

Gleneagle's Student Voice  
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# theEdge

## Students reach out to community through Christmas Angels

**KAYLA PHILLIPS**  
staff reporter

The spirit of giving is in the air at Gleneagle with the student council's Christmas Angel project.

Every year, Gleneagle students have the opportunity to help out a local child who is less fortunate than themselves.

All you have to do is go to the counselling area and "pick out an angel off the tree, and buy a present for a kid that age," said **Paolo Mercado**, grade 10.

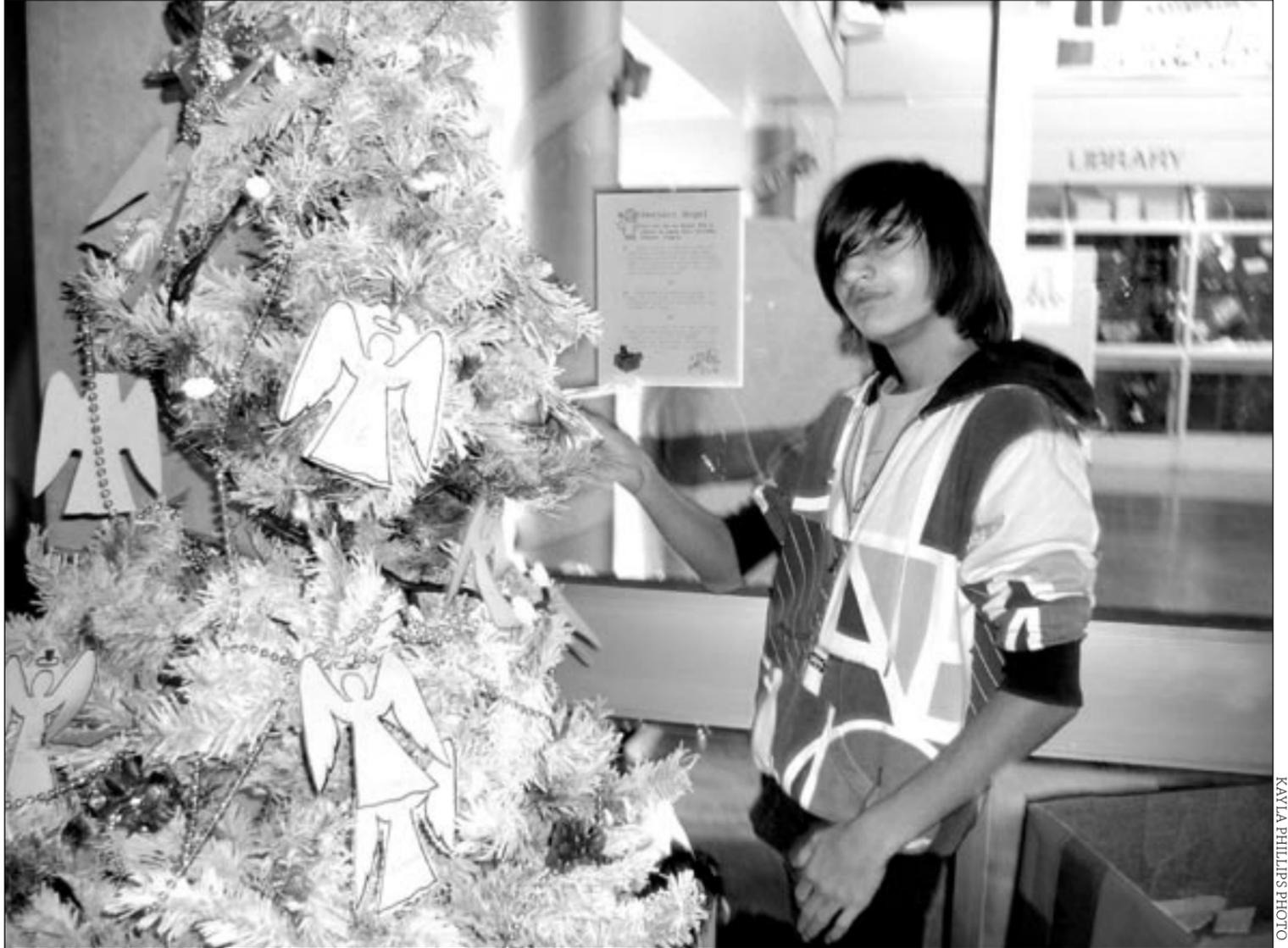
On the angel will be a child's age and gender, corresponding to a local child whose parents aren't able to afford a gift for this year. Once you have your angel, then you can pick out a gift your child, and bring it in unwrapped.

Many things are acceptable besides just toys, because many families are having trouble affording the necessities.

"[Some good gifts are] clothing, chocolates, and things like toiletries. Things these families wouldn't be able to splurge on for themselves," said experienced student council member, **Nimisha Mascarenhas**, grade 12.

Nimisha notes that the project meets large success because it's a "local thing, our school really gets involved and it ups the festive spirit."

The project offers other opportunities to get involved besides bringing in a new toy for a specific child. Students have the option of bringing a stocking stuffer, a small present or trinket for that



**What can I do to help?:** a grade 10 student looks at the selection of angels on the tree in the counselling office. Some fortunate kids will receive an unexpected Christmas present this holiday season. The Christmas Angel Project also accepts stocking stuffers and non-perishable food items.

is small enough to fit in a stocking, and place it in the stocking stuffer box in the office. Another option is bringing in a used toy in good condition that the SHARE

society will sell, with profits going towards buying new toys to give to children. With all these opportunities to help local children, there's no excuse for Gleneagle students

not to participate, not that they need one.

According to **Pedram Farahbakhsh**, grade 10, "people are kind-hearted and just want to

help others." Along with this project, the student council is organizing a coat drive, and many more charitable events for Talons to participate in.

## New Gleneagle multicultural club offers tastings of culture

**KASEY IM**  
staff reporter

Gleneagle's Multicultural Club is celebrating different cultures of the world to raise money for children of the world. The Multicultural Club is having a winter food fair in the kiosk during lunch starting today until next Tuesday, December 15.

"Through the food fair, we [are trying] to introduce different [cultures to the students]," said **Josh**

reference in cultures, and by eating the food you can 'taste' each culture," added Lee.

