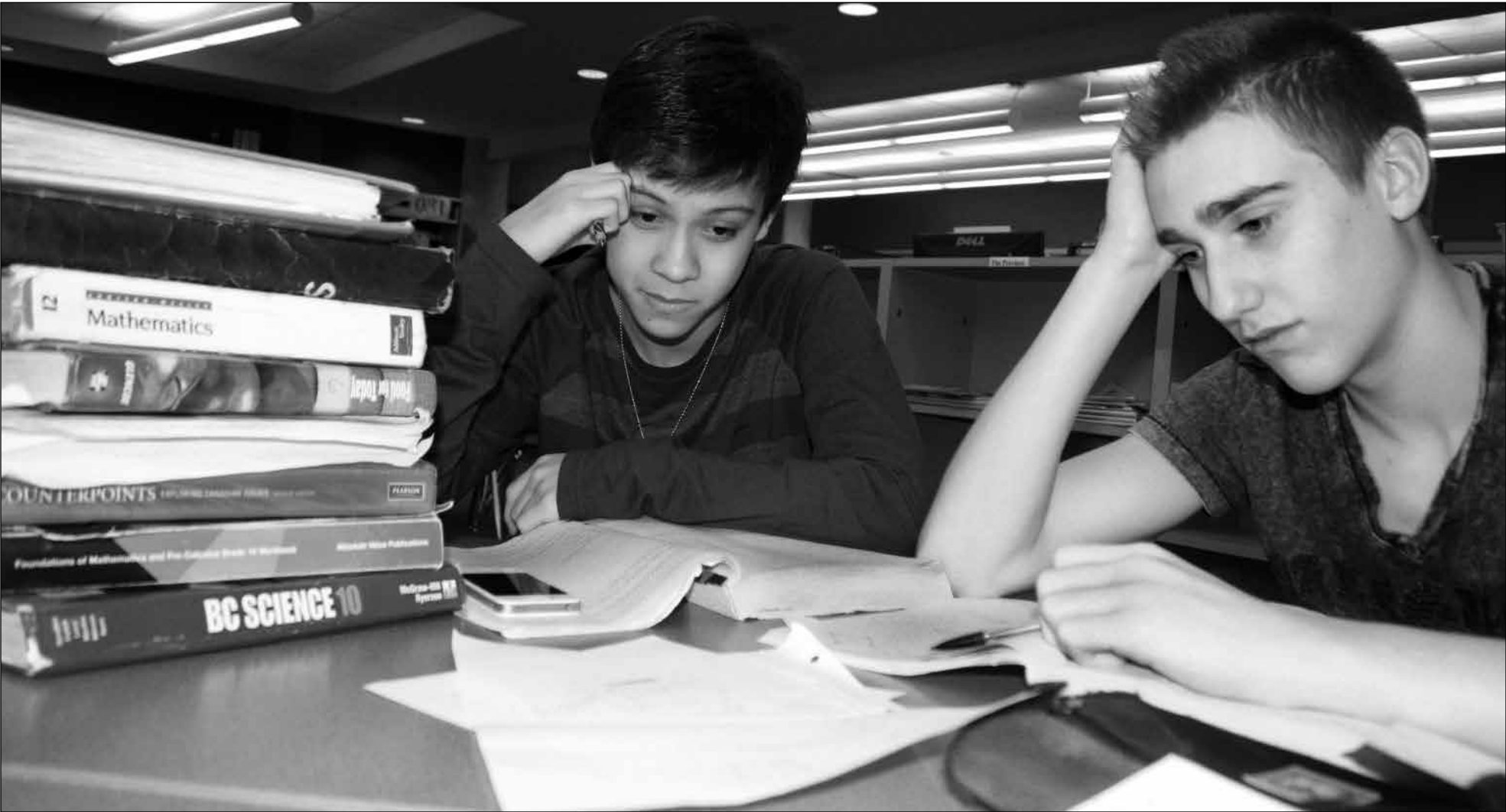


Gleneagle’s Student Voice  
Vol. XVI/ Number 5  
January 20, 2012

# theEdge

## Exam schedule alterations increase student workload



**Grinding through the books:** Pencils scratch on notebooks and sweat pours down faces as Gleneagle’s student body gets down for this year’s shortened exam stress period. Students, both grade 11, contemplate the work ahead. In-class exams began yesterday with provincials next week.

**SOPHIA CHAN**  
staff reporter

Numerous changes to exams have been made this year, impacting students in different ways. The majority of students will be writing their final exams during the last two days of the semester.

Due to ongoing teacher job action, only the five mandatory provincials—Science 10, Foundations of Math and Pre-Calculus 10, English 10, Social Studies 11 and English 12—will be held during exam week.

In addition, all provincials will be e-exams done on computers, supervised by administrators.

The effects of the changes will vary, depending primarily on one’s grade level and courses. “I’m sure that there are some students who

are affected by it, whereas there would be other students who would be happy for it,” explained **Colleen Spence**, math department head.

“It depends on your work load; if you have four heavy academic courses, then you are clearly going to be more affected,” Spence added.

Students in grade 10, for example, are more likely to have exam schedules that are less condensed in comparison to other grades.

On the other hand, a student could potentially be faced with four exams in two days. **Veronica Wu**, grade 11, will be writing three exams, including Chemistry 11 and Pre-Calculus 11.

“It messes my whole studying plan up,” said Wu. “I’ll have to study two subjects

simultaneously, because both my major courses have exams on the same day.”

“To be honest, I don’t like [the change]. It just doesn’t give the students a lot of time to study and prepare,” said **Ronald Sz**, grade 12.

On the contrary, there are some who haven’t given much thought to when and how the exams will take place. “I’m just going to do it when the teacher tells me to,” said **Nathan Boey**, grade 10.

There are some pros, however, to the new format. “Everyone will be writing exams at the same time, so there [are] not going to be people in the hallways making noise and whatnot,” said Spence.

**Brian Unger**, social studies department head, notes that students who have trou-

ble writing exams will benefit, as “it offers teachers perhaps some other ways of evaluating students, or ways of making up for deficiencies that students might have when it comes to test writing.”

Another change to exams this semester is that most grade 12 academic classes no longer have optional provincial exams.

Some teachers believe that this may alter how courses may be delivered. “The provincial exam gave firm standards right across the province,” said Unger.

This semester is four days short; semester one is two days shorter than the second one, and an additional two days are dedicated to double block exams. “In some of my classes, we have tons to cram. It depends on the class,” said **Charlotte Knowlton**, grade 10.

## Talons snowboards slice through shining white slopes

**KAREN LAU**  
staff reporter

Members of the Ski and Snowboard Club embarked on their second trip of the year to Whistler Blackcomb this past Saturday. According to **Brian Unger**, the club’s teacher sponsor along with **Bryan Jackson**, forty-three students were given a “relatively inexpensive . . . opportunity to ski at a world-class mountain,” over the weekend.

“We [left] at 6 a.m. from the school, started skiing up on the hill by 9, and skied like crazy until 3 in the afternoon,” Unger said.

