

Mo Men of Gleneagle grow 'staches to promote cancer awareness

EMILY KIM
staff reporter

"Movember is the month of November when men sacrifice their faces and grow moustaches in order to raise awareness about men's health and specifically about prostate cancer," said **Scott Findley**, English and computer programming teacher, as well as the "Mo Men" team captain.

Gleneagle's "Mo Men" have had another successful go at Movember complete with biker moustaches, clean-cut goatees, and scruffy beards.

"It's an extension of what I do in the classroom. I'm a teacher because I want to educate students, to share information, to help them be successful and happy in life, and to restrict that, only to a piece of curriculum, is not what I believe," added Findley.

Other teachers who are a part of Mo Men are English teacher **Ryan McMahon**, information technology teacher **Jodey Udell**, science teacher **Darrell Bryce**, social studies, leadership, and economics teacher **Andrew Lloyd**, Japanese teacher **Doug Mancell**, and vice-principal **Jeremy Clarke**.

Another thing some of these teachers have in common is having a specific family member diagnosed with prostate cancer.

"My dad was actually diagnosed with prostate cancer in November; he was put in the hospital and was then re-diagnosed with lung cancer," said Bryce.

Findley adds, "If your prostate cancer is diagnosed early, it's pretty much the most [treatable] form of cancer, but a lot of men don't like to talk about their health, let alone prostate cancer."

Despite knowing it is important to receive frequent check-ups, men's discomfort with discussing health issues still proves to be a problem.

"I, myself, have not been going [to see the doctor] as much as I should. My last visit was probably five years ago," said Udell. "It was already kind of front-of-mind for me this year."

To be able to view Gleneagle's photos, rate a "Mo Space", or make a donation, visit ca.movember.com, and search "Gleneagle Mo Men."

"Some of them, including Mr. Udell for instance, [are] putting pictures of [their] moustache every week as it continues to grow," said Findley.

"I mean it's not a very good moustache," laughed Udell as he gestured to his facial hair. "It takes a while to work it through."

Gleneagle eagerly waits to see how much hair Mo Men will be sporting by November 30.



PHOTO BY EMILY KIM

All bent out of shape: One of the pieces of artwork showcased at the Circle Craft Christmas Market was a surreal collage by **Emily Kim**, grade 10. See story on page 8.

Global Issues Club recognizes Violence Against Women Day

STEPHANIE LUI
staff reporter

Today, violence against women will be on the minds of Gleneagle staff and students, due to the efforts of the Global Issues Club.

Louise Hung, grade 12, one of the group's leaders, said, "This is an internationally recognized day where people, like us, try to

eliminate violence against women."

The team is raising awareness on issues such as domestic violence and human trafficking, allowing students and teachers to become more socially aware about violence against women.

"[We want] people to realize that it's not only inequality happening between males and females, but the larger scale such as sexual harassment," claimed Louise.

"These problems are not just common in undeveloped countries but [are] happening locally," she added.

As it will be an awareness project, "[the team] will print out facts and place them all over school in the morning such as walls and bathroom doors," said **Kelly Bryant**, grade 11, a member of the Global Issues Club.

"We want [the posters] to be a shock-fac-

tor and leave an impact on others," she said.

The Global Issues Club hopes that students and teachers "will think for a couple of minutes and empathize [with] mistreated women," said Hung.

"Usually when we do fundraisers, people don't know what the cause is for," said Bryant.

"This time, we will be informing people who may be unaware of these issues happening around," added Bryant.

Students go downtown to watch Romeo and Juliet - the opera

JADE NGUYEN
staff reporter

Tonight at 7:30 at the Queen Elizabeth theatre, 30 lucky Gleneagle students will have the privilege of watching the *Romeo and Juliet* opera.

A mix of grade 10, 11, and 12 students will dress up semi-formally and take the school bus downtown, where they will enrich themselves in a presumably new experience. After reading the play in their English 10 classes, the students will get to see the play in a whole new light.

Krista Bogen, English teacher, who organized the event is excited to see how the students will react. **Eddie Trovato**, music

teacher, and **Jo-Anne Leblond**, librarian, will be the other two teachers attending, along with the students.

"They know the story of Romeo and Juliet, but we will see if they like opera Romeo and Juliet," said Bogen. "If your family was to go to the opera, it'd be about a \$200 dollar night, but the kids get to go for thirty dollars. So it's a real bargain, and then you get to go with your friends and dress up, so it's a pretty special evening."

"Besides experiencing the music and just feeling it, there's the props and music and the sets are just fantastic, and then the lighting... it's just a really classy, elegant thing to do. It's a really classy event," said Trovato. "There has never been a performance where the kids have said, 'That was awful; that was

bad.' They've all walked away blown away. They're just really happy to go, and they're inspired," he added.

The opera genre of music and idea of dressing up to watch live music downtown is a foreign concept to most teenagers today, but being able to see a live performance will surely open their eyes to a whole new culture of music and entertainment.

"I'm really excited; it should be fun," said **Mieko Graham**, grade 11, who is looking forward to attending the event with her friends.

Bogen says there will more operas to come, including *Barber of Seville* in the winter and another one in the spring.

"I just wanted to let the kids know that there's going to be more operas,

and the kids are welcome to join, bring their friends, and try something new," she added.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Pro-D Day
November 25

Christmas Concert
December 14

Last Day of Classes
December 16

Selflessness - examples from past, opportunities for future

We just had our first snowfall last week, and a lot of us are starting to appear in woolly scarves and cozy mittens, plunging ourselves into the welcoming warmth of hot Starbucks beverages, and making ourselves as snug and comfortable as possible in this chilly season.

Yet, when we're hurriedly walking down the street, bundled in our warm heavy coats, will we notice the homeless man we just walked past who's shivering in the cold with only a light jacket on? When we're so engaged in endless amounts of school work, secretly complaining about the ridiculous things we have to learn that never seem to come to use in life, will we care to take a moment and think about poor children who did not even receive an education? When we're enjoying our hot meals, sinking our teeth into the pleasures of roast chicken and beef ramen, will we remember miserable scenes from that small African village suffering from desperate poverty and horrific diseases?

Do we possess ignorance and indifference as cold as the winter air?

Sure, maybe you would argue that we're just ordinary high school students; there's not much we can do.