Both Lee and Sitoh are of Chinese descent, and Iorga is from Romania.

The days are divided up into different categories of cultures: North American, Asian, European and African. The foods that will be sold at the kiosk vary from appetizers to desserts and beverages. The prices vary from \$0.75 for a soup to \$4.00, for meal entrée.

"The Japanese club is merging with us to sell some Japanese food. They're selling mochi and miso soup," added Lee.

The club members are all very excited about the event.

"It's not just a fun event, but it's also the blending of different cultures because our school is really diverse. We just want to bring out how a diverse school can celebrate each other's differences and appreciate that," said Sitoh.

"[I think that] the fair is an awesome idea. It's a good opportunity to try out [foods from different cultures]," said **Calvin Lui**, grade 12. "[It gives] everyone a chance to try out some food that they probably won't normally try out with their family," he added.

Hopefully [the fair] will unite us more as a school," said Iorga.

All the profits from the fair will be donated to World Vision to help kids get Christmas presents.

"Depending on how much we earn, we're getting them a cow, or a sheep," said Lee.

The club was formed by several grade 12's who recognized the racial diversity of Gleneagle.

"The Multicultural Club cel-

brates the traditions and festivals of other cultures," said Lee. "Around us, we have so many different cultures, but we never actually celebrate different holidays together, probably because it's celebrated more within the household. But then we would like to celebrate it within the school," Lee added.

The club is hoping to have more students join the club. Lee explained that there are not many Caucasian students in the club because they think that they don't qualify to be in the club.

"We have a pretty small club

right now, and we would appreciate different representatives from more countries, especially the Caucasian students," said Lee. "Anyone can join," she added.

Lui said that "Everyone has their own cultures, so the more cultures ... the better, because then it's more diverse. Otherwise, it might just become an Asian Club."

"Join Multicultural Club! We're going to have lots of goodies and hopefully you [will] all like them and come out and spend a little bit of money," said Sitoh.

The club meets every Friday at lunch in room 115.

*"Food is probably the biggest difference in cultures"*

**Sitoh**, grade 12, co-creator of the club.

The Multicultural Club is "trying to spread the knowledge of different cultures" in hopes of "promoting cultural awareness," starting with the food, said **Razvan Iorga**, grade 12.

Co-creator of the club, **Veronica Lee**, grade 12, thought that the food fair was a good start to have Gleneagle students be aware of the multiculturalism of the school. "Food is probably the biggest dif-

Today is North American day featuring apple pie, hot chocolate, and eggnog. Tomorrow and upcoming Monday is Asian day where dumplings, spicy Korean-style ricecakes, yakisoba pan, and other delicacies will be sold. On European and African day, baklava gabata, and others will be featured.

The club also got some help from the Japanese Club as the two clubs will work together during the second day of the Asian food fair.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Wednesday, December 16**  
**Christmas Band & Choir Concert**

**Friday, December 18**  
**Last Day of Classes**

**Monday, January 4**  
**School Re-opens**

## With age comes greater appreciation of importance of giving

So, as yet another December comes around, a certain level of anxiety tags along. Christmas is in three weeks, and there are so many things to do. Three weeks to buy gifts for all of our relatives, friends, and maybe even teachers. Three weeks to contribute to one of the million different things going on around the school: Project Angel, Jimmy Christmas Hamper, and Santa Grams, to name a few. Three weeks to get in all our homework before winter vacation. We're stressed out when we should be excited.

When we were little, there was nothing we had to do except wait in anticipation for Santa and his presents. We would sing Christmas carols all day long, make wish lists, set out milk and cookies, and drive our parents nuts by waking up at the crack of dawn on Christmas day.

With age though, comes more responsibility. Now we're expected to not only receive gifts but also to give them. We're expected to donate to charity. We're expected to do all our homework and still find the time for everything else on our to-do lists.

And yet, we're still expected to get excited. We're not kids anymore, but we're not adults yet. We still sing Christmas carols and make wish lists, and we still love the snow. We still like to decorate the Christmas tree, but we don't go out and buy one ourselves. We don't believe in Santa anymore, but we're not responsible for letting



our little siblings know that when they get a little suspicious.

And so, like it is with everything else, we're somewhere in the middle. We're not as stressed out as our parents, who have to send out Christmas cards, organize parties,

make family dinners, and buy presents for every single relative, but we're also not like we used to be: mystified that cookies we put out are gone and that there are suddenly presents under the tree, wishing that Christmas could be every day of the year.

At this point in our lives, we realize that "the gift of giving" isn't some made-up feeling used to guilt us into being nice. So when the day finally arrives, and we give away all of the presents that gave us so much grief shopping for, it all seems worth it.

## Student reflects on tragic consequences of holiday traditions



edge columnist

celebratory midnight kiss to mark the New Year. Families come together and celebrate together, but why are these joyous occasions sometimes marred by tragedy?

### *The holidays are an amazing time of year and deserve to be celebrated*

Some traditions don't have happy endings for some families; in fact, the holiday season can be considered one of the most dangerous.

Over the holidays, many social events come up and for a lot of people, these social events involve drinking. Who hasn't had eggnog on Christmas, or a little bubbly to ring in the New Year?

Well, unless that eggnog is strictly egg and cream, and that bubbly is sparkling water, you could be putting innocent people at risk.

Most of this drinking happens outside of the home and if people aren't willing to call a taxi or stay overnight, they may drive impaired. According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, the most pedestrian deaths of the year occur on New Year's Day, with more than half of these

deaths caused by impaired drivers. This means that, even if nothing happens to the drunk driver, he or she ruins the holidays for an innocent person's family.

Last year in B.C. alone, 118 people died as a result of drunk driving, and drunks caused more than 3000 crashes. A high percentage of these occurred around the holiday season because people did not stop and think about what the consequences could be when they have that extra glass of wine with the turkey, or another cocktail at an office party.

The number of deaths is much too high and result in tragedy for families. And if you are caught drinking and driving, you won't exactly be having a happy New Year, either.

If you're convicted of impaired driving, even for a first offence, the mandatory sentence is a \$1000 fine and one year prohibition from driving. If you've been convicted for driving under the influence

before, than you will most likely have to go to jail for a minimum of 30 days.

Even if you blow lower than .08 on the blood alcohol limit test, the police can still prohibit you from driving for 24 hours.

