

Gleneagle students strut their colours in support of Canada

KASEY IM
staff reporter

Gleneagle students dressed their patriotic attire to show their national spirit on Thursday February 11.

Red and White Day, proposed by the teachers of Gleneagle, was a big success as more than 750 students came out to cheer the Olympic torch going down Guildford way at 7 A.M.

After the relay the students were encouraged to come and enjoy a pancake breakfast provided by **Frank Abbinante**, chef, and his cook training students.

"It was a once in a lifetime event and of course I wanted to wear my red and white to show my support for Canada and the Olympics," said **Calvin Lui**, grade 12.

Lui said that the "highlight of [the Red and White Day] was definitely the torch relay."

Razvan Iorga, grade 12, said the best part of the Red and White Day was "definitely sleeping for three hours so [he] could wake up and stand in the cold and rain, waiting for the torch to go by for a few seconds."

Iorga also commented on the fashion choices made by the students that he liked "getting away with a terrible fashion sense for an entire day, because it's in the spirit of the Olympics."

"What I liked about Red and White Day was the display of the school's support via pancakes, and the opportunity to represent our school. Red and White Day has given older students the opportunity to show the community and peers the kind of school spirit and fun that our school can show and provide," said **John Lim**, grade 12.

Prior to the torch going by, **Alex Matovic**, **Alyssa Binns**, **Charles Derewianko**, **Sidney Claire Fletcher**, **John Lim**, **Hodson Hardinge**, **Shayan Noruzi**, **Rachel Lui**, and **Bryce Wong**, ran along the street with GO CANADA! written on their bodies. **Francois Robinson** and **Matt Devlin**, both grade 12, also ran with the crowd to show their spirit.

Lim said the reason was "simply to show school spirit, support the games, and represent our school's presence in the area."

"I was pleased that so many kids came. Oh



CLAUDIA LEE PHOTO

Showing their true colours: Gleneagle students celebrate Red and White Day with Canadian colours, body paint and a pancake breakfast. Over half the student body was dressed in Canadian attire on February 11.

Canada breakfast Chef Abbinante and the students put on were just great, too," said **Dave Matheson**, principal.

"I'm just glad people did that because to me, it's a demonstration of being patriotic and wanting to associate and connect with Canada, connect with Olympics," explained Matheson.

"We're not the Americans, waving, shooting guns and fireworks. We're sort of quietly proud and it feels good to me for one morning – 7 o'clock in the morning for us – that we get a bit loud about our patriotism in a genuine and authentic way," explained Matheson.

"I think the purpose is to build on school spirit, to give kids some memories about

where they were and how they participated ... a little in the Olympics" said Nelson.

"The likelihood of the students ever having the Olympics again hosted in Vancouver in their lifetime is slim to none. It's really a special occasion where all the world comes to your city," said Matheson.

"I think you get school spirit anytime we do anything together. It unifies us, and even if we are not Canadian citizens, it helps [international students] see the country they're visiting through the eyes of the Canadian citizens," said Matheson.

Matheson hopes that the students remember the day. "I hope [what] the students get out of this is, ... one of the those

"Kodak Moments".

"I hope for the student population, the one that came out today, to have some crystal clear memories that they have for life. Because I think that was really a neat experience to enjoy," said Matheson.

The students agree. "Although it was rainy, and we had to get up especially early, being out there and able to see the torch in person definitely made it worthwhile," said Lui.

"Despite the rain and the muddy weather, we had a great turnout of parents, neighbours, and peers! This atmosphere made for a really good mood, and it was like a big party. Of course, pancakes were very much appreciated," said Lim.

Talons in the spotlight as Vancouver welcomes the world

JAIME MC LAUGHLIN
staff reporter

With Vancouver 2010 now well into the competition, there's no doubt everyone's keeping up with the action, whether it'd be tuning in to the TV set or enjoying the festivities in person.

However for several lucky Gleneagles, the Olympic experience is a much different picture; they are all a part of the 2010 Winter Olympics in some way.

As athletes competing to take home the gold? No, but these Talons are involved in everything BUT competing, from performing in the opening ceremonies to being a judge.

Among the chosen few are: **Neha Chhatre**, grade 12; **Amber Shantz**, grade 12; **Steven Black**, grade 11; **Brittany Howey**, grade 11; **Azra Fazal**, grade 10; **Chantelle Sadowski**, grade 10; **Sara Kross**, grade 10; **Robin Goodman**, grade 10; **Todd Pickell**, grade 10; **Emily Huang**, grade 10; **Emily Black**, grade 9; **Joyce Jackman**, student services

teacher, and **Doug Mancell**, Japanese and social studies teacher.

Several students were selected to perform in the opening or closing ceremonies; Chhatre was a part of the opening ceremonies, while Howey, Fazal, Pickell, Sadowski and Huang are a part of the closing ceremonies.

Especially lucky is Shantz, who was selected to perform in both the opening and closing ceremonies.

In addition, a number of other Talons were a part of the Olympic Torch Relay; Kross and Goodman both danced, while Steven Black sang. Emily Black also performed, while Mancell helped paddle two different torchbearers in a canoe near Granville Island. Finally, Jackman was selected to be an official for speed skating.

There is plenty of anticipation among the chosen few. "I'm overly excited for it. When I got the callback...I was so happy," said Howey.

"It's great to be involved in something that big, and it's great to be a part of it," added Fazal.

"I think it's a pretty big thing...and it's go-

ing to be really fun," Pickell commented.

However, with the anticipation came nervousness for some. "At first I was really excited, but then I found out there are going to be 10 000 people there...now I'm a little bit scared," Kross said prior to performing.

Some say that being a part of the games has changed their views on the Olympics in general.

"Before I thought that the Olympics were going to be a waste of money, and we shouldn't host them, but now that I'm in it, it's totally different. I think that it's so worth it and it's such a great thing," Fazal said.

Similarly, Mancell, who thought the money spent on the Olympics could have been put towards the community, said his experience has "made my views more positive...because it forces me to think about it all a lot more."

However, it's safe to say that a lot has been learned over the course of the experience. "I have learned that hard work pays off," said Shantz.

