

Gleneagle's Student Voice  
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# theEdge

## Lions, and tigers and nerds...oh my

**HELEN DOO**  
staff reporter

Strange creatures ranging from toilet paper to My Little Pony bronies wandered the halls and classrooms of Gleneagle last Monday.

"This year, our biggest event will probably be the Halloween fashion show," said **Paolo Mercado**, grade 12, one of the student council organizers. "So basically, there was a big runway in the gym and the kids who decided to dress up, we showcased them. It's something we do every year."

"It's an awesome event. I loved it; it was great with a great turnout. We had a lot of interesting costumes that students made. It was amazing this year," said **Pedram Farahbakhsh**, grade 12, another organizer of the event.

There were also prizes for the best male, female, DIY, couple and group.

"In a family of Asians and the discovery of an iPhone, [my costume] had to be an Angry Bird," said **Ronald Sz**, grade 12, winner of the best DIY.

"I wanted to be something that everyone could relate to. I didn't want to be some guy from a tv show that only two people would know," continued Sz. "It was very difficult to make the costume. I ran out of tape, construction paper and it almost broke."

"Sometimes we get really nice costumes that the kids made on their own. You get to really see the artistic talents of some of



**Do the creep:** Grade 11 students strut down the runway as nerds, at the annual Halloween Fashion Show.

the students. Once, I saw a person wearing a house at the show," said Mercado.

"Last year, there was a group where one person was a cow and another person was a farmer with a sign saying 'Cows are people too.' It was the weirdest costume I've ever

seen," said Farahbakhsh.

"I dressed up as myself this year," said **Michelle Ma**, grade 11. "The weirdest costume I've seen would be a person wearing a Hawaiian dress over a shirt."

"Last year, there was this group where one

person was dressed as a crayon box and another person was dressed as a crayon. It's pretty funny how a lot of creative ideas are shown," said **Charlene Zhang**, grade 11.

"I think that it's a good way for our school to get together," said Mercado.

## Gleneagle copes with fallout from teacher job action

**YOU MY HAN**  
staff reporter

Gleneagle Secondary continues with its daily routine as teachers go through phase one of job action.

"Officially right now we're in... phase one in job action," said **Cindy Quach**, Gleneagle representative at the Coquitlam Teacher's Association (CTA). "Ideally we don't want students and parents to feel any difference [at this phase]...we really want kids and learning not to be affected," she added.

As part of the job action, teachers will be refusing to do any administrative or formal paper work; this includes school meetings, department head meetings, and student report cards. Instead, they will be committing to teaching.

"This is what is called a teacher job action. We're going to teach, teach, teach, teach, and focus on teaching," said Quach. "Meetings take our focus away from teaching. We want it all to be just...the basics of learning and teaching."

"Teachers still want to talk to us about students," says vice-principal **Jeremy Clarke**, "but the way we're communicating with staff is different. We're not using any electronic means, as long as there's not an emergency, or a health or safety issue," he added.

According to **Andrew Lloyd**, Gleneagle representative of the CTA, the idea is, by putting pressure on the administrators of the school, they will complain to their employer, the Coquitlam Principal and Vice-Principal Association (CPVPA), about the additional workload and therefore help speed up the bargaining process.

"[The bargaining process right now is] very, very, very stagnant. There's not a lot of movement on either side," said Lloyd.

During this job action, some of the issues are class composition and size, and wages.

"[Class] composition is a big deal for me," said Quach. "It's very difficult to help each student in this class to learn [to the] best of their ability when there are so many differ-

ent needs in the classroom that we are trying to attend to. There's nothing worse than for a teacher to feel that [he or she] can't help each child learn," she added.

The possibility of going into a new phase of job action is still unknown.

"There are different phases of job action, if the negotiations aren't moving forward. I would hope that like other parents, students, [and] teachers, that the negotiations would move faster than slower," said Lloyd. But before that, "teachers at Gleneagle [will continue] to put students first; [they will] continue to look at ways of recording, evaluating kids, and getting information to them," Lloyd added.

"We can still see the students are receiving high level education and quality education from our teachers; that

has not changed and we don't anticipate that will change," said principal **Gerald Shong**. "[The administrators'] job is to run a safe learning community, where students have the opportunity to learn, and succeed. And we still do that," he added.

"Teachers want to teach, the government wants students to learn. So essentially we are both on the same side," said Quach. "I think if we can focus on the commonalities, we can get the job done. I would love to see this result," she said.

"Every year we face different challenges, in education, and this year is no difference," says Shong, "We support democratic process; [we] hope it ends so that nobody is affected in a negative way."

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**November 4**  
**Me to We Appetizer Night**

**November 10**  
**Remembrance Day Assembly**

**November 11**  
**Remembrance Day**

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## Closer look: how much action is happening in teachers' job action?

With no requirements to distribute report cards, conduct parent/teacher interviews, attend staff meetings, or supervise students before school, after school, or during breaks, the teacher's union job action has begun taking its toll on students all over B.C.

Since September 6, 2011, the labour dispute has started "Phase 1". Currently, teachers are still carrying-out regular curriculum for all courses, but this is one of the few things that remain the same.

No one knows how long Phase 1 or the entire job action will last before contract negotiations are settled for the B.C. Public School Employers Association (BCPSEA) and B.C. Teachers' Federation (BCTF) who are still discussing possible changes. Some conditions that the teachers' union is striving for include higher salaries, a say in size and composition of classes, and extended leave for the death of a loved one.

Here, in Gleneagle, you might have already noticed several changes. For example, instead of receiving an interim report for every subject on the set date of October 13, you may have only been able to get your hands on one, two, or even none. Grade 9 students planning to eat lunch off-campus unfortunately had to skip the sushi, donairs, and pizza until the following Friday.

Those looking forward to receiving formal report cards on November 9 will also be disappointed. On the other hand, some of you may be the exact opposite and are fairly relieved! To parents reading this, should you be concerned as to how your son/daughter is performing in school, you can still contact their teachers. Phase 1 of the job action encourages teachers to provide students and parents with this information, just not to submit it formally to administration.

Fund-raisers, field trips, and other activities involving money are affecting student bodies as well since teachers are not required to collect cash and cheques.

