

Gleneagle Secondary NEWS

Newsletter #2 October 2015

Principal: Mr. Ken Cober

Vice Principals: Mr. Mike Parkins and Ms. Janine Close

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Message from the Principal

This is the start of the 19th school year since the opening of Gleneagle Secondary in September 1997. Over the past 18 years the staff, students, and parents in our community have made deliberate and thoughtful decisions about how we as a school can support student learning, engagement, and development. It is obvious, based on the number and variety of both curricular and extracurricular opportunities, that the staff and students truly identify as Talons and share a deep pride and common purpose. We, as a staff, are committed to working with our students and parents to maintain and develop our school culture and continuing to challenge and support the development of our next generation of educated citizens.

On Friday, September 25 our staff participated in the first professional development day for this school year. Part of this day was spent developing themes of inquiry for this year's on-going professional collaboration. Some of the themes identified were: new curriculum, differentiated instruction for ELL/EAL, assessment, lifelong learning/engagement, connections and community, technology/communication, and self-regulation. This past week we had a team of teachers attend a district and ministry sponsored workshop focused on the new curriculum being introduced in BC public schools. The new curriculum will be released in stages, with the K – 9 curriculum currently in the voluntary or draft year with the intention of implementing it province-wide September 2016. The 10 -12 curriculum is expected to be in draft form for the 2016/17 school year and implemented in 2017/18.

MyEdBC, the new provincial student information system, continues to present significant challenges for our daily and routine activities both at the district and school level. Specific to our school, the communication information (email addresses etc.) for our student families did not transfer seamlessly from the old system to the new system. We are working on cleaning up the errors as we are able to identify them. If you believe your email address or phone number is incorrect or should be updated please contact our main office to update. If you are concerned there may be an attendance concern regarding your son or daughter in one or more classes, please connect directly with the appropriate classroom teacher(s). We are hoping to have our daily absence phone out system up and running in the next couple of weeks.

Interim report cards are scheduled to go home Thursday, October 15. The implementation process for the MyEdBC system requires that we develop an alternate delivery model different from our traditional reports for this October interim. We will be finalizing our October interim plan over the next week and will communicate the plan to our community members by email and on our homepage.

We hosted a very successful open house event for our parent community this past Wednesday. We recognize the importance of meaningful connections between the school and home and we are very appreciative of the significant number of parents and guardians that took the time to participate in this event. If you are available, we would encourage you to attend the inaugural PAC meeting for this school year on Monday, October 5 at 7:00 pm in the school library. Please continue to visit our website (www.gleneagle.org) regularly for school information and our calendar of events.

Ken Cober Principal

"Take our Kids to Work" Day

Wednesday, November 4 is 21st annual "Take our Kids to Work Day". This initiative takes place during National Career Week whereby several events will be taking place around the school in support of the theme.

On this day, hundreds of thousands of Grade 9 students will spend the day at workplaces across Canada. Students will experience a wide variety of job and career options including what it takes to be a paramedic, work on a makeshift assembly line, develop a mock sales presentation or work in the IT department for a large corporation.

We, at Gleneagle, are asking all parents to accept your sons and daughters into your workplace for the day on Wednesday. If a placement is not possible at your own work site, please check with another family member or family friend. All students should be at a workplace for the day so that they can report their experiences when they return to school. Parents need to be aware that these students are not considered part of a formal work experience program so they are not covered by the Workers' Compensation Board. They are no different than any young person visiting the workplace. Regular Grade 9 classes are <u>not</u> in session that day to allow all Grade 9 students to be at work sites.

In block 1 classes, students will be given a **short assignment** to do while/after their workplace visit **that will go towards part of their HCE 9 mark**. The possibilities of experiences open to students are exciting and vast – we look forward to some interesting reports from our students. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact **Joanna Horvath (jhorvath@sd43.bc.ca)**.

