

Gleneagle's Student Voice
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theEdge

Playing angel to those in need

TAMARA BABCOCK
staff reporter

Gleneagle's student council is hard at work with several seasonal projects to make sure under-privileged families have everything they need to have a merry Christmas.

For more than seven years, Gleneagle's student council has been working with an organization called SHARE on Project Angel at our school.

During the last few weeks of school, a tree is set up in the counselling area and paper angels are hung from its branches.

Each angel contains the name and age of a child in need in the Tri-cities area. Students can take an angel from the tree, purchase a gift for the child, and leave it under the tree. SHARE will then distribute the gifts to their respective families.

Peri Morenz, student council advisor says "[Project Angel] is a group effort...everyone on student council is involved."

Students are asked to spend approximately \$25.00 on each gift.

SHARE also collects stocking stuffers and used toys.

Morenz says the used toys will not be used as gifts: "SHARE will sell the used toys...and then use the money to purchase new ones," she said.

This year, student council will start off by placing 100 angels on

the tree. Last year they started with less, but so many students participated in Project Angel that they had to add more angels to the tree. In total, over 120 gifts were bought.

Student council is trying to spread awareness for Project Angel with posters around the school, explaining how it works.

Hannah Lee, grade 12, is organizing a new project this year to help those in need for Christmas. At this year's D-9 and Christmas concerts, student council will be selling bottled water for a lower price than the vending machine.

The money raised will go to supplying a family in a poor country with clean water for one year.

Lee says that student council is "happy to be allowed to sell the water at the concerts," even though this will mean less profit for the vending machines.

The student council is working with World Vision for this project. For every \$100.00 raised, World Vision will be able to supply one family with clean water.

The water will be used as the family's Christmas present. "It's a less selfish present...[than when] people here wish for an iPhone for Christmas," Lee said.

The bottles will have custom labels made by members of the student council that depict a child in a poor country suffering from the consequences of not getting enough clean water.

***Helping Out:** Grade 11's, pick angels off the tree in the counselling office. Project Angel helps to provide gifts for kids who may not get anything otherwise.*



TAMARA BABCOCK PHOTO

National Portfolio Day opens doors for budding artists

HELEN DOO
staff reporter

Post secondary doors were opened for eight talented Gleneagle art students as they received early acceptance from universities and colleges after demonstrating their talent at National Portfolio Day this past weekend.

Carli Kidd, Katherine Kim, Peter Orcsik, Judy Lee, Tiffany Lee, Amy Park, Kate Yang, and Shaelyn Zhu, all grade 12, have all gained early acceptance to post-secondary institutions such as Emily Carr University of Art & Design, California College of Art & Design, Chicago Institute of Art & Design, and Parsons the New School for Design in New York.

They were also encouraged to apply for scholarships at the schools they were accepted to, which is a big compliment in the world of academia.

Gleneagle students had their artwork critiqued by university and college representatives from all over North America at the National Portfolio Day, held on Saturday, December 4 on Granville Island.

The 2010 Vancouver National Portfolio Day is an opportunity for students to show off their art skills and possibly get early acceptance to post-secondary institutions accredited by the National Association of Schools of Art and Design.

"There was a total of 18 students from our school that were going," said **Melanie Stokes**, art teacher. "[Some] students worked very hard outside of school on their portfolios and had excellent results," Stokes added.

"My portfolio focuses on fashion and arts and it has lots of beads. I think that I did a pretty good job on it," said **Shaelyn Zhu**, grade 12. "I decided to do this because I really want to study fashion when I get to

university. My goal is to get a bachelor's degree for fashion design at Parsons the New School for Design in New York. It's one of the best fashion schools in the world and I want to go there to pursue my education."

Portfolio Day is helpful to art students in many ways: it requires them to learn how to prepare a portfolio early in their graduation year, gives them experience in pre-

senting their work, and provides them with productive criticism.

"By going to the National Portfolio Day, I can get early feedback on my work from the schools that I want to go to," said Zhu. "And I can get some time to improve my work before I submit it as an application. I think that it's really helpful," she said.

UPCOMING EVENTS
D9 Concert
December 9
Winter Band Concert
December 15
Last Day of Classes
December 17

Feeling pressure as the season approaches

The long-awaited Christmas season is fast approaching. Snow is falling, stores are filled with holiday merchandise, and neighbourhood houses sport festive decorations. Gleneagle staff and students are working hard to bring some holiday cheer into the school with colourful décor and fun-filled activities, just before we're sent off to enjoy more than two weeks of vacation.

But for some, getting into the Christmas spirit may seem a little harder than usual this year.

As we all know, the district has cut quite a few days from our usual school year. Teachers have been making an effort to compact their schedules and make sure their students are taught everything they need to know, but with only a few weeks left before the end of the semester comes the realization that there is just *too much* left to cover. Gleneagle students are struggling to keep up as their metaphorical mountain of homework keeps growing bigger and bigger. It seems like there just isn't enough time in the semester to finish everything.

In their desperation to make sure students are prepared for their provincials and final exams, many teachers are considering giving out homework during the Christmas holidays. This just doesn't seem fair, though. We look forward to the holiday season because we know it gives us a chance to relax and recover from the stress of school. And homework is not something we tend to include in our plans for Winter Break.

Keep in mind that Christmas vacation is 17 days long. This should be plenty of time to enjoy the holidays in addition to working on a bit of homework.

With the right time management, we can still relax and enjoy the Christmas season along with the rest of our family and friends.

And if the stress of a rushed semester is starting to get to you, remember that you can always look forward to that extra long spring break in the new year!



Religious, secular Christmas traditions share bond of love



edge columnist

Here comes Christmas again, with all its colourful lights and Christmas trees.