At the beginning of the year, your family was required to fill-out forms online instead of by paper and pen as previously done. Most of us thought this was SD43's way of taking advantage of our century's technology while sparing poor trees, filing cabinets, and secretaries. Although this is



true, the initial source for this concept was the job action. Many say teachers are demanding too much considering their current benefits. On the other hand, if you were to put yourself in the shoes of a teacher, you too would be asking

for changes. It is unfair that B.C. educators make less than those in other provinces such as Alberta and Saskatchewan. As a student and citizen of British Columbia, where do you stand?

## Economic, social inequality triggering world revolution



edge columnist

Imagine this. You have completed five long years of post-secondary education. You are now employed in a large company earning a modest salary, while working hard, putting in six days a week and several hours of unpaid overtime. Trying to pay your bills and your university student loan, you owe the bank a frightening amount of money. However, no matter how many times you press

the "Yes" button to insert cash to pay your debts, the cycle never seems to end: receiving income only to shortly give it back to the bank again. This isn't your story alone. Many of the employees in the company are in a similar situation, living paycheque to paycheque.

Now, switch sides to one of the typical vice presidents of the same company. Aside from making a big salary, she enjoys the benefits of a company credit card with a generous credit limit, extremely reduced rates when staying in five star hotels, and receiving vast bonuses due to corporate tax exemptions that allow for the company's massive yearly profits. Living in luxury, she pays her monthly bills with no wringing of hands and spends her free time at an exclusive, first-class golf club.

Compare the contradictions. Is this just? Should we do something? Is it right to have people working hard, struggling to pay debts, doing everything your parents, teachers, and friends tell you to do and still barely making ends meet? What is the appropriate discrepancy in wages between a worker and her boss? Should it be 100%? 200%? or 600%?

An enormous assembly of protestors gath-

ered near the Vancouver Art Gallery downtown on October 15 to raise awareness of the vast economic imbalance between the rich and the poor. Cardboard signs were hung on tents and bodies throughout the crowd, bringing out voices that want to be heard. Messages ranged from "people over profit" to "save home on the range" to "true north, strong and free? Fight corporate greed!"

Following the example of many other cities in more than 80 countries around the world, Vancouver joins the global wave that intends to wash away the injustice. 99% of the populace is protesting against the one percent of the rich.

Is this a protest or a movement? Now, they say that companies are becoming too greedy and I agree because the prices are rising rapidly, but our income remains the same.

However, the so-called movement is unorganized and is targeting too many conflicts at the same time. The people want too much. Sure, the rich are not sharing and companies are too wealthy, yet there are diverse opinions and issues people are standing for within the throng. Some are protesting economic inequalities; some want to save farmers and their land; others want their tuition paid by the government, while still others

are fighting for animal rights.

If the occupiers really want to make a difference, they should be more organized and have one clear purpose that sums it all up, which is to close the increasing space between the wealthy and poor in the world.

But is this all really worth it? A friend of mine said to me, "Well, what if the wealthy deserve what they have? It's not their fault they're successful; they worked hard for it." It's wrong that the government and corporations are collectively taking too much money from us. However, individually people have the right to be successful in their career and earn a reasonable amount of well-deserved money.

Through advantages that big companies obtain, corporate taxes are cut. When corporate taxes are cut, the budgets for our healthcare education programs are also shortened, and leads to problems and complaints. What will happen to the programs specially designed for kids who have disabilities? Occupy Vancouver is increasingly reminding me of the French revolution especially about the government favoring the upper class. Obviously there are real issues, but the movement needs to clarify just exactly what changes they want their protest to achieve.

### theEdge

The Edge is the independent voice of the students of Gleneagle 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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What is the worst Halloween treat you've ever received?

YOU SAID IT!



grade 9  
"A roll of toilet paper."



grade 10  
"A bag of dog poop."

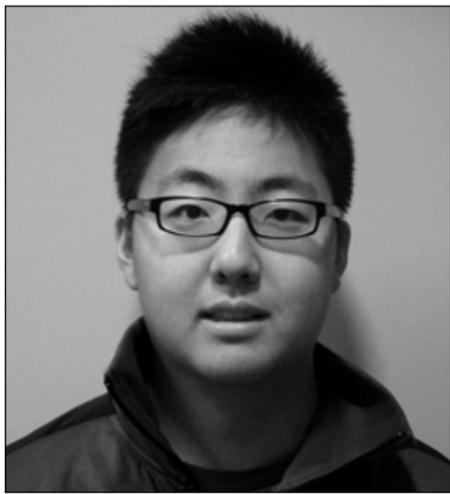


grade 11  
"Expired candy."



grade 12  
"Part of a pumpkin."

Student interests caught in middle between union, government



edge columnist

Yes, my fellow students, if you have not noticed already, the teachers are in job action (no, not a strike per se, but job action). For those of you, who are drawing a sigh due to the fact that you aren't allowed to miss school with a legitimate excuse, don't fret; if our teacher's union (BC Teacher's Federation) continues to act their way, we might get there. Let's clarify what job action really is. Job

action is essentially the preliminary round of the "striking" process. Phase one (the one we're in) means withdrawing from day to day administrative duties such as report cards, collecting money, meet-the-teacher night, and of course, supervising playgrounds.

Most schools haven't followed through and found a way to work around the union's demand for teachers to do "less work." Here at Gleneagle you are able to see things running more or less functionally due to the diligence of the teachers and administrators that we are fortunate to have.

Where is the big looming picket line the news and media always cover? The definition of a strike for most students is when they are not at school and can see teachers holding signs, shouting for their demands to be accepted by the government. The union does not want to reach that step yet, as teaching is considered an essential service, and committing to a full-fledged strike would be against the law and highly unproductive.

Although job action is limited within the education sector, it has not stopped the assiduous BCTF from doing so, every single

time the contracts need to be renewed.

The argument between the government and the union ranges from several topics such as raising wages, more benefits, and more say in the size of their classrooms. The usual process of negotiating and compromising by the government would come with the demands at one level, and the other level at what the government is willing to give. These two levels would meet at an eventual middle where both parties are moderately satisfied. What we have here is that, but in an unreasonably large scale.