But remember this, Rome wasn't built in one day, and every huge achievement always starts from small actions and plans. We may only be average teenagers, but the changes and opportunities we can spark are endless.

In Gleneagle, examples such as these are numerous. The "Build a School in Ecuador" project has been going on for years, and each year, students step a bit closer to their goal.

This month, the annual Movember movement is up and running, where men, students and teachers alike, grow beards or moustaches in support of raising awareness for men's health. The Global Issues Club is collecting Christmas gifts for the children in Africa, hoping to bring some cheer.

November is also when we give our time to commemo-



rate the fallen, the ones who gave themselves for us for completely selfless reasons. These people were once ordinary citizens just like us, but when the time came to depend on them, they bravely sacrificed themselves for a better world out of faith and courage.

Lending a hand has always been a priceless act. No matter

what way it is performed or how small or insignificant it is, it can make a difference in the lives of others.

So, in this cold and rainy (and even snowy) season, why don't each of us perform at least one small act of kindness purely for the sake of another, and enjoy the heart-warming pleasure it brings along.

Misunderstood youth of today struggle with stereotypes, labels



spoken in 1963, still apply to this day.

It seems our generation, in the eyes of a majority of adults at least, has forgotten to develop as individuals and as a group.

As the years progress, it is believed each generation becomes more advanced than the previous one, but according to various studies, we are the first to do exactly the opposite.

We are often deemed as lazy, obese, and even short compared to other age groups. Not to mention, there are probably countless other generalizations being made as you read this.

Then again, who is to say that we are all the same? Surely, the dumbing down of our generation does not apply to all of us. You may be more active than the person next to you or taller than your parents, for instance.

Personally, I have grown increasingly frustrated with adults making assumptions about who I am based on others my age.

My employer is the perfect example: She often trusts co-workers who are 18+ years of age, over me, simply because of the less-than-half-a-decade age gap. I know this for

a fact because it is exactly what she said during my job interview, give or take a few words. To be frank, I think I work just as hard (if not harder) than any other employee despite being the youngest person currently working for the company.

Also take a look at all the other kids and teens around the world who have done and seen amazing things.

"We are often deemed as lazy, obese . . . compared to other age groups."

In North Yorkshire, United Kingdom, a six-year-old named Sam Pointon landed himself a job at the York National Railway Museum by merely writing a letter. Unbelievably, his official job title is "Director of Fun."

Tavi Gevinson, 15, is another fantastic example. At age 11, Gevinson started a fashion blog called "Style Rookie" and ever since has appeared on the cover of magazines, met famous designers, and traveled to foreign places including Tokyo, Japan.

Recently, she conducted an interview with Hollywood actress Elle Fanning and posted the transcript on rookiemag.com, her secondary site.

We also have those tech-savvy teens such as Catherine Cook, the creator of myyearbook.com. Her site has managed to accumulate five million members and counting. Talk about accomplishment!

All I am saying is get out there, experience new things, and do not wait for a miracle because second chances at life rarely come around. It is up to you whether you let grown-ups see you as they do everyone else, or you can choose to stand out amongst the crowd. You could be the Prime Minister of Canada, discover a major breakthrough in medicine, or perhaps start a brand-new revolution one day.

As John F. Kennedy also said, "Do not pray for easy lives. Pray to be stronger men."

Q
edge columnist

"We have the power to make this the best generation of mankind in the history of the world—or to make it the last."

John Fitzgerald Kennedy's sensible words,

theEdge

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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

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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 most adrenaline-pumping situation you have ever been in?

YOU SAID IT!



Ali Tootian, math teacher
“Rock climbing for the first time in Vancouver.”



Diana Moore, science teacher
“Almost getting stampeded by a crowd of men at the border of India.”



Andrew Loyd, socials teacher
“Having an AK47 pointed at my head in Cosa La, Mexico.”



Cindy Quach, English teacher
“Being lost on the back roads of Baja Mexico in the pitch dark.”

In support of SlutWalk: victims not to be blamed



edge columnist

Trudging through the hallways of our school from class to class each day, I am often able to make out crude language. Though I understand that such words are necessary for expression, my opinion changes when the words “slut”, “skank”, and “hoe” are used to describe a female.

Words used in common speech, including slang and derogatory terms, are the foundation for how girls are perceived. To become immune to these words is an easy task, as they are frequently seen as commonplace. In our complex, non concrete language, the meaning of all words is evolving constantly. It is difficult to define a word when everybody around you identifies with it differently.

“outfits are never invitations to the wearer’s body, and should not be viewed as consent”

Yet, this is exactly what SlutWalk wants to accomplish. SlutWalk is a movement protesting against certain aspects of rape culture, revolving around the fact that victims are often held accountable for the actions of rapists.

The prime objective of its supporters is to prevent victim-blaming, making it clear that clothing is not a factor in sexual advancement, and that women can be victimized under any circumstances.

Part of this involves introducing the idea that being a slut is okay.

Although ‘slut’ is associated with various meanings, it is often used to describe a

woman who has multiple sexual partners. I feel that ‘slut’ implies guilt, and should not be accepted as a label under any circumstances.

Toronto Police Constable Michael Sanguietti’s statement that “women should avoid dressing like sluts in order to not be victimized,” served as the motivation for the movement.

Regardless of gender, responsibility for incidents should not be placed upon the should

ders of victims, but rest with the rapists. The action is seen as a representation of dominance, power, and control.

Women should be able to choose whether to dress provocatively or conservatively in a society that celebrates self-identity.

Society displays hypocrisy when people are shamed for dressing a certain way. Nothing can be done to prevent the lack of self-control that exists in the mind of a rapist; outfits are never invitations to the wearer’s body, and should not be viewed as consent. Ideally, women should be able to express themselves with pride as subjects of attraction while feeling safe and worthy.

Discrimination against a person for exhibiting her sexuality or revealing her figure has been common throughout history.

Recognition of sexual feelings does not translate into any sort of superiority or inferiority. Expressing or acting on those feelings, should not allow the individual to become a target, whether it be verbally or physically.

When people view being sexually open as a negative trait, this justifies sexual violence.

SlutWalk serves as a refuge for women, as support to victims of sexual abuse, and as a release from and response to the social norms all of us are expected to conform to.