In its 2000 year history, Christmas has evolved into a worldwide festival where people from all over the world celebrate it in many different styles, but all in ways in which joy is shared and happiness is spread.

Originally a religious holiday, Christmas is one of the two most important days for Christians, the other being Easter. Christians celebrate a common faith on this day as it is the day of Christ's birth.

Common traditions are evening ser-

People put down their heavy burdens and open up their hearts.

They embrace the thought of having family and friends to share their joy with and just give whatever they have to each other, no matter if it's as little as what's in a beg-

"People put down their heavy burdens and open up their hearts"

vices for worship; Catholic churches also have midnight Masses on Christmas Eve where they give thanks to God for His grace and blessings and share great joy amongst people.

Yet, sharing joy is a common theme between non-Christians on Christmas Day too. Christmas trees are set up, a process both parents and children enjoy.

Wrapped presents start appearing underneath the trees, and kids fight the urge to peek as great excitement start building up in their hearts.

The long-desired Christmas dinner is all about gathering together and having a good time as a family.

gar's pocket or as big as Solomon's treasure.

Yes, Christmas is also about giving willingly and actually receiving pleasure from it. Benevolence and charity offerings are often given out at this time. Carolers sing seasonal choruses from house to house to spread the Christmas spirit, not minding the cold and frost.

People volunteer at Christmas dinners for the homeless, and try their best to reach out to those who are most in need of joy and comfort. Giving out presents and cards and watching the receiver's reaction is always an event to look forward to.

Seasonal greetings can be heard from east to west; the happiness and love in the air is

more concentrated than at any other time of the year. And even if it's just a kind word or gesture that you're extending, smiles light up tired faces.

Christmas is also about caring for each other.

On this very special day, families gather together and enjoy a day of harmony and laughter, no matter how scattered the family members may be.

Friends send each other their best wishes, no matter how many times they may have fought and quarreled before. Strangers wish each other "Merry Christmas," even if they have just met the second before and will separate a second later.

Everyone who celebrates Christmas, celebrates the most wonderful things in life at the same time.

No matter what variety of meanings different people put into it, Christmas was, is, and always will be a day on which people, having been busy all year long, relax and share something in common: extending love to family and friends, having hope in life, and sharing joy with people.

So may your holiday be special and meaningful in whichever manner you prefer.

Merry Christmas, everyone.

theEdge

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

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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

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Lois Axford
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Pauline Macapagal

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Evangeline Shih

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What's your favourite Christmas tradition?

YOU SAID IT!



Grade 9
"Decorating my Christmas tree"



Grade 10
"Receiving presents"



Grade 11
"Family dinner"



Grade 12
"Going to my grandparents' house"

Sounds, not sights of Christmas inspire student to celebrate



edge columnist

It's beginning to *sound* a lot like Christmas? Not the traditional phrase but you can't deny it, it's that time of year when you start to hear those familiar tunes ringing out from all the stores.

Some people would prefer if the music didn't start until a few days before Christmas. From the first few notes they are tired of it.

I love the sounds of the season so much that when I recently added more Christmas music to my iPod I was so happy I started dancing around the house, confusing the rest of the members of my family.

This music is the starting point to my favourite season of the year, because of the closeness with family and friends that happens as the weather turns colder and the

What's even better is that everyone knows Christmas songs so you can burst into random singing with your friends between classes.

I love those moments! Christmas music connects so many people, and for me that is what should come out of Christmas; not the stress of getting gifts for people, or the dreariness of the days, but the feeling of being close to the people in your life.

You can't drag your Christmas tree around with you wherever you go, unfortunately, but Christmas music is something that is portable, so you have the ability to take it with you to every store, snow-filled street, and room.

So won't you join me this holiday season in cranking up the Christmas music, pouring yourself a cup of hot chocolate, and enveloping yourself in the sounds of the season? Trust me, it's a lot better than stressing out over everything else.

"You can't drag your Christmas tree around with you wherever you go... but Christmas music is portable"

But some –like me– can't wait until the stores are filled with the sounds of the holidays and Christmas cheer.

I personally love Christmas music so much that I have been listening to it since September, much to the annoyance of all my friends who believe Christmas music shouldn't start until December.

days become short and dark. These songs talk about hope and life and all the things that we need to be reminded of this time of year. Songs such as "Simply Having a Wonderful Christmas Time" and "All I want for Christmas is You" sum up my feelings during these long cold months, so I connect closely to Christmas music.

New Years' resolutions: student ponders chance to begin anew



edge columnist

complete delayed tasks and responsibilities that I have avoided for a long time. It helps me to achieve the things that I have never achieved before.

The basic resolutions I am making for myself this year are as follows:

Number One: *Spend less time on the internet* – Every year, the age that children start using the internet becomes younger and younger.

Number Two: *Change my study habits* – As much as I would love to relax and have fun every day, we all go to school to gain knowledge and achieve different standards and goals.

Attempting to focus on our studies is a struggle for many, if not all. When I am in school, I am able to concentrate on lessons. But when I am at home, there are a lot of things that distract me

Number Four: *Begin where you are* – Whether you play an instrument, draw or paint, or play sports... begin where you are. I want to dedicate more time to practicing what I love to do.

I truly regret not continuing to learn how to play the piano when I was little, and now I am starting again. This time, I am determined to continue and pursue this goal.

Number Five: *Have a balanced diet and go to sleep earlier* – Health is important to all of us. Eating a balanced diet is healthy for our bodies. The healthier our diet, the longer we may live.

As a teenager, I sacrifice sleep for the sake of completing school work or simply because I choose to stay up late. Having enough sleep during the night affects how we act and behave during the day.

