

Eleven grads vie to represent 2014 class

JENNIFER KOU
Staff reporter

Eleven Gleneagle students presented a collection of amusing, thought provoking and insightful speeches on May 27 in hopes of becoming this year's valedictorian, with three to be chosen as finalists and one eventually representing the graduation class and delivering a speech at commencement on June 15.

Valedictorian nominees are required to obtain a minimum of ten student signatures as well as an English teacher sponsor.

The nominations are then approved by administration and the students are given a topic to prepare a two minute speech based on the prompt "I believe."

"I know that valedictorian [selection] is notorious for being a popularity contest but I'm hoping that Gleneagle will be able to evaluate each student on how they represent the grad class and pick the student who they think shows the best of what Gleneagle 2014 has to offer," said **Jennifer Allott**, grade 12.

Grade 12's score the valedictorian speeches on a rubric and the four top students will be placed on the final ballot. The final vote took place on May 29 and the valedictorian was announced on Friday May 30. Results were not available at press time.

"What I'd like to see is a confident public speaker and someone who represents the grad class," said **Bindy Johal**, counselor. "It's a real honour to be selected as valedictorian, but I also think it takes a lot of courage . . . to speak in front of your peers and put yourself out there."

Some were nervous and apprehensive about running. "It is something that though I am nervous about doing, I would regret it if I didn't," said Allott. "I would be very honoured to serve as valedictorian in my grade 12 year."

"At first I was hesitant to do so but I've been encouraged by a lot of my peers and I think that I represent the general class," said **Sang Lee**, grade 12.

"A lot of people think that only the people with the highest GPA should get it but I think it should be someone that is



AND THEN THERE WERE THREE: Eleven grade 12 valedictorian nominees presented two minute speeches on Tuesday. Results will be announced today.

relatable," Lee added.

The most important role of the valedictorian is the final speech itself.

"I think it's a very cool idea to be able to represent your grad class and say something memorable that encapsulates everybody's sentiments and feelings," said **Derek Wong**, grade 12.

"I think the valedictorian shouldn't be the smartest kid nor the most athletic, but someone who represents the entire year," said **Aarmon Bondar**, grade 12. "Being a Talon isn't just about having Gleneagle on your go card; it's more

about representing the school in sports, in academics . . . I feel like I do that."

"I think they are all outstanding people. They are all great students and good citizens, well respected and I think the graduating class would be proud to [be represented by] any one of them," said Johal.

Amy Leem, Alex Li, Allott, Ariana Baratto, Bondar, Marwa Elgabry, Lee, Iman Lahouaoula, Sepehr Rashidi, Parisa Safavi and Wong, all grade 12, all contended for the place of valedictorian.

Teachers walk out, forced off campus by strict limits



THESE BOOTS WERE MADE FOR WALKING: As a result of a lock out, teachers must now arrive and leave the school 45 minutes before and after school.

YILIN ZHANG
Staff reporter

On May 28, the teachers of District 43 protested outside each school to voice their beliefs on the teachers' strike.

All school districts in BC are participating in Phase Two of the teachers' strike. Phase One is disallowed written communication between teachers and vice principals and the principal. There was less admin work and staff meetings were pulled back. Phase One did not affect students.

Phase two involves rotating strikes around the province. Teachers exercised their democratic rights to protest against what they think is unfair.

But as the lock out was implemented by the British Columbia Public School Employers' Associaton (BCPSEA), teachers are becoming worried for their students' learning experiences.

The lock out forces teachers to work only 45 minutes before and after school, and not at all during lunch time. Teachers cannot support any extracurriculars during this time.

"[Students] are suffering," said **Frank Abbinante**, culinary arts teacher. "Exams and tests [are] coming in, and we need to prepare our students," he added.

The teachers' strike on Wednesday started at 6 am, with teachers rotating shifts, and it ended at 4 pm. Gleneagle teachers surrounded the school, and the administrators will be the only people entering. At presstime it was uncertain whether rotating strikes will continue next week.

