

Gleneagle's Student Voice

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theEdge

Serious or curious: art students explore future



LIZZY DOCTO PHOTO

Not quite a butterfly: Grade 12, displays her self-portrait, a metaphor for her growth as a person and an artist. Manning was one of the several Gleneagle artists presenting their work at Portfolio Day at Emily Carr University. She was privileged to have her portfolio accepted by the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. See page 8 for story.

JASON ROBERTS

staff reporter

Aspiring artists got a taste of what lies ahead, looking at possible careers and how they might get there, at the post-secondary night for visual arts.

This is the first year there has been a post-secondary night for visual arts in the district. Eleven institutions promoted multiple programs.

As co-initiator of the post-secondary night, **Mike McElgunn**, art department head, stated "We've had an amazing response from the post-secondary institutions. . . we're getting things we didn't even know existed."

The scale of the post-secondary night was large; the turnout was huge; some of the classrooms were packed to the door. A major point in getting the institutions to come was to promise a large crowd.

Students from all over District 43 attended, but invitations were also sent out to schools in Burnaby, New Westminster, and Maple Ridge. Each program was assigned their own classroom and gave a 30 minute briefing on what they had to offer, examples of student work, and details on entrance, followed by a ten minute question period. The program ran from 7:00 to 8:30.

Typically schools host academic post-secondary evenings. Any student interested in fine arts was left to their own devices.

Digital Media teacher **Jodey Udell** brought the idea

forward and along with McElgunn took it to the district art teachers meeting where the idea was well received.

"We wanted to give an opportunity for the arts kids to have that same experience for the kinds of institutions they're looking at," McElgunn said.

Through all of the programs Udell and McElgunn have found, ranging from Capilano University interactive design, to Vancouver animation school, to 3-D animation, to VanArts Media School acting for film, they found some common interest with drama.

Certain programs interest visual arts students as well as performing arts students.

"I've thrown it out to the district drama teachers saying: we've got some overlap. . . and maybe next year we can make it a visual and performing arts night," McElgunn said.

Students share Christmas spirit in school, community

JORDAN LOUIE

staff reporter

"Christmas week is all about getting everyone in a festive spirit. You can really sense the community of bringing everyone together," **Kimberly Woo**, grade 10 said.

Gleneagle's annual Christmas week and food drive are both beginning soon. The Christmas week this year will include events such as delicious Santa-grams, a Christmas concert featuring talented Gleneagle music students, festive hot chocolate, and a *Where's Waldo*-inspired reindeer scavenger hunt.

Student council members are putting together this special event to help bring the school community together. "This is a really great event, especially for the new students to start feeling more a part of the school," Woo said.

"With everyone helping out, I'm sure we can get things done," **Youmy Han**, grade 12 added.

The food drive is also another annual event that brings community to the school.

"It's really awesome for school spirit," **Kelly Bryant**, grade 12 said.

The donations students bring go to our local SHARE food bank. "It's really important that we realize that at Christmas time, there are a lot of people who are hungry and while we're having our wonderful dinners, a lot of people don't have food," Bryant said.

The food drive is a helpful way to bring awareness to our school about others in need. Global Issues runs this food drive every year to give back to our community.

"It's really important we do this every year so that we promote awareness and promote local food banks as well," Bryant added.

The boxes for collecting food will be in the foyer for two to three weeks. Many teachers give extra credit to students who bring food in, to encourage students to become a part of this helpful event.

UPCOMING EVENTS

**December 19th
Christmas Concert**

**December 21st
Last Day of Classes**

**January 7th
School Reopens**

Shopping, studying, stress, snow: Christmas ups, downs

Winter vacation is steadily approaching, and everyone is getting into the cheery, holiday spirit. Houses are glowing with red and green lights, snowmen are popping up in every shop window, and Christmas carols can be heard all around. Surrounded by uplifting music and jolly décor, it's hard to think about anything else, right?

Wrong. As students, we tend to have more shoved on our plates than almost any other time of year, and unfortunately, it's not just Christmas dinner. In the little time we have left before our break, teachers are cramming in projects, quizzes, tests, presentations – basically anything and everything they can.

While we should be out Christmas shopping, we're stuck at home, scrambling to get our work done, staying up way later than we should be.

In the end, we don't even have time to be excited – we're too busy studying.

When we finally reach our long anticipated vacation, most likely, we won't even be able to relax. Many of us have provincial exams slowly creeping up on us, and

will spend most of the "break" cramming information in our already overflowing brains.

With all school related concerns aside, we still have to worry about preparing for the holidays. Venturing out into the crazily packed malls surrounded by bustling people and competitive shoppers is a trial on its own.