I'm sure all of you can sympathize with me. These are simply some of the New Year resolutions I plan to accomplish next year, because I believe that this will make me a better person in the future.

New Years' resolutions make me reflect on how I have changed as a person over the year, how things have changed, how people have changed, or, when resolutions don't turn out as planned, how things have stayed exactly the same.

"New Years' resolutions make me reflect on how I have changed as a person"

I think that we as a society are becoming too dependent on electronic devices. Yes, the social network is a quick and convenient way to research something instead of browsing through countless resources like books, encyclopedias, or simply approaching someone to ask about something. Laptops, smartphones and other electronic devices are marvelous inventions, but they are very time consuming.

They take time away from daily homework, chores and other productive activities. Therefore, I will detach myself from the internet. It may be a gradual progress, but at least I will try.

from school work, which results in procrastination. Next year, I plan to separate myself from old study habits and manage my time well. I will ask help when needed, or perhaps head to public libraries to do work in a quiet and relaxing environment.

Number Three: *Read more books* – I am a bookworm and I love reading books. I feel like I have not been investing enough time reading books anymore. I think it is important to read to improve my speech skills and vocabulary.

I love watching television but it is important to stretch my mind with the creativity and imagination that reading provides.



Learning law for real: students visit Supreme Court

YOUMY HAN
staff reporter

Gleneagle law students watched murder trials and a polygamy case be argued and judged in live action last Tuesday.

Michael Milliard, Gleneagle law and social studies teacher, took two classes—about 55 students—to the Supreme Law Court in downtown Vancouver on November 30.

The students found it quite interesting to be given the opportunity to witness law in action and to be able to connect what they have learnt in class with this experience. They watched several different trials, including first-degree and second-degree murder trials, a robbery trial, and even a polygamy case, which Milliard found “pretty interesting.”

This case was mainly about a group of fundamental Mormons from Bountiful, B.C. trying to prove that the laws against polygamy are unconstitutional.

The students were curious about this case, and did research about it beforehand. But in the end, Milliard thinks “nothing will change.”

“The law against multiple marriages will remain and they will continue to have multiple marriages in Bountiful, B.C.,” said Milliard.

Yet grade 11 student **Hodson Harding** was critical. “Concerning the polygamy case, I felt it was a waste of time and money to discuss something that is blatant to most people... there were around 25 different lawyers, all being paid huge money hourly to discuss such a strange subject,” he said.

Harding’s favorite was the first-degree murder case of Eric Kirkpatrick. Kirkpatrick was fired from his job, and returned to the office the next day. He shot his former boss, the man responsible for firing him. This story was in the

Province and the Vancouver Sun as well.

“I liked it because it was such a high profile case,” explained Harding. “ [Kirkpatrick] looked extremely stolid and I enjoyed the many witnesses giving evidence of what happened and how the accused moved about during the killing... How many times do you get to sit a few feet [away] from an [accused] murderer?” he questioned.

The amount of evidence used also amazed Harding. “It’s important for the kids to see that the process is sometimes very tedious, and very boring,” said Milliard, “because [in the justice system] everything has to be proven, and it takes a lot of time to do that.”

As for **Kayla Phillips**, grade 11, something that she did not expect was how close they got to be to what was happening and that “law courts [are] a lot smaller than you think.”

“You could almost... touch the people,” said Phillips.

“[Law courts] are really quiet, and if you make any noise it’s really embarrassing, and the lawyer would turn around and give you the ‘evil eye,’” she added.

After observing the proceedings, they had a 30 minute question and answer session with the judge. This year, the students asked questions about mandatory sentencing, elected judges, professional juries, and career paths.

“Questions to the judge were excellent... but she [the judge] refused to answer the most interesting ones,” said Milliard.

“Every single time we’ve been down there, our Gleneagle classes have been recognized by our host for asking the best questions and having the best interaction with the judge. I’m very proud of that,” he added.

This event takes place every semester.

“I go later in the semester so that they know what they’re doing when they go there,” said

Milliard. “It’s really important for them to see the process in action.”

Milliard thinks that it’s necessary for the students “to feel the environment,” be a part of it, to feel the tension and attitude within, and “to know what is really going on down there,” in-

Cranking up school spirit

IZZY DOCTO
staff reporter

A group of Gleneagle teachers and students want to amp up school spirit by holding a Gleneagle Anthem Contest, hoping to find a song that will successfully represent the diverse Talons community.

The idea for the contest started back in January, when secondary schools were invited to a district initiative called “Defining Ourselves, Defining Our Purpose.” Gleneagle sent its own representatives of teachers and students.

“Gleneagle students in the midst of all the other high schools put forth the greatest representation of our school,” **Lisa Dubé**, English teacher, commented.

Teachers and administrators were proud of the positive energy the Gleneagle students demonstrated. They knew that there had to be something they could put this energy towards and in a couple of months, Dubé along with **Kimiko Tanaka**, former Gleneagle hairdressing teacher, had come up with the idea of a Gleneagle anthem contest. **Bryan Jackson**, guitar teacher, also joined, lending his hand with the musical aspect of the contest. The teachers then consulted with the 12 students who went to the district initiative who agreed that it was a great idea.

The group took words that they had drafted during the initiative and formed a poster of

stead of watching recordings of the proceedings in class, especially in Canada where cameras aren’t allowed in the court room.

The videos students watch are from the American system, which is different from the Canadian one, Milliard explained.

ideas and values that embodied Gleneagle. These words would be the inspiration that the contestants would use.

“We thought it’d be kind of cool to see that brainstorming session be made into something,” Jackson said.

Kimberley Chang, one of the student organizers, hopes that the song can be “something that everybody can relate to.”