“We were there for the whole day, [and] had about 10 centimetres of new snow, which was wonderful. It was snowing and quite blustery in the morning, but it cleared up and was beautiful and sunny in the afternoon,” he added.

Students were assigned to groups according to their skiing or snowboarding ability,

and led by “tribe guides” who showed them the ins and outs of the mountain.

“Every group has a different experience,” said Unger. “Those with more experience will have a different experience than those just learning . . . and with the guide, students get to know the mountain, because they take them to really neat places that they otherwise might not find.”

According to **Edna Ng**, grade 11, this is the main difference between going skiing personally and going on a school ski excursion.

“This limits some freedoms, but the guides are generally pretty relaxed and they show you some cool things,” Ng said. “I don’t prefer [going alone over school trips]. I always have a good time,” she added.

The Ski and Snowboard Club will go on their final trip mid-February. The club’s annual two-day excursion to Sun Peaks was cancelled this year due to lack of participation; refunds were returned as the group fell

just short of their thirty-member goal.

“This is the first year we haven’t gone in a while,” said Unger. “But there are a lot of members . . . who are in grades 9 and 10, more so than in past years. I’m hoping that when they move to senior grades, they will [continue to be] interested in signing up for these trips,” he added.

Luckily, this seems to be the case so far. **Jenny Yoon**, grade 10, has gone on school trips every year since she began snowboarding in grade 7, and plans to continue to do so.

“I go because I’m always hoping I can find friends to snowboard with,” she said. “Snowboarding is a passion that I have. It’s been fun so far; [usually] I just hope the weather is nice and we can snowboard well,” said **Wesley Wen**, grade 10.

“We’ve developed a real love for skiing this way,” added Unger, “whether you’re at the hotel, hanging out in the hot tub or skiing real hard. It’s a really good experience.”

UPCOMING EVENTS

End of Semester 1  
January 20

Provincial Exams  
January 23-27

Start of Semester 2  
January 30

JOYCE CHANG PHOTO



# Exam week not a sprint, but a marathon

It's going to be a marathon this week and next week. For most of us, it is a dreaded run, one filled with turmoil, exhaustion, and anxiety. As the day nears, we find ourselves immersed in piles of notes, textbooks and what-nots, studying like never before. And the fact that final exams are smacked right in the middle of a shortened semester and provincial exams seems to have a negative effect on many. Dark circles lining the underside of our eyes and yawning simultaneously are just some of the side effects of training too hard.

For five long months, teachers have been preparing us for the run: instructing us with surefire strategies, prepping us with the right equipment, and training us until we are fit. But with a new exam schedule this year and almost a week's worth of shortened teaching days, teachers are scrambling to cram everything from the curriculum, into our overloaded brains. We sweat and grind our teeth, madly flipping through a six-hundred page textbook as guilt eats away our minds at the realization that we should have studied earlier.

But now, we are standing at the starting line. The new exam schedule forced many of us to prepare for three finals in a span of two days. No longer do we have the week-end before exam week to study for in-class finals. Instead, we must endure them during the last week of school.

The marshal raises his arm, and you're waiting for that whistle to blow. People around you are in ready position. The thundering pounding of your heart is deafening, volume increasing with each passing



second. Your mind wanders back to what you were taught in the past few months.

Remember to run wisely - pace yourself during exams. Rushing through may only cause you to trip. Read through each question carefully and re-check once you're done; you never know what silly mistakes you can make. It's too late to turn back now; keep your pace and look forward.

As the finish line comes closer and closer, do not sprint to the end. Maybe you're too tired and want to get it over with quickly. But that will only lead to preventable mistakes and regret.

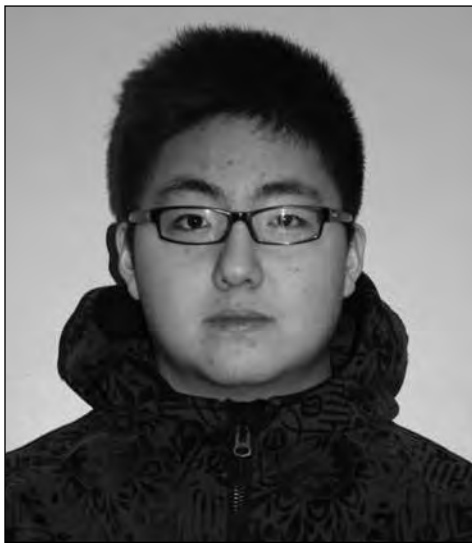
When you study through the weekend for provincials, do not pull all-nighters. Tiring yourself out before the real exam is not a wise idea. Don't forget to take water breaks.

Allow your mind time to recompose and let information sink in after a long period of studying.

Remember that this marathon is an opportunity for you to show off the fruits of your labor - all the hours you've put in each study session to get where you are today.

On your mark, get set, go! Run a good race and cross that finish line.

## Student sacrifices integrity in pressure to succeed



edge columnist

You are unconfident, unconvinced, and unconditionally screwed. Whether you had soccer practice last night, or were busy achieving world peace, you did not do your best to prepare for this test. The taste of success is ever so familiar to you; however, there is an obstacle in the way. The thought

of cheating and earning that golden percentage is more attractive every second you sweat over the first question.

Let me get one thing out, and they are words seasoned with experience. Cheating is not worth any of the troubles you will have during the process. It includes, but is definitely not limited to abandoning your student intellect, losing your teacher's faith and being plummeted into absolute fear of the consequences.

In the event that you get by, cheating without being noticed, you try to live life normally, and ignore your failure to use your own knowledge. When someone asks what mark you got, you try your best to hide the shame, and broadcast your mark as if you studied. Your tolerance for cheating goes up, and seeing the easy road to success, you are less reluctant to do it.

Let's switch the scenario and say your "skills" of cheating fail you. You get called down to the office for a conference between you, your counsellor, your teacher, and the administration. That 100% you were hoping to achieve is now missing two digits, a noticeable academic dishonesty taints your permanent record, and several days of sus-

pension are now replacing your schedule.

If being degraded is not enough for you, think about the rest of the people you're affecting by cheating. The parents who raised you with every intention for your success have been betrayed. Your teachers who invested time and their career in helping you to the best of their ability, have been humiliated and mocked. Most of all, you have betrayed yourself: you didn't trust in your knowledge and talents, and you failed to put in the effort and humility to accept failure.

It's incredible how I needed to get caught to be able to speak out against this. Did I regret getting caught? Maybe at the moment, but now I don't regret that the school noticed my problem. Sure, I was regarded highly by my teachers at a point in time, but once the news hit, my integrity was shaken and could only be rebuilt through hard work.

During your days in high school, the consequences of cheating will be much milder than the ones in university; but by no means does that mean that you should do it now. Professors will not know you half as well as your teachers did in high school, and to them you are a name on a list rather than a

person they know. Kicked out with a "withdrawn for academic dishonesty" status is not a good way to approach post-secondary.

In a couple of days, you will be facing the final assessment of your learning in a course.