Grade 12's - Grad Transitions

GT is a requirement for graduation and is worth 4 credits. All students must complete the assignments by **February 11**th, **2016**. Exit Interviews will be booked for studentsr on **April 13th**. Students should go to www.gleneagle.org \rightarrow "programs & services" \rightarrow "grad transitions" and follow the instructions on the site. Contact Ms. Horvath at jhorvath@sd43.bc.ca if you have any questions.

Early Grads - Grad Transitions

If you are graduating after semester 1, you need to complete the GT assignments and Exit Interview BEFORE the Winter Break. Come down to the Counseling area to talk with Ms. Horvath or email jhorvath@sd43.bc.ca if you have any questions.

Grades 9-11 – Daily Physical Activity

DPA completion is a requirement for all students and must be completed every year. Students should go to www.gleneagle.org \rightarrow "programs & services" \rightarrow "grad transitions" and follow the instructions on the site. Contact Ms. Horvath at ihorvath@sd43.bc.ca if you have any questions ***Note: the actual assignment has been updated. DPA reflections should be completed by students by the end of semester 1.

Math Contest

The Gleneagle Math Contest Club is registering members for the Club. Sessions are held on Wednesdays at 11:45 am in Room 208. Students are encouraged to register for writing math contests of this school year, before the end of September in Room 211.

International Mentoring Club

On Monday of this week, our 112 new International Students were invited to an after-school Mentoring Event. There, we heard stories from students (and Ms. Quach) about coming to Canada, about the hardships initially faced and about the successes they are now experiencing. Many tips for learning English were offered, including the suggestion to get involved in school clubs and/or sports, to talk as much as they can with English speaking friends and to watch English TV show/movies. Students then had opportunity to ask questions of a panel of students about Gleneagle life and about curriculum requirements. Finally, students were buddied up with a senior student who will now serve as their mentor to ask questions of through the year. It was a truly beneficial event.

Outdoor Club



The Gleneagle Outdoor Club is open to all students who are keen to engage in learning that might not be possible in an urban context. Our annual surfing trip to Long Beach, Tofino, on Vancouver Island was a great success on Sept. 25-27, 2015! The Gleneagle Surfers nailed some long lines in the surf by day, and bonded over the campfire by night. Mr. Mancell and Mr. Salisbury played the guitar and the ukulele in between story-telling, jokes, and roasting hot dogs. The outdoor club is currently planning our second trip — a hiking trip. Details announced soon. Meetings are held at lunch in room 104 (the Coast room). The objectives of the outdoor club include building resilience, empathy, respect, and outdoor skills in our students. The Gleneagle Outdoor Club is open to all students who are keen to engage in learning that might not be possible in an **urban context**.

Japan Tour Spring Break

Gleneagle is looking for 20-30 students interested in visiting Japan during Spring Break. When we have enough families that show interest we will hold an information meeting in early October confirming the details. The Japanese Tourist Bureau (a Japanese government organization) is organizing our stay March 12 -22, 2016 which starts with a visit to Gleneagle's sister school in Kyushu (the southern main island) Students will tour Kyoto, Osaka and Tokyo on the main island of Honshu. Interested families please e-mail Mr. Mancell at dmancell@sd43.bc.ca.

Sport News



Sr. girls field hockey is off to a great start... beating Centennial 5-0. The girls take on Charles Best and Port Moody this week and are off to UVIC for the prestigious Bridgeman Classic Thanksgiving weekend.

Now is the time to purchase your 2015-2016 yearbook for \$55.00. Yearbook prices will increase to \$60.00 if you purchase after January 2016. Please pay and order one in the office before it is too late.



ATTENTION PARENTS:

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Prepare for a new job?
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Important Message to Parents regarding Halloween Costumes

Halloween is fast approaching and once again Children of the Street Society is raising awareness about inappropriate Halloween costumes which sexualize children and youth, and glamorize sexual exploitation, pimping, and gang lifestyles. Costumes geared towards children and youth have become increasingly sexualized. Costumes such as "prisoner of love", and "pimp and ho", create false perceptions of the perpetrators and victims of sexual exploitation and human trafficking.