The criteria for the contest is very open. The song can be any genre of music, accepted in any format and can be from two to four minutes long. The participant needs to do a good job of incorporating the ideas and values that represent Gleneagle. The level of which submissions are performance ready will also be taken into consideration.

“Every time I think of writing it, I imagine playing it in assemblies and having all the kids sing along in the chorus,” said **Jeff Huggins**, grade 12, a participant in the contest.

Dubé agreed. “It would be so phenomenal...at spirit assemblies or games or whatever we had going on in the school, that we had something to unify us,” she said.

Student organizers will be creating a shortlist of the entries. The voting process has not been finalized, except for the fact that the winners will be chosen by the student body.

“We want it to be student driven,” explained Jackson.

The contest ends on December 14.

Movember: moustaches make men medically mindful

JOHN CHONG
staff reporter

Numerous men in the Gleneagle community made the commitment to grow moustaches during November in support of the Movember Foundation, a charity dedicated to raising awareness of men’s health issues and raising funds to combat them.

Movember Canada’s specialization is prostate cancer, which has special significance to **Scott Findley** of the English department because both his father and grandfather were diagnosed with this but overcame it thanks to early detection.

“It’s a very treatable form of cancer but most men would rather not get checked for it,” he said.

Findley was pleasantly surprised at the number of teachers who participated and said, “It was quite inspiring.” He also got his students involved by offering some bonus marks to those who participated in Movember or in the case of females, got a family member to participate.

The most common reason for participating in Movember was to support people in the school with personal experiences related to prostate cancer. Another reason was to stress the importance of informing students about it. Some felt inclined to participate after having done it before.

English teacher **Andy Albright** believes that the moustaches “create a community of concern” because they encourage men to get checked for prostate cancer. “If men see other men wearing moustaches, it’s a way for them



Caught in the middle: Tony Scott, Andy Albright, and Mike Simmons show off their lean and mean moustaches for the Movember Foundation. Several male teachers grew moustaches to support the organization to raise awareness of men’s health issues, particularly prostate cancer.

to see that other people are getting tested,” he said.

The responses to the moustaches were mixed. Albright said he and his wife liked his moustache and that he intends to “keep it for a little while.”

Conversely, social studies teacher **Andrew Lloyd** called his moustache “hideous” and said that his friends and

family “gave [him] grief all the time.”

Vice-principal **Jeremy Clarke** said that “[his] children thought it was a little funny-looking” and at the end of Movember, “[his] wife was happy that it was gone.” Still, the men were glad to support a good cause. “Even if [they] looked horrible [they] achieved the end result,” Findley said.

Canada raised more for Movember than any other country, with a total amount of over \$19 million. This was not surprising to Clarke, who said, “We have a strong history of raising money for cancer research. Terry Fox is a good example of that.”

Lloyd was somewhat surprised, saying “sometimes we’re a tad apathetic to get

behind things,” but since he had seen so many men growing moustaches, this \$19-million result was to be expected.

Movember at Gleneagle this year was focused more on spreading the message than on collecting donations. “The goal is, hopefully, to start fundraising at our school next year,” Findley said.

Gleneagle teachers debate cellphone use in classrooms

EMMA ROBERTS
staff reporter

Are cell phones a new medium for learning or inappropriate to have in class? This question has been a hot topic among Gleneagle teachers recently. Two weeks ago, teacher **Krista Bogen** sent out an e-mail to staff detailing a surprising encounter she had with a local businesswoman about the problem of teens with cell phones. The woman, who owns a garden centre, was fed up with her young employees neglecting their responsibilities in favour of talking or texting on their phones.

“The year before she had lots of young people, and I said to her, ‘Wow, you’ve really switched your employees. And she said to me, ‘I had enough of it this summer,’” said Bogen of the encounter.

This e-mail sparked a debate between Gleneagle teachers across departments about whether cell phones are an impediment to learning or an innovative educational tool.

“In this day and age, we are taught to multitask, but we don’t do it well,” said **Melanie Stokes**, art teacher. “You’ll find that the most successful students in my class are consistently the ones who are focused on their art,” she added.

“Every teacher is going to have a different way of setting up their classroom and classroom rules,”

said **Cindy Quach**, English teacher. “I think the teacher needs to set up those parameters with their students, so that they know when cell phones or other electronic devices are appropriate or allowed and when they’re not. If the parameters are reasonable, most kids, I find, will actually listen,” she added.

“The opportunities artistically are quite spectacular,” said **Aryn Gunn**, art teacher. “If you’re able to bring up a picture on your handheld device for artistic inspiration, you don’t always have to be dependent on the teacher showing you their examples on the projector. It allows the students to take their own initiative,” she added.

Most students, when asked, said that cell phones would not help them in their learning.

“I think it depends on the student. I don’t think it would personally distract me, but I don’t think we need to incorporate cell phones in the classroom. I think it’s just better without them,” said **Sandra Bauer**, grade 12.

“Cell phones aren’t inherently bad in themselves,” said **Doug Binns**, business education teacher. “It’s how the students use them.”

In his opinion, cell phones aren’t necessary because of the resources available to the students on the computers that they already have access to.

“If they want to do research, they’re welcome to use Google. If



EMMA ROBERTS PHOTO

Pile of cellphones: Most teenagers own a cellular device, which Gleneagle teachers argue both for and against their use in classrooms as a learning tool.

they need to phone someone for educational reasons, I have one at the front of my classroom,” he said.

“For me, it’s not a tech issue. It’s a courtesy issue,” said Quach. “If I’m talking to someone or someone’s giving a lecture or giving instructions during class and you’re texting, that’s just rude,” she added. “Don’t blame the tool or the device; blame the human action, because the human is ultimately in control.”