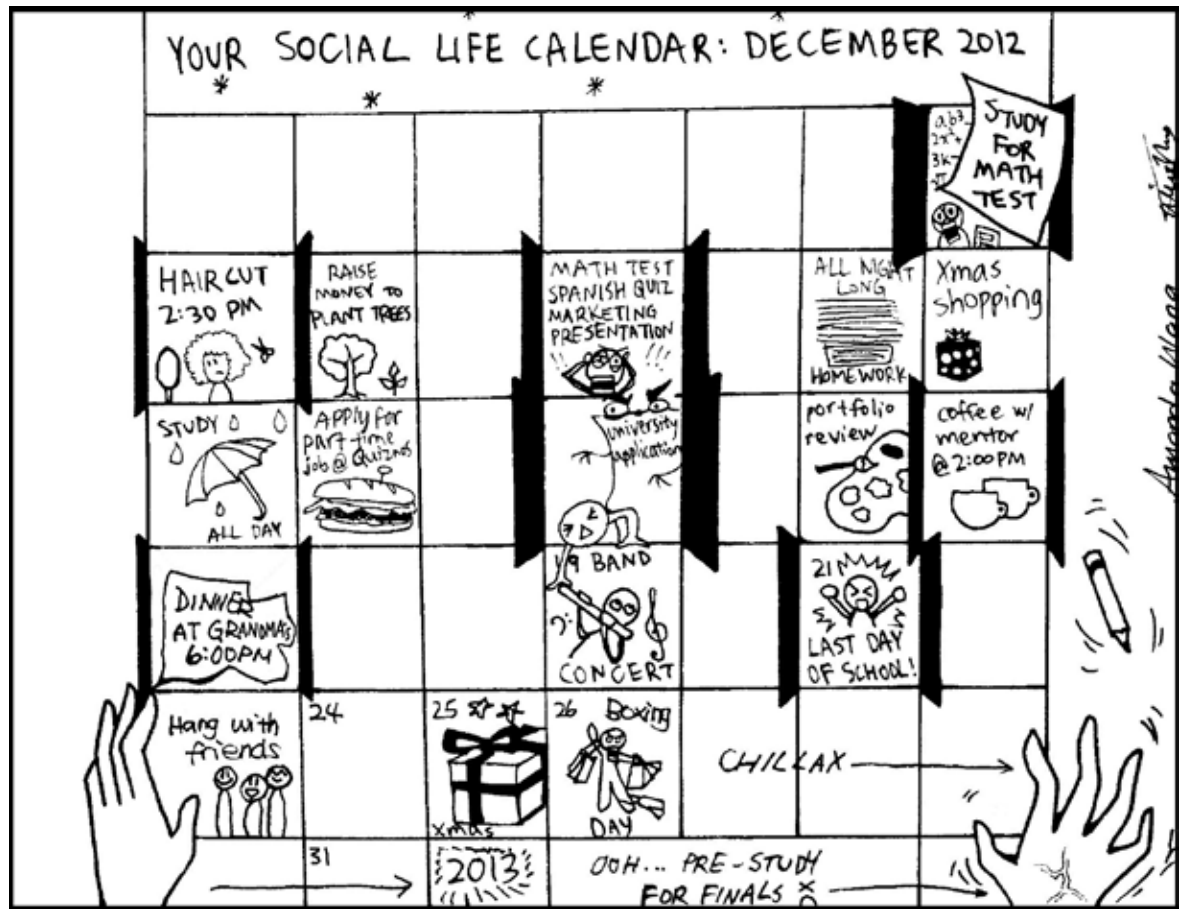
It's hard enough to find time to shop while school's still in session and it's near impossible to find anything worth giving close to Christmas time.

Pushing and shoving for the last candy cane, scrambling to get a spot in line – Christmas shopping is, simply put, *dreadful*. Don't even mention Boxing Day...

Not to throw even more stress at you all, but guess what also falls on the last day of school this year, December 21?

That's right, the supposed end of the world. This may come as a relief – no more exams! You may have to stock up on those canned foods.

Just kidding. There are numbers of people who may be terrified of this upcoming date, and who genuinely believe that the world is coming to an end. But then there are many, many others who shut



the idea down from the minute they heard of it.

No matter what you believe, 2012 will inevitably come to an end. The new year will come around, full of fresh opportunities, new

experiences and of course, more troubles and challenges.

Despite everything – all the projects, presents and provincials – you have to keep your head up and work hard.

Take a deep breath, and enjoy this joy-filled season. And maybe, just maybe, if we are blessed with a white Christmas, get out and enjoy the snow. Have a very merry Christmas, and happy holidays to all!

What to look for in Canucks this year – if we get a season at all



edge columnist

They were also able to re-up some current Canuck players to new contracts such as **Cory Schneider** and fan favourite **Alexandre Burrows**.

The Canucks signed Garrison to a six year, 27.6 million dollar contract. He will make on average 4.6 million dollars per year with the organization. Many were surprised by this contract as most believe he could have gone elsewhere for more money. People suggest that he took a pay cut on

been 50 plus points seasons.

Although the Canucks were able to sign good players, we lost some at the same time. Long time Canuck **Sami Salo** left via free agency and signed with the Tampa Bay Lightning. He was a solid offensive defenseman, and should be missed. He played with the Canucks organization for 11 straight years. They also lost stay at home defenseman **Aaron Rome** to free agency; he signed with the Dallas Stars.

The Luongo era is over, and it's time for the Schneider era to start

purpose because he wanted to play for his hometown and favourite team growing up, the Vancouver Canucks.

He brings a much needed offensive punch to the blue line as the Canucks lost their most offensive defensemen of 2010-2011 (Stanley Cup final season) **Christian Erhoff**, due to free agency.

Burrows was signed to a four year, 18 million dollar extension which works out to be an average of 4.5 million per year. This is a very good contract for the Canucks as the Sedins and Burrows are arguably the best line in the NHL.

Burrows has had four straight 25 goal plus seasons for the Canucks and of those four seasons, three of them have

Roberto Luongo, the Canucks goaltender for many years now, is likely to get traded by the end of this off-season. Many thought he would have been traded by now, but to most people's surprise Canucks general manager **Mike Gillis** has not pulled the trigger yet. My guess is that he is waiting for teams to get desperate for goaltenders, so that Luongo's trade value rises. Why is Luongo undoubtedly going to be traded? There are many, many reason for this. It could be because of his overpaid contract that is haunting the Canucks, preventing them signing better players.

It could be because when any sort of pressure starts to mount on his shoulders, he folds like a house of cards. I would say

the main reason for his 'soon to be' absence is because of Schneider, the Canucks back-up goalie.

Schneider has shown that he can easily be a full time goalie in the NHL, but has had to wait in the wings behind Luongo. But now those days are over. Everyone, including the Canucks organization, has realized that Schneider is clearly the better goaltender.

Luongo has been a solid goalie for the Canucks, no questions asked. But he has failed to show up for the organization in key times, such as the play-offs. The Luongo era is over, and it's time for the Schneider era to start.

The one missing spot on the blueline will be filled by blooming young prospect **Chris Tanev**, a calm young defensemen who handles pressure well. Any tweaking the Canucks could use, should be fixed by the players in return resulting from the 'soon to happen' Luongo trade.

The Canucks will yet again be a top contender for the Stanley Cup next year with weapons up front such as **Daniel Sedin, Henrik Sedin, Ryan Kessler, Chris Higgins, David Booth**, and Burrows.