If you do drink, call a taxi or a friend to drive you home, and that way you can keep your license and your life, and of course, the life of someone else.

During the holiday season, a time to celebrate, drinking isn't the only danger. Every year thousands of people end up in the emergency room due to something else many enjoy - fireworks.

fireworks users to obtain a license, they are easily available, and many untrained people light them off and can seriously injure themselves.

The holidays are an amazing time of year and deserve to be celebrated. It's a time to spend with family and friends and to celebrate the very best parts of life. With celebrations come activities like fireworks which can be a great way to make an event more fun.

The important thing is to plan ahead and to know exactly what you are doing. With care, dangerous activities can become fun and bring people together.

Even though I don't drink my-

### *Some traditions don't have happy endings for many families*

The problem becomes especially bad around Christmas and New Year's because people set fireworks off as a way of celebrating, particularly the start of the new year. Most injuries occur to the hands and eyes. Burns are most common, but fingers can easily be blown off by the high powered explosives. Despite bylaws requiring

self and don't condone underage drinking, for many responsible adults, it can be a fun way to boost a party, and fireworks are amazing to people of all ages when everyone is safe.

Let's make this year the biggest and best yet, and make sure everyone has a great holiday season, with only happy memories.

## theEdge

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What was the best Christmas present you have ever given?

YOU SAID IT!



grade 9 student  
"A hand made touque"



grade 10 student  
"A sketch of my dad in his RCMP uniform"



grade 11 student  
"A rosary from the Vatican City for my grandmother"



grade 12 student  
"Two hens and a rooster for a family in Africa"

Snowfall: childhood winter wonderland, adult frosty nightmare



edge columnist

What do hot cocoa, Santa, Rudolph and the colours red and green all have in common? Surely the word Christmas popped up in your head. It's that time of the year again.

The joyful holiday that arrives once a year.

It also happens to be the season that something decides to visit the town, something that brings mixed feelings, something white and fluffy that goes by the name of snow.

Every year, adults find their cars stuck in the driveway and are shovelling for hours, thanks to all of the snow.

On the other hand, children embrace the snow, wishing for more.

As a child, you laid in bed, blankets wrapped tightly up to your chin.

You'd wiggle your toes under the covers searching for warmth.

When morning comes, you'd peek through your window, delighted to find the neighborhood's roofs topped with the fresh white snowfall.

Snow visits us in Coquitlam every winter.

Depending on the weather, it'll sometimes visit in spring too.

Snow is a symbol of fun and

Christmas spirit. Snow means things like no school, snowball fights, snow angels, igloos and snowmen.

When the first drop of snow falls, you'd rush to join the other kids burying themselves in the soft fluffy play dough.

Now, fast forward 30 years. You're sitting with your children watching the same old Rudolph special that plays every year.

Suddenly, your kid looks out the window and screams,

Snow means things like no school, snowball fights, snow angels, igloos and snowmen

"It's snowing!"  
Terror spreads across your face. How heavy will it be snowing? Will it snow all night?  
How will I be able to get to work tomorrow?  
You wake up early the next day only to find that your garage

door is frozen shut.

After you manually open the garage, you are finally able to set out for the day.

Hold up a second. What's that huge pile of snow doing on your driveway?

You angrily tell your neighbour to stop dumping his shovelling contents onto your driveway.

Once you've started your engine, you must make sure to drive extra carefully on the bumpy, slippery, icy roads.

find that snow complicates your life in an irritable manner.

We're actually quite lucky with the amount of snow we receive here compared to other parts of Canada.

Our annual snowfall reaches around 100cm.

Toronto, on the other hand gets about 160cm of snow.

The Yukon gets almost 200cm of snow, in some parts.

Compared to that, our couple weeks of snow are rather minor.

In fact, Vancouver is one of the Canadian cities with the "lowest snowfall".

It's lucky that we receive some snow every year so that we can call ourselves Canadian.

So whether you love or hate snow, it'll always be there, unless you move to a warmer location on the map.

Since our hometown is Coquitlam, we know that the snow will eventually evaporate back into the clouds, and surprise us with another visit next year.

2012 - end of world as we know it, or just another phoney fad?



edge columnist

December 21, 2012. The end of the world? I don't think so. People say that December 21 is going to be the end of the world according to the Mayan calendar.

This apocalypse is just another over-rated horror story to scare people, just like the turn of the century the year 2000, was supposed to be.

There is so much talk of the end of the world going on right now, like the angel apocalypse and the zombie apocalypse.

I doubt any of that is going to happen though.

It's all just horror stories to stop putting off what you could do today until tomorrow, because tomorrow may never come.

All I can say is, if the world ends in 2012, I realize I've wasted my entire life in school instead of being out having a good time.

After all, if I die, then all the things I learned are useless to me because I'm dead.

I realize I sound extremely pessimistic, but hey, I don't believe the world's going to end.

In fact, I believe that all this is going to do is cause chaos. People who do believe in 2012 are going to be either,

- A) killing themselves so they don't have to watch people die,
- B) killing other people to "spare them the pain",
- C) causing riots and acting out, or
- D) all of the above

I personally believe that everything that you have heard about

If the world ends in 2012, I realize I have wasted my entire life in school

2012 is unreal. The end of the Mayan calendar, against rumors and superstition of misinformed people, does not represent the end of the world, but the end of a Mayan cycle!

So don't believe all the hype that says that December 21, 2012 is going to be the end of the world, because scientists even doubt that the Mayans got the calendar right.

The Mayan's calendar is based on the alignment of stars.

Some scientists and astrologists say that even if the stars do align soon, how could the Mayans know

the exact date? How could Mayans, who predicted this over 1000 years ago, know the exact date?

Earlier on this year, the movie 2012 was released. The movie was about a man named Jackson Curtis, who is trying to prevent

his family from being killed by the apocalypse. He takes them on a world-wide hunt for the one place in the world that can't be destroyed, while 2012 is going on around him.

They dodge meteors, and giant landmarks while trying to get to where they need to go. 2012 is a movie for entertainment, based on a myth that, in my opinion isn't true!

So why bother running? 2012 is just going to be another Y2K; it's completely over stated and just blown totally out of pro-

portion. People are exaggerating it without getting all the facts, and it's completely messing with everyone's brain.