Bogen’s e-mail inspired Bryan Jackson, TALONS teacher, to write a blog post on the matter. In it, he states that “while they may present a different set of challenges for today’s educators, cell phones and mobile devices are a part of the world we live in, and should be a part of the education we provide today’s students.”

On the other hand, many teachers struggle with trying to use technology in their curriculum. “It’s difficult for teachers who

don’t understand the technology for them to use it in their classrooms,” said Gunn.

“I want to build an honesty factor, so students aren’t just sneaking text messages when they think no one will notice,” said Bogen of her classroom.

“I’m not prepared to let students do whatever they want. I’m weighing it right now,” said Gunn.

“You can’t get rid of the old tools; cell phones just build more options,” said Bogen.

Re-Act team striving to make difference in school, in community

MACY LAO
staff reporter

Some people act; some people react. A new club at Gleneagle is hoping to make a lasting impact on the community by “reacting” to local issues. The Re-Act Team is led by **Raiya Suleman**, grade 10, and **Conrad Chow**, grade 9.

“The purpose of this club is to volunteer in the local community,” Suleman mentioned. “Most of the projects we do are hands on, and directly impact people’s lives in a positive way.”

Suleman’s “goal for the year was to start a team that focused on local issues.”

“I think the Re-Act Team is inspiring,” remarked **Joyce Chang**, grade 9. “It encourages everyone around the school to take notice of activities going on around them and to pitch in and help out.”

The team has been responsible for the

the stockings with materials from the textiles department.

Janice Wu, grade 9, explained that stockings will be given “to little kids who don’t receive presents during Christmas because they don’t have the opportunity to celebrate Christmas with anyone.”

“The stocking initiative was really successful; it made me really happy!” stated Suleman.

The Re-Act Team is anticipating hosting another project before the Christmas break. They plan to organize a leadership project to decorate Christmas trees for retirement homes in Coquitlam.

Throughout the year, the team aspires to become more active within the student body and the neighbourhood community.

“I would like to do more events – at least once a month,” commented Wu.

Chang observed, “I think we could be more enthusiastic, excited and pumped up

their next project.

Later in the year, the team plans on having a few more projects, including making sandwiches for the homeless and volunteering at senior homes.

Suleman added, “We also plan to implement a series of Random Acts of Kindness within the school.”

Christmas food drive to help less fortunate in Tri-cities

ANDREA KLASSEN
staff reporter

Christmas fever has hit the school once again, with colourful boxes for food popping up all around.

Yes, it’s that time of year again when we collect food for the less fortunate in our area so that they will not go hungry over Christmas.

“Nobody should have to face [that],” says **Ariana Vaisey**, student council member and organizer of the initiative.

Scott Findley, English teacher, is providing incentive for this project in a different way. If the students in his classes bring in at least ten items, their grade is raised.

“Yes, it should ideally be out of kindness,” he remarked, “[but] most people don’t become selfless just because.”

“I am hoping that we beat the 2,000 items we collected last year,” Vaisey said.

She is backed up by other members of the club such as **Louise Hung**, who hopes the school collects “loads and loads of food.”

“I would like to see this club grow and plan more activities,” Chang stated. “I really like[d] our last two projects, but it would be really nice if we did something unique, that no one has thought of yet that could encourage Gleneagle students to have more school spirit or put more effort into changing our community and society.”

The food is being collected until the second-last day of school when it will then be picked up by SHARE to put into hampers for the families who need it.

“It keeps people afloat,” said Hung, “especially families that have fallen [onto] hard times.”

“We never take notice of the people in our own community who may be in need,” said Findley.

“So it is time to open up our eyes and see those around us who are struggling. If you can bring one can, you can bring two, and if you can bring two you can bring five. And then you can probably bring ten,” he said.

“Most of us at Gleneagle were born into privileged families with ample food, heating, and shelter, but there are kids around in the Tri-cities who weren’t so fortunate and may not have those basic needs met,” said Vaisey.

“Since we can, I think it is important that we help out,” she said when asked why Gleneagle’s population should care about this initiative.

“Suleman’s goal for the year was to start a team that focused on local issues”

post-it note and stocking initiatives. “Our first activity was putting sticky notes into lockers and sticking them up in washrooms to help people boost up their self-esteem,” said Chang. “After having a bad and lousy day, a compliment or two could really cheer people up.”

Yearly, TELUS organizes a stocking initiative around Christmas time where they rely on volunteers to decorate and stuff stockings for less fortunate children in the lower mainland. With the help of **Aryn Gunn**, textiles teacher, the team decorated

for the activities instead of volunteering for the project for the sake of getting it done.”

“I like how we could work as a team together to build our school up through little activities to huge projects,” Chang added. “Because you can see different age groups coming together in one room, it’s really cool to [see] us all bond and brainstorm more activities that would work throughout the year.”

The React Team meets every second Thursday in room 202. During that time, they brainstorm some ideas and discuss

Gleneagle wrestlers proud to wear Talons colours

MARIANA GORJÃO
staff reporter

Gleneagle’s wrestling team steps up this year with a change in the traditional singlets.

“To promote team spirit and school pride we’ve chosen to proudly wear Gleneagle’s colours of black and gold on our new singlets,” said **Colin Chung**, wrestling coach.

“[All] wrestling schools in the province have the traditional Olympic-regulation colours of red and blue as...until very recently, [these were] the only singlet colours that were allowed by BC high school wrestling rules,” Chung said.

“The extra attention we get from our colours could make us look extremely good or bad, depending on our performance. But no matter what, everyone will know who we are,” he added.

“I was quite intrigued at the idea, because typically we have red and blue,” said **Catherine De Vaal**, grade 12.

“We will represent the school better this way,” she said.

Spencer Steele, grade 10 agrees. “I do like the colours better,” he said.