For some of you, there will be an immense pressure to succeed in this arduous testing process. The temptation to do something easier than spending endless hours reading countless pages may seduce you, but think about the consequences of your actions and the effect it will carry to yourself and others. Hard honest work should be valued as much as successful results; too often in society, we feel looked down upon when we don't meet high expectations. I was too scared to perform on my own and resorted to disowning my ethics and talent.

You are in a good school, under some of the greatest teachers. Whether you're the student who's barely managing to pass, or the brilliant ace who feels the need to get the top percentile, know that your teacher's opinion of you is high when you work honestly. In the end, really, you will be remembered for your integrity and reputation, not for the last test mark you got in third block.

## 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

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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George H. Gallup Award Winner: 2006, 2005, 2004, 2002, 2001, 2000  
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What’s your most ridiculous New Year’s resolution?

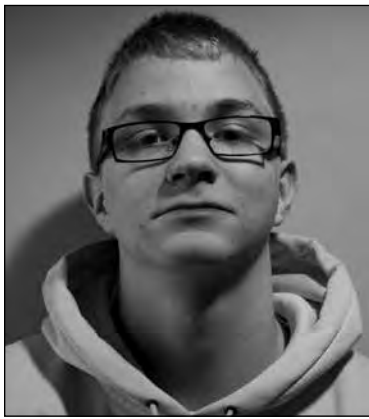
YOU  
SAID  
IT!



Grade 9  
Find ways to get back at my brother.



Grade 10  
To become Batman.

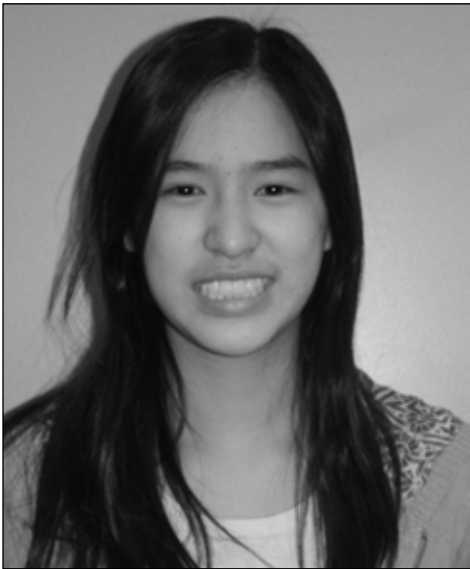


Grade 11  
Making it to the NHL.



Grade 12  
To grow taller than my younger sister.

Divorce: whatever happened to “till death do us part?”



edge columnist

Here comes the bride, all dressed in white. Radiant and lovely she shines in his sight. Dum dum dum dummm dum dum dum dumm...  
Everyone should be quite familiar with this famous tune, usually played on the organ, while bridesmaids walk slowly down the aisle as petals flutter in the air.  
As the star of the wedding enters, people rise to welcome her. She slowly glides toward the altar to meet her beloved so they can take their vows and live “happily ever after.”  
But time passes and then, destruction strikes. You and your spouse just can’t seem to get along anymore.  
Why does he/she always act this way? Why can’t he/she change and get rid of their

bad habits? Why isn’t she doing this? Why is he not doing that?  
And you seem to get irritated by the slightest mistake they make. Arguments begin to arise, stirring the tense air of angry voices, slamming doors, and muffled cries.  
Whatever happened to those words that you once said, “I promise you my deepest love, my fullest devotion, my tenderest care?” What about “for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness or in health, to love and to cherish ‘till death do us part?”  
Marriages should not be taken so lightly. Marriage means two people making a firm decision to become one.  
Marriage also means 1 + 1 = 3. The equation represents how, when “added together”, both sides should benefit from one another and become more than what they were on their own, not neutralizing each other.  
Sometimes, kids are the ones who are impacted most out of the divorce, not the parents. A sudden separation could affect some greatly, especially teenagers, since they know what’s going on.  
Not only could children of divorced parents have emotional instability, decrease in self-confidence, obtain a negative outlook on marriages, they could also end up becoming scared of girl/guy relationships.  
Although not *all* children from divorced families have problems, according to parenting specialists, most children of divorce are highly affected by parental loss, economic loss, life stress, lack of parental competence, and exposure to conflict between parents.  
There is a reason why marriage consists of two people; it’s so the kids can gain awareness from both points of view.  
However, with divorce often comes the loss

of a parent, and with this vacancy comes loss of knowledge in the world, skills (e.g. financial skills, social skills, etc.) and resources, both financially and emotionally.  
Economic loss is another big impact. Each parent will most likely be living apart, meaning a tighter budget on both sides. This may influence children greatly, in particular ones still in school, because financial support will be needed for school supplies, field trips, fees and such. Economic loss can  
shape a child’s emotional stability.  
Have you ever wondered if arguments between parents could affect their kids? Exposure to conflict can range from numerous little arguments to straight abuse. Depending on the amount of conflict children have seen they can experience much hurt and anger. Obtaining a pessimistic view on marriages, relationships, life and love are just hints of what could be happening in their ongoing journey.  
“Arguments begin to arise, stirring the tense air of angry voices, slamming doors, and muffled cries”  
go both ways though. It may enhance conflict and tension between child and parent, or bring them even closer together.  
Divorce often results in several other changes, including transferring schools, moving away from a familiar place, living situations, and having to make new friends. Friends play a large role in everyone’s lives, especially younger ones.  
Youth without a close buddy or a shoulder to lean on during hard times could be devastating. Worries about fitting in, gaining social status, or trying to adapt to a new environment could accumulate in plenty of stress, which could possibly lead to behavioural problems such as decrease in self-confidence.  
Even if most kids don’t show it, they secretly want someone to help guide and develop their life as they go on. Lack of parental support usually follows divorce, since the majority of single parents are probably worrying about where to move and how to get by, and this can definitely

shape a child’s emotional stability.  
Have you ever wondered if arguments between parents could affect their kids? Exposure to conflict can range from numerous little arguments to straight abuse. Depending on the amount of conflict children have seen they can experience much hurt and anger. Obtaining a pessimistic view on marriages, relationships, life and love are just hints of what could be happening in their ongoing journey.  
Yet, we must understand that there are some unavoidable conflicts that will occur no matter how hard we try to make our family lives peaceful and happy. Parents who go through the processes of deciding whether or not to get a divorce endure long, sleepless nights of frustration, confusion and hopelessness.  
Divorces can hit people long and hard, so hopefully adults think about the aftermath first before making a life changing decision.  
I truly believe that you should try your hardest to defend your first marriage. It shouldn’t be a trial, a “starter marriage”, a joke, or even an “I want to see what it feels like” kind of thing.  
There are some exceptional circumstances which sometimes make divorce inevitable. However, we kids hope that parents remember that marriage is not a thing to be thrown away carelessly. It involves hard work. For marriage is not about being in love all the time; it’s about constantly striving to keep falling in love with your spouse over and over.