To be amongst hundreds that feel the same way, allows participants to feel empowered. The internationally recognized movement has managed to impact the lives of many while raising awareness, which is essentially what a successful protest is.

People need to acknowledge that every time a term used for degrading someone is spoken or written, that they are contributing to damaging stereotypes and possibly the rationalization of sexual abuse.

People need to understand that when they choose to stop and remind themselves of the significance behind these terms, that they are contributing to equality between genders.

Letters to the editor:



[Re: Lions, and tigers, and nerds . . . oh my]
Helen Doo says in “Lions, and tigers and nerds...oh my,” how interesting this Halloween was, and I agree. It’s my first year here, and I was pretty amazed by the different ideas the students had. My favourite was the Deadmau5 and the Tetris family.

- Michelle Fernández

[Re: Economic, social inequality triggering world revolution]
In the Nov. 4 edition of *the Edge*, Joyce Chang comments that the Occupy protest needs to clarify their agenda and become more organized. I agree wholeheartedly.

Advocates of the movement emphasize the importance of pressuring those in power, but simply voicing complaints is an inefficient waste of time. Proponents of the protests claim that voicing our concerns is enough to pressure policy makers and people of influence.

I disagree, as I find it very difficult to believe that corporate powerhouses are unaware of the effects of their actions.

They are as aware as we are of their corporate leverage, the growing wealth gap, corrupt practices. Pointing these things out to them will do little to change them.

While I am not entirely opposed to the premise of the occupy movement, the energy, resources, and man power involved could be much more efficiently allocated with more organized and cohesive pressure to implement specific policies.

It is clear that the energy and resources are there. Now we just need to focus.

- Julie Cho

[Re: Economic, social inequality triggering world revolution]
Concerning Joyce Chang’s article “Economic, social inequality triggering world revolution,” I felt that she covered the topic well, and I agree that the pay difference between the rich and poor should not be as vast as it is.

There should be a fair difference. People should work hard and be paid fairly.

- Zach Chadderton

[Re: Students interests caught in middle between union, government]
In Scott Lee’s, “Students interests caught in the middle...” he asks “where is the big booming picket line...” and while some students may want a strike and take time off school, as a grade 12 student, a lot of the rest of my life, or at least the next four years depends on the next few months.

I am glad that, so far, I am still getting grades and the teachers are focusing on teaching, but I don’t want it to go any further.

- Andrea Klassen

Outdoor Club challenges elements in first camping trip



PROVIDED BY KRISTA BOGEN

Birds of a feather: Grade 11, got close to nature on the first outdoor club trip to Garibaldi Park. Students gained camping and survival skills.

MEGHAN HENDERSON
Staff Reporter

Pitching tents in wind and snow was the order of the day for the outdoor club’s first trip of the year.

The Outdoor Club gives students a chance to go on periodic camping trips in all types of weather, giving them experience with nature and basic survival skills.

The ten students and two teachers travelled to Garibaldi Park, for a trip that included two full days of hiking and spending the night outside in tents.

“We decided to take the kids to Elfin Lakes up in Garibaldi Park and it’s a place we go to fairly often,” said **Adam Hayes**, teacher and co-ordinator of the club. “We had a very good group with us, including ... a number of former Coast students so that made it a little bit easier for us because we had students who knew the routines and how to do things,” Hayes added.

They scaled the mountain six kilometres, and after one kilometer, they hit snow.

“We took the snow shoes just in case. Lucky for us [because] we had to use the snowshoes for the rest of the way up and down,” said **Krista Bogen**, teacher and second organizer of the club.

The hike took all day. They stopped half-way up the mountain to sleep for the night and started their descent the next morning. The students and teachers slept in tents during some very harsh conditions. “I remember waking up in the middle of the night when it was really windy and the wind lifted me up in my tent and put me back down. I didn’t sleep too well because it was so windy and snowy that night,” said Bogen.

Though they did not make it to their originally planned destination, the trip was meant to be a very important learning experience for the students. Some of them have very little experience with the outdoors. The students brought clothes and some food; they were partnered up to cook their own meals. The special equipment they needed for the trip was provided for them.

“It’s fun,” said Hayes. “I like that we take the kids out and do things that are a little different. For a couple of them, they had never camped in the snow and for them, that was a pretty big experience learning how to deal with the temperatures and deal with the wind. We had hail overnight as well and whipping winds so it was a pretty great experience for them,” he recalled.

“A few of the kids noticed they probably were not in the best of shape going up, and we also had to contend with the elements, so by that, I mean the snow,” he added.

Having experienced Coast students is an asset to the club, according to Hayes and Bogen. Though they have an advantage on some of the other members, the teachers considered them to be very helpful to the other students. “I felt like the ex-Coast students did a really good job of letting the other students who weren’t used to using snowshoes set the pace. They were really supportive,” Bogen said.

Hayes wants to keep the club interesting and leave a good impression on the kids. “We want it to be a positive experience for the students, that first trip,” he added.

Plans are still in the works for future trips. “I’m not sure what the next outdoor event will be, maybe cross country skiing,” Hayes, said. “We will plan something probably either this winter or into the spring.”

Personalizing Remembrance: connecting to real meaning of November 11

MEGAN LAO
Staff Reporter

Remembrance Day was brought to life through drama, music and the memories of a Canadian veteran for the staff and students of Gleneagle.

As a strong believer in Remembrance Day, leadership teacher, **Adam Hayes**, explains the event.

“The purpose of this assembly is to have people consider how they will remember, you know personalize it a little bit, and have them think about, maybe put into context of the fact that many veterans of the world war one and two are now gone,” said Hayes. “We are feeling disconnected, so I think this is a way of re-connecting them,” he said.

Part of the program was comprised of dramatic poetry brought to life by student actors. “The drama team took this on with so much excitement and it was a fantastic learning opportunity for my students because we decided that we wanted to write something together,” said **Ashley Freeborn**, drama teacher. “I handpicked some of my most serious and dedicated actors, senior actors, ... and we decided together what we wanted to do, what message we wanted to convey and how we were going to do it. The kids had a lot to say and we were really inspired by the topic,” Freeborn added.

“It was a big learning experience for me,” said **Faly Mevamanana**, grade 10 drama student. “This [skit] really helped to get the message out about how Remembrance Day is so important,” she added.