"I'd probably say, practice does make perfect," added Sadowski. Fazal has developed

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, February 19
Gala Jazz Dinner/Dance

Wednesday, March 10
Spring Band & Choir Concert

Thursday, March 11
Third Interim Report

Higher, stronger, faster - for Olympics, for life

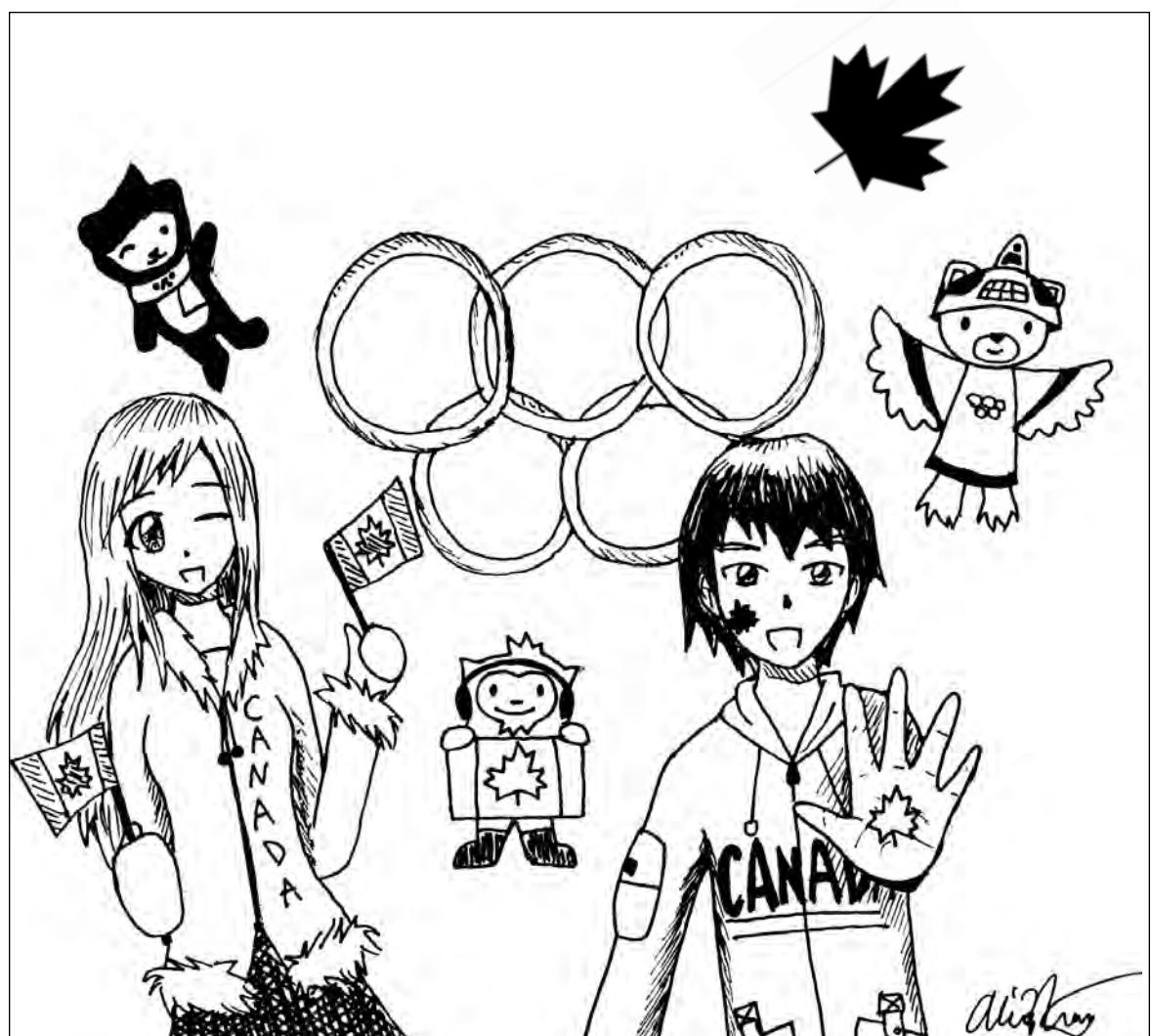
With the Winter Olympics held at home and excellence streaming in from all corners of the world, Canada's national spirit soars as our athletes strive for the gold. Our nation prepares to host brilliance on its podium to honour the sweat and tears of all athletes arriving to demonstrate their skill and commitment. Tourists are cramming into overbooked hotel rooms to honour excellence in sports, and to celebrate achievements of each athlete competing while rooting for their own country. The traffic and population of our city multiplies overnight, and cheers fill the air with excitement tingling on the surface, escalating as each medal is awarded to its deserving winner.

Downtown, every culture congregates, displaying its own flair and unique traditions, each attracting attention like rare glistening diamonds. Mismatched cultures come together to celebrate excellence at its best without prejudice through the bustle of traffic and people. Excellence and perfection do not have a language or a barrier.

The enthusiasm, spirit, and thrill of the Olympics expand throughout the people as they gather in front of televisions and in the stadiums. Our differences are placed aside, and all focus is on the spirit of perfection, commitment, and excellence.

"Higher, stronger, faster" becomes not only the Olympic mantra but a motto for life. Not only do the Olympic athletes strive for perfection, but so do the fans that applaud and the athletes' flawless precision of the moves performed. The voices of the singers in the Olympic ceremonies mesmerize us with their beauty and we admire the artwork and architectural brilliance of the engineers. Everyone, no matter what challenges he or she faces can still strive for excellence. We are persevering beyond expectations, struggling to overcome seemingly insurmountable obstacles.

While not everyone can compete in the Olympics as we possess different skill sets and talents, we can assume the Olympian spirit as long as we strive to excel and give our best. The Olympics are a gathering of the world for the celebration of achievements in more than just sports. We are collectively celebrating what is truly outstanding.



Cell phone habits: communication or irritation?



edge columnist

A certain device many of us own irritantly rings, continuously vibrates, and constantly distracts

us. What am I talking about? Yes, you guessed it - a cellphone. Cellphones are one of the most important, perhaps vital devices of our generation. I loathe being dramatic, but it's true. Most people in the world, particularly in urban areas, carry their cellphones, either in a pocket or bag for most of the day, attached to them like magnets.

Why is that? It's because cellphones provide access to people around the world. If you want to spontaneously ask someone something, you just take out your cellphone, punch numbers on its keypad; next thing you know someone else picks up his or her phone and starts a conversation. Bored? Text someone, and they'll text you back... it's starting a conversation in a whole different way.

With impressive and improved technology, internet and e-mail are now accessible on cellphones,

which, I think, makes cellphones more distracting than ever. With a lot of the options included in cellphones, they can be very addictive, particularly iPhones. I admit, an iPhone is a very cool device. With so many applications to download, and so many applications to use or play with, it is of course a much more com-

answer it. There goes your best intentions! Temptation. It is a problem we face on a day-to-day basis, and the only solution is self-control, which is not easy for many.

Another issue with cellphones is the effortless access to internet connection.

Many people can't help responding to notifications on Facebook,

I get agitated when someone takes out their phone and has to update something on a website about what they are doing at that very moment. I think that status updates could wait until the time is appropriate for a person to deal with their phone.

Next time, just think about what you are doing, where you are, and your surroundings. Be aware of what you're supposed to be doing, and think about whether it is the appropriate time for you to meddle with your cellphone.

Cellphones. Either you love them or you hate them. They are either useful or distracting for you. There is no doubt that cellphones will never be erased from the world, as they are now an essential part of society. We have to learn how to integrate them in our lives productively, instead of a nuisance to others.

Cellphones...the most important, perhaps vital device of our generation

pling thing to experiment with, compared to homework. But despite all the amazing software cellphones have to offer, they are a distraction.