Facebook has groups on 2012, and they're mostly about how 2012 isn't going to happen.

Most groups make fun of the movie 2012 or just poke fun at the actual supposed event. Trust me, I've joined in the laughter. People don't care anymore. It's an excuse to goof off.

People always say "live like you'll die tomorrow," and with the supposed "end of the world" coming up in 2012, people are either laughing at it and using it as an excuse not to take things seriously, saying "Hey, the world's going to end anyways, so what's the point?" Well, the point is that 2012 isn't going to happen!

So, personally, I don't believe that 2012 is the end of the world. The world could end at any time. You should live everyday as if it's your last, so I suggest you don't worry about this date.

## New club building healthy lifestyles for students, teachers



CRYSTAL MA PHOTO

**Choosing a healthy lifestyle:** a grade 10 student stretches after a session with the new running club.

**CRYSTAL MA**  
staff reporter

Although the cross country season has ended, some of the members' spirits are still up and running.

Cross country coaches, **Lori Gregory** and **Katherine Rossiter**, started a running club at the beginning of November, after the cross country season had ended. "Two girls wanted to continue the practices for cross country, so they asked us if we could start a running club," said Gregory and Rossiter.

Practices are every Monday and Wednesday at 3:15, rain or shine. The club sets off after meeting in room 119. On Mondays, they face the challenge of the Crunch, and on Wednesdays, they do a flat run from Glen along Guildford to Pipeline and back. Each time slight changes are made to the route as

the length is extended further. The "at first 15 minute runs" have now stretched to a good 40 minutes, according to Rossiter. At the end of each run the group stretches and sometimes will head to the weight room.

Currently, there are around eight to ten members. "I'm very happy with the outcome; surprisingly a lot of my math students came too," said Rossiter. Both students and teachers are welcome to run. The club is always open to new runners and perfect attendance is not required.

Regular member **Ronald Sz**, grade 10 said, "Running is fun. It gives you a "zen" sort of feeling and I'm trying to get more people to join." Gregory and Rossiter both feel positively about the students.

"They all have a good attitude and are enthusiastic," said Rossiter.

Anyone can come, whether your reason is to exercise, stay healthy, or run to help train for

other sports.

All the members have their own different personal goals or reasons for joining. "My personal goal is to beat a certain someone," said **Angela MacMillian**, grade 10. **Riley Tylla**, grade 10 said, "It's motivational, running in a group."

Right now the group is focusing on pacing themselves and aim to run ten kilometers. At the first week of December, they are currently running two to three kilometers.

In the near future, the club hopes to attend some running events like the St. Patrick's Day run in Vancouver. Gregory also has plans to take the kids to Mundy Park in the spring time. Rossiter hopes that they can gain healthy lifestyle skills and become lifelong runners. **Emily Tabandeh**, grade 11, said "It's nice to run in a group of people your age. It relieves stress and helps you stay healthy." She also hopes to see the club continue next year.

## Speaker creates empathy, inspires action for developing world

**DARREN MULDER**  
staff reporter

Some Gleneagle students learned the reality of child labour, poverty and the harsh realities of living in a war torn country when they were visited by a guest speaker from the *Free the Children* organization last week.

**Shanila De Silva**, spoke to the social justice class and Gleneagle's Me to We team about projects supporting developing nations. De Silva, who currently lives and works in Vancouver, was born in Sri Lanka. She has done work in Kenya, and knows firsthand about

poverty and child labour issues.

The presentation involved information on *Free the Children* and **Craig Kielburger**, the founder. She also talked about the *Adopt a Village* campaign where a school or group would raise money to essentially build a village.

*"I thought that it could inspire a lot of students to care and make a difference"*

Groups donate the money they raise to *Free the Children*, and the organization will provide education, safe drinking water, better sanitation, alternate income, and health

care to a village in a developing country.

"I found it inspiring to hear from someone who lived in a war torn country, and has had experience in working with *Free the Children*," said **Kelly Bryant**, grade 9, one of the student representatives

on the Me to We team.

"As I was watching [the presentation], I thought that it could inspire a lot of students to care and make a difference in the world and

create empathy," said **Kate Beggs** grade 11, a social justice student.

Right now *Free the Children* operates in Ecuador, Kenya, China, Sierra Leone, India, and Sri Lanka. Gleneagle's Me to We club is currently involved in raising money for a school in Ecuador.

"Our goal for how long it will take ..... is not entirely set yet, although our projected time is two to four years," said **Rebecca MacDonald** grade 9, a student representative in the Me to We club.

The club is planning several fund-raising campaigns over the next few years. They have already planned a "Senior Sale" as a fund-raiser in the new year. "Hopefully through

this effort we will be able to raise awareness within our school, and help out globally," said Bryant.

The Me to We club is also sending letters out to businesses soliciting their sponsorship.

De Silva's visit to Gleneagle was organized by **Stephanie Reimer**, the British Columbia youth programming coordinator for *Free the Children*.

"I think this is a great opportunity to get high schoolers involved in making a difference in the world," said Reimer.

"Gleneagle is doing a lot, and we are really excited to be involving youth around B.C. in global efforts," she added.

## Grade 12 students given opportunity to witness law in action

**ALANNAH LINGO**  
staff reporter

Grade 12 law students spent the day in B.C. courts watching actual trials on murder and kidnapping.

While the day may have started off with poor weather, spirits were high as students moved from one trial to the next, the most popular being a first degree murder trial.

Though it was the first choice among the students to view, it seems that a heated kidnapping trial was also a common favourite.

Gleneagle student **Stacey Bryant**, grade 12, found the whole ordeal quite interesting.

"The most memorable moment was definitely when I was sitting in the courtroom watching a person who had allegedly been kidnapped be cross-examined by the accused's lawyer," she said.

Bryant added, "It was so interesting to finally see the reality of everything we had been learning about in the classroom."

Several courtroom sessions were closed off from the students due to

the sensitive nature of the charges.

The atmosphere in certain trials was light and even somewhat playful, with friendly banter between the judge and lawyers. Despite the occasional levity that seemed present in the courtrooms, it was quite obvious from the way the security eyed the students that they were expected to be on their best behaviour and take the proceedings seriously. "I'm always proud of the way our students carry themselves when we're on field trips," said **Mike Milliard**, law teacher. "It always makes the day quite rewarding and satisfying for me."