“They like it a lot. Everyone likes to be unique,” said Chung. “The only other school to go with unique colours, Guilford Park, wears green singlets.”

The team also has a new coach, **Anthony Giordano**. “He has enormous experience and... [a] US wrestling style background,” said Chung.

“He has been teaching us some cool moves,” commented De Vaal.

The wrestling team has been having a lot of success for this season. “We are the



MARIANA GORJÃO PHOTO

Time to tackle: Grade 12 student wrestles grade 9 student practicing moves inspired by new coach, **Anthony Giordano**. Gleneagle’s wrestling team is one of the most formidable in the province.

biggest sports team or club in our school. We’re probably one of the biggest wrestling teams in the province,” said Chung. “Gleneagle is still considered an up-and-coming team but our third place finish by our

boys among 13 teams in the traditionally strong Lower Fraser Valley zone [last year] is nothing to yawn about.”

“Our team is pretty good,” agreed De Vaal. The team, which now consists of 41 wrestlers,

did very well in their first meet, November 30, against Port Moody.

“Port Moody is traditionally a very strong wrestling school and we beat them pretty easily,” said Chung.

Enthusiastic grade 9 boys work on basketball fundamentals

PAULINE MACAPAGAL
staff reporter

Gleneagle’s grade 9 boys basketball team is very enthusiastic to play this season but needs to build on basic skills.

“We have a lot of work to do,” said **Andrew Lloyd**, coach.

“The kids are very enthusiastic about basketball, but fundamentally and what it takes to compete really hard at a high school basketball, we’re a long way from that,” he added.

It is because the players are “new to the intensity of the situation,” he said.

“Every kid playing basketball

needs to understand that they have a job to do on that floor, and they need to know what that job is,” Lloyd said.

The team played at a tournament in Kitsilano Secondary School in Vancouver last weekend and they lost to St. John’s Private School, Centennial, and Kitsilano.

The team lost by more than 20 points in each game.

Lloyd thinks that with the grade 9’s “it’s continuously practicing, getting better at the fundamentals, being able to concentrate under adversity, and being able to focus that will lead to future successes.”

“[In] all of our games we’ve had a strong effort, except for our game

against Centennial,” he said.

“The kids didn’t believe that they could win. The kids didn’t execute the offense; they have a hard time concentrating on the floor because they’re new to this.”

“We had a lot of chances to score, [but] if we don’t have good passing or shooting or dribbling or doing a press break, then we can’t play,” said **Noah Langhans**, grade 9.

The team played four games prior to the tournament but haven’t won any games yet this season.

“We’ve lost all of our games but I think that we haven’t really developed our offense and once we develop it, we’ll start to get into a good streak of wins,”

said Langhans.

Lloyd “knew that would happen” because the players still need to progress.

The boys play five to six times a week, either practicing hard or playing.

According to Lloyd, “the game of basketball is a game of details.” He believes that “in order to be successful at any sport, in practice you need to drill the fundamentals.”

“We’re working on our offense and I think we’re going to be a really good team, but for now it’s still unknown,” said Langhans.

“We work on endurance a lot... we practice rotations. That’s our focus,” he added.

“We’re hitting a learning curve right now, so it’s going to be a struggle for the next couple of weeks, but once we get past that I think we [will be] really good,” Langhans said.

“[What] we’ve created at Gleneagle, on the boys’ side and the girls’ side, is a passion for playing basketball,” Lloyd said.

“So the kids that come into the program realize they have to commit a lot of energy and time to the program,” he explained.

It is a struggle because “it’s not a recreational league.”

The team strives “to get better” which requires “a lot of hard work.”

Gleneagle student joins prestigious Royal Canadian Golf team

STEVEN BAE
staff reporter

The Royal Canadian Golf Association’s National Development Team selected a Gleneagle student to be a member of its prestigious golfing team.

The new member—**Jessie Keel**, grade 10, recently returned from a golf-training camp in Florida from November 24 to 28, and said, “It feels good!”

The team provides the opportunity for hopeful junior golfers to improve their skills and ranks as one of the best worldwide.

As defined on its website, “Each player receives a personalized program tailored towards his or

her needs.”

Team members are instructed on fitness, sports psychology, nutrition, technique, and more.

The team prepares members for international competition and also connects them to even more elite clubs and groups.

“[Golfing] is a way of life. It’s like brushing your teeth every morning”

Members of the National Development team can later qualify for the National Amateur team or be nominated to Sport Canada.

While in Florida, Keel said the

schedule was fairly intense.

“We practically woke up at five a.m., worked out for two hours, had a quick breakfast, went onto the course, golfed for at least six hours, ate, came back to the hotel, slept, and [woke] up at five a.m.,” said Keel.

“I practice everyday for three hours when it’s sunny,” she said. “It’s pretty weather-dependent.”

Keel says she is very competitive. “I usually strive for top

three in typical competitions,” she said.

“My best score was 67, which was 5 under par,” said Keel. “It was at last year’s [Maple Leaf Junior Golf Tour].”

Brian Unger, one of two Gleneagle golf coaches, thinks Jessie has a lot of potential.

“Jessie has national team-type talent, he said.

“As a grade 9 (now grade 10), she has already competed with the very best high school golfers in BC. She’s so much younger than them,” said Unger.

“She can definitely have success at American college golf,” Unger added.

Jennifer Yang, a grade 12 Gle-

neagle golfer, said, “She’s great - both mentally and physically. I hope she keeps it up.”

Keel has a set goal in mind.

“[In the future] I hope to get a scholarship to a Division One NCAA—qualified university,” she said.

“It’s a sports league designed for athletes in university.”

Keel started golfing at five. “My mom and dad golfed, so they got me started too. It was fun,” she said.