There are many ways cellphones can be distracting. You are in the middle of doing homework, focused on completing it, and your cellphone rings so you choose to

Twitter, or e-mails. I guess people have their reasons. You could be waiting for a response, or perhaps an important announcement, or maybe just logging on for fun. I feel like students use cell phones for entertainment during school hours, and I think that is fine, just as long as it's not during class and not affecting anyone else.



theEdge

Glenelag Secondary
1195 Lansdowne Drive
Coquitlam, BC, Canada
V3B 7Y8
604 464-5793
fax 604 464-5796
theedge@sd43.bc.ca

The Edge is the independent voice of the students of Glenelag Secondary produced by the Journalism 11/12 class. It conforms and adheres to the standards and style of the Canadian Press. Letters to the editor are welcome and will be printed as space allows; letters must be signed and

free of libel. *The Edge* reserves the right to edit for accuracy, spelling, and grammar. Additional articles, opinion pieces, and features may also be submitted and will be printed as space allows. *The Edge* reserves the right to edit any submitted material for brevity and style.

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YOU SAID IT!



Grade 9
"Speedskating, because the speeds they can reach are amazing."



Grade 10
"Bobsled - it makes me jealous how fast they can go."



Grade 11
"Figure skating, because when I was younger I used to do it, so I can relate to the athletes."



Grade 12
"Hockey - it's a contact sport."



edge columnist

It's hard not to cheer for Canada when it comes to something like the Olympics; there's nothing quite like seeing your country bring home a gold medal.

There are so many reasons that we get excited about the games: the fantastic swell of nationalistic pride as we proudly wave our flags in the air, the racing hearts as a skier prepares for that big jump, or the anticipation as the final seconds of the hockey game tick down. The Olympics are what brings our nation together in a way that nothing else does.

But let's face it, a lot of people believe that the Olympics are an expensive, economically-draining, culturally exploitative, environmentally destructive display of corporate fascism. And, well, there isn't a lot anybody can do to try and convince some of these people otherwise. In fact, there have been anti-Olympic protests occurring ever since 2003, when Vancouver was announced as the host city for the 2010 winter games. Culturally, it's become *cool* to bash the Olympics.

Here are the facts: a city hosting the Olympic Games can expect massive short-term job creation, money for large-scale transportation projects, major new sports facilities, increased tourism, and long-term economic growth.

However, because the effect of the Olympics on a host city is so immeasurable, there is no hard data. Whether the Olympics are good or bad is a matter of opinion. As for the majority of gripes made by people against the Olympics, there's not a lot of merit to them.

Obviously, the Olympics are expensive. They're meant to be a larger-than-life spectacle. The word itself—Olympic—stems from Mount

Olympus, which the ancient Greeks believed was the home of the Gods. *Higher, faster, stronger*, has been its motto since the Paris Olympics of 1924. The point of the Olympics is to inspire people and give athletes the chance to compete at an international level. To do that requires money and resources.

The original Olympic budget of \$1.63 billion has since risen to \$1.76 billion - an overall increase of \$127 million. However, estimates say that BC will generate \$4 billion from the games province-wide, during the actual two weeks and for the years following. In addition, there have been extensive upgrades to the infrastructure of the Vancouver area, including the improvements to the Sea to Sky highway, and new facilities, such as the Richmond Oval.

Environmental sustainability has been on the minds of VANOC since the very beginning. The Olympic organizers have concentrated on minimizing the carbon impact of the games with clean technology, an extended transportation system for Vancouver, eco-friendly construction for the Olympic venues, and a commitment to offset direct carbon emissions from the games.

Corporate sponsors have been a part of the Olympics for quite a while. All of these sponsors provide everything from laptop computers and uniforms to the actual Olympic torches. And in return, these companies get marketing rights. It's foolish to say that the Olympics are exploiting athletes through corporatism, when in fact the opposite is happening. Without sponsorship the games probably would not happen.

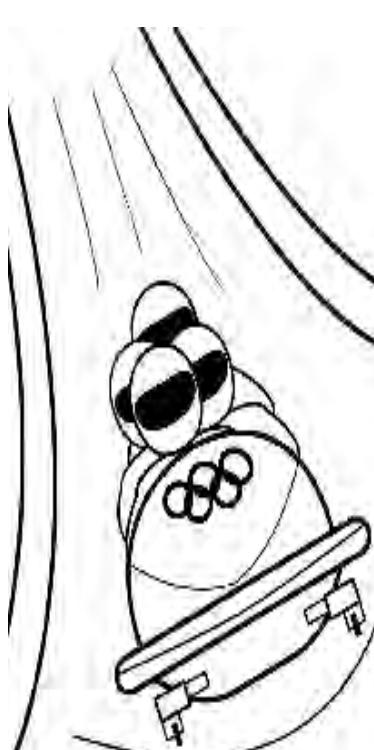
But even more than all else is the sense of nationalism that comes with the Olympics. We see people scrambling for tickets for every event in hopes of seeing Canada "own the podium."

We see people lined up on the streets at an ungodly hour to catch a glimpse of one of the torch bearers running with the Olympic flame. We see everyone dressed in patriotic Canadian Olympic apparel, proudly cheering on our athletes. We see the excitement on the faces of every single athlete, all of whom have been training for years in hopes of bringing home a gold medal. We know that the eyes of the world are on our beautiful city of Vancouver, and despite what anyone says, we're proud of it.



FACEOFF: VANCOUVER 2010 WINTER GAMES

PRO VS CON



edge columnist

Six billion plus dollars is a hefty pill to swallow, regardless of the economic situation. The winter games being hosted in Vancouver may soon leave, with its price tag weighing heavier than its legacy.

Vancouver got through an endless process to welcome the world for the winter games. One of the biggest drawbacks VANOC (Vancouver Olympic Committee) saw was the homelessness in Vancouver's downtown eastside.

The number of homelessness is expected to have grown three times to 6,000 since the Vancouver's development.

These homeless people include people living on the verge of the poverty line pushed over the limit with the price of rent increasing, or being kicked out of their homes due to the development of the city. Evidently, VANOC had to deal with this issue, and they were required to do so diplomatically. Instead, they simply applied a temporary solution to address this concern.

The ongoing Vancouver issues did not receive permanent resolution nor did VANOC and the government plan on giving one. Vancouver set itself up for failure by not looking further than the games.

But people aren't the only ones displaced by the Vancouver 2010 games, which hopes to bring the world to an eco-friendly city event. The expansion of various ski resorts and development of the various places in the city include increased waste and pollution and the alteration of animal habitat and migration routes.

The Sea to Sky Highway developed and expanded in time for the Olympics, affected the habitat and migration routes of hundreds of different

animals. The process of clear-cutting and polluted water destroyed thousands of animals and many creatures' migration routes. Many indigenous people whose sacred land lay within these places were also taken advantage of.