Several Court officials, including the judge, commented on the professionalism displayed by the students.

The experience left the students with more understanding of courtroom procedures as taught in class and gave them firsthand experience with the legal system.

"Next semester's class definitely must go to the downtown courtrooms," Bryant said. "It really makes you understand what you learn about in the classroom, and shows you that this actually is happening."

One distraction in the kidnap-



ALANNAH LINGO PHOTO

**Order in the court:** Mike Milliard's Law 12 students observed actual murder and kidnapping trials in Vancouver Law courts on their field trip last week.

ping trial was the moment in the cross examination when the lawyer's cell phone went off mid-

sentence. Word spread fast between students, all who found it quite funny considering they were

told that under no circumstances should their cell phones be turned on while sitting in on a trial.

# Variety of Talons talent to inspire, amaze in annual show

**KASEY IM**  
staff reporter

Gleneagle students will strut their stuff tonight at the annual talent show.

The talent show will feature vocal, band, instrumental, and combination performances.

Winners will be awarded from each group.

The auditions took place last Wednesday, and a variety of talent showed up. Compared to years before, the number of participants were higher this year.

**Grace Cullingworth**, assisted by **Savis Irandoost**, both grade 12, will be the M.C.s for the night.

The talent show will start off with a dance performance by **Lindsay Britten** called *Breakaway*.

"[Gleneagle's] talent show is very well organized and people seem to enjoy it when they come to watch it," said **Youngjoo Roh**, grade 12.

Roh has participated in organizing the talent show every year since she was in grade 10.

"The talent show is another way for students to meet new people. Students come to the talent show, see someone perform, and start to recognize them in the hallways," said Roh.

"Also, we get to see another side of students that we didn't know they [have]. We get to see [a] va-



CLAUDIA LEE PHOTO

**Head over heels for you:** grade 11 students show off their dance skills and choreography as they audition for Gleneagle's entertaining annual talent show, which will be showcased tonight in the multi-purpose room at 7 pm.

riety of talents throughout the show," she added.

"I think it's wonderful to watch other students perform their skills," said Lee.

**Carl Fung**, grade 11, auditioned for the talent show because he wanted to do something special with his friends.

"It's my first time in the talent

show," said Fung. "I'm going to be doing a vocal," he added.

Fung is doing a combination with **Wulden Cheung**, grade 11, singing *Gentleman Don't* by Gabe Bondoc.

There will also be instrumental performances of violin, piano, and guitar by a variety of students.

Different from last year, band

plays will be featured this year. There will be three different bands playing.

One of the bands, the DMs, will play their original song *Let Me Know*.

The judges for this year's talent show will be teachers **Bryan Jackson**, **Michle Morin**, **Cecile Saucier**, and librarian **Jo-Anne**

**Leblond**.

"The judges have a criteria they are using to mark the contestants," said Roh.

The talent show is happening at 7 pm in the Multi Purpose Room. The tickets to the talent show are \$5 or \$3 with a can of food. The tickets can be bought at the door this evening.

## Talon Fridays: showing school spirit in black, white and gold

**JAYME PEDERSON**  
staff reporter

Students of Gleneagle are rising to the goal of raising school spirit by wearing our school colours: black, white, and gold. During Geography 12 one day, a couple of students planned Talon Friday, where they would spread the word

to the student body to wear their school colours every Friday. It started when **Peter Poka**, Geography teacher, told his students that a long time ago, Gleneagle had spirit but now Gleneagle is lacking it, in his opinion. "The thing is, Mr. Poka said, 'I bet you can't get any school spirit going', [and] so we wanted to prove him wrong," said **Adam McKay**, grade 12, one

of the students who came up with the idea, explained.

"I heard before that our school had the best school spirit [and] everyone agrees we need more," said **Grace Cullingworth**, grade 12, the other student who came up with the plan.

"Talon Friday is an interesting new way to have all the Gleneagle people connect and have something new that we can share in common. Sometimes it's just disconnected," said **John Lim**, grade 12, wearing his school colours in support of McKay and Culling-

worth's goal.

"The point is to wear white, black and yellow or gold on Friday's" McKay said. Cullingworth added in "Face paint is encouraged!" People's enthusiasm this past Friday, December 4, did show for the weekly event as students walked around with face paint or pen lines on their arms spelling out "TALONS" or "2010!"

"I think it's pretty cool. It's a good idea but I don't think anyone is going to go for it," said **Bianca Strampe**, grade 10. "It's a good idea to bring spirit around but I

don't think anyone is going to participate unless they make it more exciting," she said. The outcome, said the creators, turned out better two weeks ago than last week. Both explain how they are planning new things to raise school spirit for the Fridays to come. "We just really need more promotion and word of mouth," said Cullingworth.

More and more students are hearing about and participating in Talon Friday to promote school support and spirit, making Poka give a thumbs up in approval.



JAYME PEDERSON PHOTO

**Taking a Talon stance:** grade 12 students show off their school spirit on Talon Friday.

## Food drive to support local charity

**CHRISTY KWOK**  
staff reporter

One of the school traditions for Gleneagle's Global Issues club is to host a non-perishable food collection hamper in December to give back to community.

This year, December 1 to 18, Global Issues set up the Christmas collection program to collect non-perishable foods with proceeds directed to the SHARE society.

"SHARE's [office cash] was recently stolen, so it would be nice to contribute," said **Stacey Bryant**, grade 12 Global Issues organizer.

**Ariana Vaisley** and **Saskya Vaisley**, both grades 10, are leading the program this year.

Our Christmas collection is a tradition which holds familiarity, and great meaning to the seniors of the school.

"I think it's a great way to help those who need it during the cold

winter," said **Young Joo Roh**, grade 12, Global Issues member. **Calvin Lui**, grade 12, agreed, saying that, "It's a good cause."

"It's a great opportunity for our school to donate food to those who need it," said Taylor Lepore, grade 12.

**April Libiano**, grade 12, agreed, "I think that it is a great cause to help those who need it."

The same Christmas boxes from last year decorated with a Christmas theme of a present or a Santa, have been put up in the main foyer.

Global Issues Club has been making presentations in classrooms to encourage the donation of non-perishable food.