Letters to the editor:



[Re: Gleneagle Musicians...]  
I was in that concert and it’s a cool experience. But the paper says one of the choir songs is “Come to Bethlehem.” I clearly remember it’s “Going to Bethlehem.” Just saying.  
-Joey Huang

[Re: Spreading holiday cheer at Gleneagle]  
I find it awesome that Gleneagle is having all these food drives and Project Angel. It’s always nice to help someone without expecting something in return. It’s awesome that we make a change in our community! You go Glenn Coco!  
-Michelle Fernández

[Re: How to conquer the “mischievous imp: Writers’ block”]  
I really liked the story about writer’s block because I get it all the time when writing my stories and those tips were very helpful for me. They helped me get through my writers’ block. Thank you!  
-Cassidy Engleby

[Re: Emerging Talent pieces open to interpretation]  
The spaghetti medusa was a very creative and different piece of art. The details are incredibly accurate and it is enjoyable to look at.  
-Bianca Gosse

[Re: T-shirt sales to raise funds, promote hope for cancer research]  
I think that this article was great. It shows that our school cares and wants to support cancer research. I think that that is a great thing, especially for me because my grandma is battling cancer, so I think that it’s a great thing that we are doing.  
-Caitlynn Chilman

The Edge values your opinion!  
Agree or Disagree? Any input to our articles are welcomed! Present your voice and have the potential to be in our next paper. You can bring a hard copy of your letter to room 117, or save a tree and email it to laxford@sd43.bc.ca.



# Death of Kim Jung Il affects students with Korean ethnicity

**ALICE ZHANG**  
staff reporter

For many Gleneagle students with family connections in Korea, North Korean supreme leader Kim Jong-Il's death provoked a wide range of reactions.

"I was at a dinner... during winter break and when one of my classmates arrived at the restaurant, he announced that Kim Jong-Il was dead," said **Won Tae Lee**, grade 11.

"I was worried about my family in Korea because I wasn't sure if there was going to be a war or not. There was a chance of North Korea and South Korea coming back together and there was a chance of war happening," said **Juna An**, grade 11.

Named his father's successor at age 33, Kim Jong-Il began his reign over North Korea with an iron fist. During his 17-year reign lasting from October 1997 to December 18, 2011, he put a "military-first" policy forth for the entire country which originated with his father, Kim Il-Sung.

North Koreans acknowledge him as having united North Korea and protecting the country from "evil" American influences. He also developed good relationships with other communist countries such as China and Russia, which made North Koreans feel safe. He put much effort and many resources into building the world's fifth largest army.

However, his plans to strengthen the military decreased the quality of living conditions in North Korea, and caused a famine that killed over one million North Koreans in the 1990's. Even though his people were starving and impoverished, he still kept his "military-first" policy, as well as many fine foods and wines to himself.

Though the two Koreas signed an agreement stating that they would look for a way to unite, Kim Jong-Il took very belligerent actions toward South Korea.

With the Supreme Leader dead at 69, the relationship between the two Koreas is again in question. The South is still trying to get the North to reunite, but Kim Jong-Il was always antagonizing the South.



ALICE ZHANG PHOTO

**Rocked by international news:** Grade 12, reads about the death of the North Korean dictator. For many Gleneagle students, Kim Jung Il's death creates worry about family and fear of instability in their homeland.

His successor, 28 year-old Kim Jong-Un does not seem keen on the idea of reunification either. South Korea president Lee Myung Bak wants to use this new era to transform Korean ties. He signaled the South's willingness to work with the North's new leader, but warned that South Korea would respond strongly to any provocations.

**Brian Unger**, history teacher, says he would not be surprised if

and so backward that there probably were a number of people that did really believe that he was a good leader because they don't really know what it's like in the outside world," said Unger.

On the other hand, there are North Koreans who feel that Kim Jong-Il was a tyrannical dictator and are secretly happy about his death. If they dared to show that in public, they would be punished severely for going against the re-

phone out of the country during the nation-wide mourning. An says she "[does] not believe [that North Koreans were truly upset] because if they don't cry, they would go to jail."

"USA is mostly concerned about their nuclear weapons program," said Lee. "China is supportive of a unified Korea that is not hostile towards them. North Korea is increasingly becoming a burden to China because of its starving population. Rather than dealing with millions of refugees from North Korea, [China] would rather give them monetary aid, food, etc." he added. Kim's death has provoked reactions from other communist countries and western ones too.

South Korea is most affected by Kim's death, and after they received notice, Lee Myung-Bak put the South Korea army on high alert in case of any attacks that Kim Jong-Un decides to try. Unger believes that "if China were to distance themselves a little bit from North Korea, then [it] will change things."

"The top priority in Kim Jong-Un's mind is probably the regime.

If that topples, he loses his power, quality of life and everything," said Lee. "If he does improve relations, they'll probably weaken the regime which would not benefit himself, so I'm not sure if he wants better relations."

After Kim Jong-Il died, his uncle in-law became the second-in-command of the whole country. Because Kim Jong-Un is too young, North Korea is currently being ruled by a committee instead of a single ruler.

Kim Jong-Un has only been in power for about three weeks, so it is hard to tell what he has planned for the nation.

It is easy to assume that he will continue many policies that his father set up because there was a reason he was handpicked over his two older brothers, who were considered to be too soft or too westernized.

However, this is still a new era for North Korea and an opportunity to improve their conditions, foreign relations, and overall global reputation. An believes they "always have the chance to change for the better."

*"There was a chance of North Korea and South Korea coming back together and there was a chance of war happening."*

"[Kim Jong-Un] did something provocative with South Korea to show that he's not weak, and [to show them] 'Don't think you can take advantage of me just because I'm young.'"

When the North Korean news reporters announced Kim's death in tears, Youtube videos of the entire nation weeping for his death were viewed around the world.

"It is such a sheltered country

gime. The North Korean authorities have started to send people who did not participate in the mourning gatherings or did not seem to cry genuinely enough to harsh work camps.

Those who criticized the new ruler Kim Jong-Un were sent to "re-education" camps and were banished with their families. Public trials were held for anybody who tried to escape from or

## Global Issues Club prepares for upcoming school events

**JADE NGUYEN**  
staff reporter

Gleneagle's Global Issues club is gearing up for a few projects in the upcoming months. The annual Voices Benefit concert will be happening again this year, along with the 30-hour famine and something new: a letter-writing campaign for Amnesty International.

The club has organized a few minor events since the school year has started, but that was just the warm up – they are now preparing for their events that will take place starting spring time. Currently, the club is looking to have everything verified by the administration.

The first event is to happen in April, and will be the Voices Benefit concert. Last year, almost a thousand dollars was made, which went to the Red Cross First Contact program, a program to help out refugees who are first coming to Canada.

"This year, we're looking to do it for Doctors Without Borders. It's an organization for the doctors who go into other countries, developing countries, to help the people there," said **Katie Fajber**, grade 12.

The Global Issues club is beginning to plan months in advance, as it takes time to find the sponsors for the event, and to organize the student performances.

"We actually go out into the community, take a sponsorship letter saying what our cause is and what we're going to do. We go to small businesses, or big businesses, like Starbucks or Thrifty's, and see what sort of money we can get, or even prizes," added Fajber.