There are countless other expenses — taxpayers' money — that was used to remind Vancouverites of their manners. VANOC recently sent out a \$50,000, four page public announcement in the Vancouver Sun to remind Vancouverites to be friendly to the world during the games. Advice to wear matching socks or to smile with sincerity seem like a waste of taxpayers' money. Canada has a reputation for being happy or friendly on the stage. So, was the \$50,000 on top of six billion necessary to remind Canadians to be Canadians?

Another huge expense was the building of state of the art Athletes' Villages.

The only method of paying back this expenditure is to sell these condominiums where the games are over.

However, this is a huge uncertainty especially in an economic situation when many people are hesitant to spend money.

There is no doubt Vancouver will fall under the huge list of cities trying to pay off their Olympic bill. Like Turin, Vancouver will have a booming economy during and around the games.

But will it still be so boisterous when the world heads back home with their gold? I'm not too sure it will be.

Vancouver has been thankfully granted more freedom of speech. Despite this, people cannot peacefully protest by putting signs on their own apartment buildings, and the police reserve the right to barge into a citizen's house should they think they are a "threat to the games."

Vancouver even has "free speech zones." Understandably, tight policing will be required to run a smooth, safe games, but isn't barging into a person's house a violation of our valued freedom of speech?

The winter games were a tool and an excuse for Vancouver for developers. The countless mistakes made to make money made in the planning stages cannot be refunded once the games are over. When the medals are distributed and the hotel guests check out, what will Vancouver be left with?

Showing their spirit: breaking out in bright, crazy attire



ROBBING GRANDMA'S CLOSET: Students and staff showed the iconic colours of yesteryear on Ugly Sweater Day, to kick off Spirit Week in style.

Student, secretary jointly spearhead Haiti fundraising effort

EMMA ROBERTS
staff reporter

In the midst of the tragic earthquake in Haiti, Gleneagle has risen to the challenge and given over \$1400 to various charities.

"So far, we've sent \$550 to World Vision, \$500 to Unicef, and we still have around \$400 that we haven't sent anywhere yet" said **Stacey Bryant**, grade 12, one of the two organizers of the Haiti fundraiser. "We're probably going to send the next [portion of money] to Doctors without Borders or the Red

Cross," she added.

"Just seeing it on television, what has happened, and I already know it's a very poor country... I just saw how much help they would need," said **Janine Page**, secretary, the second organizer of the Haiti fundraiser.

According to Bryant, the Global Issues club was in the middle of a campaign and didn't have time to raise money for Haiti.

"When I heard that Ms. Page wanted to do something, I went down and talked to her and said maybe just the two of us could do the initiative," she said.

The devastatingly destructive Haitian earthquake occurred on January 12 and had a magnitude of 7.0. The estimated death toll is 230,000, with 300,000 injured and

over \$60 million to the United Nations appeal to provide basic services on the ground.

"Normally it's hard to get kids to donate money," said Bryant. "But I

"Just seeing it on television, what has happened... I just saw how much help they would need"

one million left homeless.

So far, the Canadian government has deployed approximately 2,000 personnel in a humanitarian response called Hestia, and donated

think... people have heard about it in the news and they know what's going on. It's something that they're familiar with and they've seen the pictures... I think that

people are more willing to open up their pockets and donate," she said.

"I think [our school donated so much money] partly because we're so multicultural. We're so aware here of all the different parts of the world, because we come from so many different places," said Page. "There's so much global awareness amongst the kids here, and they are aware of how lucky we are." Several schools in District 43 have been raising more for Haiti. All the money donated to any organization was being matched by the government up until February 12.

Future Gleneagle students learn the ropes from Grade 8 tour

DAREN MULDER
staff reporter

Grade eights from local middle schools came to Gleneagle on Tuesday January 26 for the annual grade eight walk through.

The Con-X members led future Gleneagle students on tours throughout the school with stations giving information about different courses, clubs, teams and extra-curricular activities that Gleneagle has to offer.

"I thought it was great. I thought that the grade eights were eager and enthusiastic and the teachers did an awesome job of preparing their presentations," said **Caryl Nelson**, counselling department head, who organized the event.

"The grade eights seemed to be excited about coming to Gleneagle

and learning about it," said Con-X member **Thea Ong**, grade 12. "They all asked lots of questions about school life, and coming and seeing what Gleneagle is like as a school, and how we are a welcoming school with lots of opportunities," she added.

"[At first] they were really shy and nervous, but you could tell that they were excited because they were listening to us and asking questions," said **Youngjoo Roh**, Con X member, grade 12. "At our extra-curricular activities section, we played games and handed out prizes, and that got them interested," Roh said. "At first they came in and they were really scared, but at the end, they were okay with everything," said Ong.

"It was fun. Drama and music were the most fun," said **Shannan**

Bryan grade 8, Scott Creek Middle School student.

Federico Cerani, grade 8, Summit Middle School student agreed. "It was fun; the drama and music stations where the most fun. Now I am less scared about coming to Gleneagle," he said.

"Every year we look forward to new future grade nines, and it is an opportunity for us to celebrate the success of Gleneagle as a school," said Nelson. "I feel really proud of the school and what we have to offer and that it is a privilege for any of those kids to come to Gleneagle," she added.

"For the grade eights, I think that the most useful part of the day was hearing about the clubs and extra-curricular activities because it gave them a chance to see what the student body is like. It also gave

them a taste of all the clubs and sports we have, and what school life will be like," said Ong.

"I thought that the most useful part of the day was going to the gym to learn about all the extra sports and activities there are," said Bryan.

"The biggest thing is reassuring them, to see the school and meet the student body," said Nelson. "I thought that the most useful part of the day was the tours. I thought that going to each station and getting an introduction to what kind of courses there are was really helpful because [now] they know what kinds of classes they want to take. I thought that they seemed like a really nice group of grade eights, and they seemed interested," she said.

"It was really cool for the grade

eight teachers to come and see how the kids that they have taught have settled in," she added.

Many Con-X members agreed that hosting this event was a lot of fun.

"It was fun to show kids around the school, especially because I am a senior, and I am leaving this year. It helped me to remember about what kind of a school I go to and that it is a really great school to be in. I thought it was refreshing to show that, to people who don't know it," said Ong.

"Teachers from Summit said that some students who had been considering a cross-catchment changed their minds after seeing what we have to offer," said Nelson. Staff and students involved in this important event agreed that it was an all around success.

JAYME PEDERSEN
staff reporter

Gleneagle students are pumping up their spirit with bright colours and strange hairstyles to enliven their second week in the new semester!

This week, students have been showing their school spirit during a week long event planned by the student council. On Monday, student council promoted the event at the cafeteria during lunch time to encourage people to become involved.

"I hope everyone joins in," said Emily Tab, grade 11, who thinks spirit week is a "great way to get involved and show some school pride."

She was most excited for Ugly Sweater Day which took place on Tuesday because it "sounded really funny," and she was not the only one.

"I [was] excited for the sweater day just because I have really ugly sweaters that I can finally wear without being a loser," said Jessica Aquin, grade 9.