Sergeant **Donald Millie**, war veteran speaker, recalled his time at war in a United Nations operation called “UNPROFOR” in Croatia. “It was an eye opening experience and as much as the situation was very tragic, I wouldn’t have traded it for anything,” he said.

“I like how students were the ones organizing [the Remembrance Day assembly] instead of teachers. That way, they have more involvement in it,” commented **Michelle Kwee**, grade 12, Master of Ceremonies.

Kwee and Freeborn share similar values when asked about the significance of commemorating Remembrance Day.

“I wanted younger people to realize how important it is because as we grow older, veterans are getting older and people are losing touch with how important Remembrance Day is, so I just want the connection,” said Kwee.

Freeborn agrees. “In this generation, we are becoming

more and more removed from [Remembrance Day], so I love that as a school we got together, and we spent the time just to remember exactly what it is that we are gathered to remember.”

Kwee explains her growing appreciation for Remembrance Day.

“Well, I grew up with an Asian background so I didn’t have the education of it,” she said. “But as I’ve been to a lot of Remembrance Day assemblies since I was in elementary school, I learned to appreciate it. I probably wouldn’t be here, and I would probably be in a third world country right now if my parents didn’t decide to come to such a great country,” she added.

Mevamanana believes that “Remembrance Day [shouldn’t be taken] lightly. It is something important that you shouldn’t just forget about and people shouldn’t think that it’s not happening now... it is something that is ongoing.”

Sgt Millie explained how Remembrance Day brings mixed emotions for veterans. “Well, it sounds funny to say celebration, but that’s exactly what it is. We are celebrating those [who] have done operations and have come home, but we are also remembering those [who] didn’t and their families,” he said. “Each year when I put the poppy on, I remember those friends of mine that didn’t get a chance to come home.”

“It is important that we get together as a community and just remember the sacrifices that [soldiers] made and just how lucky we are to live where we live and how we live in peace,” Sgt Millie said.

“The main thing is to bring Remembrance Day to the students here at Gleneagle and actually say, ‘You know what, it’s not all about a hundred years ago. It’s still going on today around the world,’” said Sgt Millie.

The Remembrance Day assembly also included musical selections presented by Gleneagle’s choir, featuring solos by **Scott Lee**, and **Emily Black**, both grade 11, as well as the displaying of the colours by a number of student cadets.

Gleneagle class mentors local primary students

KAREN LAU
Staff Reporter

“We’re trying to instill some more responsibility [in] our students,” said **Billy Demonte**, child development, teacher. “I want them to see how easily little kids will look up to them.”

This term, Demonte’s Child Development 11 class has been paying weekly visits to a grade one and two class at Eagle Ridge Elementary. Students are teamed up with seven or eight year olds, and required to prepare an age-appropriate activity for their young buddies. This could be a craft or a game based on a universal theme, such as Remembrance Day or multiculturalism. As well, a pair of students lead the main class activities each day.

“We actually have to teach the class for one day,” said **Grace Chang**, grade 12. “We have to prepare lessons, and we feel like a real teacher.”

While the main priority of the first and second graders is to have fun and learn simple lessons, child development students must also focus on the influence they have over the younger students, as everything they do has the potential to make an impression on the child’s life.

“They’ll be looking at the physical, social and emotional development of seven and eight year olds,” said Demonte. “[The students] really connected to the grade two curriculum and worked hard to prepare something.”

“[The kids] look up to us like mini-idols, and they’re always so excited for us to come. I want our students to keep that in mind for any choices they make in the future. They’ll be wise, and they’ll know the younger generation is looking up to them,” Demonte added.

“Going to the elementary school has really impacted my views on younger children,” said **Stephanie Henderson**, grade 12. “I never thought I could be so close to my little buddy, but after getting to know him, he’s become a friend.”

“I really [liked] hearing about my buddy’s home life, and overall hanging out with her. We always have to meet the demands of the children,” added Chang. “That’s [what’s had] a big impact on us.”

Last year’s child development class took part in the program as well, though for a shorter period of time. This year, the class will continue visits throughout the semester.

“It’s a fun program. We’re making it better and better every time,” Demonte said. “It’s really enjoyable and I think it benefits both age levels.”

TALONS dazzle audience with eminent impersonations

JOYCE CHANG
Staff Reporter

Eager students, teachers, family and friends browsed through ingenious displays during the TALONS Eminent Persons Night, Wednesday, November 16.

The TALONS had to choose one person who they thought was eminent or notable, “someone who put a ‘ding’ in the universe,” said **Bryan Jackson**, TALONS teacher. Usually that someone is an inspiration to the world. Someone who is like themselves, someone with similar character traits and/or interests as them, giving the project more relevance as they find their personal connection to others in the world. That was the main purpose of the Eminent Person assignment.

“The students were phenomenal,” Jackson said. “It’s incredible to see kids come up with different ways to showcase their work every year. Every year, they get to go up on stage and knock everyone dead with their performance.”

Diane Swartzberg, an enthusiastic parent, stated that it was a “very enjoyable and interactive night.” She was impressed that the students truly understood the character of the person they had chosen due to the fact that “they were able to speak in character without looking at notes for the entire night, as well as the ability to speak passionately about the person and the contribution they made. The night was definitely informative and creative,” she added.



Striving for a better world: Grade 9, stands beside her display assuming the voice of eminent feminist, Gloria Steinem, who fought for equality between men and women.

“I was very impressed based on the presentation skills and the preparation work,” **Alvin Chow**, another parent, said. “Although they had to do tons of research for the project, but in the end . . . it was about public speaking in front of a huge crowd and making it their show,” Chow added.

Several parents and students agreed that it was “amazing” and they had “a lot of fun.” By grasping the flexibility of being able to

put someone else into their own shoes, the audience was certainly blown away by the grade tens’ speeches at the end of the night.

“Gifted students have a tendency to approach things from a unique perspective; it can be really hard to find people they can identify with,” Jackson said. The purpose was to find great people who think the same way as them, someone who the students can learn from.

“I chose Clint Eastwood as my eminent person. He’s 81 years old, but he’s still making films which shows how committed he is to his passion,” **Richard Zhang**, grade 10, said.

Kimberly Venn, grade 9, mentioned how she loved how “the project was open” for it provides a lot of freedom of choice and numerous options you can pick from.