“[Golfing] is a way of life. It’s like brushing your teeth every morning,” Keel said.

“Yeah, my parents are really proud of me,” she added, chuckling.

Senior Talons team faces tough losses in opening games

KEVIN CAWTHRA
staff reporter

Talons senior boys team opened the season with two losses.

Talons are trying to buy a win as they keep coming up short. Talons faced Walnut Grove Secondary School last Tuesday night at home and lost 48 to 42 in a nail-biter in their season opener.

They then headed to the Langley Events Centre on Saturday morning to face Clayton Heights, only to lose again in another nail-biter, 47 to 44. Talons were without **Turell Scott**, grade 12, **Kevin Kim**, grade 11, and **Artem Zaporozhets**, grade 10.

Tony Scott, head coach, felt the pressure was affecting the boys' game against Walnut Grove. "When we went to take shots, they were rushed and hurried," he said. He believes those mistakes can improve before this week's HSBC tournament. "We will work everyday to be better and improve on our mistakes," he added.

"My expectation for every game [is that] we get better, and work harder," said Coach Scott. "Hopefully that will lead us to going to the Valley's [Fraser Valley competition] and maybe provincials," he said.

Turell Scott admits that in the game against Walnut Grove, mistakes were costly. "We made too many mistakes which resulted in too many baskets, which cost us big," he said. Talons started out well against Clayton Heights on Saturday morning, but did not maintain their standard of play. "The game wasn't what we had planned. We started off well, but we gradually went away from our game plan," said Coach Scott.



KEVIN CAWTHRA PHOTO

Gleneagle defense: Grade 11 student jumps to block the ball from the Walnut Grove team as a grade 12 student runs to support his fellow teammate.

Ardeshir Hossein-Pour, grade 12, admits the game plan for the season is to play a more balanced game. "We need to play a more defensive game. A good

team has a good offense and a defense to win the game," said Hossein-Pour. Turell Scott agreed with that statement: "A good team plays on both sides of the ball, [not

just] one," he said.

The Talons are participating in the HSBC tournament all this week, but results were not available at press time.

Senior girls basketball savours sweet taste of seven victories

JAIME McLAUGHLIN
guest reporter

"Age before beauty."

That's how it's usually supposed to be, at least – but Gleneagle's senior girls basketball team is disproving that famous phrase.

With only three senior-aged players on the roster (including just one grade 12), the girls have enjoyed success early in their season, including a fifth-place finish in the 16-team Byrne Creek Bulldogs season opener tournament that took place last weekend.

But when you consider that a team that includes three grade 10's, two grade 9's,

and a grade 8 snapped up a 3 and 1 record (and their sole loss was against provincially ranked Carson Graham) in a tournament that also saw the likes of respective defending provincial champions Handsworth (for 'AAA') and York House (for 'AA'), you really start to realize the potential of this year's senior girls' squad.

"That's the advantage of having such a young team," said coach **Patricia Anderson**, back at the helm after an eight-year hiatus from senior basketball. "You take opponents by surprise."

The team's record currently sits at 7 to 1 including wins over eleventh provincially ranked New West and a win over Pitt Meadows last Tuesday by over thirty points.

Having initial goals already set, the strong start to the season has only confirmed the team's expectations for the campaign, which are to qualify for the B.C. 'AAA' girls' provincial tournament.

"I think we are very capable of making the B.C.s this year," commented **Jessica Jazdarehee**, grade 11. "We're learning how to play as a team, we all know our roles, we have a great coach and we have chemistry," she said.

Every team member recognized this goal, with "cooperating as a team," "communication" and "stronger passing" all being areas that need to improve in order to achieve that goal, according to grade 9 **Chiara Bordinon** and grade 10's **Breanna Yee** and **Rose Nwankwo**, respectively.

"I think we are really fast and very skilled," added **Jenna Bentley**, grade 10. "But I think we need to improve on communication."

Another thing that many of the girls agree on is the squad's ability to "work as a team," said Anderson. It must have something to do with their program t-shirts – the quote on the back of each shirt reads: "Teamwork makes the Dream work," a motto coach Anderson

has implemented for the girls this year.

There have definitely been major changes in respect to last year's squad. Youth is a major factor this year – **Amber Leal** is the only senior on the team. She wants to "be a leader" this year. In addition, **Chichi Nwankwo**, grade 9, is playing her first year of high school basketball – at the senior level. Although she was "very nervous... because I was playing with seniors," she was also "excited to start playing." Other than the youth, another major change is that there are only two returning players: Rose Nwankwo and **Kathleen Chu**, grade 11. "Definitely the age," Chu said of the differences between the two teams. "There are also more players!" She is correct: this year's roster totals four more than last year.

One of the girls' highlights for the season should be their upcoming trip to San Diego, where they will play in the Vaque-ro Invitational tournament at El Capitan High School. **Brittani Yee**, grade 8, said she is looking forward to it, while **Biljana McLaughlin**, manager, agreed.

"Although I'd rather be on the court, I'm pretty stoked," McLaughlin said. "With the group of girls we've got this season, it should be a blast!"

The girls now look to take the Victoria tournament by storm, where they will tip off against Washington State-bound (and Canadian national team member) senior Shalie Dheensaw and her provincially-ranked Claremont Spartans tomorrow.

You can catch the girls in action in their league and home opener against Maple Ridge on Tuesday at 7:30 pm in our gym, with the junior girls tipping off in the pre-lim game at 6:00 pm. **Grandpa Yee**, fan, would like to see more fan and parent support at the team's games.

It would add spirit, he said.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY MARK BENTLEY

Eyes on the prize: Grade 10 girl heads straight for the hoop as she avoids an opponent from Byrne Creek.