For example, the union is asking for benefits such as 10 days paid bereavement leave upon the death of any friend or relative, (up from five days for direct family) while the government is saying absolutely not.

It is far too tiresome for the students, the union's highest priority let's hope, to see their teachers in disarray due to the preposterous demands of the BCTF every time the contracts are renewed, and at the same time, to witness the government's "bullying" methods of ignoring the demands.

The public's image of teachers at the moment is not ideal and reports of teachers who don't belong in schools are frequent.

With this ridiculous demand list the

union is setting forth, the image won't be getting any clearer or pristine. After all, the union represents the interests of the teachers, and if their interests lie within getting two paid sick days every month (able to be stacked), why wouldn't teachers be frowned upon by the confused public?

While the union has many faults as well, the slamming of the government shouldn't go empty handed or unnoticed. Teachers in B.C. are receiving the eighth highest pay in Canada, and as you may notice, the extremely high living costs of the lower mainland region make it difficult for teachers to balance their budgets.

While our friends in Saskatchewan already had higher wages than BC teachers, the prairie teachers still recently received a new contract with increased pay.

Pulling this gong show every time a contract is renewed is simply not productive in any way.

If the union AND the government put the focus back to student's, whom they want to give an enriching education to, the end result will not be worrying about the two paid sick leaves per month, but gaining the students' and parents' trust with effective education and enjoyment.

British Columbia drops grade twelve optional provincial exams



edge columnist

After a confidential meeting that took place in Kelowna between the members of the B.C. School Superintendents' Association (BCSSA), it has been established that this year, students do not have the choice of writing optional provincial exams. With this being said, the only grade 12 exam that

is taking place is the English 12 provincial exam.

Many students and teachers have different reasons to believe that this enforcement is fair or unfair.

I'd say that because of this decision that has been imposed, students overall have a greater capability to obtain scholarships. This is because not all of them will be given to those who have succeeded in their grade

often times, that is what ends up happening.

The B.C. Education Ministry stated about 80 percent of grade 12 students chose not to write the optional exams last year and have now lost the option of receiving provincial scholarships. With this change, I for one, believe that a majority of grade 12's have a better opportunity, even though some may say that the scholarships will now be based on the previous provincial exams that one

are inspecting their high school transcripts.

It seems that there is not much of a downside to this new amendment in the education system of B.C. A majority of students have a great deal of pressure taken off of their shoulders. Not only that, but it was even noted that due to a lack of people taking the provincial exams, provincial scholarship money went unclaimed. This will no longer be a problem because students are not required to write most grade 12 provincial exams and it does not conflict with university admission.

It brings a sense of relief to me, knowing that the decision for me to be accepted into the university I wish to go to no longer relies heavily on my grade 12 provincial exam scores. It makes more sense to base students' admissions on the classroom marks they received throughout grade 11 and 12 rather than the marks they receive on a few, three-hour long tests.

It also benefits the Ministry of Education because they save time and money when they no longer have to continue to deliver and create these 30 provincial exams at the grade 12 level.

*"...whenever my stress level gets to a really high point, I am not able to do anything to the best of my ability"*

12 provincial exam scores.

If I was required to write more than one grade 12 provincial exam this year, I think it would result in lowering my chances of acceptance in university.

I say this because whenever my stress level gets to a really high point, I am not able to do anything to the best of my ability. I'm constantly worrying that I'll mess up, and

wrote throughout high school.

Those who have achieved high marks in the five mandatory provincial exams - Science 10, Math 10, English 10, Social Studies 11 and English 12 - will be granted a provincial scholarship worth about \$1,000; however, those who did not meet the requirements for provincial scholarships will not be greatly penalized when universities

# Global Issues Club strives to think globally, act locally

**SUMBUL VALLANI**  
staff reporter

Members of the Global Issues Club tried to limit community hunger and the amount of candy in their trick or treat bags this year. A fundraiser known as “Halloween for Hunger” took place on October 31 and the goods that were collected were sent to those less fortunate. One of the club’s leaders, **Katie Fajber**, grade 12, said, “This event was open to everyone for participation and rather than collecting candy, students asked for non-perishable goods.” Another fundraiser the group initiated was mainly trying to outline the club’s initiative of “Poverty Sucks” and the supporters attempted to get as many people as they could, involved. **Louise Hung**, grade 12, one of the group’s leaders, said, “Usually when we do fundraisers, people don’t know what the cause is for. For Poverty Sucks, our main goal isn’t actually to raise money but to raise awareness.”

The meetings held every Wednesday morning in Room 114 is where the students discuss a weekly news item and voice their opinions on different projects.

Another event that is being planned is the “Christmas Collection” which will be taking place around mid-December.

The supervising teachers this year are **Lois Axford**, social studies and journalism teacher, and **Kelly Cooper**, English teacher, but the club members arrange for their own meetings and discuss issues based on the interests of the students involved.

“We talk about issues around the world because before it would be just organizing stuff but people need to know more about what’s



*Show me the candy:* Global Issues Club members, all grade 9, offer a lollipop to all who take part in their “Poverty Sucks” initiative.

going on around the world,” Hung said. This year, there are many more people involved in the club. Fajber said, “During each meeting, we have a classroom full of people from all grades!”

The club is focusing on a variety of events to benefit those who are less fortunate both internationally and within the local community. They’ve been involved with SHARE Family and Community Services Society and they

have discussed volunteering with smaller community projects such as helping out in a soup kitchen as a club. The members may also continue supporting micro loans that help people in other countries. The members also support the Me to We Club.

Both clubs are helping raise money for a school in Ecuador because “both clubs are related even though they are separate clubs,” Fajber said.

## Model UN an “opportunity to challenge thinking”

**MEGHAN HENDERSON**  
staff reporter

Gleneagle Model United Nations club members are sharpening their debating skills in preparation for high level competition. They are looking forward to Con-

nect MUN to be held in November, prior to the main event upcoming in January.

The Model UN is a simulation of the United Nations where students are assigned countries and debate political matters. The students are given a chance to express their opinions and ideas through the country they have been assigned.