Venn chose Audrey Hepburn as her eminent person because besides being an actor, Hepburn was also a humanitarian during the last few years of her life, providing an impeccable role model for kids. She loved to help children in need and had a tremendous impact on the world.

“Though Audrey had lots of setbacks during her life, she had great determination and never let the obstacles stop her from pursuing the things she loved,” Venn said. “Through this project, I realized how you can be more than one thing in life. It also taught me how to manage my time, improved my work habits and how to properly showcase our research.”

“Hopefully the TALONS kids have learned for themselves that they can pursue the things that are important to them, and they shouldn’t be held back by restrictions that other people would place on them,” Swartzberg said. “They shouldn’t think that it can’t be done just because it’s never been done before,” she added.

“They can do it because of the support of others who are doing it with them,” Jackson said. “They make me endlessly proud.”

Taking on the world: Model UN students think, debate, connect

YOUMY HAN
Staff Reporter

27 Model UN students stretched their debating skills to the limit at the fourth annual Connect Model United Nations conference (ConnectMUN), as they discussed and argued about different global crises from November 18 to 20.

Three students received honourable mentions, including grade 12 students **Pedram Farahbakhsh** from the European Union, head delegate **Paolo Mercado** from the United Nations Security Council, and **Steven Zhou** from the Politburo Communist Party China.

For Zhou, the award was unexpected, since this was his first time participating in Model UN.

“It felt great . . . I didn’t think I would win an award,” said Zhou. Zhou joined Model UN because “I thought it suited me because I have always been interested in social and political structures,” he said.

To prepare for the event, each student was assigned a

country and a related crisis ahead of time. On the day of the conference, they debated against other countries to achieve certain resolutions in the best interest of their countries.

“Those resolutions sometimes take hours if not days to come to,” said Model UN supervising teacher **Andrew Lloyd**. “The whole idea is to give kids an opportunity to see what the assemblies in . . . the United Nations look like in reality,” he added.

Although this is the fourth year ConnectMUN has been running, it is the first time Gleneagle has participated.

“The goals for the kids are to learn a lot more about world events, become better debaters, and obtain strong critical thinking skills,” said Lloyd.

This year’s team was also an inexperienced group, with only three returning students and lots of new members.

But Lloyd thought “Pedram, Paulo, and **Scott Lee** [grade 11], have done a good job at reaching out to students at younger ages, and getting more people involved,” he said.

“I think there is a lot of potential in this group,” said Farahbakhsh.

“It’s nervous to be in a room with people opposing you because of the nature of the topic. But over time, it becomes better, and you connect with other people,” said Zhou.

Mercado has always enjoyed debating since elementary school, but he found “[Model UN] more entertaining than debating.

Debating is sort of dry, it’s one topic; but this is more of an international debate where you have to negotiate. It’s more engaging,” he said.

There will be two more events coming up in January and March, and Mercado says new members are always welcome.

“They’re both worth attending. Come to our meetings, talk to Mr. Lloyd our sponsor teacher . . . [and] we could help you get into it. It’s really worth going into,” said Mercado.

Pregnant for a day: students surprised at trials, tribulations



Showing off the baby bump: Grade 11, poses in the 30 pound pregnancy suit for child development.

JANICE WU
Staff Reporter

The ladies in Gleneagle’s child development class have been experiencing pregnancy in the past few weeks.

“It’s kind of interesting, but I wouldn’t call it enjoyable,” **Leanne Felton**, grade 10, commented while she was still ‘pregnant’. “It is super heavy and very warm. It even makes it very awkward for me to sit and walk up the stairs.”

Each female in the class had to put on a pregnancy suit for two blocks and half a lunch, wearing a bright pink ‘Pregnant for a Day’ t-shirt overtop.

“Ideally I would love to have them wear it for an entire school day, but they’re expensive and we just don’t have enough [pregnancy suits],” said **Billy Demonte**, the child development teacher.

The pregnancy suit weighs about 25-30 pounds, depending on how much water is added to the ‘belly’ of the suit.

“The point of this is having teenage girls experience what it would be like to be pregnant in high school, having the extra weight, while trying to do the everyday things,” Demonte explained.

“I kept bugging the administration to get [the pregnancy suit] because I think it’s a valuable lesson for students and they would gain a lot from the experience,” she added.

“I think our teacher is really smart!” **Grace Chang**, grade 12, exclaimed. “She knew that if most of the teens have gone through this experience, then there would be half the chance that the students wouldn’t have accidents and get

abortions.”

“What I hope to do is to educate the students so that they are able to make decisions that would suit them best,” Demonte stated.

Through this, Chang discovered that, “Being pregnant is harder than I thought . . . It’s really heavy and it makes it harder to do things, like standing up and sitting down, especially if you had a real baby; then you’d have to be extra careful with every action you do.”

“It was hard doing the things you normally do, but I think people who are really pregnant go through a lot more,” **Edna Ng**, grade 11, stated.

“The hardest part of being pregnant was the embarrassment and the weight because my backpack and binders were really heavy too,” Chang added.

“I really look up to moms because they go through a lot for nine months, and then the labour afterwards when the child is born,” she said.

“I don’t want to get pregnant anytime soon,” Felton exclaimed. “I didn’t realize how uncomfortable it was and hard to breathe . . . I can’t imagine doing this for nine months!”

Chang exclaimed, “The most exciting part was taking it off!”

“It was a good experience and I think teens shouldn’t get pregnant because they need to know that it’s not just anything common; it is responsibility . . . when you have a child,” Chang added.

Gleneagle junior boys lose out in bid for provincial run



In your face: Grade 10 Talons attempt to block their opponent's tip.

Abrupt end to season as grade 9 volleyball girls defeated by Carney

THEO ANG
staff reporter

Gleneagle's grade 9 girls volleyball team's playoff aspirations were cut short when they lost a nail-biting set to Archbishop Carney last week. "The scores were so close it could have gone either way. Unfortunately the ball didn't bounce the way we wanted it

both grade 12.

The team finished the season with three wins and eleven losses.

They won two out of eight league games against Heritage and Riverside, won one out of five games in the Grade 9 Riverside tournament and lost their first game in the playoffs against Archbishop Carney.