After Tuesday's "Ugly Sweater Day," student council held "Tight and Bright Day" for the student body. Today, the plan is for some "Crazy Hats and Hair" with wild colors and strange ponytails.

Tomorrow is PJ day with a Spirit Day Assembly at lunch in the cafeteria with fun games, prizes and of course, school spirit and pride.

All students are encouraged to attend and truly express their TALON Pride.

"Having spirit week is a tradition we have at Gleneagle, and I believe it is an excellent way to nurture the atmosphere we have in our school. I love the fact that people in the halls, even for a few days, have something

in common to celebrate, and it is that feeling of togetherness that I enjoy the most about spirit week," said John Lim, grade 12, student council member.

"For student council, I'm sure we all openly support the organization and festivities of spirit week, producing posters, and rallying fellow students to participate," he added.

To some students, Spirit Week is a getaway from the norm and a day to do something perhaps a bit goofy.

"Spirit Week is great because it is a fun way to do something different than the usual routine," said Aquin. "[What excites me is] the ability to dress or act differently. Remember dress up? I used to love that game when I was little and I guess I still do," she added.

Though some of the student body have forgotten to participate in previous spirit weeks, many have high hearts about the week to show TALON pride.

"I think it should be advertised around the school more so people really know when it is because I usually forget. Some people just don't like showing their school spirit which sometimes bothers me, but then again I often forget about it. It's still a fun thing for Gleneagle students to do to be goofy!" said Jessica Holloway, grade 12.

"What I love about spirit week [is that] it's a chance for the students to express their enthusiasm, and seeing everybody that has spirit put the effort into it and dress up on the specific days," Holloway added.

"One thing that is important about having spirit week at Gleneagle, is having people support the events and to have a positive attitude. At Gleneagle, I have found that students are very accepting, and will take part in the events all in good fun," said Lim.

Students brave pre-dawn rain to witness Olympic torch

PAULINE MACAPAGAL
staff reporter

Thursday, February 11, Gleneagle students woke up early with Canadian pride to witness the Olympic Torch Relay pass by our school.

"To have it in your backyard with the torch going by and then have the luxury of seeing all this stuff is exciting," said **Scott Findley**, English teacher.

"I was there because I wanted to see the torch," said **Caryl Nelson**, school counsellor. "I think it was just a great opportunity to encourage school spirit," she added.

Ed Ross, grade 10, wanted "to show some school spirit and go see the Olympic Torch."

"I could tell my grandkids about this. [It's] once in a lifetime," said **Blake Berg**, grade 10. "It was intense and we were all freaking out!"

"Seeing the torch go by is kind of as close as I think I'll get to the real Olympic experience," said **Carol Coulson**, vice principal.

"It was fabulous, I was so happy that all these Gleneagle students came and I was totally surprised. I didn't expect to have that many kids," said **Kimiko Tanaka**, hairdressing teacher. "I think this school has a lot of spirit... when I saw how many kids were out there," she said.

"I think... there were almost 800 kids that came through for the pancake breakfast," said Nelson.

Even though it was early in the morning, the students showed up by Guildford Way in the pre-dawn light. Findley's English 11 Honours class woke up early to witness the torch pass, and "from their stand point they didn't care if they got up early," Findley said.

"They recognize that this is an opportunity that you will not have again," he added.

"For me to have an opportunity to see the Olympic flame up



PAULINE MACAPAGAL PHOTO

Taking pride in the moment: Hundreds of Gleneagle students and staff came together with community to welcome the torch to Coquitlam in the early hours of February 11, braving the wet weather.

close is pretty cool," said **Waldon Cheung**, grade 11.

Despite the fact that it was pouring rain, students and teachers with families showed their support in common and unique ways.

"We wore red matching t-shirts," said Berg. "We got about twenty red markers and we drew on each other," said Ross.

"We had our grade 12's with bare chests with 'GO CANADA!' written on their chests, running up and down the streets," said Nelson.

"To see so many Gleneagle students there, and wearing their red and white, and faces painted and chest painted and waving flags, it

was a huge bonding moment for our school and just a really patriotic time for all of us as Canadians," said Coulson passionately.

"Ms. Tanaka, our hairdressing teacher...had half of her face painted white and half red with a little maple leaf so lots of people really got creative," Coulson said.

"I thought it was really cool," said Nelson. "I was at a point where I could see one torch bearer light the torch of the next person," she added.

"It was really loud, lots of cheering, lots of music going on," said Ross. "Mr. Clarke had four of his children there, so it was a real kind of community feel out there," Nelson said.

"A lot of people had this ideal impression that the flame is [going to] be some big climatic event, but I think the atmosphere is really nice," Cheung said.

"I love the Olympics!" said Coulson. "With the event being here I've always been a fan of it," she added.

"It was really neat, especially to be there with my two sons and my wife," said Findley. "It was really emotional and really enjoyable."

"I thought it was great to see the kids out there, and I really wanted to be a part of that," said Nelson. "Just to have a little piece of the Olympics just kind of come through Coquitlam and be a part of Gleneagle is really important to

me," she said.

"It's a once in a lifetime opportunity. It's difficult [to get] the whole school together to go out and witness something like this," said Findley.

Nelson "encouraged our grade 12's to get out there. It's their final year here at Gleneagle so I wanted to start creating memories for their grad year and the other kids too. That's how we build memories of what school was like for us."

When asked about their experience, both Ross and Berg agreed it was "definitely worth it!"

Tanaka said, "I feel proud to be Canadian."

Impact of the Olympic Games on lower mainland life

CRYSTAL MA
staff reporter

Hosting the world changes a city. Vancouver is no exception.

On July 2nd, 2003, Vancouver was chosen as the host city for the twenty-first Olympic Winter and Paralympic Games by the International Olympic Committee. Since then, Vancouver has steadily been preparing for February 2010.

The total cost for the project is estimated to be in the billions of dollars for the games and city renovations.

\$600 million went towards an upgrade of the Sea to Sky Highway to improve the flow of traffic between Whistler and Vancouver. One billion is being spent on security. About one thousand security cameras were installed downtown by the City of Vancouver and the RCMP Olympic Integrated Security Unit, because Vancouver could be a possible terrorism target. The need for new buildings and regional improvements opened up

multiple jobs in the economy. It largely affected the construction and tourism industries. Road and building construction were required. Restaurants, hotels and airports were needed to accommodate the Olympics.

"The demand for jobs in the construction industry is large. And a lot of people are coming to Vancouver for work. However, there will likely be a downfall of jobs after the Olympics," said Mark Ehman of DA Architects & Planners, part of a group of architects who designed the Convention Center. This new facility is home to the large number of media outlets during the games.

Construction and changes to the city were thought through carefully to sustain the city and provide as little harm as possible. For the first time, energy consumption of the Olympic revenues will be displayed online through The Venue Energy Tracker project.

"We started working on the convention centre 8 years ago," said

Ehman. "It's a LEED platinum building with lots of sustainable features. It has a six-acre green roof, the largest green roof in Canada," he said.