About 300 schools throughout the lower mainland will be participating in the Connect MUN. The event will take place in the downtown Vancouver Hyatt Regency on November 18 and 19.

The Connect program is meant to give current Model UN delegates some experience in debate to prepare them for Vancouver Model United Nations 2012 scheduled for January 20 to 22.

**Andrew Lloyd**, the sponsor of the club says “Model UN is great because it gives students an opportunity to challenge their thinking and become great debaters. It is a good forum for them to show their intellect and academic strength.”

The Model UN club currently has 27 members. This includes the club’s main leaders **Paolo Mercado**, **Pedram Farahbakh**, and **Scott Lee**, all grade 12.

New this year to MUN, **Alex Luo**, grade 12, states, “I’m looking forward to engaging in debates with students from other schools. I enjoy debating with the friends I have made here.”

“They are a great group of students and are self-motivated, I think they’ll be prepared,” Lloyd added.

## Seniors sail through seascape on a stunning night

**ALICE ZHANG**  
staff reporter

On September 28, the senior sail boat departed from Bay Shore filled with 188 Gleneagle’s grade 12 students ready to blast into their final year.

The purpose of this grad event is to get the graduating class off to a good start and get a chance for everyone to familiarize themselves with some new faces and reunite with old ones.

“I would have to say [the best part was] getting together with all the grade 12’s and meeting people that are in your grad year,” said **Elissa Evans**.

The grade 12’s were really impressed with the event. “It’s a big boat. It was a really good looking boat,” said **Zack Chadderton**.

“I think [my favourite part] was when everyone went on the stage and danced all together. It was really fun and everyone was really into it,” said **Katie Ouyang**.

This senior event serves as an ice breaker and creator of cherished memories for many. As the boat left Bay Shore, headed to Belcarra, the seniors spent the night danc-



*Whatever floats your boat:* Senior students enjoy the ride to Belcarra. The annual Senior Sail kicks off the grade 12’s final year of high school and allows students to get to know each other.

ing and socializing together until the boat docked at 9 p.m.

Some students found time to be a daunting challenge and had to race against it to prepare for this event. “We’re all rushed to dress up and get ready for the senior sail and I wish we could have more time,” said Ouyang.

“I only had about 45 minutes to take a shower and get back to school on time. Time is a big concern especially for the girls,” said

Evans.

“The kids were so well behaved, just a beautiful group of grads. We’re always looking to get better but this year was outstanding,” said **Patty Anderson**, who worked hard with fellow teachers **Billy Demonte** and **Peri Morenz** to organize this event.

A significant difference from the previous year was the planning of this event.

“Usually, I do the transporta-

tion but however, this year, **Carol Coulson** was instrumental in acquiring all the buses because our two busses weren’t available this year. She had to acquire buses from other schools so she was huge in the organization this year,” said Anderson.

With careful planning and everyone’s cooperation, the fruits of their efforts left a sweet taste in mouths of Gleneagle’s graduating class.

## Vandalism of school buses impacts extracurricular activities

**SCOTT LEE**  
staff reporter

The school year started with a bumpy ride when it was discovered that both of Gleneagle's buses were badly vandalized over the summer months. One of the buses, recently purchased with fundraising efforts, has been brought back from repairs, while the other has been damaged beyond recovery.

The recently purchased, 2004 Bluebird bus was "heavily vandalized on the inside. The emergency doors were pried open, the seats and upholstery were torn and the steering wheel was damaged. It all led up to around \$3000 in damages," said **Carol Coulson**, vice principal at Gleneagle. "The older 48 passenger seat bus was even worse. They smashed the back window, side windows, destroyed the mirrors, ripped seats and tore upholstery and the damages were so bad that ICBC wrote the bus off. So the value of the damages was more than the bus...we lost the bus," added Coulson.

The vandalism creates difficulties for programs like COAST, which is reliant on the buses. "The COAST program usually books the bus at least eight to ten months in advance. We function really well in the school, so we are juggling activities at the expense of our program with different groups," said **Krista Bogen**, Gleneagle COAST teacher.

The Senior Sail, an initiation of grade 12 for many, also was effected. "We had to rent an extra bus which adds to the cost of the Senior Sail since we don't have one of our buses," said Coulson.

"When I compared the prices to other schools, ours was pricier, but when it comes down to it, it's all about the memories that'll stay with you in the coming years," said **Michelle Kwee**, grade 12.



SCOTT LEE PHOTO

**Ripped to shreds:** Seats were slashed this past summer, only a small portion of damages done to the buses. One bus was damaged beyond repair, while our newest bus cost the school \$3000 to restore.

Due to the lack of an extra bus, classes are scrambling to balance their usage of the bus, and make sure there are no conflicts.

The motive of the vandalism attacks is unclear. "I know [they weren't] Gleneagle students. I know that they value the bus, and the activities associated with it," said Bogen. Additionally Coulson said, "You always hope that it doesn't come from your own community, [that] the students here

take pride, and [you] hope it's someone else outside the community that is unaware of the importance of the bus," she added.

The recent purchase of the bus was through the efforts of fundraisers by students, parents, teachers and administrators, which makes it even more disappointing that the incident took place.

When asked if the school was considering the purchase of another bus, Coulson

replied, "We are. It will be difficult, but we know that it is an important part of the students' lives here... Our music program, TALONS program, COAST program, relies on the bus for their transportation, so we're going to try really hard," she added.

"I'm just disappointed with the result with the amount of time it'll take to fix it. It's just frustrating," added Bogen.

## New teachers face challenges, enjoying first year here at Gleneagle

**MEGAN LAO**  
staff reporter

Get ready to spread out our wings as we warmly welcome ten new staff members into our nest. **Jerry Areshenko**, counsellor, **Grace Jensen**, science teacher, **Ryan McMahon**, English teacher, **Mary-Ann Fowler**, English and planning teacher, **Susan Priestly**, home arts teacher, and **Clayton Richerdson**, keyboarding, E.S.L., and social studies teacher.

Other staff returning to Gleneagle include **Jason Bingley**, business, social studies, and yearbook teacher, **John Gibney**, counsellor, **Heidi Upton**, music, social studies, and business teacher, and **Tessa Voykin**, science, math and student services teacher.