The goal for the teachers is to address the classroom size composition and challenges around students' learning conditions. Teachers are also bargaining for a fair wage deal in the contract. They are hoping for a positive resolution, and to solidify their position for the next five years.

"A big concern about the teacher strike is that after the labor dispute, how do the people in the building take care of each other, and can we understand each other's perspective," said **Andrew Lloyd**, vice principal.

"All teachers are hoping for a fair and quick settlement to get back to work, get back to what we love to do – teaching," said Abbinante.

INSIDE

THE ROBOTS ARE TAKING OVER: Brace yourself, British Columbia - the education system has been perfected. Pay no attention to the anarchist teachers.

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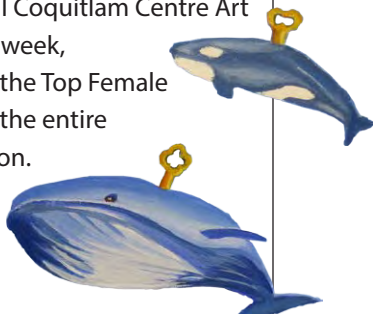
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PROBING THE DEPTHS: Talons went in-depth with a passion of their choice earlier this week.



STATE OF THE ART: Three senior Talons picked up scholarships at the annual Coquitlam Centre Art Show last week, including the Top Female award for the entire competition.

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ONtheCALENDAR

- MAY 30** Valedictorian announced
- JUNE 2** Commencement tickets available
- JUNE 6** All library books must be returned
- JUNE 11** Year-end music concert
- JUNE 12** Athletic banquet
- JUNE 13** Grad dinner and dance
- JUNE 15** Commencement
- JUNE 16-17** Cross grade exams

Lockout, walkout, strike out, robots taking over system

Beautiful British Columbia: the land of luscious forests, rolling hills and consistent weather. There aren't many white picket fences, but there have been plenty of pickets as of late.

Teachers are taking up signs against the government, while the government is trying their very hardest to put up an illusion of drudgery while fighting the uphill of doing nothing at all.

But really, there's nothing to complain about. Teachers should be happy they're being paid enough to put food on the table, and purchase more outfits than are necessary for a five day week.

Chef wears the same white shirt every day; we should follow his glorious example.

The government, on the other hand, is blessed to have such dedicated and experienced educators behind the future of our great province. Our gene pool is so strong, our education system doesn't have to be. So, why the strike?

One pressing issue is that of class sizes. In China, it's perfectly standard to have classes consisting of eighty or more students. In university, students are crammed into giant lecture halls with more than four hundred people. In fact, if one is taught by a human being, they should probably consider

purchasing a lottery ticket – the robots are taking over. Besides, isn't it a little unreasonable to ask for thirty students per class?

After all, teachers have thirty mouths and thirty pairs of eyes; if they were truly as talented as we are led to believe, they would have no trouble juggling classes of sixty or more, composed of ten special needs students, who rightfully deserve this attentive care.