Their defensive lineup will contain talented players such as **Kevin Bieksa, Dan Hamuis, Garrison**, and all-star defensemen **Alexander Edler**. And of course let's not forget Schneider, the biggest piece of the puzzle, who will hopefully live up to the enormous amount of hype he has acquired.

theEdge

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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 your favourite Christmas tradition?

YOU SAID IT!



Grade 9
"Eating turkey for dinner."



Grade 10
"Baking gingerbread and shortbread cookies."



Grade 11
"Making homemade cinnamon buns and orange juice."



Grade 12
"Stuffing myself with food until I can't make any quick movements."

Joy of pregnancy, as long as it's not a girl



edge columnist

The three most haunting words to some mothers in places like China, India, or even North America is "it's a girl." You would think that bringing another life into this world whether it is a boy or a girl is a blessing but many view it as a curse. Gendercide is gender-selective mass killing; in countries such as China and northern

India, it is the mass killing of baby girls. Over 120 boys are being born for every 100 girls. Approximately 160 million girls have been killed either before or after birth over the last three decades through gendercide.

In China, the one child policy causes parents to have an even bigger desire to give birth to a boy.

Because of this law, many parents sacrifice

and ensure that the family name will be passed on for many more generations.

Many of the daughters who are born into poor, unstable families become prostitutes and are used in inhumane ways to earn small wages for their family.

You may be thinking that this only happens to the lower class because they need the support of a boy.

recommendations: funding more research on gendercide, ensuring ethical use of technology, promoting measures to support girls and women, enacting legislation to address root causes, and raising awareness about gendercide in society.

Although Asia sees the highest rates of gendercide, it exists on almost every continent. It affects many people regardless of financial state, religion, and race.

This issue really got me thinking. Living in Canada, where girls are not systemically devalued, gendercide may seem a difficult concept to relate to.

Although we may not have everything, for the most part, both males and females in Canada have many more opportunities than both sexes in several other parts of the world. Perhaps whatever we are given, whether humble or grand, it should be treasured. If you have a roof over your head, food to eat, family and friends to keep you company, and a school to go to, you are one of the most fortunate people in this world.

And being thankful for what we have is important, especially when so many people have so much less.

Gendercide is gender-selective mass killing . . . it is the mass killing of baby girls

their unborn or newborn girl in hopes of conceiving a boy on the next try.

In other countries where the one child policy is not enforced, baby girls are victims of ancient prejudice or modern preferences for small families.

The girls are unfortunately aborted, killed or neglected.

Having a boy in the family is valued because for some destitute families, assistance with physical labour is desperately required.

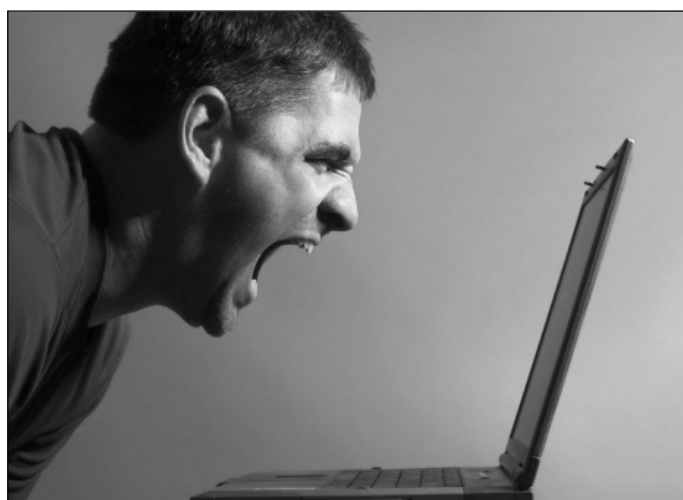
In the Chinese culture, sons are necessary because they bring honour to the family

However, statistics say that the worst sex ratios are located in the richest, best-educated areas.

This is not just a single problem, but creates chain reactions. It may result in millions of single unemployed men, rising military spending, expanding sex trade, buying and selling of children, HIV/AIDS epidemic, and orphanages overcrowded with unwanted girls.

International government leaders can make a difference by speaking against gendercide and pushing through funding to act on five

Letters to the editor:



[Re: Take a step back, value legacy of Canadian soldiers]

I agree that we do take our privileged lives for granted quite often, and that we don't realize what has been sacrificed in order for this. When life gets somewhat difficult, we don't think about the suffering that is taking place in the world, for example, people who are starving in poor countries.

- Kimberly Tay

[Re: Six String Nation gives voice to Canadian diversity]

I thought this guitar was amazing and it's a phenomenal experience for some of Gleneagle's students to hold or play it. It really explains Canada's diversity and I hope other people appreciate the Voyageur.

- Cassidy Fraser

[Re: Lest we forget soldiers who died for Canada's future]

The article about the Remembrance Day assembly evoked my memory of the soldiers who died defending our country. Remembrance Day reminds us of that, but we shouldn't only be thankful of our freedom on that day. So be thankful . . . everyday.

- Theresa Lee

[Re: Funding shortfalls, changes the school calendar impact education]

Most kids think that getting days off is great, and it won't make any difference to our education, myself included. It was only after I read this article that I learnt about how bad these constant four-day school weeks are. We are being cheated out of school hours, and I agree that this cannot continue.

- AJ Labouaoula

[Re: Struggle of making it through the day as a pregnant teen]

I've noticed many girls acting pregnant around the school and I agree that is a crucial experience in order to understand it. However, I don't understand how this compares to actually being pregnant. Also, someone has said that because of this experience, it changed their views and so they didn't want to get pregnant. I want to ask, just from acting pregnant and discovering the struggles, would your opinion last?

- Eileen Hwang

I feel teen pregnancy is highly glamourized and the Child Development course gives a harsh reality on how hard it actually is. I think girls (and guys) need to be prepared if it ever happens.