The Voices Benefit concert has been deemed successful each year, according to **Edna Ng**, grade 11.

"It's a Gleneagle tradition and it's always a success. People are always generous in donating when they're enjoying everyone's performances," Ng said.

Also happening in April will be the 30-hour famine. Usually, the money goes to World Vision, but due to some talk of World Vision's

effectiveness, the Global Issues Club will be donating the money to an organization called *Schools Building Schools*, a newer organization between Simon Fraser University and Carleton University.

Although World Vision is a high-profile, well-known organization, Global Issues has made the switch since hearing people question the sustainability of World Vision's projects; for example, wells that are made in small villages aren't maintained and over the years, become useless.

*Schools Building Schools* is an organization entirely run by university students and recent graduates, aiming towards both building and rebuilding local vocational

schools. Currently, *Schools Building Schools* is raising money for their first project, which will take place in Uganda.

"[The 30-hour famine] is a really good way to raise money. It's also really fun for the students participating to have a sleepover at the school," Ng commented.

While the two events have been effective and successful each year, the Amnesty letter-writing campaign will be tested out this year.

Fajber says, "It's a way of standing up to authorities and saying, 'we don't think this is right', and showing that we care."

According to Fajber, the campaign is in the works and is still in its "admin approval stage."

# Former Talons student fights for climate treaty

**SCOTT LEE**  
staff reporter

Anjali Appadurai, former Gleneagle student, has ignited inspiration for thousands of delegates and youth during her speech at the United Nations Climate Change Conference 2011 in Durban, South Africa. Her message of change was clear, slamming global leaders for putting off the writing of a new climate change treaty until 2015. Her thundering call to act for the sake of the future generations has spread virally with tens of thousands of views on video sharing sites such as Youtube.

“My experience at Durban was very eye-opening in many ways,” said Appadurai. “I was following a specific track of the negotiations - technology transfer...a more specific angle to explore the vast issue of climate change. Climate change is an issue that cannot be labeled ‘environmental’ or ‘scientific’. It is a global human issue that is currently affecting thousands of people’s lives and livelihoods.”

The viral speech had “opened many professional opportunities” according to Appadurai, but instead of view counts she emphasized the importance of using the popularity as a “channel...to spread the message of our generation.”

Appadurai is currently working on expanding and developing *Earth in Brackets*, a blog site dedicated to politics and environmental issues. *Earth in Brackets* leans pretty far to the left because we believe that the youth should stand for no less...when it comes to politics, being intelligently radical is the way we show our leaders that we’re not messing around,” says Appadurai.

Appadurai is not alone in the

mission to bring change for the world they will own. The news lens has shifted from delinquents to the forefront runners of change; kids and youth around the world are proving themselves to be early leaders and an ignition to a revolution where compassion is dominant.

Outstanding youth such as Appadurai are not a rarity in Gleneagle. The Global Issues Club, organized solely by students, has done many fundraising events and projects with members growing annually.

“In 2005 I attended the Red Cross Global Issues Symposium for Youth...we learned about a range of international humanitarian issues - child soldiers, the arms trade, food security, human trafficking,” said Appadurai. “The friend who attended symposium with me (Sarah St.John, 2007) and I, along with two other friends, decided to start a club (Global Issues) at Gleneagle that would work closely with the local Red Cross.”

Much of the increase in philanthropy work by youth is thanks to the explosive popularity of social media sites, combined with the immediate access to the web, which has helped youths around the world network and spread their radical messages.

“If the printing press was the most important technological development for spreading the ideas of the Enlightenment, the fact that everyone in the developed world effectively has a printing press -with a global audience - in their pocket is incredibly powerful to contemplate,” said Bryan Jackson, Gleneagle teacher.

“I’m pretty optimistic that the Internet will continue to propel



*Shouting to the world: Anjali Appadurai, former Gleneagle student, speaks out at a United Nations Climate Change Conference in South Africa. She is passionate about youth taking leadership in the world.*

youth activism forward, not just in Canada, but globally. I see a tremendous trend emerging of kids understanding politics and their place in the broader world,” said, Dr. Michael Ungar, a respected author of over 75 articles and books regarding social aspects of children, in a recent Toronto Globe and Mail interview.

“I would like to see students (and those beyond) learning to manage their own digital information on-

line, by owning and hosting their own domain space and becoming more adept at navigating the Internet, free from more authoritative forces who likely will not have the same aims as youth, seeking to empower minority voices or perspectives,” added Jackson.

“The combination of being well-informed and outspoken leads to a slow, wonderful process of the youth becoming more respected in this world of bureaucratic

adults. They will start to listen if we have something to say,” advised Appadurai.

The countless examples of action set forth by both Appadurai and the Global Issues Club, are ones that many will find inspiring. With the power of social media providing fuel for the awareness of issues, both show that it is possible for anyone with heart and determination to make a difference in a world where age is no longer a barrier.

## New year, new animal, new start!

**JOYCE CHANG**  
staff reporter

For many Gleneagle students and their families, Christmas is not the most anticipated holiday of the winter. Rather, it is a time when firecrackers explode with loud sparks, Chinese cuisine aromas waft through the air, children laugh and play while adults sit around the round table, chatting to the beat of traditional music. A sense of festivity fills the air; Chinese New Year is just around the corner!

Back in Asia, Chinese New Year is the number one holiday. Ranging from five days to even two weeks, people usually start their preparations a week ahead. From stocking up on groceries to booking train rides or flights, from frantically looking through impressive recipes to spending hours on cleaning the house – the list of things to do is endless!

“It’s all about bonding with the family and meeting your relatives,” said Joe Li, grade 10.

Helen Xue, Gleneagle’s Mandarin teacher, adds, “Family is a big thing. Chinese people like to emphasize the value of gathering together, especially to respect the elders and to respect your parents.”

According to culture, the first five days of lunar New Year’s are the most vital. This means no matter how far away you live, you must go back to visit. On the first day, which is called “初一” (chu yi), husbands and sons are required

to go back to their hometown and visit their parents, taking their entire family along with them. On the second day, “初二” (chu er), mothers and daughters are also obligated to take their own family back and pay homage.

Women from each family greet each other as they join up in the kitchen to get ready to cook up a storm.

“The last meal of the year, when everyone gets together for the last time, is one of the most important meals of the year,” Xue said. “So the dinner is quite rich. There are lots and lots of dishes.”

One thing that people love about Chinese New Year: the food. Steamed dim sums, long, thin noodles, plump dumplings, fresh fish, and dishes of diverse vegetables mixed with meat. In fact, the Chinese culture is so specific that the first three days must consist of particular foods, and they’re each symbolic. For example, on the third day the Chinese must eat 盒子, a type of pan fried Chinese pancake made of flour and stuffing inside.

‘盒’ means togetherness and unite. It represents how people should be together and united like the pancake,” Xue said.

While the adults cook and visit, the kids usually engage with their cousins “playing Mahjong, setting off fireworks and firecrackers,” said Savina Chen, grade 11. Other activities include various types of tag and watching the lion dance.