"I thought it was helpful for me and the athletes that played volleyball. For me I grew as a person and I got to show my skills in helping others grow," stated Demsey.

"This is grade 9 volleyball," said Watt. "It's their first year of competitive volleyball. They come from middle school volleyball where everybody has to take a turn, everybody has

"If they stay as a team and they work together . . . they have the potential to be one of the best in the district"

to," said Jeremy Clarke, vice principal and coach.

In the first set Gleneagle won 25 to 13 but in the second set Archbishop Carney's team stormed back and won 25 to 23. The third and fourth set were won by Carney's team 25 to 17, and 25 to 23.

The Gleneagle girls volleyball team consists of twelve grade 9 girls, coach Clarke and two assistant coaches, Kayla Demsey, and Madison Watt,

"Some of the girls haven't played volleyball in grade 8 but all of the girls by the end of the season had improved and raised their playing level to a higher level," stated Clarke.

The student coaches agree that the season has been a good learning experience both for the team and themselves.

"I never . . . coached before but having the experience of knowing volleyball, it's fun to help other people," said Watt.

a fair shot and this is actually competitive," she said.

"It gives them a touch of what high school sports actually are," Watt added.

"If they stay as a team and they work together . . . they have the potential to be one of the best in the district," said Demsey.

"Most of us didn't know each other at the beginning of the season but near the end of the season we were really close," said Aman Atwal, grade 9.

SOPHIA CHAN
staff reporter

The junior boys volleyball team ended their season with disappointment after playing tough teams on Saturday. In a pool of four different teams, Gleneagle came last on Saturday in Mission, unable to move onto provincials.

The boys lost all three games in Fraser Valley competition.

Up to that point the team had been "doing exceptionally well," said Ryan Arce, grade 10 captain of the junior boys volleyball team. "We've won most of our games."

The team claimed second place in the district championships after being defeated by Centennial in the finals. "We got blitzed. We got creamed by Centennial three games to nothing," said Art Abram, coach. However, the team performed well in the semi-finals, beating Riverside three games straight.

According to Arce, the team had been aiming for the provincials. "We hope to make it through Frasers and then possibly go onto provincials," he said. Arjan Nickpay, grade 10, hoped to see the team attain top eight in the province.

With the team consisting of students who are in both grade nine as well as ten,

Arce notes, "We have a lot of players, and it's hard to play every one." Although there are obstacles, teamwork has been excellent, and players are committed. Many grade tens who were part of the team last year have rejoined, and according to Abram, "they've improved quite a bit. The grade nines that have started in the beginning of the year have [also] improved a lot."

Nickpay, who is new to the team this year, notes "We [have] a really good team. Everyone knows how to play volleyball."

Arman Bondar, grade 10, is described by Abram as a great team player who is enthusiastic, [and] gets everybody going."

Overall, Abram states that good team effort has been evident throughout the season. "Somehow we come through and play to the best of our ability," remarked Arce.

Arce was looking forward to playing against Centennial. "[We have] always been underdogs against [this team], so if we ever play them again, we hope to beat them."

Nickpay also believed that Centennial has been the most challenging competition this season.

Gearing up for 'super league'

STEPHANIE LUI
staff reporter

The senior girls' basketball team is kicking off with a promising start.

Being the SKAGIT county fall champions in the United States last year, the girls have built quite a reputation in the province.

"We are now in the super league," said Patty Anderson, team coach.

"It's all the top teams in the province. We no longer have any easy game," she added.

Anderson believes that the team has much potential

this year.

"We are a true team," stated Anderson. "We are skilled and fast, but small so we must be very disciplined."

The girls' strong teamwork is evident through practices.

"[We] will do anything for each other," said Chiara Bordinnon, grade 10.

Preparing hard for their first game on December 15, against Centennial Secondary, Jenna Bentley, grade 11, wants to "focus on playing hard all the time."

"Every game will be a dog fight," stated Anderson, "but we will be ready to battle."



Swimmers strive for personal bests at provincial competition

MARIANNE ALCALA
Staff Reporter

A Gleneagle swimmer brought home a bronze medal from the BC Provincials in Richmond last weekend, as her Talons teammates also performed well.

Danielle Sayer, grade 12, received third in the province, in the girls 50 metre backstroke event at the championships. She, along with eight other athletes and their coach, **Mark Tustin**, travelled on November 18 and 19, to Richmond Watermania Pool. There they raced alongside swimmers from 90 different schools around the province.

Other members of the team also finished with admirable results.

Jonathan Zhang, grade 10, ranked seventh in the boys 200 metre medley relay, and fourth in the mixed 200 metre medley relay with **Hayley Knowles**. She also placed fourth in girls 50 metre breaststroke event, and sixth, in girls 100 metre.

“They tried very hard; they put their best effort and we have to applaud that. We finished 23 out of 90 teams... Everyone performed at their absolute best,” said Tustin.

“The team did really well today,” said Sayer, at the provincial finals on Saturday. This year will be her last year involved in competitive swimming at Gleneagle. “It’s sad, in a way, because this was my only excuse to get out and into the pool and motivate myself to swim, doing what I love. It was fun. I enjoyed it a lot.”

Daniel Luo, grade 10, placed ninth in boys 50 metre breaststroke. **Abigail Sayer**, grade 12, placed 11th in girls 100 metre freestyle, fifth in girls 100 metre butterfly, and eighth in girls 200 metre IM event.

Discipline pushed the athletes to excel. The



MARIANNE ALCALA PHOTO

Flying for the win: Student swims forward in the intense competition. She was one of nine swimmers competing for Gleneagle at provincials.

season ended with a lot of determination, perseverance, and satisfaction.

Competition can be stressful and tiring; however, Gleneagle swim athletes were calm and ready as they waited for their upcoming races.

Zhang said, “I suppose I’m a bit nervous, but I’ve been to a lot of meets before and... it

just feels like another meet again.”

“The thing is the school swimming is more about having fun. But at the same time, it’s extremely competitive,” said Knowles.

“It’s all over and I think the kids are coming home satisfied,” said Tustin. “They performed well.”

Provincials may be over, but there is still

next year’s team. “We’ve got a number of kids that are leaving this year and we’re going to miss them,” Tustin said. “[When] we start each year, there is always a new grade 9. There are other grade 10’s or 11’s that may be interested,” he added. “Anybody can join. They can come out and practice and enjoy developing and working as a team.”