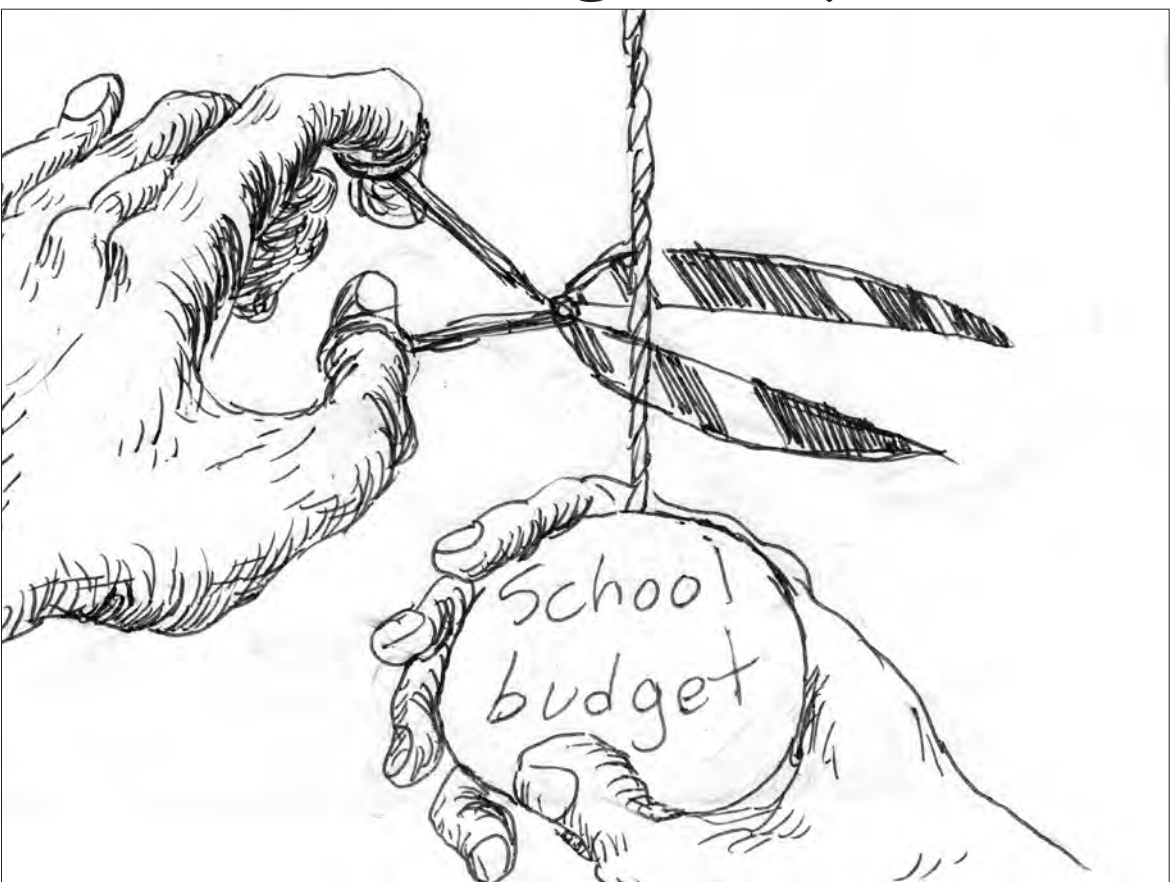
They say money is power, and that money is the root of all evil – so why do teachers want more money?

It can't possibly be that the costs of living are rising, and that the teachers salaries don't reflect the unexpected phenomenon of inflation.

No, it must be because they are power hungry monsters who hope to make to make puppets out of the BC government. We must be marionettes ourselves, as, due to our excellent education, we are often called the "disappointing generation".

Because what's really the issue here is the welfare of BC's students. Locking teachers out of their classrooms and rendering them unable to help students is the perfect way to motivate young people to find their own solutions to today's problems.

The passive aggressive act of



cutting salaries is completely justified when one considers the lax conditions under which teachers work.

Unbeknownst to the public, the teachers' union has made a scientific breakthrough in marking technology. Teachers are now able to mark fifty essays in one hour, and have the entirety of their

weekends all to themselves.

The socials department is a prime example. Golfing, barbequing, home renovations... do they do any actual work over there? Surely, our provincial score standings have nothing to do with them.

The musical theatre department is fortunate they are able to create a convincing depiction of the

Roaring Twenties thanks to all the funding they get. Maybe if we cut the arts budget we'll be able to run AP European History next year. Who needs artists, anyway? Historians are all we need.

While we're at it, forget science and math. We, lowly peasants, need no understand this budget to raise our pitchforks.

Value of learning lost as students cheat to get ahead of others

Edge columnist

Some people cheat so much that after a while it becomes a habit. But until when are they going to get away with this?

Cheating seems fun for some people. They think it's the easy way out when it really is not.

People who have cheated their whole high school career aren't able to adjust to the studious life of university where cheating comes with huge consequences.

