to present all speculations as completely factual when in reality, there is typically no confirmation with the subject or people involved in the topic of discussion. Knowing this, students should think about what has been shared before reaching any conclusions.

When the conversation centers around someone’s private life, criticizing them, or when the information is harmful to their reputation, that is when gossip can become a gateway to bullying.

It is better to leave most personal matters for an individual to resolve, rather than escalate a situation that could otherwise be easily fixed.

The compounding speed at which rumours



spread can make a small issue swell up to worrying levels.

For conversations that seem to head in a bad direction, disengaging or changing the subject helps to keep discussions respectful as well as keep the school community safe.

Gossip is not something that can always be escaped, but it is something that students can control.

There are many who become victims of harassment from nasty rumours; however, they are not the only ones who are affected by the negative impacts of *spilling tea*.

Studies, such as a report in 2011 from the University of Baltimore, show that those who regularly gossip, both positively and negatively, are more often associated with negative feelings and traits like distrust and

disapproval by friends and strangers alike.

Some level of responsibility is needed when sharing information about others. That responsibility extends out to the listeners, who help question and verify informational authenticity, impact, and relevance.

The long term effects of tea culture result in deficient character development, hurt feelings, and distrust. Following any controversy as a result of spilt tea, the spillers will usually be left to clean up their own mess.

At its very core, gossip is what shapes how students perceive their peers, how they see their community, and their outlook on life.

In the end, most kinds of gossip do more harm than good. It is a temporary feeling of fulfillment that tends to divide many more people than it can bring together.

TheCuttingEdge

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Know something you think we should address? Email us at gleneaglecuttingedge@gmail.com to share your ideas and thoughts.



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CONQUERING THE COMPETITION: *Megan Kennedy-Spence, grade 11, throws a strong tackle on her opponent to regain possession. Girls' rugby won all four games.*

Girls' rugby starts out promising

LUCUS HUNG
Staff reporter

As the rain has pounded down in the past weeks, few would want to spend hours outside on a muddy grass field.

However, the Gleneagle girls' rugby team has been doing just that – and has been successful so far.

Two weeks ago, the team battled its way to two victories over Fleetwood and Earl Marriott, winning by scores of 42-10 and 22-17, respectively.

“This year, rather than having a junior and senior team like we usually do, we have one combined team,” said **Nikita Evans**, grade 11. “It’s harder, because we still have to play against other schools’ senior teams.”

Despite the challenge of having one team

with junior and seniors, several younger players, such as **Sarah Fong**, grade 10, and **Gabi Cross**, grade 9, have risen to the occasion.

One early memory came against the powerhouse Carson Graham squad, the second-ranked team in the province.

Gleneagle players are proud of their win against the team and their close 27-24 score.

The team has been spearheaded by coach **Simon Quinto**, who, as Evans says, “can really see [the players’] potential, and tries to help [them] see it too. He’ll push [them] to do [their] very best.”

Players have also set personal goals for their season.

“[I want to] lead more, and take on a more vocal role off the field as well, in areas such as fundraising,” concluded Evans.

TALONS kayak toward adventure

JOE ZHOU
Staff reporter

From April 26 to 29, students in the TALONS program will be on a four-day kayaking trip.

Starting at Bowen Island, the TALONS will paddle west to Keats Island, and then all the way north to Douglas Bay at Gambier Island. On Sunday, they will turn their kayaks south to Halkett and return to Bowen island, marking the end of the voyage.

There is a large portion of time that they will spend traveling on water with small tides and winds. They will also spend time

on shore, setting up tents and other survival gear in the wilderness.

All of the students attending this trip were professionally trained on the skills and composure needed when kayaking.

“I booked Gym C and planned out all the training sessions. We have to workout before we go on the trip,” said **Jason Bi**, grade 9.

“It is important to learn what is involved in a trip such as this,” said **Qurien Mulder ten Kate**, TALONS teacher and event organizer.