The new staff members bring diverse backgrounds and experience to our school.

Prior to coming to Gleneagle, Areshenko has coached football in three American universities and one here in Canada at S.F.U.

"I'm kind of a sports person. I like sports because my kids played sports and my wife did too. So sporting activities are kind of a big part of our family time," Areshenko said.

"I have a good friend who actually works [with] the Pittsburgh Steelers, so I watch them really closely and they were my favourite team just before I graduated high school. The Vancouver Canucks are my favourite team, of course here, and the BC Lions, I like as a local team," said Areshenko.

Jensen and McMahon also enjoy the outdoors and are physically active.

"I like to be active, so I cycle. I've been back into playing hockey, and during winter I'd like to get on a snowboard," said McMahon.

"I'm a curler and I'm a tri-athlete, so I do

quite a bit of running." Jensen added. "I am very involved with my children's sports; my one son plays on a national volleyball team."

Emerging from diverse educational experiences, these new staff members enter Gleneagle with similar values and a passion to underline the significance of education to their students.

"I want to see what I can do to help kids move forward and be successful in school, to graduate and go on and chase some of their dreams," said Areshenko.

"I just think that education as a whole is just so important for children and for younger people," added McMahon. "I'm in this gig because it's something I believe in."

However, challenges are inevitable along with these goals.

Jensen finds it difficult to "take care of [struggling] students and still work with the students who really aren't struggling in the same way."

"All of the teachers that I have met struggle with conveying the importance of [education] to students," said McMahon. "You do this assignment not just because they tell you to do it, but it's an important part of the process of becoming educated and informed," he added.

"There are struggles every day as a counselor, but I also like it when I have different challenges throughout my day, to grow as a person." When asked about their experi-

ences in Gleneagle so far, they all describe a positive atmosphere.

"I love the students. I find the teachers warm, welcoming, and very friendly," said Jensen.

McMahon said, "The students have been nothing but great and classy, and the teachers have been nothing but caring and accepting and just really positive and anxious to help in whatever way they can."

"I've been very fortunate to go to schools that really are very welcoming to me and accepting and supportive of me," said Areshenko. "I really appreciate that I've got these good jobs and am looking forward to spending some time here in Gleneagle," he said.

## Students learn to change the world at We Day

**JANICE WU**  
staff reporter

30 Gleneagle students joined with 18,000 people from all over the province to listen to international speakers such as **Mikhail Gorbachev**, former president of the USSR, and Nobel Peace Prize Winner at We Day on October 13.

Well-known bands and singers such as Hedley, Down with Webster, Classified, and Shawn Desman all came too, to support We Day, adding energy into the building.

"I just liked the whole atmosphere. Everybody was screaming and dancing; it was really exciting with a lot of energy," **Iris Hung**, grade 10, commented. Even teachers like **Quiren Mulder** and **Kate** were all pumped up. "They all got excited, so I just got excited with them!" she exclaimed.

Those who attended We Day came from Prince George, Winnipeg, and Vancouver Island. People stretched and danced as performers presented on stage, as well as listening to inspirational speeches.

"My favourite guest speaker was Waneek Horn-Miller," Hung said. "She's an aboriginal athlete and basically she stands up for her First Nation rights. It was cool because Free the Children is like an international charity, but having her speak about problems of Canada was from a different angle," Hung added.

**Jennifer Allott**, grade 10, also liked We Day a lot because "it's a really inspiring experience even though it's my third year this time. Since they bring new speakers every year, you learn something new each time you go." This was also Allott's favourite part of We Day. "I know the bands add

energy and excitement, but the real purpose that I go for is to listen to what they want to tell me about how I can better change the world," she said.

At Gleneagle, Me to We meets every Wednesday at lunch to brainstorm or work on events that involve fundraising for building a school in Ecuador, which is their biggest project and goal of the year.

"I'm really hoping we can do the micro-giving program, which is when each student in the school gives a small amount, say 25 cents per week or a dollar per month, so in a year it adds up to a large amount of money," Allott stated.

Tonight Me to We will be hosting the International Appetizer Night in the multipurpose room. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Proceeds will go toward building the school in Ecuador.

# Junior talons soaring through competition to make playoffs

**JANICE WU**  
Staff Reporter

Gleneagle's junior boys defeated Thomas Haney soundly, winning five to zero on Monday, October 31, at their home game.

**Peter Poka**, coach, gave credits to **Matt Poka**, grade 10, **Frederico Cerani**, grade 10, and **Richard Groenewald**, grade 10, each scoring goals for Gleneagle. **Amir Solesayer**, grade 10, had a very good game in goal, while **Arjan Nikpay**, and **Jeff Hsu** played strongly as well. Peter Poka also commented that **Logan Wong**, grade 10, was the man of the match for Gleneagle.

"We most likely finished third in our league and qualified for the Fraser Valleys, but I do not have confirmation yet," stated Peter Poka.

Before the game against Thomas Haney, they tied with Pitt Meadows, 2-2, and won by forfeit against Samuel Robertson. The junior team also beat Heritage Woods, winning seven to one, at their home game.

"I was happy with the win, but I think we could have

played with much more intensity," Peter Poka, said, "We will need it as we try to qualify for the Fraser Valley Championships."

Coach Poka gave outstanding remarks to Wong who did a great job on defence. Matt Poka, **Tristan Hodson**, grade 10, and **Mitch Howey**, grade 10, all worked hard on playing offence, each scoring a goal as well, coach Poka said.

So far, Gleneagle has had three losses, four wins and one tie this season. "We have had a number of people injured over the last few weeks so we have not played a game this year putting our strongest team on the field,[but] I am optimistic about our chances at the Fraser Valleys," stated Peter Poka.

Previous to the game against Heritage Woods, they had lost against Charles Best, 7-1. "[Charles Best] has a number of good players that play for various clubs...they just have a number of kids that attend Charles Best to play high quality soccer," Peter Poka commented, "Beating Best would be quite difficult."

Talons also lost to Terry Fox and Archbishop Carney this season, losing two to one. They only had eleven players at

the game with no spares, no substitutes. The team also had four injured players. "If we had the whole team, we've probably would've won," Peter Poka added. The other game that they have won so far was against Pinetree with the score three to two.