"A black water plant is also featured which recycles the building's sewage water for other uses.

"...at the end of the day, it's a once in a life time opportunity"

It doesn't require electrical power and was built one third over water but has a concrete skirt which has shelves that allow marine life to grow," Ehman said.

After the Olympics, venues including the Richmond Oval and The Vancouver Olympic/Paralympic Centre will convert into public recreation centers. The Athletes Village in Vancouver and Whistler will both turn into low-cost community housing afterwards.

For people living in the downtown core, an immediate impact of the games on their daily lives

involves transit and traffic. Many roads and streets have closed, creating massive rerouting of traffic. John Gibney, Gleneagle counsellor who lives across from the UBC Thunderbird arena commented, "They've closed the street completely. You have to show ID to

prove that you live there in order to drive through." UBC is one of the venues for men's and women's ice hockey. "There are lots of streets with Olympic claim; it's going to be very busy. A one hour wait is expected for those using sky trains," he said. Ashley Freeborn, Gleneagle's drama teacher who commutes from five minutes west of Athletes Village had to change her route two times due to road closures. "All the fences were closed off with barbed wires...There's high security. It's exciting but difficult to negotiate around," Freeborn said.

Small changes can be seen throughout the city. If you take a stroll downtown, you will see the new signs, free events, merchandise (Miga, Quatchi, Sumi and Mukmuk!), and displays everywhere. The city is decorated with Canadian Olympic energy and spirit. "You can feel the spirit in the air, and in all the people down there. Everyone one is wearing Canadian merchandise," said Kimiko Tanaka, Gleneagle hairdressing teacher who lives in East Vancouver. "I've also noticed white tents being put up around Yaletown. And all the roads around facilities have been blocked so you have to re-route yourself," she said.

The 2010 Olympics have also encouraged people from all over the world to come to Vancouver. "I think all the Vancouverites have their fears and worries about the changes happening in the city, but at the end of the day, it's a once in a life time opportunity," said Freeborn.

Crossover win provides pride, accomplishment for senior girls



JAIME MC LAUGHLIN PHOTO

Keep it high: Grade 12 shoots overtop of two Centennial opponents while teammate, also grade 12, looks on during the girls' loss in league to the Cents.

JAIME MC LAUGHLIN
staff reporter

For most basketball teams, the feeling of accomplishment that comes after a 20-point win is often without excitement. However, for Gleneagle's senior girls basketball team, this was not the case. The girls not only met their goal of obtaining a Fraser Valley crossover game, they exceeded it by clinching a berth at the 'AAA' Girls Fraser Valley Championship tournament with a 74 to

51 win over Semiahmoo in their crossover game.

"We were so excited!" **Shantel Gerstendorfer**, grade 10, said happily.

"We're just happy we made it...We're proud of ourselves," added **Sidney Fletcher**, grade 12. The girls' crossover win set them up as the twelfth seed of the Fraser Valley tournament, which meant they faced fifth-seeded Elgin Park in first round action on Monday; a tough loss to the Orcas set them up for a

Second place finish at BC's serves well for Talons table tennis

KASEY IM
staff reporter

Gleneagle's brand new table tennis team finished second at the BC's. The team of four was made up of the following students: grade 11 and captain **Tyler Clements**, **Travis Drolet**, grade 11, **Alex Lim**, grade 10, and **Adrian Lee**, grade 9. According to coach **Ali Tootian**, the team participated in all three different events: singles, doubles, and team. They finished second in the team event, losing in the semi-finals of singles

and doubles. Tootian was satisfied with the result. "The players performed better than we could have expected," he said.

The other participating schools had more experience, and all of the schools had been playing for more than ten years, according to Tootian. "[The result was] much better than what we could have expected from a school participating for the first time in the competition," he said.

"I think it's a very good result," said Clements. "Without teamwork, I don't think

Tuesday game versus Clayton Heights. Results were not available at press time.

The road to the Fraser Valleys was often tough for the girls, though, as they have dealt with injuries for a good chunk of the season. **Sara Haghigat-Joo**, grade 10, and **Alyssa Binns**, grade 12, have both battled ongoing injuries, while **Young Joo Roh**, grade 12, suffered a season-ending injury in early January. Coach **Doug Binns** emphasized the importance of Roh's presence and how much it is missed. "YJ gave us incredible speed when she played...Not having her in the line up has hurt our team a lot," he said.

However, the girls have fought through, and managed to compile a two and two record at the Fraser Valley North playoffs. With losses to Centennial and Terry Fox and huge wins over Pinetree and Heritage Woods, they placed fifth overall, an improvement over their sixth-place finish in league play. While Coach Binns mentioned that "in the Terry Fox game, we matched them in playing smart basketball," everyone agreed that the girls' best game of the North district tournament was versus Heritage Woods. Why? According to **Rosemary Nwankwo**, grade nine, the girls played as a team, and "we all did really good things," she said. "We handled their intense pressure and had almost no meltdowns. We never quit, and our skill shone through," Binns commented. Fletcher was pleased with the aspect of redemption in the win. "We lost to them before [in league play] and it was really good to be able to beat them," she said. "It showed how much we've improved."

Speaking of improvement, everyone has definitely noticed how much the girls have gotten better over the course of the season. According to **Kathleen Chu**, grade 10, the

girls have improved defensively, while Gerstendorfer and Nwankwo both agreed that the girls are communicating better on the court. Furthermore, the girls have developed consistency in effort and rebounding, according to Binns.

Of course, with improvement as a team comes improvement from specific players. Binns is especially pleased with Chu's progress. "Kathleen has become very reliable on defence, on the boards, and has become more of a threat," he said. "She is earning her confidence through hard work she used to freeze under pressure and not do anything; now she does not." As well, Binns said that she was a "major contributor" to the girls' crossover win. In addition to Chu, Nwankwo "has become a lot better at participating in the game for longer periods of time," remarked Binns. Binns has also been impressed with Fletcher's play throughout the year. "Sidney has been trustworthy with the ball and has had no let-downs," he said.

Now that the girls have qualified for the Fraser Valleys, their expectations have risen. "I think we'll do pretty well," Nwankwo said of the tournament. "Trust and hard work," said Gerstendorfer, and "composure," added Fletcher, are some of the things the girls have relied on this season and hope to use to their advantage during the Fraser Valleys.

The girls are hoping for a good run at the Valleys, where the top seven finishers have a shot at advancing to the B.C. 'AAA' senior girls championship tournament. Since their opponents are based on the outcomes of previous games, definite matchups were not available at press time. However, you can catch the girls in action sometime today, tomorrow or Saturday at Riverside Secondary in Port Coquitlam.