According to education-portal.com, statistics show that most of the cheating occurs on math and science tests. Back in 1940, only 20% of college students admitted to cheating during their academic careers. Today, that number has increased to a range of 75%-98%.

The number of cheaters has increased due to the ubiquitous utilization of mobile devices that facilitate easier and faster cheating.

The heinous thing is that students aren't just cheating to pass: they're cheating to get ahead. What's even more unfortunate is that cheating has become more widely tolerated over

the years, and both schools and parents have failed to give students strong messages about the disadvantages of doing so. But there's a difference between those who cheat once and those who continuously cheat. Contrary to popular belief, it's everyone that cheats: High achievers are extremely likely to cheat as well.

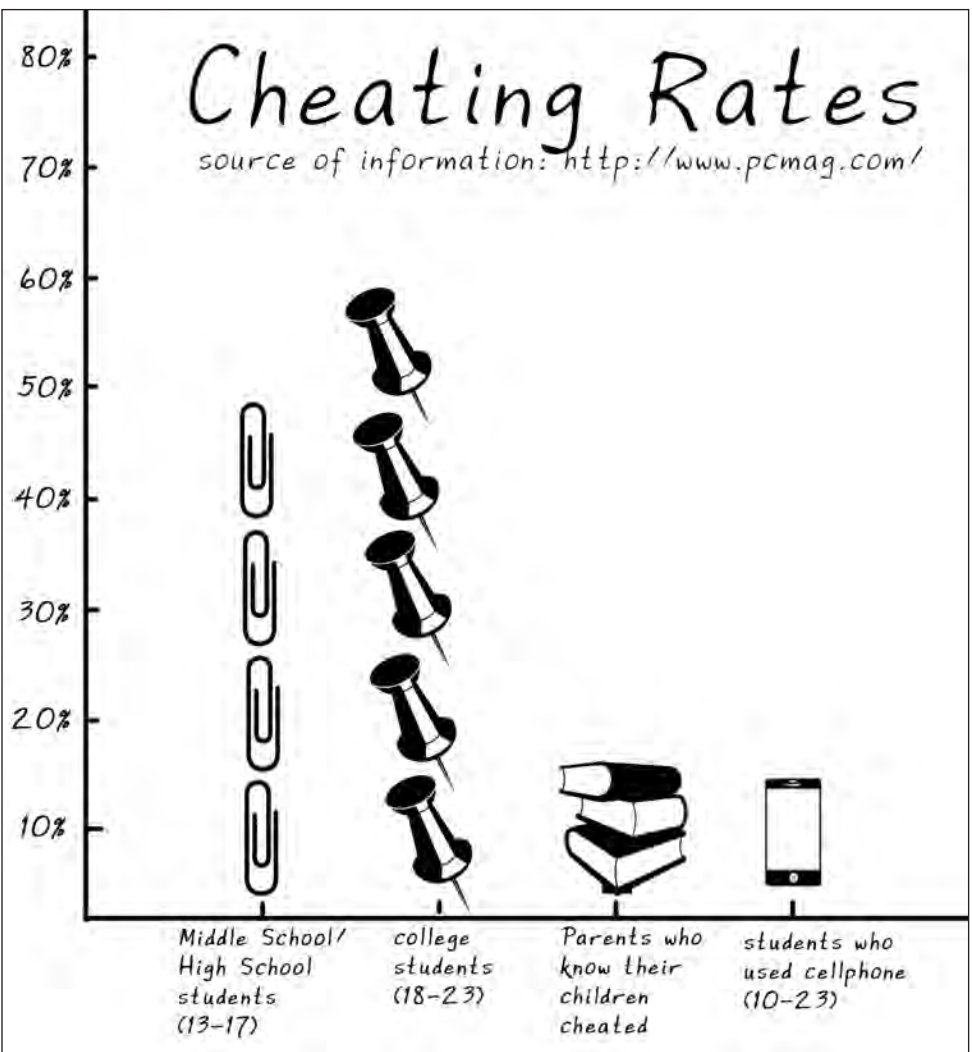
You might keep cheating and garner high marks and then get into one of the best universities, but at the end you're only depriving yourself of the knowledge you could have gained by doing the work. If you are someone who cheats often, then sit down and ponder your actions because you are not only hurting others, but yourself as well.