- Nikki Salindong

[Re: Talons display their amazing talents at Circle Craft Christmas Market]

I love this article. The drawings shown are beautiful and stunning and it's great to know how many talented artists there are in our school. This inspires me to learn more about art.

- Joanna Chang

TALONS spotlight famous, talented, inspiring individuals

MAUREEN LAO
staff reporter

From **Ellen DeGeneres** to **Walt Disney**, the hallways and rooms of the top floor were filled with eminent people and learning centres presented by the TALONS students during the TALONS Night of Notables on Wednesday, November 21. Students presented their project to the guests who consisted of family, friends, and TALONS alumni.

Eminent people were chosen for different reasons whether it was because that person was their idol, inspiration, or someone they “[found] a personal connection to or they want to learn from,” **Bryan Jackson**, TALONS teacher said. “[**Francis Mawson Rattenbury**, an architect] is an inspiration to me because I want to be an architect when I grow up and I want to have as major of an impact as he did,” said **Troy Brown**, grade 9. According to **Max Hall**, grade 9, “[Disney] is so influential to children and instead of saying when you grow up, it’s kind of like saying as you are a child just be yourself.”

The eminent people who were chosen ranged from spies, to inventors, to comedians. **Jeffery Gao**, grade 10, explained “I am **Julian Assange**. He created *Wikileaks* and he has helped revolutions across the globe. I chose him because he seemed like a very important person who has helped many escape from oppressive regimes and he is an inspiration for people of the future.”

Cassidy Stahr, grade 10 said, “I chose **J.K Rowling**. She’s known for writing the *Harry Potter* series- what shot her to fame. I had her decided ever since last year, when eminent person ended when I was in grade 9.”

The speeches that the grade 10’s delivered to the guests later on that night were impressive. Not only were they in costume, but also they were in character acting as the notable person.

“For gifted people to find the way that they are going to make their unique impact in the world, it is helpful for them to have either mentors or role models that lived outside the realm of expectation for them and their time,” Jackson said. “And I think learning how **Isaac Newton** managed to do what he did or **Virginia Wolf** or **Sylvia Plath** . . . seeing how they go through that, is valuable.”

“Through this project [we] learned in many different



“Is there no way out of the mind?”: Grade 10, presents her learning centre about the emotionally turbulent, yet successful 20th century poet, Sylvia Plath. Notable backgrounds ranged from literary, to political, to scientific.

aspects. . . to talk to different people . . . to learn to research, to learn about different perspectives on the world,” said Gao. “If you research someone who is different from you, and just going to the learning stations of the different people, you can learn the perspectives of the people around the world,” he added.

Jackson added, “There is also a personal piece that goes along [with this project], especially for the grade 10’s in doing something that is bigger than they think they can pull off

right now. The fact that they . . . know by the end of the night that they can do this kind of thing that this morning was maybe scary or impossible is, I think, a huge thing to learn.”

According to Turcott, “We are meant to learn more about . . . different people and develop different skills such as communication, presenting, and artwork, organization skills, public speaking, and planning skills.”

The best part is “seeing the grade 10’s realize that they can do this. . . it is pretty cool to see,” said Jackson.

Demons to dumplings: students explore Japanese culture

JENNIFER KOU
staff reporter

Japanese students are exploring the culture and tradition of Japan through various creative projects.

The grade 10 students are learning about ancient Japanese traditions and creating their own ‘demons’.

“Some students really like to go crazy with this project,” said **Douglas Mancell**, the Japanese teacher.

Since prehistoric times, people have been fascinated with demons.

Demons are present in many Japanese legends and folklore. Because Japan is situated close to a natural fault line, it is often subject to earthquakes, tsunamis, typhoons, and even blizzards; the Japanese created the ‘oni’ (demon) in their folklore to explain these disasters.

They are typically depicted as neckless; instead, they have a large mouth and a crest of fur. The oni have horns, clawed hands, and elongated arms. There are a large variety of demons present in Japanese folklore, and their appearance may differ slightly based on the type of demon they are. For example, earth oni, responsible for disease and epidemics, is depicted dressed in red.

“I let the students invent their own demon that may or may not resemble the “standard” Japanese physical characteristics,” said Mancell.

“I think it’s interesting because the demon is completely created by us. It’s all fictional and kind of like a story,” said **Kathryn Floropoulos**, grade 10.

Students are given much room for creativity and many take advantage of the loose criteria

to create an almost real life for their demon.

“The only guidelines are we have to create a family, pets, and a village for the demon,” said Floropoulos.

“This project allows people to express some aspects, possibly remotely related to themselves, in a risk free manner using their imagination to create whatever they want,” said Mancell.

It is a project designed to help students review all the material they have previously learned and also a creative challenge.

The grade 11 students study Japanese

marketing and restaurant displays by creating an artificial meal display like one sees in the front window of a Japanese restaurant.

“The grade 11’s have been working really hard all year so I thought it best to lighten-up on them a little,” said Mancell.

The students use materials such as clay, plaster of paris, papier-mâché, or even just plain paper to create a 3D model.

“They’re supposed to look lifelike and realistic,” said **Shannon Bryan**, grade 11.

While making their models, students

had the opportunities to study the local Japanese restaurants and learn more about their cuisine. “It’s interesting to find out about new foods,” said **Heidi Beattie**, grade 11. “But it’s also hard because we have to . . . match it to how it’s priced in Japan.”

“We have to create six items and a drink,” said **Tiffany Lam**, grade 11.

“I’m making edamame (soybeans in the pod), melon bread, kamaboko (fish paste/ fish loaf), onigiri (rice and seaweed), dango (Japanese dumpling), and tamagoyaki (grilled egg roll) and green tea as the drink.”

Hairdressing grad wins scholarship at Suki’s

BRENDAN PARK
staff reporter

Gleneagle alumna has been awarded a scholarship for a week training session at a prestigious hairdressing academy.

Mikalia Khan, Gleneagle graduate of 2012, was given a rare opportunity from Suki’s International Academy located in downtown Vancouver. Of the hundreds of hairstylists applying for the scholarship, only one individual was eligible to receive a week long course of advanced hairdressing instruction.