Movie night to raise funds for production

MICAH LAO
staff reporter

Gleneagle's drama department is preparing for their second fundraiser on December 16. Held in the multipurpose room, a movie night will feature the cartoon version of *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, a musical number from *The Wizard of Oz*, and the Christmas film *Elf*.

Ashley Freeborn, drama program director, has high hopes for the December movie night fundraiser. "Our haunted house was a huge success," she explained, "and we raised more money than we thought that we would."

Although October's haunted house event was a first, Freeborn was pleased with its outcome and crosses her fingers for the movie night event, since it's another newly introduced fundraiser. "Our Haunted House was [done for] the first time, and it was a big success, and we're hoping [the Movie Night] will turn out the same."

Erin Bodin, grade 12, and **Natalie Harder**, social studies and English teacher, are Freeborn's personal assistants for this event.

"We're looking to raise some money for the musical theatre program," Bodin commented, "[because] we want to have really awesome costumes, sets and everything."

Freeborn also included that fundraising was vital for their program "because *The Wizard of Oz* is a big, grand [and] complex musical, so we need a ton of costumes."

The doors will open at 6:00 pm and tickets will be available at \$2.00 for children and \$4.00 for adults.



MICAH LAO PHOTO

I'll get you my pretties: December 16 movie night will raise money for the drama department's production of the *Wizard of Oz*. Above students are all in grade 12.

Tragedy/comedy presented by Gleneagle at MetFest

WYNONA BALAAAM-HESS
staff reporter

Gleneagle contributed two worthy pieces to what MetFest's adjudicator of 2010, **Patti Allen** described as "a potpourri of panoply amazing pieces."

The annual School District 43 drama competition came to a conclusion the night of December 3 at Heritage Woods Secondary School.

"When you go to MetFest, the adjudicator is always someone very talented, very...involved in the arts. So anything they say you have to take note [of]," said first-time director **Nina Boosheri**, grade 12.

Boosheri directed *Self Offense* written by Ann Lambert.

The play was a dark, two-sided drama about Him and Her.

Him was played by **Myles St. John**, grade 11, an unhealthily obsessive man who was 'in love' with a store keeper.

Ximena Reygades played Her, a traumatized store keeper, trying to sort out what she had done.

The play is a complicated plot of voices and opinions that come together at the end.

Boosheri commented, "You get to see both sides of the story... You get to see the steps in both persons' lives that brought them to some sort of horrific moment," she added.

The *Self Offense* cast had a wide variety of students playing the parts.

"[We] definitely had a very good cast; it's very even," said **Mike Hartley**, a grade 11 member of the cast.

The other play was a comedy written by Christopher Durang: *An Actor's Nightmare*, starring **Ed Ross**, grade 11, who plays a confused George Spelvin.

Spelvin finds himself stuck as an understudy of a man who seems to

have broken both his legs. Spelvin can't seem to recall attending any rehearsals or even that he's an actor at all. He seems to believe he's an accountant.

"[My favorite thing about the play was] the amount of questions and discussion that we had. It was an incredible complex piece of theatre with a ton of theatre history running throughout.

"So we had to do our homework

and our research and I thought it was fun. We had so many great discussions about it," said **Ashley Freeborn**, director and drama teacher.

"I couldn't have been more proud of my students," Freeborn said. "[Every time] it was like seeing it for the first time all over again because they just pushed themselves...to give an entirely different show," she added.

Tonight, live from Gleneagle: D9

CASSIE BARATELLI
staff reporter

Get ready to rock the night away with bands such as the Knots, the Dead Melissas, Special Kay and more, as Gleneagle hosts D9, a student inspired band night.

"I think that school can be too serious with the rules and restrictions...I don't see why you can't have fun at school," said **Jong Lee**, grade 11, one of the co-organizers of D9. "I don't see why school can't be a place that you can just relax and not be so focused on academics."

"We all just started gathering and coming up with ideas on how to make this a good time," said **Angela MacMillan**, grade 11, one of the co-organizers of D9.

"Jong asked me if my band would want to play," said **Jeff Huggins**, lead singer of the Knots. "He also asked me if a few guys, Kyle, Sam and Alex - we've been jamming for a while - would want to play."

Student organizers such as Lee and MacMillan have high hopes for the success of D9.

"Next time we hope to have more businesses sponsor us and giving us more prizes and food and stuff like that," said MacMillan. "If it's a success, we really hope to be able to invite other people from other schools or get bigger, better bands from around the area to come," she said.

In terms of music, bands and a DJ will be there to help students and chaperones enjoy the music as they tap their feet to the beat, with music stylings from indie rock to pop music. "What's not to love?" pointed out MacMillan. "Plus, the Knots are the best teen band in BC, and who can refute that, right?"

"I'm very much looking forward to performing; it's going to be exciting because I'm in two different bands," said Huggins, "I'm looking forward to [the other performances]," he added. "Special Kay,

the Dead Melissa's - I haven't seen them for a while but we always used to hang out with the Dead Melissa's before they graduated."

Lee and MacMillan would like to give special thanks to **Aryn Gunn**, **Ed Trovato**, **Ashley Freeborn**, **Dave Matheson**, **Bryan Jackson**, the counsellors, Con-Ex and student council for their support. Ticket sales are rising and D9 is turning into a popular event that has students in the hallways talking.

"It's about promoting school spirit; we hope everyone is going to come to this concert and have fun. Whether you're in grade nine or twelve," said MacMillan, "you can still appreciate and enjoy the music."

Tickets are four dollars in the front foyer, with the final ticket sales today at lunch. Everyone involved in the organization of D9 hopes that students will come buy their tickets and enjoy what D9 has to offer.