The food will be collected on the last day of school by a truck sent by the SHARE society, and will be distributed to families who struggle to afford food during the holiday season.

Although most traditions persist, this year, the Global Issues Club is not hosting a classroom competition anymore, but nonetheless, students are encouraged to donate non-perishable items on their own.

When seeing students contribute without being enticed by the bait of competition in front of them, **John Lim**, grade 12 Global Issues member, feels "warm and fuzzy inside."

Last year, our school surpassed its goal of 1500 non-perishable items which is one item per student.

This year, they have yet to establish a set goal.

"I'd like to see 2500 non-perishable food items this year because that would be two items per student," Bryant commented. "That would be a leap from last year," she added. The food drive wraps up on the final day of school.

# Tough competition prepares senior boys for future challenges



JAIME MCLAUGHLIN PHOTO

**He's got the hops:** a grade 12 student leaps up high for a layup, while a grade 11 student (left) and another grade 12, prepare to collect the boards versus Byrne Creek. The boys go up against Terry Fox tomorrow in an away game.

**JAIME MCLAUGHLIN**  
staff reporter

After a heavy graduating year that left only two returning players, Gleneagle's senior boys basketball team is looking for a fresh start, with eleven rookies and four new coaches in tow.

"There are a lot of new guys," said returning player **Brennan Ho**, grade 12. He played last year alongside grade 12 **Nick Evans**, the other returning player. Assistant coaches **Amonda Francis**, **Petros Samaris** and **Tom Crea** are new additions to the coaching staff, as is **Tony Scott**, head coach.

The boys' main objective this season is to improve and compete. There are different ideas on the team's strengths and weaknesses, however. According to Evans, the team's strength is their transition game. "We like to run," he explained.

Scott thought differently, saying the team's perimeter game is their strength. In terms of weaknesses, Ho thought the boys could improve their communication, while Scott said it was their overall size. "At this level we would be seen as not having any post player presence," he explained.

So far, the boys have had exposure to a variety of teams. In exhibition play, the boys emerged victorious versus Brookwood, Ladysmith, Seaquam and Byrne Creek, but fell to Walnut Grove and B.C. AAA number 3 ranked Pitt Meadows. In addition, they organized scrimmages against number 1 White Rock Christian Academy, number 2 Yale and number 10 Sir Charles Tupper. Along with the senior girls, the boys also nabbed a spot in this week's HSBC Classic,

where a five-point win on Monday over Sir Winston Churchill advanced them to their Tuesday game, an eight-point win over number 9 Kitsilano. They then advanced to yesterday's quarterfinals, where they faced Pitt Meadows. Results were not available at press time, but a win in that game would have advanced them to the semi-finals, where they would face the winner of R.C. Palmer-Vancouver College.

Despite the overwhelming number of fresh faces, the expectations have not dropped. "Senior is a lot faster and more physical...[however] we will hopefully make Fraser Valleys," said **Alex Klocek**, grade 11. "I would like us to have an opportunity to make the playoffs," Scott noted. "I would think that we are in the middle of the pack in our conference."

A major event marking the boys' calendars this year is their trip with the junior girls to Las Vegas, where they will enter a tournament at Sierra Vista High School. "I'm really looking forward to it," Evans said. "It's a good opportunity for the boys to play in an American tournament and experience the level of play at their age group," Scott explained.

The boys leave next Friday night, but before that, they have their own Talon Challenge tournament on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, where top teams like R.C. Palmer and Centennial will be in attendance.

Their next test comes tomorrow, when they visit Terry Fox. Their next exhibition game at home is December 29 versus W.J. Mouat and tips off at 3:30 pm. The boys would appreciate fan support, according to Ho and Evans.

# Larger-than-ever gymnastics team vaults to first competition

**DARREN MULDER**  
staff reporter

The Gleneagle gymnastics team is in training for their future competition in January.

"This is the biggest turnout Gleneagle has ever had since we have been running it," said **Michele Morin**, coach.

The six girls on the team have been practicing since the middle of October for their first competition in January.

Their first competition will be a mini meet

on January 23 in Delta.

"Most of the girls are beginners, and a few have a little more experience," Morin said.

"Right now we are trying to get our routines done," she said.

"It takes a lot of time [to get the routines right]," she added.

Although they train as a team, they will be competing individually.

The team is district wide, and Gleneagle trains with other schools.

"Our team is excited for our competition,"

said **Nicole Stevens**, grade 11. "Everyone has really progressed so far," she added.

"Each of us has potential to do extraordinary things," she said.

**Bryant, Kristy Jamieson**, all grade 12s, **Olga Belikov**, grade 11, and **Shelby Kitsch-Best**, grade 9.

"How well they do in the competition will

*"This is the biggest turnout Gleneagle has ever had since we have been running it"*

The team this year includes more Gleneagle members than previous years.

The six members of the gymnastics team are: Stevens, **Mandy Goodman**, **Stacey**

depend on how hard they work," said Morin.

The district meet will take place at Omega Gymnastics, Friday, January 29.

# Passion, commitment propel young junior girls hoops squad

**KEVIN CAWTHRA**  
staff reporter

The junior girls basketball team has started strong, according to **Patty Anderson**, coach.

The girls returned triumphant from a tough tournament on the weekend in Maple Ridge, easily defeating both their opponents. In their first game Talons won 35 to 5, over Fleetwood Park and in their second game, they walked all over MEI, 40-5, going undefeated in the tournament.

They began the season with a couple of strong games, crushing Pitt Meadows by 40 but succumbing to Lord Tweedsmuir in double overtime.

This year's team is very young, consisting of one Grade 7, two Grade 8's, several Grade 9's and one Grade 10. "We are very young and inexperienced but they learn very quickly," said Anderson.

"I am surprised. They're coming along quicker than I anticipated. Probably our team goal is to first

of all, make it to playoffs, then go from there," she said.

According to Anderson, the team has good chemistry. "All of the girls really like each other; they really support each other," she said.

However, one thing Anderson said that they need to work on is communication.

"They're all too nice to each other and they don't speak out, which is sometimes a huge issue, but they all like each other and hang out," she said.

The time commitment for this team is huge.

"It's a big commitment; they practice five to six days a week, between games and practices," Anderson added.