Khan is the first graduate of Gleneagle’s hairdressing program to receive the scholarship. She participated in the in-depth hair-cutting techniques session this past fall.

She is then planning to go to Japan where she will pursue a hairdressing career.

“The hairdressing there is the kind of hairdressing I want to do. The styles of what they want is more of something I’m interested [and] comfortable . . . with,” Khan

said.

“I am thrilled for Mikalia. She is someone I can rely on and she deserved this,” said **Janna McCullough**, hairdressing teacher. “[Mikalia is] a hard-working and talented student.”

Khan had been haircutting five years before the hairdressing class at Gleneagle. She was able to cut and colour her own hair without any training on her own. She also had friends with whom she was able to practice her use of colour.

“I like to cut people’s hair because I like to give them a completely new appearance. You can change someone greatly just by changing their hair and can give them the confidence boost they might need. It can really change a person’s outlook on life,” Khan said.

According to Khan, the hairdressing program helped Khan substantially.

McCullough was the biggest inspiration that she had.

The ACE-IT hairdressing program offered at Gleneagle is a one-year long class in

MAUREEN LAO PHOTO

Writing 12 students wax eloquent at spoken word festival

KAILA GUIMOND
staff reporter

Gleneagle students took pride in their writing and shared it November 23, at the Spoken Word Festival at Terry Fox Secondary School. Forty-two students, from grades 9 to 12, participated in this event. **Hannah Kim**, grade 11; **Alice Zhang**, grade 12, and **Cassie Baratelli**, grade 12, proudly represented Gleneagle with their literary pieces.

Kim was awarded gold for her piece *Welcome to the Dungeon of Studying* the 'This I Believe' category. She was trying to "express how students these days are suffering from studying" and wanted to send a message to the audience and judges. "[Students] don't have time to relax . . . I thought the judges and the audience would be very serious about it but they were actually laughing because I was talking about physics and math."

She got her writing inspiration from a dream she had. "Recently, I have been working very hard on my classes . . . Then, in the middle of the night, I had a nightmare about physics and math and then I started to write about it," said Kim. "I worked on it and practiced . . . every day, for about two weeks."

In Writing 12 online, "[the students] were all supposed to write an open mic piece. The presenting part wasn't mandatory but I just wanted to do it because I thought it would be a challenge," Kim said. "And it was a great success. I would love to do it again if I have the chance."



KAILA GUIMOND PHOTO

Contemplating the seconds and moments: Student delivers her poignant piece despite some performance anxiety. This is the first time she has participated in the Spoken Word Festival, but probably not her last.

For Zhang, she also hopes for another opportunity in May at the semester two Spoken Word festival. Her writing piece for the Poetry Slam category is all about taking opportunities. Her piece, titled *Seconds and Moments*, "had this big theme about time passing and how it hurts to see all those glorious days go away," said Zhang. "But there is opportunity to find them again and make the best out of the

time you still have left in this world."

This was Zhang's first time presenting at the Spoken Word Festival - her first time in any festival. "I'm a pretty agitated person, so I got kind of nervous in the beginning and I kept thinking 'oh my goodness it's almost my turn,'" said Zhang. "But then when I got up there all I thought was 'okay Alice, you're up there to say what you were practicing. You've practiced for this; this is your moment.'"

Zhang thought about the idea and message behind *Seconds and Moments* for a long time but never put it into words until the festival. "It's really personal because I felt that as a kid, I didn't really go out and do a lot of things like join many clubs and activities. I feel like all that precious time is gone now. And all I can think is 'oh my goodness I'm graduating this year!'...I wished I chased down those days better."

Gleneagle entrepreneurial students build ideas through networking

DONYA POURTAGHI
staff reporter

Students from Gleneagle put their entrepreneurial minds to work at the Mini Enterprize conference on November 24. The event was open to all high school students in the Lower Mainland, and was hosted by the Sauder School of Business at the University of British Columbia.

The conference was not designed solely for business orientated people, but for anyone who is quick on their feet and full of ideas. Mini Enterprize gives students the opportunity to understand the process of being an entrepreneur through many aspects of the business, from speeches by Keynote speakers to customized workshops taught by professionals. "My first workshop was about emotional intelligence, and the speaker talked about how that was more important than IQ," said **Sarah Lee**, grade 10. "He told us how we can understand people by how they act and their personality and how it's important to have different types of people in your business." Every

student could choose from a wide range of workshops the conference had to offer. Theory went hand in hand with practice, when the students participated in the case competition held in the latter half of the day. The case competition was where participants could apply what they learned in their workshops to a real life scenario.

"We take a problem or a situation that has already taken place in real life and students that are placed randomly in groups of seven, must use their own ideas to produce a solution to that problem," said **Scott Lee**, grade 12 and leader of the Mini Enterprize organizational committee.

This year's dilemma was Blackberry's drop in popularity among consumers. Students had to find a way to re-introduce Blackberry back into the market by changes in design and advertising.

"My team focused the product towards social networking instead of business purposes. We would do this by making a physical key on the Blackberry that would go straight to Facebook, for example. We came up with this idea within an hour," said **Jason Roh**, grade 12.

Other students, like **Lavender Huang** were curious about the world of business and felt like Mini Enterprize was a great way to get a feel for what a career in business might be like.

"One of the main reasons I went to Mini Enterprize was . . . to network, because I feel like people who spend their Saturday to go to UBC for this conference means that they actually think about their future. They feel passionate about business and that's what I'm leaning towards now for my future," Huang said.

"When you have an idea and you want to spur it into action, . . . that readiness comes from either having enough resources to do it, by promoting your idea to others and just being ready yourself by making sure you have the necessary skills such as public speaking and things like that," said Scott Lee.

"That's what Mini Enterprize is. We're combining all those aspects of entrepreneurship and we're delivering it through a one day conference," he added.