Last but not least, the most anticipated event would be receiving

red pockets (called 红包, or hong bao) which contain money inside. The tradition goes like this: if you have a job, on New Year’s you must give a red pocket to each younger cousin, or relative below you.

The origin of Chinese New Year actually comes from the word “年” from “幸年”. You see, once upon a time in China, in a faraway land, there was a monster that lived high on the mountains named 年, and it loved to ambush small villages and gorge on the people. However, one day an old lady decided that she shouldn’t have to live her life in terror, so she took a red cloth and waved it toward the beast.

Upon seeing the bright rouge, the creature ran off in fear and never came back. Since that day, which also happened to be on the first day on the lunar calendar, people wear red and set off firecrackers to scare the spirit away.

“People also like to dress in red clothes on New Years, because it represents good fortune and luck,” said Bosco Lam, grade 10.

As the major celebration slowly dwindles to an end, the fifteenth day approaches when folks usually eat “元宵 (yuan xiao), sticky rice balls, and take out lanterns for the lantern festival,” said Xue. It’s the perfect, peaceful way to end the loud occasion, as you stand amongst loved ones, holding out lanterns for the first and last time for a year.

This year’s Chinese New Year lands on January 23, the first day of provincial exams week!

## Grade 8’s scoping out Gleneagle programs

**STEPHANIE LUI**  
staff reporter

A wave of soon-to-be Talons will be visiting Gleneagle for the Grade 8 Walkabout next Thursday, January 26.

Done before course selections, grade 8’s from feeder schools - Scott Creek Middle, Summit Middle, and Moody Middle, are given the opportunity to “see the fabulous programs in the school, meet elective teachers, ask questions, and get a feel for the school,” said Bindy Johal, counsellor and organizer of the grade 8 walkabout.

“The walkabout is to make [the grade eight students] feel comfortable,” said Jerry Areshenko, counsellor. “The Con-Ex leaders and staff will help create a positive atmosphere and relaxed transition for [them].”

Comprised mainly of the elective courses, school departments engaged in this event are visual arts, drama, home economics, information technology, tech ed, and music.

“Different departments have their own way of presenting,” said Aryn Gunn, graphic arts, JumpstArt 9, photography, and fabric arts teacher. “Sometimes we have student presentations, handouts, a powerpoint presentation, or the classic – a talk from the teacher.”

“[I will] have two student websites opened for them to see portfolios of student work,” said Jodey Udell, digital media, digital film, animation, and ICT teacher. “I want them to know that digital media is not like middle school... it involves learning new skills and programs.”

“I hope that students develop an interest in our art programs,” explained Mike McElgunn, art department head. “I want them to know that art is a communicational tool that shows who we are.”

The Teacher Job Action will not affect the walkabout.

“This is a valuable opportunity for the students to see the breadth and depth of the programs we offer here in Gleneagle,” stated Gunn.

# Senior boys striving to overcome inconsistency



NOLAN SPELLER PHOTO

**JANICE WU**  
staff reporter

Senior Talons basketball team played intensely at Pitt Meadows Marauders Air Show last Thursday, Friday and Saturday, finishing the tournaments 1-2.

The team won their first game against Cowichan 42-40 on Thursday, lost to Mt. Douglas 74-62, a top ten team in the province, on Friday and lost against Argyle 77-60 on Saturday.

**Denver Sparks-Guest**, grade 10, was named Player of the Game twice for the first and third games, while **Josh Langhans**, grade 12, won Player of the Game during their second game. He was instantly put onto the All Marauders team as well, the tournament all-star team.

*Ball, ball, ball, ball: Josh Langhans, grade 12, guards against his opponent in a regular season game against Terry Fox, as grade 12 watches for an opportunity to intercept a pass.*

“I think we played well in our second game against a really tough opponent. Our defense showed good consistency [during] that game,” Langhans commented.

In league play, the senior team has two wins and two losses. They’ve lost both games at home, the most recent one against Port Moody, 58-53, this past Tuesday. Terry Fox defeated Talons 54-16 on Tuesday, January 10.

“The league had just started before Christmas break with our first game against Fraser Heights, which we won by one point,” said **Tony Scott**, senior team coach. Their second game was against Riverside, winning by six points, 55-49.

“We’ve got a lot to develop on, but we’re coming along pretty well right now. There are a lot of young guys on our team; not many seniors,” **Dinyar Bahramfar**, assistant coach, observed. “It’s a matter of them getting a little bit tougher and trying a little bit harder.”

The team will be playing against Byrne Creek at home tonight. They hosted Pine-tree last night, but results were not available at press time.

“The team is showing some signs of improving but we are still experiencing some inconsistent play during our games. We are looking forward to this week’s games, as they are very important for our league standing,” Scott said.

A setback for the team right now is that the players have various degrees of skill and understanding of how to contribute, according to Scott, something which will take them awhile, he said.

Sparks-Guest agrees that they are not fully working together yet. “We need to focus-focus on the task at hand and do our jobs,” he observed.

“Hopefully we can get our groove when it really counts, when it’s in February when we get close to play offs if things work. [There’s] just a lot of missing parts, so we’re just trying to glue things together,” Scott added.

“We have a lot of effort, but sometimes we aren’t really there,” Langhans commented.

Although the team is striving to improve, chances of winning the league is very tough. “It’s a tough league . . . trying to be at the top of the conference is something that we always try for, but to win it, it’s a tough go. We’d like to, but realistically, it’s really difficult,” Scott said.

“For some of them, it’s their first time playing senior basketball, so they don’t know what the difference is in the jump,” Bahramfar said. “But we’ve got a hard working group of kids, so hopefully they could just develop as the season goes along.”

With final exams coming up soon, Langhans finds that time management is the hardest part of being on the team. “We have a lot of school work, but we also have to go to practices, so we can’t procrastinate a lot,” he said.

## Junior girls basketball rising to challenge of stiff competition

**YOUMY HAN**  
staff reporter

Junior girls’ basketball team won two out of three games after a slow start at a tournament on Vancouver Island last weekend. They played a home game against Charles Best on Wednesday night, but results were not available at press time.

At the tournament, Talons lost their first game to Stelly’s Secondary, which is one of the best teams in the province according to coach **Jason Bingley**. But the girls dominated the next two, winning 56-18 and 40-20 over Parkland Secondary and Oak Bay respectively, finishing at fourth place in the tourney.

Players of notice include “**Courtney Bengco** [grade 10] who has become our defensive specialist; **Ariana Baratto** and **Izzy Samaniego** [grade 10 and grade 9] led the team in scoring for the tournament; and **Lauren Pettifer** [grade 10] who played great defense and was a dominant rebounder,” said Bingley.

“We definitely attacked the net more in our last two games, and played both aggressive defence and offense,” said Baratto. Prior to the Island tournament, the girls played three games. They lost to Notre Dame, 54-25, and to Burnaby Mountain, 37 – 34.

The girls defeated Archbishop Carney by 12 points on Thursday, January 12.

“We made our schedule so that we’re playing against a lot of tough teams... that the girls [have] to play hard. If they want to win, we’ve got to beat some really good teams,” said Bingley.