Talons field hockey team exceeds expectations at B.C.’s

JADE NGUYEN
Staff Reporter

Gleneagle’s field hockey team finished seventh place in the province and a Talon was named top U16 player, earlier this month in Kelowna.

Contrary to recent years, the girls fought through the season to earn a new-found reputation as contenders in the high school league.

To top off the excitement, one of Gleneagle’s own, **Sidney Veljagic**, grade 11, was recognized as the top U16 player. She is the first to be recognized from the Tri-city area.

“We had set the goal for top eight,” said **Carol Coulson**, coach. “Last year we came in twelfth, so we’ve improved our standing from last year, and we came in [to the provincials] ranking ninth in the province.”

After a triumphant win of 6-0 against Eric Hamber, the girls played a tough game against West Vancouver, losing 3-0, and then went on to tie Frances Kelsey 1-1.

When they played against West Vancouver again, the game was tied 1-1 until the final minute, when West Vancouver scored on a penalty stroke.

“We were close to beating them, and that’s the kind of improvement that we had throughout the tournament,” said Coulson.

“Me and the other captains were very pleased with the results,” said **Courtney Zoschke**, grade 11.

It was an added bonus for Veljagic to be named the top player.

According to Coulson, the recognized player usually comes from West Vancouver, Vancouver, or the Island.

“It feels so good,” Veljagic said. “I was excited to receive the award.” Veljagic is currently playing for the Canadian Junior National team.

The team hopes to continue the improve-

ment into next year, with goals to maintain their standing in the top eight.

The girls will be losing two of their senior players, **Sara Kross**, and **Robin Goodman**, both grade 12, forward line players.

“A lot will depend on who will our grade nines be next year,” said Coulson.

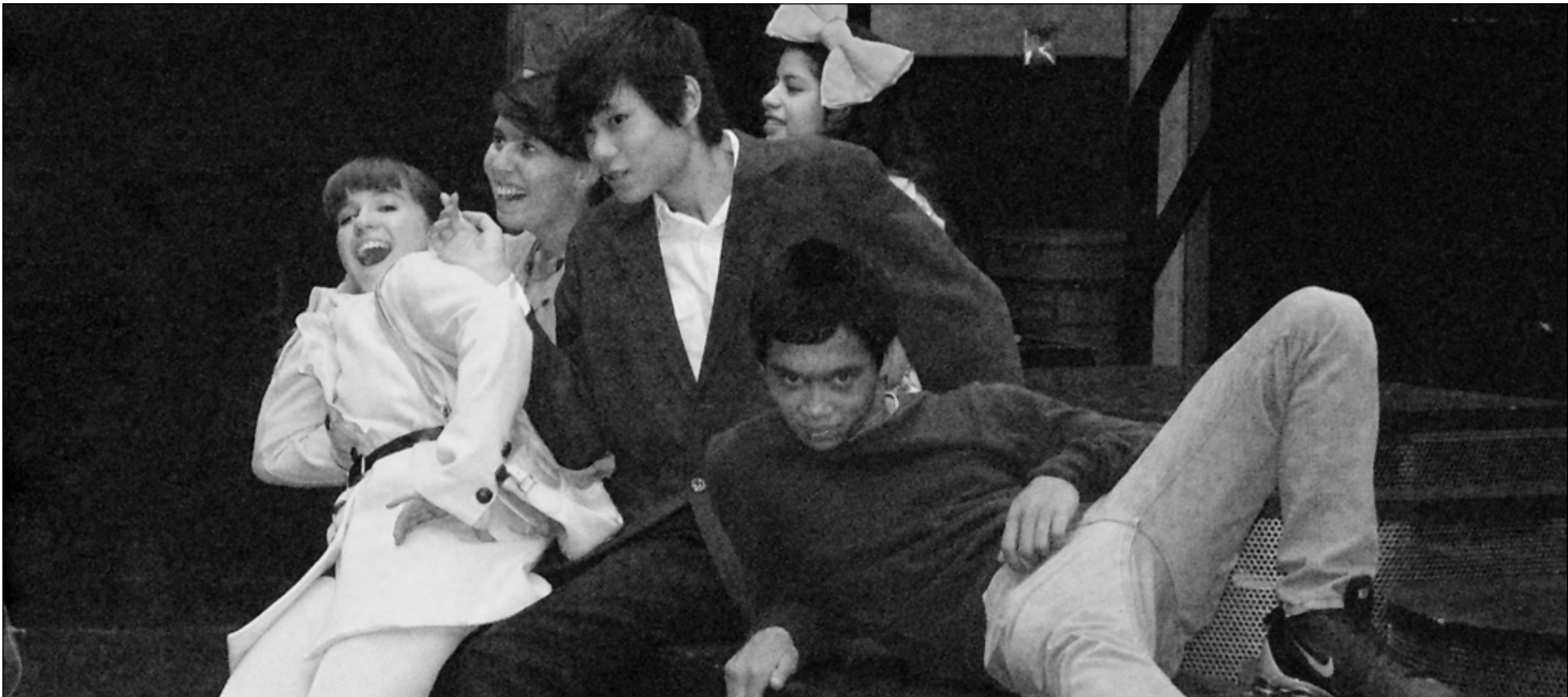
“All of the grade elevens are really excited to be seniors on the team next year,” said Zoschke.



DONOVAN WHISTLER PHOTO

Grit, determination, and speed: Grade 11, fights to keep the ball away from her Charles Best contender. Gleneagle’s team placed seventh in the province; Veljagic was named top U16 player in B.C.

Gleneagle actors hope to shine at Metfest next week



ALICE ZHANG PHOTO

Practice makes perfect: Students ose during a rehearsal of “The Chopin Playoffs.” It is one of two Gleneagle plays presented this year at Metfest.

ALICE ZHANG
staff reporter

The spotlight is shining on Gleneagle’s actors this week as they show their art in school-wide performances before heading off to Metfest next week.

Students from Gleneagle’s drama department work hard for the upcoming Metfest, which is no longer than a week away.

“[It] is the annual district festival for enrichments in the performing arts. It’s an amazing opportunity for all of our high school drama communities to get together to see what each other are doing, ... and also to give thoughtful and valuable feedback as well,” said **Ashley Freeborn**, drama teacher and director for “*The Chopin Playoffs*.” “There are about 150-200 kids from around the district who are either performing or part of a technical group.”