Re-Act students give back to community with X-mas stockings

REBECCA MACDONALD
staff reporter

Gleneagle's Re-ACT team embraced the Christmas spirit as they created holiday stockings for local children in need. This marks the third year of Gleneagle's involvement in the initiative, part of a community project sponsored by TELUS, with the goal of improving lives in the local community. Thirty Re-ACT students dedicated three weeks to organizing, decorating, and filling 16 unique Christmas stockings for less fortunate children across the Lower Mainland.

"It's really exciting," said **Raiya Suleman**, grade 12, founder and leader of the Re-ACT team. "This is more than we've accomplished in both previous years... My parents both work for TELUS and I remember always doing [the stocking project] as a kid. It's such a great way to give back to the community."

Although the students won't know exactly

where their stockings are going, for the sake of confidentiality, they have been assigned ages and genders of children who might need a little help to celebrate the holidays with their families. Stockings are filled to the brim with everything from hair accessories to action figures to chocolates, all provided by Gleneagle students in a

generous act of kindness. Members of Re-ACT have successfully run over 25 events so far, the annual stocking project being the kick-off to the year. Suleman has also brought Real Acts of Caring to the school, encouraging students to improve others' days through anonymous gestures.

Many Re-ACT members are graduating

"It doesn't take a lot of time and effort; just that little bit of reaching out can make a huge difference"

generous act of kindness.

"I just think that it's really important that families who need a bit of help during the holidays will get it," added **Natalie Kraemer**, grade 9, who will be co-leading the team next year alongside **Emlyn Swartzberg**, grade 10. "It doesn't take a lot of time and effort; just that little bit of reaching out can make a huge difference."

Both Kraemer and Swartzberg joined the club this year, intrigued by the focus

students. Suleman hopes that in the upcoming school year, while she will continue to keep in touch and ensure things go smoothly, Swartzberg and Kraemer will lead a new team to continue work in the school and community.

"Re-ACT is a great opportunity to share your time with the community, and to pitch in," said Swartzberg, "Anyone is welcome to join. Starting in January, we [Swartzberg and Kraemer] are going to

be alternating leading the meetings. It's a great leadership opportunity. We hope to continue all the traditional events, such as the stockings, which are always a favourite, as well as introducing some new projects."

"One of our next events will likely be sandwich making. That will be in January. **Jonathan Toews** [grade 12, Re-ACT member] said that he does sandwich making for the less fortunate with his church every Friday, so we're going to meet up with them and make some as well," Kraemer commented.

Other events Re-ACT has organized in the past include posting post-it notes covered in positive messages around the school, handing out flowers, and baking cookies for stressed students the week before exams. The group meets every second Thursday over the lunch hour.

"It feels really great to do something positive for someone else," Suleman explained, "It's just such an amazing ripple effect."

Promising start to senior girls basketball



BRENDAN PARK PHOTO

Barging through defense lines: Grade 12, dribbles fiercely towards the net while dodging Riverside opponent. The girls lost a tough game to Riverside on Monday.

STEPHANIE LUI
staff reporter

Despite a 64-24 loss to highly ranked Riverside on Monday night, the senior girls basketball team is kicking off their pre-season action with a promising start.

With eight wins out of the nine exhibition games, the girls are training hard to build a stronger team.

“We are working harder than any team out there,” said **Patty Anderson**, coach. “It’s our mantra...we do not tire...we are conditioned to work harder than any other team regardless of score.”

This year’s team is a combination of grades 8 to 12, bringing in a variety of skill levels.

“As a whole, we are very dedicated and hardworking,” said **Chiara Bordignon**, grade 11. “We are very fast, athletic, and are constantly improving with every game.”

“I feel the team is strong with good leadership from [four players] that have been with me since grade 8,” explained Anderson. “There is a lot of caring... the girls are starting to understand their individual roles for the team.”

An ambitious and diligent team, the senior girls strive to overcome obstacles during play. “Because we’re such a new team, we are still learning about each other’s strengths and weaknesses,” said **Ariana Baratto**, grade 11. “Communication is a big area we need to focus on to work better as a unit.”

“We watch our game on camera so we can see our mistakes and learn from them,” explained **Julianna Lee**, grade 10. “Our assistant coach takes stats of each game so we can specifically pinpoint which part of our game we need to work on.”

Playing in the top AAA tier 1 league, the girls are competing against teams that are ranked top 15 in the province. “Everyone in this league is our competitor...there is no easy game but always a learning experience,” said Bordignon.

“The challenges the team will face this year is the high skill level of other teams and the strength and height of other teams,” said **Sara Knowles**, grade 8. “But if we work together as a team, I know we can overcome these challenges”.

“No doubt we do come across stressful situations,” stated Baratto. “But we are trained to remain composed when we can and focus on the game.”

But a strong team does not only rely on skill, but passion and teamwork as well. “Success is not just measured in wins,” explained **Jenna Bentley**, grade 12. “It’s measured in the passion that [the girls] share for basketball beyond the points on a scoreboard.”

The team tested their strengths at the annual Byrne Creek Tournament Thursday, November 29 to Saturday, December 1. They played against W.J. Mouat Secondary on Tuesday, December 4 but results were not available at press time.

“With each passing day, the more I work and know them, the more I believe in what we are trying to accomplish together,” said Anderson.

Ski and snowboarding club kicks off with full house

KRISTINA ENG
staff reporter

The first trip to Whistler Blackcomb will be held on December 16. Confirmed students will head up to the world class mountain for four one day trips between December and March. From February 1 to 3 some students will head up to Sun Peaks for a ski weekend.

The approximate total of 70 student applications were all looked over and accepted. “We ran one extra trip this year and that’s created enough spaces for people

so up to this point no one has been turned away,” said **Brian Unger**, teacher sponsor of the club. “But now the Sun Peaks trip is filled up.” Although many of the spots for the other dates have already been filled, students still have the opportunity to register for the trip on March 10.

Aside from a brilliant experience and a day out in the snow, grade 12 students can apply for a \$200 scholarship by participating in this club. The scholarship is given to students to freely spend for personal gain. To qualify “you must be grade 12 and be a positive participant and Mr. **[Bryan] Jackson** and I will choose who that lucky

scholarship winner will be,” Unger said. Last year, the scholarship was not awarded as “none of [the senior candidates] were suitable,” Unger said.