KAYLA PHILLIPS
staff reporter

Commitment and consistency led to a good start for the Gleneagle wrestling team. This year, the Talons wrestling team is on track for success, having competed in the SFU invitational meet in December as well as three league meets and the Port Alberni invitational, where they were very successful. **Sasan Haghigat-Joo**, grade 9, took silver in junior male action. **Alexis Latimer**, grade 11, took bronze in the senior female category, while **Melissa Jacques**, grade 12, beat some "very scary girls" for a bronze as well. **Catherine De Vaal**, grade 11, earned fourth place, and **Hansol Kang**, grade 12, got the fifth spot in a very competitive senior boy's category. Tomorrow, the team heads to the Fraser Valleys, and they have high hopes; "[One of my goals is] to do well at the Fraser Valley tournament and at provincials, as well as refine my skill," said new-comer **Pascale Mendes**, grade 10.

The goal of the team of course is to do well at both of these major competitions, but some team members also have some personal goals. "[I'd like to] get the basics down, and for my technique to be even bet-

ter for next year," said De Vaal.

Mark Tustin, coach, has similar goals, "[The hope is to get] as many wrestlers to the B.C. high school Championships as possible. [There's] 28 on the team, so if 50% qualify, that would be good. [We'd also like to] qualify in the top five at Fraser Valleys." Tustin believes the team is on track to meet these goals. "[The team is] consistent in training, but some members who are irregular in training improve more slowly, which is no surprise," he said.

"They train very well - they're an intense group in an intense sport and they perform consistently at practice. [Wrestling] is a complex sport that requires a quick reaction to both defensive and offensive moves. [You have to] respond quickly or your opponent will get a point, or you'll be pinned," he said.

Brian Song, grade 10, agrees. When asked what the major strength of the team is he said, "staying committed to the team. It would be helpful to improve on the variety of physical and mental skills that come in handy in the ring."

De Vaal believes more girls should join the sport; "girls are often intimidated by contact and having to pin someone down."

we would have gotten that far."

Clements' pursuit of Tootian as the coach was the ultimate reason there was even a team at all, according to Tootian. "Tyler came to me in October and asked me [to create the club], but I told him that I didn't have time to do it. But he kept coming and asking me," Tootian said.

Because there wasn't time for real skill learning practices, the ones selected at the tryouts were the experienced students who played outside school; Lee, for instance, is

a member of the Canadian U-15 national team.

Tootian appreciated the assistance of the P.E. Department. "[The P.E. department] helped us to organize [the club]...And if it weren't for them, [there wouldn't] have been a chance for us to come together," he said.

Things look good for next year; more tryout time is one of the reasons "the students really want to continue the team," said Tootian. Also, there are hopes that there will be both a competitive team and club.

Gleneagle grapplers looking good as Fraser Valleys approach



KAYLA PHILLIPS PHOTO

Takedown time: Both grade 11's, at a recent practice. Gleneagle wrestlers will compete at the Fraser Valleys, starting tomorrow.

It's a great workout and a way to get your D.P.A. Every year we start from the beginning, so if you're new, it's not too hard, and it's good training for the rugby season because you learn how to take someone down properly. More girls should join, because if there aren't enough we have to wrestle with guys!" she said

She also had a few kind words for the coaches. "Our coaches push us hard to be mentally and physically strong," she said.

"Wrestling is turning out to be great. I've met many new people and coaches throughout the season," Song added.

The team will participate in the Fraser Valley Championships tomorrow.

Sports

Senior boys back on track with recent turn around victories

JAIME MC LAUGHLIN
staff reporter

It is one thing to understand the definition of the term ‘turnaround,’ but quite another to be able to put together the right formula in order to create one.

And after a string of losses in which they lost ten of thirteen games, Gleneagle’s senior boys basketball team has shown signs of returning to their winning ways, claiming victory in six of their last seven games.

Last Friday, the boys played at Heritage Woods, who, at that point, were undefeated.

They were sitting in first place in the Fraser Valley Northwest conference standings.

This was an incredibly important game, because according to grade 11, **Ramtin Rajabinia**, the boys were looking for vengeance after falling to the Heritage Kodiaks in their first league game back in January.

Unfortunately, though, the Gleneagle boys were unable to emerge victorious, and were dealt a tough twenty-point loss.

Their previous game was against Charles Best, where they pulled out a 63 to 58 victory in a very intense game.

Being senior night, grade 12’s **Nick Evans** and **Brennan Ho** were honoured before the game for their commitment and contributions put into the Gleneagle basketball program over their successful high school careers.

It was a good win for the boys on their

home court.

Their other recent wins have been: an exhibition triumph over Maple Ridge as well as several other league games, including an exciting 58 to 54 victory over the Centennial Centaurs.

They finished off their regular season series with Centennial on Tuesday, but the game’s results were not available at press time.

There are a number of reasons the boys have been able to trigger a turnaround.

According to Ho, it’s been “the ability to stay in the game, and close them out.”

He also said that the boys have found a way to “pull it together” after bad starts.

However, according to **Tony Scott**, head coach, the boys have turned things around not because of improvement, but because of successfully learning how to adjust to the missing presence of grade 11, **Alex Klocek**, who is out with an injury.

“We have made the transition from having Alex to not having him play,” he said.

“This is not only a player transition but a coaching one as well.”

Despite the many ups and downs for the team, “the expectations have never changed,” said Scott.

“We are trying to play better every time we play and hopefully this will allow us to go as far as possible,” he said.

However, if the boys want to keep playing successfully, they “need to come ready to play and give a solid effort,” grade 10, Ste-



PHOTO PROVIDED BY PATRICIA ANDERSON

Through the traffic: Grade 12, braves enemy waters against Centennial in one of the senior boys final regular season games.

ven Haer, explained.

“We must continue to play with good team defence and have good, strong effort from everyone that plays,” Scott added. You can catch the boys in action later today when they visit the Port Moody Blues at 7:30.

This will be their last league game, and the boys are hoping to make some noise come playoffs.

Nothing’s ever absolutely certain, but “anything is possible!” said **Zach Usherwood**, grade 11.

Provincials await for successful Gleneagle gymnastics team



CLARE CHU PHOTO

CLARE CHU
staff reporter

Gleneagle’s gymnastic team came off a great Districts and Fraser Valleys and will be taking their experiences to the Provincial Championships.

“[Fraser Valleys] was really good,” said **Olga Belikov**, grade 11 gymnast.

“We all did our best and most of us placed quite well.” In level one, **Shelby Kitsch-Best** placed first in vault and fourth in floor, Olga Belikov eighth in bars and fifth in floor, **Nicole Stevens** fourth in floor, **Mandy Goodman** eighth in vault, and **Kristy Jamieson** ninth in beam and sixth in floor. **Stacey Bryant**, grade 12 gymnast, came second all around in level two and Shelby Kitsch-Best came in eighth overall in level one.

“Districts went better, there was more competition at this one [Fraser Valleys]. We had a couple of mishaps,” said Bryant, “but it went pretty well. I was missing one skill and some people had a few mistakes. We learned a lot of stuff

from this competition. Provincials will be a lot of fun and after learning from our routines [at Fraser Valleys], we’ll do a lot better.”