“I really want the students to have the best trip possible and build a lot of memories with [each other]. This is how we should celebrate our study,” concluded Mulder.

NewsinBrief

Badminton districts finish tomorrow

Tomorrow, senior badminton will be at Port Moody Secondary to finish districts.

The junior team competed in districts on April 16 and 18 at Gleneagle.

“It’s a pretty good team to be in,” commented **Elisei Odagiu**, grade 9 and junior badminton team member. “[The team] allows for improvement and the coaches are good. I’ll join next time.”

The short but sweet season ends on May 10. “We hope that more players will join us next year,” said **Michelle Bennett**, sponsor.

-Diane Huang

Boys' rugby begins

Following the weeks of delay due to bad weather, the boys' rugby team was finally ready to see its first game on Thursday, April 2, but the game was cancelled again due to an issue on the other team.

“We were supposed to have our first game on Thursday [April 4],” said **Nick Bolton**, coach. “Unfortunately, the other team had to forfeit.”

The conceded game was originally against Semiahmoo.

“We technically have a victory under our belt,” joked Bolton.

Due to a lack of players, the junior and senior teams are merged into one team of 20.

Last Thursday, the team played against Terry Fox, but lost 29-5.

This Thursday, the boys will face off against Fleetwood Secondary at their school.

-Alex Zhang

Sleepover cancelled

An event designed to celebrate grade 12 students in their final months of high school has been cancelled due to low participation. The Senior Sleepover, originally scheduled for tonight, was meant to “[make] a cohesive graduating class,” as explained by **Renee Boldut**, grade 12 and event organizer. Twenty-seven seniors bought tickets to the event and refunds began earlier this week.

-Kendra Seguin



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TRAGEDY TURNED COMEDY: *Bella Wang, Owen Alderson, Aislyn Adams, and Tia Gschwind*, from left to right, all grade 11, gather to share news in *Romeo You Idiot*.

Drama showcases absurd comedy

ISA YOU
Staff reporter

Gleneagle boasts a strong theatre program and, as a result, many students have proven their dedication towards acting. Over the past two weeks, the drama classes have presented their first showcases of the semester.

There were four plays: three put on between two Drama 9 & 10 classes, and a separate show, selected by the students in Drama 11. The junior plays were: *The Audition*, *Typecast*, and *The Super Non-Heroes*. The senior play was *Romeo You Idiot*.

Directed by **Justin Maller**, drama and musical theatre teacher, students across all grades came together to perform their plays that included a variety of subject matters.

All four plays showcased were comedic in nature, especially the senior play based on *Romeo and Juliet*.

"[*Romeo You Idiot*] is set in modern times and it makes fun of the premise of the play," said **Asher Swartzberg**, grade 11 actor.

"We all just generally decided that [*Romeo You Idiot*] would be the more fun one to do [out of all the choices]. [...] Our class liked the comedy better," said **Tori Kazemir**, grade 11, who played the lead role of Juliet.

"I find it more fun to do comedies just

because it's always fun to make the audience laugh," added Kazemir.

Meanwhile, *The Audition* was a story about the audition process for actors, and *Typecast* was about the mixing up of roles in a play directed by the coach.

"[*Typecast*] has a lot of improv at points, so we've been working well together based off of character," said **Sarah Fong**, grade 10, actor.

Super Non-Heroes gives a better look at the super hero obsession in pop culture.

"[*Super Non-Heroes* was about] a bunch of students who are in a high school for super-heroes, but they all don't know how to use their powers," explained Maller.

Maller described both the *Super Non-Heroes* and *Romeo You Idiot* as absurd comedies.

"We wanted to do stuff that was funny, and things that sort of just address the stretches of playing relatable characters," added Maller.

The plays have allowed the students to build a sense of community within the theatre.

"[Drama class] gives you a different context. You're in with your peers, [...] you really get to know the people in your class a lot better," concluded Kazemir.

The next drama showcases will be in June.