“What I would like to see is more dedication from a lot of the players. It’ll be really good if they can come to every single practice, and pay really close attention to the plays we’re trying to do,” said co-coach **Heidi Upton**.

“Early in the season we’ve been a bit inconsistent. We had some games where... [the team] played at a dominant high level, and some other games we just had some inconsistency,” added Bingley.

In the next four to five weeks, the girls will be battling against all the teams in Coquitlam.

Bingley explained that “Coquitlam [is] always considered as probably the toughest district in the province. Even just getting the girls into the playoffs would be good,” he said.

“Right now we played probably about six or seven games, and we’ve had three losses. I think realistically, our team goal is to get into the Fraser Valleys,” said Bingley.

“Anything after that would probably be a bonus because we are quite a young team,” he added.

## Grade 9 boys learning ropes of competing at high school

**HELEN DOO**  
staff reporter

The grade 9 boys basketball team is off to a rough start, but is learning the key concepts of building a team and what it feels like to play at a high school level.

“The boys have drastically improved since the start of the year,” said **Drew Slaght**, volunteer coach.

“They have made huge improvements individually in their skill development and overall understanding of the game, both offensively and defensively, but we still have a lot of work to do before we begin achieving certain goals,” he added.

Coach Slaght used to play for the Glenagle basketball team right through to his senior year, and has played basketball for college level teams as well as a touring team overseas.

The boys have played a number of exhibition games and only three league games so

far, in which they have won one of the last three league games. They won by one point in triple overtime against Port Moody, lost by 66-15 to Heritage Woods which was “a very tough game for us,” Slaght said, and lost 45-28 to Terry Fox.

“My expectations of the team collectively are to work hard at every opportunity to get better. I have always challenged the boys to treat each day as a chance to improve. It’s a mindset that we have been trying to develop,” said Slaght.

“The boys are expected to be at practice each day and to commit to one another as a team. These are very important values that we hold as a team,” Slaght said.

“I think with our focus on improving with each day the team will see success come their way down the road, but the challenge is to stay focused on what we are trying to accomplish as a team,” he added.

The teamwork continued last night against Archbishop Carney. Results were not available at press time.



Junior boys sweep home tournament

EMILY KIM  
staff reporter

Dedicating six days a week to basketball has paid off as the junior boys became the New Year’s Classic champions last Saturday. “What I’ve seen from the boys, from grade 9 to grade 10, is that they’ve improved a lot. They’ve become bigger, stronger, faster... we’ve beaten teams this year, that we lost to last year, by 40 or 50 points. That’s a massive improvement,” said **Andrew Lloyd**, head coach.

The team’s hard work is reflected in their respective wins of the New Year’s tourney held on January 13 and 14: 59-42 against Heritage, 58-53 against Kitsilano at the semifinals, and 56-48 against Walnut Grove at the finals.

**Cordell Parker**, grade 9, was titled MVP of the tournament. All-stars

Small but tenacious

MEGAN LAO  
staff reporter

Currently ranked eighth in the province, the senior girls basketball team continued to play hard during a top ten tournament at Centennial late last week.

In the “top ten” tournament, the girls lost to Argyle – ranked seventh in the district - by ten points. The girls also challenged and won against Chilliwack by 10 points and Yale by four points – both ranked eleventh.

“My biggest expectation is that they play hard every game,” said coach, **Patty Anderson**.

Early last week, the Talons defeated Carson Graham with a score of 54-30 on Wednesday, and triumphed in a league game over Mouat by six points.

Tuesday, January 10, the girls lost to Maple Ridge, 53-46 while running into foul trouble.

During the winter break, the Talons competed in Las Vegas winning two games and losing two games.

“They went through their pool play beating everybody. When we got to the elimination round, we ended up going to overtime and we lost; it was a team we should’ve beaten because we were up as many as 10 points at one point... and we let it slip away,” explained Anderson. “With six girls and four games in the course of two days, they were all tired; it was too much.”

“We shouldn’t have even gotten into overtime, but we live and learn and it didn’t even count for anything,” said Anderson.

At a weekend Carney tournament January 6 and 7, the Talons went against New West Secondary- ranked tenth in the province- and lost by seven points in the semifinals. The following day, the girls continued to stretch their abilities and won against Abby College 72-27.

“Our last game was disappointing. I personally wanted to be playing for first, but we couldn’t because we had already lost before,” said **Jessica Jazdarehee**,

included **Grant Gailbraith**, grade 10, and **Arjan Nikpay**, grade 10.

Members, such as captain Galbraith, also known as “the big man”, have yet to hit an obstacle when it comes to his confidence level.

“I’m not intimidated by any schools. I think we’re right up there. We can play with anybody in the province,” said Galbraith.

Nikpay, who Lloyd says “can change a game with his defence” and has won the award of Top Defensive Player of the tournament, also has confidence in the team and is certain they will qualify to participate in the provincials.

“It’s really bad [to lose]. I’m not used to it,” said Nikpay.

Losing is one thing all players handle differently. **Tarik Scott**, grade 10, recognized for his three-point shots, for example, can “get really down” depending on how he has performed.

grade 12. “Since we have such high expectations, every time we lose, we want to win.”

“Though our greatest challenge is our size, we are having a lot of success because we are just playing as smart as we can and we are trying our best at every game,” said **Jaime McLaughlin**, grade 12.

“I think that something challenging also [brings] out the good in us because whenever we are down in a game, we always keep on fighting and never give up,” said Jazdarehee. “We like working through our weaknesses,” she added.

The girls played a league game at Walnut Grove this Tuesday, winning 66-30.

“This team is pretty unified and all of our strengths and weaknesses complement each other,” said McLaughlin.

The girls played a league game at home last night against the number one team in the province, Brookwood. Results were not available at press time.



*Sister forces: grade 11 and grade 9, play tough defense to prevent opponent from driving to the basket.*

“What I try to teach the kids is you don’t get too high for the wins, and you don’t get too low for the losses,” said Lloyd. “You take a look at how you played in a loss, and you try to make some adjustments to improve it. So, it’s not the end of the world losing, and it’s not the ecstasy of the world if we win.”

The team is suffering from various injuries as well, including Galbraith with back issues, and Nikpay with a sore back and additional ankle concerns.

Despite this, the junior boys are a closely knit group of individuals thanks to the support, participation, and effort of every member, including one who does not physically play during games, **Matt Johnson**, grade 10, team manager.

Galbraith’s leadership has also proved to be a significant factor in the team’s success.

“It’s an honour to be captain especially with how good our team is,” said Galbraith. “Being the team captain isn’t about me; it’s about helping the whole team be the best when we need to be the best.”

The boys have had a total of 18 wins and two losses.

Their next opponent will be Bryne Creek, tomorrow, in a home game.

Talons achieve “greatest tournament performance” according to coach

THEO ANG  
staff reporter

Gleneagle wrestling team placed top three out of 26 schools in the Raven Invitational Tournament. There were about 300 wrestlers competing at the Raven Invite, including the provincial team champions of recent years and traditional powerhouse wrestling schools Guilford Park, Burnaby Central, Burnaby South, and Carson Graham.