Despite Vancouver’s bipolar weather, the snowboarding club is determined to continue plans for their trips. There is no option to backing out if the weather is rainy or stormy. Booked and committed to Whistler Blackcomb and prepaid for the buses, bailing is not acceptable, Unger said. The weather in Whistler can differ greatly depending where you are. “It will be snowing at the top and raining at the bottom,” he added.

“Whistler is one of the very best ski resorts in the world. I spent three winters as a ski instructor in Austria and I skied in many places in Europe. I’ve skied in a lot of places in the States and Whistler is at the top of the list — and they hosted the Olympics,” Unger said. Joining to head up the mountain with the school can be more convenient for some since the school organizes it all. As Unger said, “Here, we do it for you, and at a reduced rate that’s cheaper to ski with the school than to go up on your own. . . I think that is a great opportunity for people.”

Intramurals draw big crowds

TYLER JOHNSON
staff reporter

What was an intense month of intramural soccer competition came to a close when the Naughty Nine triumphed over team T.O.B in a one-nothing match last Thursday. Grade 12 students **Cameron Brock, Antonio Farina, Dawson Drolet, Kennedy Shaw, Raymond Chan, Spencer Clarke, Aydan Smith, Max Hollingworth,** and **Kristyn Zochske**, weren’t alone to claim the championship either, as the student audience exceeded expectations. Event organizer and participant of the Educationer team, **Clayton Richardson**, was impressed to see continuous audience support throughout the duration of the events. The turnout can be partially attributed to the phenomenal level of student participation contributing to a total of ten teams ranging in experience and grade level.

This made for dramatic matches such as when team Swag bested the teachers in an overtime shootout, and when the grade 10 team Rainbow furiously played the more experienced groups. Richardson strongly believes that these events can only get better in the future, saying that the louder and more supportive the audience, the better. However there is some basic work to be done before the intramural events can reach their greatest potential. Greater sportsmanship and faster setup are things that he hopes to “iron out” easily in the coming tournaments.

With the dodge ball events already in progress, and other sports on their way, such as volleyball and street hockey, there is ample room to get involved. Richardson even stated that he is open to suggestions for future tournaments. So grab some friends and come down during lunch three days a week to play or organize a cheer, not to mention to see the teachers lose again.



DAWSON DROLET PHOTO

Students re members of the Coquitlam Falcons, a community football team who won Midget Provincials on December 2 in Langley.

Defeating number one in upset victory over Walnut Creek

DAWSON DROLET

staff reporter

The senior boys basketball team is off to an amazing start this year with a 2-1 record.

The team recently knocked off Walnut Grove, the number one ranked team in the province on November 28.

Head coach **Tony Scott** said, "The boys 'got up' because they were playing number one."

The game was an absolute nail biter to watch, as the boys won by only three points. This win is turning heads, and is drawing attention to Gleneagle.

The boys were originally ranked 13 in the province, but this should undoubtedly change in the coming days to somewhere in the top five.

The outstanding performance was head manned by **Cordell Parker**, grade 10 and **Denver Sparks-Guest**, grade 11, who both played incredibly well and consistently throughout the game.

Tarik Scott, grade 11, also had a notable performance as he was clutch in the last quarter of the game.

The team is expected to make a run for provincials with an exciting young core of grade 11's. The boys recently pulled off a victory over Byrne Creek on November 30.

Regardless of the win, Scott said that as team coming off a big win against the top ranked team in the province you tend to "let down your guard" against an unranked team.

Sparks-Guest added that their key to success was that "we worked hard and played good defense." **Aleks Marjonovic** and **Grant Galbraith**, grade 11, were standouts in the victory.

The team's one loss was against Enver Creek. Team captain **Artem Zaporozhets**, grade 12, said, "We started out slow in the first half and didn't have a proper warm up."

Nevertheless, the team has started the season very well, and is looking to continue their progress against Delta Secondary on December 11.

They played Pitt Meadows on Tuesday, December 4, but results were not available at press time.



All eyes on the ball but Talons' eyes are on the hoop: Grade 11, in midstep, ready to do a layup during the game versus Byrne Creek.

PETER POKA PHOTO

Bronze medal caps season for Talons field hockey team



Flying high: Gleneagle's field hockey team celebrates their success after their bronze medal victory. The girls were all smiles after defeating South Delta in their final game. The team's success ended a stellar season where they were undefeated in league play.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY DARCI GUIMOND

ALEXANDRA COOPER

staff reporter

Securing a third place provincial standing, Gleneagle field hockey concluded their season with a bang. Defeating South Delta 2-1 on Friday, November 16, the Talons placed the highest they have since 2008 where they also placed third.

"The final game was really intense," said **Kaitlyn Goddard**, grade 10.

Going into provincials at the number two spot in their pool, the girls stepped up and beat Argyle 4 -1 getting them into the top

4. They then lost to Cowichan 1 - 4 leaving them to claim third place.

"It was a perfect way to end the season," said coach **Carol Coulson**.

Meghan Foster, grade 12, agreed, "We've worked so hard-this year we really clicked."

The team remained undefeated in all of their league games but lost the final game to Heritage Woods in the Fraser Valleys 2 -1.

Earlier in the season, they also competed in the Bridgman Tournament in Victoria with the best teams in the province, where they placed seventh.

"It was good; we got to do a lot of stuff

as a team when we were [at] Bridgman," said Goddard. A contributing factor to the Talons' success could be the six grade nine players they acquired this year.

"I think the season was really good. [I] learned a lot in it and I thought it was really fun," said **Emily Flood**, grade 9.

"They're so skilled and so enthusiastic and such committed team members," commented Coulson.

Goddard agreed. "We had a lot of grade nines this year which was good. We had a big team." Six seniors are also graduating this year from the team: Foster, **Kim McFarlane**,

Sydney Veljacic, **Misato Watanabe**, **Lauren Wilson** and **Courtney Zoschke**.