The girls feel confident with how the season is looking. "I think that we will do okay in the districts," said **Breanna Yee**, grade 9. "If we work hard, stay focused, and remain injury free in the Valleys, we could possibly advance to the provincials," she said.



JAIME MCLAUGHLIN PHOTO

**Sweep and go:** a grade 9 student blows by a defender while another grade 9 student looks to be in position for the kickout during the girls' victory over M.E.I. during the Maple Ridge Kiwanis tournament.

## Youthful senior girls team deals with inexperienced players



PHOTO PROVIDED BY ALEXSSA BINNS

**At the line:** a grade 9 student gets into shooting stance and prepares to sink her foul shot while a grade 10 student (left), and a grade 11 student get ready to clean up the boards during Saturday's win over Rick Hansen.

**JAIME MCLAUGHLIN**  
staff reporter

With only two returning players on the roster, development, bonding and rebuilding a sense of experience are all on the agenda for Gleneagle's senior girls basketball team coming in to the season.

According to **Sidney Fletcher**, grade 12, many of the players graduated. "It's basically a whole new team," she said. There are only two returning players this year, Fletcher and **Alyssa Binns**, grade 12. There is one other grade 12, **Young Joo Roh**, and one grade 11, **Hilary Olsen**; however, the remainder of the team is underage.

The overwhelming number of rookies on the team has contributed to low expectations for the season. According to **Doug Binns**, coach, the team is in the "bottom couple" in the district, and he believes it is mainly due to their

overall inexperience. "We're just really inexperienced, and not terribly athletic or big," he explained. Despite this, Binns says the girls' chemistry benefits them and that he really enjoys coaching them. "[Their chemistry] is outstanding...They're really great people to be with everyday. This might be the nicest group of people that I've worked with in a long time," he commented.

To chip away at that inexperience, the girls have played numerous games against teams of different levels. They kicked off their season with a thirty-point victory over Collingwood. Their next test came against Pitt Meadows, where they lost by one in a nailbiter. In addition, they've entered several tournaments so far. Their first was at Byrne Creek, where they finished 1 and 2 after an eight-point victory over Hugh Boyd, a 27-point loss to B.C. AA

number 1 ranked York House, and a three-point loss to J. Percy Page. Next came the Hansen Hurricanes tournament, where a 2 and 1 record earned them runners-up. At the tournament, grade 9 **Rosemary Nwankwo** was named MVP and Fletcher was named a first-team all-star, and despite the loss in the final, Olsen was named player of the game. The girls have also been busy all this week at the HSBC Classic. Unfortunately, they lost their first two contests, first on Monday to B.C. AAA number 11 Kitsilano and then on Tuesday to AA number 6 Holy Cross. They played Panorama Ridge yesterday, but results were not available at press time.

The team has focused on goal-setting as well. "[My goal is to] improve on my gameplay... Senior is a lot faster than junior," said **Kathleen Chu**, grade 10. In addition to building experience, Binns said he

would like to work on mistake response, while Fletcher noted that she would like to take on more of a leadership role on the team.

You can catch the girls in action next week in their first league test, when they visit number 4 Riverside, or at Pinetree's tournament.

## Valleys the goal for young junior boys team

**PAULINE MACAPAGAL**  
staff reporter

The junior boys basketball team is off to a successful start despite having combined grade 9 and 10 players this year. There are more challenges and more pressure.

It is a "big jump from middle school basketball to high school basketball," especially for the grade 9's, according to **Jason Bingley**, coach for the junior boys team this year.

"Between the two grades we had close to 40 boys try out and we have kept 16 for our final roster," said Bingley.

They started off their season at the Kwantlen University Tournament two weeks ago, and finished in sixth place out of 16 teams.

"[It] wasn't bad considering all other teams were all grade 10 and our team [consists of] half of grade 9," said Bingley.

"It's pretty good for our first time," added **Jonathan Tan**, grade 10, playing power forward on the team.

The team played in a tournament at Charles Best Secondary last Friday and Saturday, placing fifth place out of 12 teams.

Unfortunately, most of their games "are on the road this year," Bingley said and the players are required to become more focused to be able to have a successful season. They play in the "most difficult division in B.C.," Bingley said.

Kim feels that "intensity" is required for the team, but Tan agreed that hard work and teamwork will lead them to go "deep into the playoffs."

"[We'll] try to make it into the Fraser Valleys," he added.

The Talons are hosting a tournament in January. "We have a Talons classic tournament just after the new year that will be hosting many of the top teams in our region," Bingley said.

Bingley feels that the team has potential to do some special things this year. Players like **Jeffri Agiba**, grade 10, "has an opportunity to become a special player."

"A new player to our program **Kevin Kim**, grade 10, has potential to become a great point guard," said Bingley "as he is really an unselfish player who puts the team goals before his own.

**Dennis Kim**, "is a true leader on and off the court. There is not a player who works harder on our team in pushing himself and pushing others to make them better," Bingley said.

The coach also noted that **Farhad Omid** and **Max Hollingsworth**, both grade 9, "have shown signs of being able to play competitively against older players."

Despite a tough season to go through, Bingley believes in the potential of the individual players.

"Myself or **Mr. Comeau**, assistant coach of the team, are very demanding [of] the players. We do this not to put our players down, but rather [because] we see a lot of potential in all our players," he said.

During their scrimmages, the "losing team has to run, if they don't win," said Kim. "So it just gets us motivated, [to] be tough, and play harder in games."

By doing this, it makes each of the players "make themselves a better basketball player," said Bingley. The team practices every Tuesday and Thursday.

## Grapplers prep for B.C. wide tourney

**CLARE CHIU**  
staff reporter

Wrestlers will compete in their first major tournament this year on December 16. The province wide tournament is perhaps the biggest one of the year according to **Collin Chung**, coach.

Gleneagle has already participated in a minor meet this year in preparation. Talons wrestled in the dual meet against Port Moody Secondary that took place Thursday, November 26, 2009.

The lack of participants meant that some people had to wrestle out of their weight category, but everyone did very well, according to Chung.

"I was excited to see my skill level," said **Alexis Latimer**, grade 11. "I've wrestled in grade seven, eight and nine, but I didn't last year so I wanted to see how I'm doing [right now]."

"It was really exciting," said **Mia Marshall**, grade 12 wrestler. "It was different from what I expected, everything was so fast paced."