The last three games are very important for getting a good chance of making it into the playoffs.

"I think we need to work on getting open for the ball and getting nice crisp passes," Wong suggested. Peter Poka added that the team's strength is that they have a few decent defensive players, but their main weakness right now is that they don't have enough players.

Wong has also pointed out that the team now is not dedicated enough, which makes it harder to win games. "Our team is not doing the best because a lot of the schools in the district are hard to beat and competitive, so we might not have enough commitment to beat them," he said.

As a coach, Poka also describes that his biggest struggle is getting people to show up for the games and getting people to commit. "Showing up" is what he wants his team to improve on.

## Grade 9 girls volleyball improve on roller coaster season

**MEGAN HENDERSON**  
Staff Reporter

The grade 9 girls volleyball team met their first competition, winning against one out of the two teams. The grade 9 girls beat Her-

itage Woods best two out of three in their first league match but lost to Charles Best.

On Thursday, October 20, they played at Riverside against Riverside and Pinetree, beating Pinetree two sets to one. Riverside won three sets to zero. **Jeremy Clarke**, vice principal and coach, says "Gleneagle played

very well and all three matches were close."

**Kayla Demsey**, grade 12 coach, said, "They played hard. I hear from a lot of them that they still have a lot of work to be done but it's good to hear that they want to work on it."

According to all coaches, the team has made great improvements this season. "The season has been going really well; they improve every single game with all of their skills," said **Madison Watt**, another grade 12 coach.

Demsey agrees. "They are improving a lot so I'm really excited to see them play; even if they don't get into the districts their next game should be way more involved than their recent ones," she added.

The team has some weaknesses that they will work on before the next competition. "We are just going to work on them calling the ball, because they work a lot better when they communicate and work as a team," said Watt.

## Senior boys hopeful "underdogs"

**JADE NGUYEN**  
Staff Reporter

Gleneagle's senior boys volleyball team played a tough game Thursday, Oct. 27 against Riverside Secondary, losing three sets to zero.

The boys played their hardest against Riverside's team. Although the boys have had a slow start, losing five of the six games they have played, the team is looking forward to building and improving as they move ahead into the playoffs.

"The growth that's been happening between the boys with each game is improving dramatically," said **Nicola Cridge**, youth worker and head coach of this year's team. "So we may have started off slow, but I feel it ending strong."

With an all new team aside from two players, this year's focus is to build the bonds

between the players and to make it as far into the playoffs as possible.

"[My goal for the team is] to finish strong. They look like they're going to do it, but my goal is that they become a more cohesive unit and that they follow through with that," said Cridge.

"I think if we can pull it together and practice hard, then we can go far," said **Eli Masters**, grade 12. There are eight spots in the playoffs and only seven teams, so Gleneagle's senior boys are guaranteed a spot. The Gleneagle boys are currently ranked sixth in the league.

"We are doing good as the underdogs," said **Joshua Chan**, grade 12. "We just need to keep our spirits high."

After a hard-fought season, the boys are headed off to the playoffs. Come support them at Heritage Woods this Monday at 8 pm.

## Junior boys volleyball head for district playoffs

**THEO ANG**  
Staff Reporter

The junior boys' volleyball team is experiencing a good season so far this year.

Winning three out of five games, Coach **Art Abram** has high expectations for this year's team. Abram is confident that the team has the potential "to make the playoffs and do well in the districts." They won a total of three games against Centennial, Pinetree, and Riverside while losing two

games against Centennial and Riverside. The district championships will be hosted in Riverside Secondary on November 7 to 9.

"I think this year's team is a great team, still in the progress of becoming better or even the best," said **Ryan Arce**, grade 10.

This year, the junior boys' volleyball team has many returning players and an equal amount of new grade 9's.

Abram believes that this year's team has a lot to offer and is looking forward to the rest of the season with them.

## Disappointing finish to season for senior boys soccer

**EMILY KIM**  
Staff Reporter

"Every game is a new game. A new approach. And we have an opportunity, if we play the way we should play... of winning every time," said **Frank Abbinante**, the head coach.

Despite this positive attitude, the team will not be furthering their season into Fraser Valley competition this year.

They have had a total of one win and six losses. "I hate losing, but if the boys play well, I'm satisfied and I'm happy, and I don't mean that as a cliché.

"I really am happy when [the] boys play well and learn something even if we lose," said **Mike Milliard**, the assistant coach.

According to the head coach, as this year's team is currently in a re-building stage, both teachers encourage further improvements: "I think what we have to do in any coaching position is always try to instill confidence," explained Abbinante.

"We're going to assess our mistakes and try to say... this is what we've done right, [and] this is what we haven't done right. We definitely need to execute some more scoring opportunities."

Star players, identified by both coaches,

include grade 12's captain **Caleb Serrano**, assistant captain **Ahmad Edalat**, striker **Steven Haer**, goalie **Jordan Baratto**, midfielder **Curtis Bardossy**, defender **Brandon Morgan**, and grade 11's midfielder **Cameron Brock** and defender **Max Hollingworth**.

"[Injuries have] been another challenge this year... we've had a few groin [and hamstring] injuries," said Abbinante.

There have also been some mixed feelings about opponents such as Charles Best Secondary, last year's provincial champions.

"Most of the teams are very evenly matched this year. We could have won every game we played with the exception of Charles Best," Milliard said.

"They were probably the only team to outplay us. So, I think every team goes into the game thinking, in this league, that they have a good chance," he added.

Abbinante wishes the season was a little bit longer. "Actually, I wish we played each school or each team twice because it would give us—the boys—a little bit more opportunity to get better and better and better and instill confidence from within the team and come together," he said.

"Good luck to the junior soccer team and hopefully next year they have a great year and win," Serrano concluded.



**A force to be reckoned with:** Grade 11, gets ready to kick in a match against Pinetree Secondary School.

## Talons field hockey girls seek win at upcoming provincials



NOLAN SPELLER PHOTO

**Battling for victory:** Grade 10, reaches for the ball against her Heritage Woods competitor. The team is advancing to provincial competition next week; the girls hope to place in the top eight.