The senior boys finished first, winning the team score for the



*Blocking out with style: Grade 10, ferociously rebounds the ball, cutting off Pinetree.*

Raven Invite. The girls’ team finished second in the tournament. This was a remarkable win since the team consisted of four girls compared to the first place team which had 13 girls.

“This may have been the single greatest tournament performance by any Gleneagle wrestling team to date,” said **Collin Chung**, coach.

Of the 17 Gleneagle wrestlers entered, 16 of them placed, 11 finished with medals, and 6 made it to the finals in their weight classes. “Before the season started, I considered this year to be a rebuilding year. We lost a lot of great wrestlers last year and a lot of grade 12’s,” said Chung. “That left our team with far less experience than past years so I wasn’t expecting us as dominant as we had been in the last few years,” he added.

In girls competition, gold was awarded to **Julie Cho**, grade 12, in the 60 kg weight class and **Stephanie Ma**, grade 11, in the 43 kg weight class. **Candice Owen**, grade 12, won silver for 60 kg and **Kaila Guimond**, grade 9, won bronze in the 57 kg.

In boys competition, nine Talons came home with hardware. Placing silver were **Edward Metcalf**, grade 11, in 45 kg, **Andrew Chang**, grade 11, in the 54 kg, **Andrew Delos Reyes**, grade 10, for 57 kg, **Alex Li**, grade 10, for the 60 kg and **Sage Sarabosing**, grade 9, for 70 kg.

Bronze was awarded to **Farid Alizadeh**, grade 12, for 48 kg, **Spencer Steele**, grade 11, for 73 kg, **Aiden Daly**, grade 11, in the 63 kg, and **Ayraj Wali**, grade 9, for 57 kg.

Other Talons also finished high in their categories. **Trevor Ennis**, grade 12, placed fourth for 51 kg, **Malique Giordano**, grade 10, placed fourth for 57 kg, and **Vlad Shevchenko**, grade 10, placed fifth for 57 kg.

The 26 wrestlers are grooming their skills under the guidance of four coaches, **Doug Mancell**, **Mark Tustin**, **Anthony Giordano**, and Chung.

“As far as coaching goes we have the richest coaching, wrestling staff of any high school that I know of,” said Chung.

“We’re doing good. We have a fantastic team; we have good coaches and I think we’re going to play really well this year,” said Malique Giordano.

“I love coaching these guys. They pay attention in practice so it’s a pleasure to [watch] when we get out on the mat and to actually [see them] do what you teach,” said Anthony Giordano, community coach.

Wrestling tends to be a combination between a team sport and an individual sport.

Owen says, “As a whole I think we’re doing pretty good. It’s just we need to work on our attendance but we have good teamwork and team spirit.”

Anthony Giordano believes that “the team’s just going to keep growing and getting better and hopefully by the end of the season, we’ll have a couple of place winners at zones. I think we could have at least seven zone place winners and then maybe even a couple of place winners over the BC’s,” he added.

# Teens @ Evergreen create movie magic for festival



ASTRID HEYERDAHL PHOTO

**Talons show-off talent:** Among other students, grade 12, lists ideas for the upcoming documentary, *Emergence*. The film will premiere in the Studio Theatre at the Emerging Talent Festival, taking place January 22, 2012.

**SUMBUL VALLANI**  
staff reporter

Students from Glenagle Secondary School plan to shine in their film making skills at the Emerging Talent Festival taking place January 22, 2012.

**Travis Anderson**, grade 11, **Chanelle Mathews**, grade 12, and **Ana Semyonova**, grade 12, along with other students from across District 43, have been working since October, with a professional documentary filmmaker, **Pia Massie**, on two short films. These films will premiere in the Studio Theatre at the time of the festival, which will celebrate Evergreen's 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

**Astrid Heyerdahl**, Visual Arts Manager, is in charge of running the *Teens @ Evergreen* program at the Evergreen Cultural Centre. Interaction between students throughout the Tri-Cities plays a huge role in the teamwork skills of the program volunteers. Members put forward their

ideas for the films, which also helps them openly discuss and communicate with each other.

"We are the ones who are working on the film and the ones who are creating the actual piece that is supposed to be put in at the end," said Anderson.

"The titles of the two documentaries are *Emergence* and *The Best Revenge*. Travis Anderson, Anna Semyonova and Chanelle Mathews have been working on *Emergence*," said Heyerdahl. High school students from other District 43 schools are working on the other documentary.

The annual Emerging Talent XV exhibition runs from January 13 to February 18 at Evergreen Cultural Centre. The work of many committed young artists is being displayed. The exhibition, which features the work predominantly of grade 12 students, is open to all members of the community.

Gleneagle students whose work is on display at the gallery include **Donna Kim**, **Christine Park**, **Xena Choi**,

**Yilin Wang**, **Spencer Wang**, and **Gloria Han**, all grade 12. Some of these students will be interviewed about their pieces for the documentaries.

"The purpose of The Emerging Talent Festival is to publish young artists' artwork while they are only at the beginning of their careers in art. The festival tells people about the teenage society – about their talents, interests and inspirations," said Semyonova.

Volunteers have been trying to work around their schedules as much as possible to devote the time needed for *Teens @ Evergreen* to run successfully. The meetings are held every Monday at 4:30 p.m. and sometimes on other days during the week when more time is needed.

"The program isn't very strict with hours. They respect that we are indeed teenagers trying to make our way in the world. In fact, the program's meant to support students like us. We show up when we can, or even on our own hours to get some work done," said Mathews.

## Student scriptwriters face challenges

**MARIANNE ALCALA**  
staff reporter

Some of Gleneagle's drama students will be demonstrating their creativity by presenting their own original scripts on stage this week.

In the course, Directing and Scriptwriting, **Ashley Freeborn**, drama teacher, instructs her class how to write their own plays, and direct their fellow students. She challenges them to bring their works to life, on stage.

"With a certain number of students in the class . . . they either write an original play, or they adapt a play, or a story, or a book, or a movie," said Freeborn. "They range anywhere from drama, comedy and some spoofs."

The students started working on their plays in mid-November and are now wrapping them up. Though it sounds fun, it is not easy to write your own play.

"[It's] difficult," said **Kayla Demsey**, grade 12. "The hardest part is portraying a character the way you want the audience to view them."

The drama students first started the year doing small assignments and are now ending the semester with one play, all different, but with the same hard work and effort put into them. They receive their inspiration from anywhere in their lives. Whether it is from a movie or their own experiences, the students have applied them to their plays. The students looked excited and relieved to finish.

However, plays are more than just a presentation on a stage.

**Ed Ross**, grade 12, said, "I've always been interested in plays that are more residual. They make the audience think about it rather than 'Oh it was a nice play. Now what?' It actually ends with something."

The drama students are presenting their original plays tonight and tomorrow night at 7:00 p.m.



**EMERGING  
TALENT XV**  
Featuring SD43 students  
January 13 - February 18  
Art Gallery at Evergreen