Sexual exploitation of children and youth is a devastating form of human trafficking. The average age of entry into the sex trade in Canada is 12-14 years old. Sexual exploitation involves the exchange of a sexual act for any consideration such as drugs and alcohol, a place to stay, popularity, or acceptance. This is illegal and child abuse and it is not the youth's fault.

Young people are recruited into exploitive situations for a variety of reasons, from false promises, gifts, addiction, coercion or control. Recruitment happens everywhere, including school grounds, shopping malls, transit, and particularly online through social networking sites and chat rooms. Sexual exploitation also includes the issue of child sexual abuse images. Due to the prevalence of online activity, image sharing and online facilitated sexual exploitation has significantly increased. In fact, Cybertip.ca recently issued a warning about sextortion: a crime where the perpetrator threatens to distribute images that the victim provided them unless more photos are sent or money is paid.

Victims of sexual exploitation face significant barriers and long term effects including homelessness, violence, mental illness, drug and/or alcohol addiction, sexually transmitted infections, HIV and AIDS, drug affected babies, post-traumatic stress syndrome from physical, emotional and sexual abuse, social stigma, barriers to future employment and premature death. Dressing up in costumes that glamorize sexual exploitation or sexualizes young people only creates social acceptability and desensitization of this disturbing issue.

Dressing up as a "pimp" or a "gangster" also glamorizes the perpetrators of sexual exploitation, further normalizing this issue in the public eye. Many young men are lured into a gang or pimping lifestyle through false promises of money, power, respect, a sense of family, and protection – promises which lead to violence, criminal activity, and the risk of death. Earning a profit off of the buying and selling of children and youth, is sexual exploitation, and is illegal.

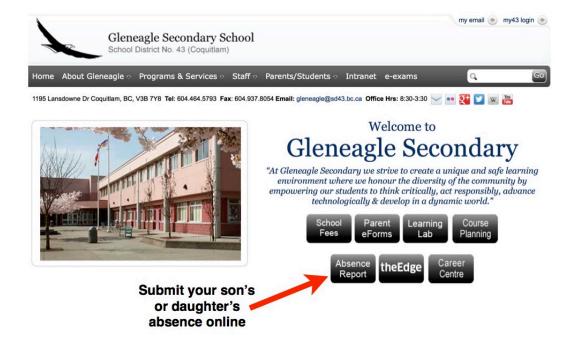
As a society, we have the unique opportunity to recognize that these costumes are not socially responsible, and instead encourage youth to emulate positive role models through what costumes they choose to wear. This year, we are asking the community to be socially responsible by choosing Halloween costumes that do not glamorize either the perpetrators or the victims of child and youth sexual exploitation. We are also encouraging the community to avoid costumes that glamourize gang or pimping lifestyles. Instead, please encourage children and youth to choose appropriate costumes that represent their own individuality and creativity.

Children of the Street Society is a provincial non-profit organization dedicated to the prevention of sexual exploitation of children and youth since 1995. The Society's mission is to take a proactive approach through public awareness, education and early intervention strategies to prevent the sexual exploitation of children and youth while offering support to families.. For more information visit childrenofthestreet.com. Please also Like us on Facebook and Twitter @ChildrenoftheSt. We wish your students a safe and fun Halloween. For further information, please do not hesitate to contact us at 604-777-7510 or at info@childrenofthestreet.com.

On Behalf of Children of the Street Society, Diane Sowden

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

October 5	PAC Meeting
October 9	Canadian Universities Event
October 12	Thanksgiving Day – School Closed
October 15	School Photo Retakes
October 15	Interim Report Cards
October 21	Post Secondary Info Night
October 23	Provincial Non-Instruction Day – School Closed
October 28	Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews (4:00 – 7:00)
October 28	Fall Music Concert (7:00 pm)
November 11	Remembrance Day – School Closed
November 17	First Formal Report Card



Parents, just a reminder, you can submit your child's absence online at www.gleneagle.org.