**SOPHIA CHAN**  
staff reporter

Gleneagle's field hockey team has placed third in Fraser Valleys, despite narrowly losing the district championship in the final playoff game against Heritage, 2-1. There are high hopes for the provincials, according to **Maureen Macdonald**, coach.

Of the four top teams that advance to the provincials in the Fraser Valleys, Gleneagle placed third, after South Delta and

Heritage Woods. The girls won three out of four games. The first was played last Wednesday, against North Surrey, 4-0. Prior to the games, **Jade Deveras**, grade 10, stated, "We are playing tough teams, but we're a tough team."

In the close, determining game against Heritage for the district championship, "the girls didn't come out as strong as I would've liked them to in the first half, [but] they played great in the second half," said Macdonald. **Hannah Tvergyak**, grade

10, added, "We should've played how we played in the last ten minutes in the first half."

With only two seniors on the team, the majority of younger, less experienced players on the team is the most evident difference this year, prior to their exhibition game with Terry Fox.

Nonetheless, with strong teamwork, results have been favourable this season. "It's a lot younger, but I feel that we're working more as a team together this year than we have in previous years, like we're a closer unit," explained **Sarah Kross**, grade 12.

Captain **Sydney Veljacic**, grade 11, has accomplished her hopes of leading the team to the provincials this year. "[We're] working on communication and coming together," said Veljacic, who carries the play, and is described by Macdonald as "the strongest player." She added, "behind her would be **Courtney Zoschke** [grade 11]. Courtney is unfortunately injured right now, so we're keeping her out of the play until her ankle's better."

To achieve top eight in the provincial championships is a mutual goal of the team.

Kross believes that other teams may be intimidated, "just because Gleneagle's always had a reputation of a pretty good field hockey team since the school opened. We've been to provincials every single year," she said.

With confidence in the team, Zoschke agreed. "I think that we'll actually go pretty far this year, provincial wise," she said. "Every game counts from start to finish," said Deveras.

"My only concern is that once we get into the provincial play, there's [going to] be a lot of competition, and we're [going to] need to step up our game, so that's what we're [going to] work towards," Macdonald noted.

The field hockey team's next competition will be the provincial championships, in Kelowna beginning on November 9.

## Gleneagle junior girls still optimistic about season

**STEPHANIE LUI**  
staff reporter

Gleneagle junior girls volleyball team kicks off with a slow start.

Playing against strong competitors, the girls have only won one of the six games they have played. The team played Archbishop Carney on Wednesday, November 2, but results were not available at press time.

The girls played against Riverside on Wednesday, October 26, losing 3 - 0. "The scores were not expected," said coach **Joanna Horvath**.

The team played against Centennial on Wednesday night, October 19, with a loss of 3 - 1. On Monday, October 17, the girls played against Heritage Woods with a close 2 - 3 finish. The girls played against Terry Fox on October 12 with a loss of 3 - 2. "We have talented in-

dividuals," states power hitter **Avery Hollingworth**, grade 10. "It is just a matter of trying to play to our fullest potential as a team."

The team picked up the pace and won their first game against Pinetree 3 - 0 on October 5. "We were lucky," said setter **Sang Lee**, grade 10.

The girls lost their season opener to Charles Best on Wednesday, September 28.

Horvath hopes that the team will play more cohesively as well as advancing into the districts.

"[Having] better communication" is what power hitter **Nadia Huebner**, grade 10, wants to do.

"I hope we could fight for every point, even if we don't win every game," said middle blocker **Brita Marshall**, grade 10. "It is still good to try our best."



NOLAN SPELLER PHOTO

**Setting up for a win:** Grade 10, bumps the ball in league competition. The team won their first game against Pinetree.

## Swimmers make victorious splash in Coquitlam championships

**ALICE ZHANG**  
staff reporter

After a period of intense training, Gleneagle's swim team headed to the Fraser Valley Championships on Thursday, October 27 and were triumphant in bringing back several high rankings. Eleven selected team members will compete in the junior swim district championships on November 18 and 19 in Richmond.

Gleneagle's swim team dove into a strong start with several records earned at the Coquitlam Championships on Friday, October 7.

"We had three course records, and two relay teams set up a course record and one individual course record. Athletes on those teams are **Danielle Sayer** and **Abigail Sayer**, grade 12, **Jonathan Zhang**, grade 10, **Danaka Brown**, grade 9, and **Daniel Luo**, grade 10," said **Mark Tustin**, swim team coach. The team was successful, earning a first place ranking in the junior team, senior team, and overall team ranking. A personal best was made by Luo in the 50 metre breaststroke.

"I like breaststroking [best] among all my favourite races so I just did what I had to do,"

Luo said. "When I climbed out of the pool and the person told me my time, I knew it was the record because I remembered the previous record so I pumped my fist in the air and yelled 'yes!'" he added.

"[At first,] I forgot how many people there'd be. I thought it was really fun. Then I realized half of them were middle school people and I didn't have to race them," said Zhang.

The beginning of the competition proved to be a reminder of the atmosphere for our athletes. They had their head in the game, which proved to aid them in their pursuit for the win. "Our mixed freestyle

relay got first for districts. **Danaka, Haley [Knowles]**, grade 9, **Daniel** and myself were in the relay," said Zhang.

"13 out of 18 members are new, five are returning," said Mr. Tustin "Last year, our junior boys won the Coquitlam Championships. We were very strong at Fraser Valleys, and had 8 or 9 people go to the BCHS championships. We earned three medals at BC champs, all three to Abigail and Danielle Sayer." Some of the team consists of returning members who had previously led the team into victory and the return of those strong members gave the team a forward drive. "I think that we have a strong team this year, definitely stronger in the girls. Last year we only had two girls, and now we have five or six," said Luo.

"The kids are focusing on preparing for the BC high school championships. What we're really trying to accomplish is having strong performance at the Fraser Valley's and the BC's. The only way to do that is to be fast, so you really [have got to] work on your technique," said Tustin.

"[One improvement for the future would] definitely [be] my turn," said Luo. "Basically, you start and turn to make a break especially when it's only 50m long so I'd definitely like to work on that," he added.