"It was a great way to end my four years playing field hockey at Gleneagle," said Foster. Despite their achievements, there is always room to improve. "We could always improve on fitness," said Coulson.

Goddard said, "Our fitness was pretty good . . . [but] we passed to our captain a lot and just watched her run up the field."

When asked what one word best sums up the season, Coulson replied "memorable", while Goddard replied "awesome", and Flood replied "amazing."

Art students present talent to prospective universities

IZZY DOCTO
staff reporter

Gleneagle art students continue to impress with their diverse pieces at the annual Portfolio Day held at Emily Carr University on December 1.

Art Careers 12 students presented their versatility in different mediums of art, grabbing the attention of visitors, post-secondary art institutions from around the world as well as local art institutions. This prompted success for some students with early acceptance of their portfolios.

Emily Choi, Mieko Graham-Carty, Cheyenne Manning, Grace Yu, Sarah Jung and Travis Anderson, all grade 12, were privileged, along with many others in receiving early acceptance ranging from BC's Emily Carr, to international universities such as the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

"I'm really happy about getting early acceptance... it's like a big load off my chest," said Yu, one of the students who gained early acceptance to Emily Carr.

Art Careers 12 teacher, **Melanie Stokes**, thinks Talon success in the arts is due to the range of art electives Gleneagle offers with supportive teachers as guides.

"I think Gleneagle offers a really wide variety of art experiences," Stokes said. "[The students] may also take photography, graphics, or drawing and painting because they need to do that to build up their portfolios and the other teachers are very helpful in assisting them with the work too, so it's a collaborative effort for all

of us," she added.

Choi agreed, adding how Gleneagle "likes to show the imaginative side of you... and they want to show that to the post-secondary schools."

An array of distinct artistic styles was key to grabbing the attention of university representatives during Portfolio Day.

"[The portfolios are] basically to show off what you're good at, to show off your creativity, and you have to be original," said Anderson.

The student's portfolio pieces did just that, varying from acrylic paintings to digital works to life sized sculptures.

Graham-Carty, who sculpted a life sized skeleton of a bird, wanted to use its size to surprise the university representatives and distinguish it from other pieces.

"I want them to see how my work's different and how large of a scale I can work from a sculptural stand point, considering how big my pieces in there are," she said.

Portfolio Day is something these art students prepared for months in advance, with the help of Art Careers 12 focusing on the building of their portfolio.

The day is a great opportunity to learn about what certain universities are looking for.

"I think portfolio day is amazing because you get a chance to meet instructors from all different kinds of schools," explained Manning.

"It's getting the experience and getting a taste of the different schools and seeing where you want to go," she added.

Portfolio reviews continued this week with post-secondary art representatives from the U.S.A. visiting the Art Careers students at Gleneagle.

Boxed in at Metfest

MARIE TURCOTT
staff reporter

Drama club students stepped outside the box when writing, creating and performing their very own play. Three months of hard work really paid off, as the annual Metfest play, *Boxed*, was a huge success.

"It went wonderfully. It couldn't have gone better; the kids were totally connected, living in the moment. They were great," said **Ashley Freeborn**, the drama teacher who led and supported the students through the process. "This show is something really, really special. I don't know if we've ever done something with so much heart."

"The play was the teacher's idea - she sent out emails in August, asking us if we wanted to take a part in this production,"

said **Curtis Gerstendorfer**, grade 11. "We decided that we wanted to create a play that consisted mainly of little stories from our own life experiences."

Each student brought something different to the table, and together they combined each experience into one large story, expressing each individual's journey through high-school to discover 'who they really are.'

"We were all really excited because it was the first time we wrote a play together. Since we were already all good friends, it was that much more inspiring," said **Brendan Park**, grade 11. "It was cool to be original and express ourselves in our own ways. Although some parts were adapted to fit with the story, most came from our own lives," Park added.

"Somehow each of our individual unique

little personalities came together through writing, and it was awesome," said **Albert Cao**, grade 11. "It felt very satisfying to watch everything unfold. It was interesting to see how other people deal with their own struggles, and what hides behind the mask we wear every day."

The actors were able to express feelings and thoughts on stage that weren't discussed on a day-to-day basis. "I learned a lot about my other classmates. Some of their stories weren't always shared, and the play was a good way to express themselves," said Gerstendorfer. "A lot of the play was 'real.' Every experience was based on our own, and all of our emotions were real. A lot of what was said on stage was quite personal, and we had to face our fears to get it out there," he added.

Many challenges were faced during the production. "Ideas clashed - each of us had such strong personal ideas that didn't match up, about what we wanted to do and how we wanted to do it," said Park.

"It's hard enough to mount a play in a couple of months, let alone write it, then mount it, edit it, and then act it. Also, getting the play to festival standards and of course, we have high standards for what we bring to district level festivals," said Freeborn. "The

big challenges we faced were making sure we had a working copy of the script, and making it make sense. We've been editing the script as we've been acting."

"Sometimes, there was not enough of 'ze essence,'" added Cao.

Overall, creating a play has been a great learning experience for the students. "I learned that we are never alone in our thoughts. We have definitely become closer as a group," said Park.

"Along with writing and starring in our own play, we learned about the power of friendship," said Cao.

"I think they are learning the power of their own words. I don't know if they ever thought that they had such talent, such passion; and they're having a lot of fun," said Freeborn. "They're doing an ensemble piece, and that's an incredibly difficult thing to do, to build something where they're always on stage, always interacting, always in character. You have to work as a team, learning how to work together," she added.

"I want to thank Ms. Freeborn for supporting us and believing that we each had something special we could pull out of ourselves," said Gerstendorfer.

Boxed was performed from November 27 to 29 at Gleneagle and last night at Metfest.



Larger than life: Grade 12, poses with her masterpiece - a life sized skeleton of a bird, part of her unique portfolio.

IZZY DOCTO PHOTO



Staying in character: Students performing a scene from *Boxed*.

MARIE TURCOTT PHOTO