You might not realize the detriments of cheating now but you will soon after you realize that cheating has ultimately taught you nothing.

Cheating has become easier and more widely tolerated, and both schools and parents have failed to give students strong, repetitive message about what is allowed."



Edge columnist



TALONSTalk With a little over three weeks left in this school year, *The Edge* asked: “What is your best memory at Gleneagle?”

“Taking the final bow after Footloose.”
—grade 10



ARTONA



ARTONA

“Enjoying my off blocks in the counselling office.”
—grade 12

“The Talons Adventure Trip.”
—grade 9



ARTONA



ARTONA

“When I got my license.”
—grade 12

“Doing intramurals.”
—grade 10



ARTONA



ARTONA

“When Mr. Shong dressed as Obama.”
—grade 10

Let it go, let it go, memories never bothered people anyway
Create better future by releasing regret, reluctance of past events, decisions

Edge columnist

As the year comes to an end, a quarter of students will graduate and leave Gleneagle. They will part with many happy and painful memories, saying goodbye to their friends and teachers as they each go their separate ways. These wonderful memories, relationships, and possessions, all hold a tender spot in our hearts that makes us want to hold onto them forever. We expect that these things will continue to add extraordinary value to our lives as each day passes by. However, we know that's not true, because life doesn't work that way. If the burden of the past is holding you back from a better future, isn't it time to learn to let go? Letting go can be difficult, because a part of our heart is attached to the people, desires, relationships and other things that matter to us. To make a conscious decision to move forward with forgiveness and love, instead of remorse and hurt, is often a painful step to take. However, if you keep holding onto these memories, these

things that don't hold the same value as before, they will only bring negativity into your life. As all of us move on to a new chapter, we can't be stopped by a past that only tears us up with regret. It's time to let go of the good and bad memories that hin-

“To make a conscious decision to move forward with forgiveness and love, instead of remorse and hurt, is often a painful step to take.”



ARTONA

—Edge columnist

der you. However, you can't change the past, so accept it and make a better future using these old experiences. Now, don't get the wrong idea. Don't forget the happiness

or stop caring about that person or thing anymore. Simply take time to reflect and realize that the only thing you control is yourself. Understand yourself, understand the situation. Don't beat yourself up about the test that you messed up on, or the time when you accidentally said the wrong thing at the wrong time, or how you let the perfect person slip through your fingers. Instead, just let it go. Let go of that guy who said you're not good enough, because he does not define you. You are one hot entree who doesn't need any side dishes. Let go of the negative comments about your art or music, because you're still growing. Just practice and wait a couple more years to see who's laughing. Let go of the person who passed through your life and left scars behind, because scars will heal and you will become stronger and braver. Just as the grade 12's are leaving, new grade 9's will be coming in, ready to make the best of their high school experience. They'll be making brand new memories every day. But, now that the school year is slowly ending, can you let it go?

LETTERStotheEDITOR

Re: Gleneagle loses its Edge, deep cuts to electives
I have to admit, after reading the title of the article, the news came to me as a shock: who would continue to cover world issues and school happenings every month? It almost breaks my heart to learn that one of our school's beloved traditions will become obsolete, due to the harsh reality of budget cuts. I can only imagine Mr. Findley's feelings right now: to take over the Edge earlier this year after Mrs. Axford's retirement only to have the paper taken away from him. The majority of the school population obviously care about the Edge, and through the "Save the Edge" campaign, some notable petitions, and the attention of the school's admin, efforts have been made to continue the newspaper. As a sufferer of these course cuts next year, including Journalism, maybe establishing a club for the Edge next year could continue its run, while saving money if the paper could be released exclusively as an online print. Whatever the outcome may be, this issue of the Edge may be its very last, but Gleneagle's pride in its journalism will never die.