Gleneagle's swim team is aiming high this year, and are currently working hard to sharpen their techniques and improve their times.

## Cross country runners take victory

**JOYCE CHANG**  
staff reporter

Drawing close to the end of the season, the cross country team finished strong at district championships. Gleneagle placed first in grade 11 boys, with the team consisting of **Andrew Chang**, **Kyle Smith**, **Raymond Hua**, **Kevin Chan**, **Liam St. Louis** and **Jason Fong**.

The team will be advancing to "Fraser Valleys on Wednesday, [which are] located at Aldergrove Lake Park in Abbotsford," said **Katherine Rossiter**, coach. 15 out of 17 athletes will be attending the competition.

To prepare themselves for the long run at Aldergrove, the team dedicates Mondays and

Thursdays after school to practices.

"Every time there's a meet, I can see them getting stronger and faster as they beat their personal record and build up their stamina," **Lori Gregory**, coach said. "We're thrilled with the team," she added. "[We're] really proud of the athletes in their growth and endurance, in their speed and drive. They want to push and win."

According to Gregory, compared to last year's cross country team, these athletes are "more dedicated" and are willing to continue pushing harder and harder to improve their individual records.

**Katie Fajber**, grade 12, has been on the team for four years and says, "We are very spirited

and loud, and we try to cheer on all the teams from all the schools. Since all the girls and guys run separately, the guys all sort of line up in one section of the trail and when I run by, they're all just cheering for me." Despite the size of the team, the athletes get along pretty well, especially when encouraging one another during the meets. "It's really encouraging and awesome," **Fajber** concludes.

Practice may not equal perfect, but it will most definitely bring confidence into your game. According to **Richard Grownwald**, grade 10, although he was "not on top of his game", he still felt "good about the races and meets."

# Fall concert a success, broadcast “all over North America”

**KAREN LAU**  
staff reporter

“This year’s going to be a little quieter,” said **Eddie Trovato**, music teacher, “but it’s going to be fun.”

This year’s annual fall concert was definitely fun but perhaps not exactly quiet

as Gleneagle’s four main ensembles played for a crowd of hundreds in the multi-purpose room last Wednesday night.

The school’s junior and senior bands, jazz band, concert choir and jazz choir each performed selections from a variety of genres. This included widely-known works such as the “Raiders’

March” from *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, arrangements from the musical *Les Misérables*, and classics such as “Simple Gifts.”

“I [had] high expectations for everybody, and that’s including myself. We have such a strong music program,” said Trovato. “This is what we call a ‘music program local year’. We’ll be doing

smaller trips, closer to home,” he added. “On the years that we don’t do the big trip, we do local stuff and focus on fundraising,” he added.

“I can tell it’s going to be a great year,” said **Derek Wong**, grade 10, a member of the junior band.

“There’s just one small thing that’s cool, and that’s new [this year],” said Trovato.

Last June, Gleneagle’s year end concert was broadcast on radio for all of North America to hear for the first time. This year, the same will be done with all the concerts—as it was last Wednesday.

“I know we have a lot of students with parents, relatives or maybe friends who aren’t in Coquitlam. If we could publicize what we’re doing here, lots of people would be able to listen to us from somewhere around the world, broadcast live from the school,” said **Bryan Jackson**, guitar teacher, who is responsible for broadcasting in addition to backstage work at concerts.

Anyone who would like to listen to performances or even practices can follow @GleneagleMusic on Twitter to receive updates and links when they are available, according to Jackson.

“We’re finding more, new ways to share the performing arts—and technology is a crucial help,” he said.

Other events within the music program include the Jazz Dinner Dance and a trip to Powell River for the vocal combinations, as well as the annual Christmas and year end concerts.



SOPHIA CHAN PHOTO

**In the spotlight: Eddie Trovato**, music teacher, welcomes the audience to the first band concert of the year, as students wait patiently for their time to shine.

# Laughing out loud while breaking a leg

**JADE NGUYEN**  
staff reporter

*Break A Leg* had the crowd rolling with laughter on October 24 and 25 at Gleneagle, performed by this semester’s Drama 11 class.

The comedic play was written by John O’ Brien, telling the story of a high school drama class’s dress rehearsal the night before the performance.

“Of course, the play is a disaster. Everything that could possibly go wrong goes wrong, and the director, who is played by **Donya Pourtaghi** [grade 11], is frantically trying to put the play together,” said **Ashley Freeborn**, drama teacher and director of the play. “I think the crowd will be falling over with laughter.”

“I hope [the audience] enjoyed it,” said **Jennifer Gillis**, grade 10, who plays Gertrude, a “funny and silly and crazy” girl with a plan to leave early from the play.

With the play’s slapstick comedy and brilliant actors, the crowd’s reaction was just what the actors were hoping for.

Defiant actors with their own devious agendas, wrecked sets, and arbitrary gun shots are only a handful of the disasters in the storyline. But the mishaps didn’t end after rehearsal – ironically, the lead actor, Pourtaghi, popped a knee cap about a week before the first performance, putting her on crutches for the next three weeks.

Aside from the minor setback from Pourtaghi’s ab-

sence for a few days, the cast has been working well together, according to **Hammond Yau**, grade 11, who plays Larry Spencer.

Although the last performance was on Tuesday night, the drama class will be performing another play soon.

While *Break A Leg* was full of high energy and laugh out loud moments, the next play will be quite the contrary.

The Drama 11 class will be performing the play *Ash-girl*, the dark version of Cinderella. Be sure to watch it when the next performances are on.



**Caught in the conflict:** Grade 10 and grade 12 students are in the midst of an intense moment in the play, *Break a Leg*, as **Cassie Gibbons-Baratelli**, grade 11, look on.

NOLAN SPELLER PHOTO

**THE GLENEAGLE ME TO WE TEAM  
PRESENTS:**





**Savour the Change**

Proceeds go to  
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**AN INTERNATIONAL APPETIZER NIGHT**

An evening of appetizers and desserts from around the world, and entertainment from local musicians, dancers, and an inspirational speaker

**DATE: FRIDAY NOVEMBER 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

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