According to **Mark Tustin**, coach, the meet was a chance for students to recognize the difficulty of transferring into their competitive environment.

"You have to be really comfortable and the moves have to be second nature," he said.

*"There's a lot more people, and a lot more potential"*

"You have to be in a good position to attack and a good position to defend."

Overall, "the team is really good this year," said Chung. "There was a significant turnout with 33 wrestlers. The students have a good attitude and are committed to training hard. Wrestling is a sport where experience is needed to get better so we're trying to persuade early grades to come out," Chung added.

"There's a lot more people [this year], and a lot more potential," agreed **Eiman Torabi**, coach. "Wrestling is more involved in the

school."

"It's nice to see some more girls," agreed Latimer. Due to the large number of first years, the team is re-working on basic moves like "single-leg take downs and wizards," she said. A wizard is a counter-move, she explained.

"It's been good," said **Alex Cousineau**, grade 12 wrestler.

"I feel like I've been improving a lot. My goal is to work hard to learn to tackle and make the provincial championships."

This past Sunday, December 6, there was an all-star meet, the Roberts Rumble at Simon Fraser University.

Gleneagle had planned to take some of more experienced students to compete, but because of lack of students to fill the different weight categories, Coquitlam didn't have a team to send to the competition.

## Students impact department, discussing, planning, playing

**CLAUDIA LEE**  
staff reporter

Music students will play a larger role in the upcoming Christmas concert because of the new music council.

"The music council was created this year by Mr. Trovato to get student input on decisions that he has to make that effect the music department," said **Steven Black**, grade 11.

"The purpose [of this club] is to decide on music, make decisions about concerts, organize events and spread the word about the events. We get together and share ideas about concerts and music

Music Speaks". I chose a font for the shirts, and a bunch of people ordered them," said Bolster.

The group plans to sell excess t-shirts at the upcoming Christmas Concert.

The music department is the home to many students at Gleneagle.

For Black, "I am involved in all four of the ensembles at Gleneagle, so I spend an awful lot of time in the music room. Anything that is going on, therefore, will affect me, so I like to know what's happening."

For other students, like **Kathryn Wasstrom**, grade 12, "I chose to be involved in music council because

*"It's a group of leaders who care enough about the department to want to have a say in what goes on within it"*

and decorating," said **Jacquie Bolster**, grade 11.

The music department holds large annual concerts, like the Christmas Concert, which requires hours of planning.

"I think that the music council is really beneficial because it's a small group of leaders who care enough about the department to want to have a say in what goes on within it," added Bolster.

Currently, the group is "discussing... the decorations for the Christmas Concert," said Bolster. The group is also looking ahead to "the trip to Idaho in February for the jazz ensembles," said Black.

Another project the music council has been discussing are the music department t-shirts.

"We had a contest to choose a slogan for the shirts. My slogan actually won: "When Words Fail,

I already take four different music classes and I feel that because I take so much from the music program, I really should give back.

"One or two lunch hours a week is an easy and fun way to make a difference for future generations of musicians and singers. Who knows, maybe in a few years, we could have a baby grand piano," adds Wasstrom.

Many council members, like Black, feel that the music department will benefit from the group.

"The music department will benefit from this because now the students have some say in what goes on. Seeing as everything [Mr. Trovato] does will affect us, it's nice to now have some input."

"We meet every Tuesdays at lunch in the choir room," said Black and Bolster.

"It's not like it's an exclusive



**Harmonizing together:** students are members of the music council who help make decisions in the music department.

group or anything either. People can drop in if they want, or they can come every week... It's super

cool to be able to relax and have lunch with a great group of people from all grades. We have some

fun, listen to music, but we get things done as well," added Bolster.

## Art students show portfolios for post-secondary adjudication

**CHELSEA FORSTER**  
staff reporter

The Art Careers 12 class kick started their art careers on December 5 with the annual Portfolio Day. The event was held at Emily Carr University with more than 1000 students having their art work adjudicated by more than 30 universities.

Portfolio Day is where students from all over British Columbia come to Emily Carr on Granville Island, and show their work to all the major art schools in North America.

The day is very rewarding for the students because it usually results in some Gleneagle students being accepted to Vancouver's Emily Carr and other prestigious art schools.

As for the portfolios themselves, each student assembles ten to fifteen pieces of artwork. **Melanie Stokes**, art teacher, said "A general portfolio is a selection of the artist's best work."

Stokes also believes that most post secondary schools like to see a variety of types of artwork. And they want to see the student's best

work in the category of artwork they use. **Kathleen Loski**, art student who participated in the event, said, "I showed them twenty pieces and that was everything I had."

"As part of our program, we go for variety," said Stokes.

The class is made of fourteen students, eleven girls and three boys.

According to Stokes, every student's portfolio collection is different. "It varies from painting and drawing to graphics and photography," she said.

Stokes, while talking about the benefits of Portfolio Day, clarified that most students say that it is very rewarding because it gives them a chance to get their artwork judged by professionals.

However, some of the art students did not have a positive experience. **Justin Yamano**, art student who also participated, commented, "I stood in line for four and a half hours and only got one interview," said Yamano.

"I got some good reviews but only on the good parts of my piece, not the bad parts," Loski said "It wasn't positive; I don't think I'd do it again."

The waiting was done in five

different line ups that were in different parts of the school and the waiting time was agonizing. "It wasn't worth waiting in line for four hours," said Loski. "The shortest line up was two and a half hours. It was one of the largest turnouts of students they have ever had."

"There was a lot of mental stress because we were waiting for such a long time," said Loski. Both Loski and Yamano believe that if they had more judges it would have been a more enriching experience.

The other participants at Portfolio Day were **Maria Bender, Chong Kady, William Fuku, Christine Jang, In Joon Jung, Serena Lee, Michelle Nguyen, Jessie Tuomisto, Jessie Wang, Tina Yang, and Zhu Shaelyn.**

The Art Career 12 class is starting preparation for the Emerging Talent Gallery Show at Evergreen Cultural Centre. Today, Gleneagle art teachers, Stokes, **Mike McElgunn**, and **Aryn Gunn** are judging the students' artwork and picking their best work for the show. The show dates are January 22 to March 13, 2010.



**Fabric and fibre artist:** grade 12 student stitches together a large quilted portrait comprised of fabric remnants.