Student art spotlighted at prominent craft fair

HELEN DOO
staff reporter

Gleneagle art students displayed their masterpieces at an event of the most talented artisans in Canada, at the annual Circle Craft Christmas Market in Vancouver earlier this month.

The Circle Craft Christmas Market was held at the Vancouver Convention Center from November 9 to 13. It was the fifth year that the market hosted student exhibitions from selected schools throughout the lower mainland.

This year, Gleneagle entered five photography pieces and five digital illustrations that were selected in June.

Christian Arias-Carrasco, **Sarah Gutenberg**, and **Shailyn Zhu**, all graduates, as well as **Sara Kross** and **Anna Semyonova**, both grade 12, were chosen by **Mike McElgunn** to represent the photography class.

Emily Kim, **Louise Liao**, and **Brendan Park**, all grade 10 and **Kaitlin Nagy**, and **Ashley Tam**, both graduates, were chosen by **Aryn Gunn** to display their digital artwork of abstract designs.

The teachers chose the work based on pieces that went above and beyond.

“I had a bowl of water and I put my artwork underneath so that the water would

“I sort of have a lead role in my play so I’m just excited and kind of nervous at the same time,” said **Andrew De Los Reyes**, grade 10.

“This year, the selected plays for performance are “*Words, Words, Words*” by David Ives, and “*The Chopin Playoffs*” by Israel Horovitz. The former is about three monkeys and three typewriters put together into one big experiment, and the latter closes in on friendship and family values, telling the story of two piano prodigies enamoured with the same girl.

“*Words, Words, Words* is full of beautiful language and hilarious ironies, and I have always been in love with the *Chopin Playoffs* and have studied various segments of the play in drama class. I often assign scene work from the show, so when I finally got my hands on the entire script, I fell in love all over again,” said Freeborn.

shine different colours on it. I wanted to show how a usual thing can be really different and abstract,” said Semyonova.

“I didn’t actually expect my work to be chosen because photography isn’t one of my majors. I’m more of an art and painting person,” she added.

“One [piece] that I chose was a self portrait of one of my students (Ashley Tam), only that she turned herself into a creature that was completely made out of fire,” said Gunn.

“It’s an honour to be one of the high schools that have been asked to [display artwork at the Christmas Market] because there are hundreds of high schools in the province, and not many are invited to participate at the Circle Craft,” continued Gunn.

“It’s a good showcase for student artwork. It lets over 40 000 people walk by that artwork and see that artwork. I think it’s important for people in the general public to see student artwork and really get the understanding about the quality of artwork that students can produce,” McElgunn said.

Circle Craft is a co-op group that is dedicated to the development of art and art education. They hold annual Christmas Market events, where over 250 artisans from all across Canada come to display and sell their artwork, whether it be soaps and candles or fabrics and clothing.

Refining each technique and reciting each line to perfection proves to be a demanding and rigorous task for our actors. “Because I got my first lead role this year, there are a lot more lines to practice, a lot more blocking to know. Everything just has to come together, and there’s just a lot more to do,” said **Danielle Melvin**, grade 12, lead actress in *Chopin*.

“This year I learned that I need to tone down my diva-ness, so then that was a challenge,” said **Hammond Yau**, grade 11, who is also in *Chopin*.

Actors put a lot of time and energy sharpening their techniques for the upcoming shows. Likewise, there is a fair amount of pressure on Freeborn.

“We only have two and a half months to cast it, direct it, rehearse it, and get it up and running at festival standards so it’s a really challenging and strenuous couple of months,” said Freeborn. “... [I found] one of our alumni, **Erin Bodin**. . . and is up at SFU [now]. She helped me take on particularly “*Words, Words, Words*” and is working with those three kids and helping them substantially.”

Gleneagle’s actors are on track for next week’s school-wide plays. “I would expect

the absolute best from my kids for Metfest because I think that we’re really showcasing to the theatre community what Gleneagle is all about and what our drama program is all about,” said Freeborn. “I think they’re going to bring their absolute best.”

Participation in this district-wide drama event provides learning experiences which help our actors. “We get adjudicated, which is kind of like being judged, and they give a whole bunch of notes and you learn so much,” said Melvin. In each Metfest, adjudicators watch the plays and offer their feedback and constructive comments to the drama students of each school. Similarly, audience members and friends of drama students provide opinions and feedback.

Along with the benefit of having higher capability in acting, actors get to know each other and form strong bonds.

“It’s just one big family and I am still very close to the people I did Metfest with in grade 10 and grade 11,” said Melvin.

Delosreyes says he “expects to laugh a lot and to cry sometimes.”

After their debut here, the actors will move on to Metfest at Heritage Woods performing *Words* on Monday, November 28 and *Chopin* on Wednesday, November 30.

Environmentally friendly theme introduced in art club

NANCY XU
staff reporter

The Gleneagle art club started in October and has been holding meetings every Wednesday after school. Organizers for the club are **Yilin Wang**, **Xena Kim**, **Anna Semyomova**, **Angela Mcmillan**, and **Stella Kim**, all grade 12 students, who are planning art career courses at Emily Carr. The art club has planned out sketches, drawings, and fun activities. Additionally, they will be holding art meetings during the month of November.

“I personally think art is more valuable because it can exhilarate your life,” said Yilin Wang. “People do not have to be talented at art. This is all about fun and learning from each other,” she added.

The art club has been starting on an environmental friendly theme to help the earth, creating can and bottle poster drawings for recycling.

They have almost finished the repainting job for the flipping board at the Career Center. The sign project will be finished by the end of November and the art club is drawing ecological paintings for the Green Team.

The organizers are planning assignment tasks and art performances for the art club. “We want people to appreciate art, but we also want them to have fun as well,” said advocating art club organizers. Brightly decorated art club posters and colourful advertisements will be seen hanging around the school.

For people who are interested, want to gain more experiences and have fun, join the art club. “Picasso once said ‘Live to paint!’” says **Andrea Montalvo**, grade 11. The art club is a place where people can get support from other working artists, share new ideas, gain more experiences, and have lots of fun. Meetings are held every Wednesday in the Room 106 after school.