In districts, the team placed well in their individual events, said **Michele Morin**, coach. In level one overall, Shelby Kitsch-Best came first, Olga Belikov second, Nicole Stevens third, Mandy Goodman fourth, and Kristy Jamieson sixth. Stacey Bryant came first overall in level two with a first place in beam and floor and third place in bars and vault.

“The overall season was really strong,” said Belikov. “We worked really hard and we’re excited for provincials. The season went really well considering there were a lot of new people,” agreed Bryant. “It should only improve next year.” “My expectations for next year are that we continue to draw students into gymnastics and keep the interest alive,” said Morin. “I am very happy we have athletes that should return next year in order to see their skills progress. I had a lot of fun this season and look forward to the Provincials.” The BCs are held in Duncan, February 26 to March 1.

Junior boys team edged out of play-offs

CLAUDIA LEE
staff reporter

The junior boys basketball team showed immense improvement this season in spite of losing their final home game against Terry Fox by 18 points.

“We lost the chance to play at the playoffs,” said **Jong Lee**, grade 10.

The do-or-die match against Terry Fox Secondary was the first of the two most important games of the regular season, but the team ended up losing “with a huge deficit,” according to Lee.

However, their last away game against Riverside was a win, and “one of the team’s best efforts so far this season,” according to the team’s coach **Jason Bingley**.

The 51 to 31 win was “the result of every player’s contribution,” said Bingley.

The team is the “youngest and the smallest in the district. Also, the way our schedule worked out this year we only played five home games out of 25 games played this season,” he added, “[many of those games against some of the top teams in the province]. But our players always battled through any adversity that we faced,” said Bingley.

“Hopefully, our players now know the type of commitment and dedication that will be needed for them as they

move forward to a new grade level next year, as they will face faster, stronger competition,” he added.

The team’s greatest concern this season was team communication, and “playing as a team,” according to Lee.

Because there were several “new players on our team, [they] had a hard time working as a group,” according to Lee.

“We learned how to move the ball around more and communicate on the court,” he explained.

“As for the season, we didn’t reach our goal of getting to the Fraser Valleys. There was a lot of improvement both individually and collectively as a team,” the coach said.

He added that many of the losses were very tight, scores were close and they were competitive games that “could have been won.”

The team was most impressed by themselves when they played Vancouver College, the number one ranked team in the province.

“We matched their offense with our defence during the first half of the game,” said Lee.

“After our last game, I told them how proud I was of them, but now we as coaches pass the torch to you, what you do with it in the off-season to improve your skill level, body, basketball IQ, will determine how brightly that torch will burn for you next year,” finished Bingley.

in the spotlight



JAIME MC LAUGHLIN PHOTO
Recognizing Excellence: Patricia Anderson, coach of the junior girls basketball team, was named coach of the month by B.C School Sports for the month of February.

Jazz ensembles to perform locally prior to Idaho competition

CASSIE BARATELLI
staff reporter

Tomorrow evening, Friday, February 19 will be an evening of jazz music in the multi-purpose room from 6:00 until 10:00 pm. This evening will include not only Gleneagle's own jazz ensembles – vocal jazz and the jazz band – but will also include a professional 17 piece jazz band, The Bruce James Orchestra. Tickets will include a gourmet buffet by Chef **Frank Abbinante**, as well as a silent auction. "They're totally ready, they're pumped! I'm very excited," said **Ed Trovato**, the music teacher who is in charge of the jazz choir and the jazz band. "Each group is performing their own program. So the Jazz combo [vocal jazz and the jazz band] is going to perform first," Trovato said. This will be followed by "the vocal jazz group, then the jazz band, then there'll be a short break, and then the adults [Bruce James Orchestra] will be on to close the night out," he said.

"We're at 140 tickets and we're sold out at 150, so buy your tickets ahead of time," said Trovato. **Emily Black**, part of the vocal jazz group said "It's pretty cool. You've got the whole meal deal." The ensemble from the vocal jazz will include: *This Little Light of Mine*, *What is This Thing Called Love*, *Snow Gets in Your Eyes*, among others. "You'll be surprised," said Black.

As for the Jazz combo, "The band's cool. We've done it before," said Black. "The rhythm section of the jazz band does come in and we practice with them." The jazz en-

sembles come in every morning, vocal jazz on Tuesday and Friday, and the jazz band practices Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

For the upcoming trip to Idaho, February 24 to February 28, the jazz band – a very dedicated group – came in and practiced during the professional development day on Friday, February 12, with no instruction from Trovato. "The students are really ready and I think they're excited too. There is a really good nervous energy and a real good buzz going on right now. They're ready to perform," said Trovato. "The students are definitely driven. They really want to do well. They'll be competing against students from all over North America. Roughly 1600 students will be attending the festival," said Trovato.

With both the upcoming events, the jazz ensemble – the vocal jazz group and the jazz band – are practicing hard with the regular rehearsals and extra rehearsals on their own time.

"They come in all on their own without me asking and that's been the case since September, October. The students have been practicing on their own accord without me really having to say much," said Trovato.

Students from the vocal jazz choir and the jazz band are excited for both the Gala Dinner/Dance and the Idaho competition. "Of course I'm excited! It's Idaho! Hello!" said Black.

Tickets are almost sold out for the Dinner Dance although there may be a few left at \$30 a ticket. And in not too long the students will be on their way to Idaho.



CASSIE BARATELLI PHOTO

Jazz it up! Members of the Gleneagle vocal jazz choir warm their voices up for tomorrow's jazz dinner dance. They leave for competition in the United States on February 24.

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New Graphics & Design Team

KEVIN CAWTHRA
staff reporter

A new graphics team is working hard as a team to come up with ideas for new designs. **Charles Wong**, grade 12 came up with the idea for a new club for students interested in graphic arts, weeks before the end of the first semester.

At the same time, "Ms. Gunn, the graphic arts teacher, showed interest in the development of a graphics club or a team," said Wong. "It was a 'perfect match' in terms of timing and thought. And so I began developing and preparing a team, which was announced early second semester," said Wong.

"During the development of the team, there was initially a plan to 'teach some basic concepts of graphics (and Photoshop functions)'. However, during the first meeting, most students said that they had previous experience," said Wong. The team turned into more of a project team, where the people who are running it will help the people on the team. "As a result, we are shifting towards a project-oriented team: we will help construct things such as

posters, T-shirts, planner covers, and much more," said Wong.

The team has a specific goal and it is to promote everyone's creativity inside them, to bring out something, to go the extra yard in their project. "The fundamental aim of the "Gleneagle GFX Design Team" is to promote creativity," Wong said.

"Like other clubs, this club is for any individual, regardless of his or her academic, social, or creative ability. Moreover, this club attempts to meet various students' demands for an area where their art or design may be expressed," he added.

Wong also said that it was for kids who like to fool around with Photoshop, and other graphics programs, to come and have fun and have a good leisure time at lunch.

"Also, it is for students who wish to simply develop their skills or spend their time in a pleasurable and colorful experience," said Wong.

Wong pointed out that there was a Facebook group with constant updates about the team. Search: "Gleneagle GFX Design Team," he said.