- Galen Wang

I find it very unfortunate that the budget cuts have now limited our options in what electives we can take. The whole point to having a wide variety of electives is so that

we can explore classes that spark our interests, however with the budget cuts we are unable to do so. One elective that got cut that has me really upset was AP European History. I was looking forward to taking this course because I really enjoy learning about European history and the fact that it could ultimately count for university credits. Also I would have been in an environment that I would've been comfortable with. Many students have lost courses that they really wanted to take and I don't think it's fair to limit our opportunities in what we wish to learn. We are the future and we should be able to contribute to the world with our talents, but the budget cuts play a part in restricting our talents. It is also unfortunate that the Edge won't make its appearance next year due to a small number of students signing up. The Edge represents the voice we obtain; it allows us to talk about what's going on around the world and to state our opinions (which is what I am doing). Having an abundance of electives for us to choose from, expands our learning. Next year will be my last year at Gleneagle and I am hoping that no more electives will be cut that could alter my schedule again.

- Natasha Lumagbas

Before this semester I never bothered to read a single article in the Edge until I was in

Ms. Cooper's English class. In Ms. Cooper's class we read the paper and I am truly astonished by the consistent effort and quality. I was quick to appreciate the student's hard work and I am disappointed that the Edge will be cancelled for future students. Journalism gives writers opportunity to explore their skills and passion however; this will no longer be the case which will inevitably lower the quality of education. Thank you for writing insightful articles for the students of Gleneagle and without a doubt the Edge will be missed

- Ayraj Wali

Re: Discrimination still an important subject in 21st century
What you're proposing - to selectively eliminate candidates based on race - is even more discriminant than the case you are trying to argue. Has it occurred that a non-Asian simply portrayed the character better? Because the movies are recreations, it is infinitely more important to capture the essence of a character, rather than attempting to mirror superficial qualities. Though your thesis is well-supported, to pull the race card and accuse Hollywood media of being "racist" is a tad unreasonable. To eliminate prejudice in society, we must regard others by their individualistic values, rather than the innate.

- Brian Wu

Re: Governments propose acts that violate internet policy
It's unfortunate that the government is gaining access to private information, however, in many cases this information is already accessible through hacking and several backdoor methods, but they at least must go through this drudgery before gaining access to this private information. Although, with this new policy, this information could become accessible much faster and much more efficiently; holding our internet privacy captive in the hands of a government, that may make decisions that I will most likely not approve. I am grateful that this was brought to my attention, and recognize that our constitution may need changes to adapt to our new technology oriented society. Despite that this new bill will regulate freedoms upon the internet and hold people hostage to their words, it could also help society. It could aid in tracking down unwanted criminals, yet it could also victimize people who are completely innocent. It may regulate the slander of cyber bullying and choke out voices of freedom on the internet. Overall, I thank you for this inquiry into our privacy rights and again I am grateful that I have learned this information.

- Vincent Badenhorst

NEWSinBrief

Darcy Marquardt assembly on May 21

Darcy Marquardt, Canadian Olympic silver medalist rower and professional Esteem Team speaker, visited Gleneagle on May 21 to promote healthy lifestyles among students. This event was hosted by a leadership 12 committee.

– Marie Turcott

Spread some sunshine, spread some joy

The Spread Some Sunshine Program is set to spread joy around Gleneagle by recognizing all of the wonderful things that people do for others. Sunflower seeds were planted by students in the skill development program after spring break. Students will continue to care for the plants until the last two weeks of school. Nomination boxes will be set outside of room 116 and the Gleneagle community can nominate people who they think should receive the sunflowers. On the last Friday of school, the sunflowers will be delivered to nominees.

– Amy Li

Bubble Tea fundraiser for Ecuador

From May 26 to 30, the Gleneagle Me to We club is pre-selling bubble tea in the foyer at lunch. It is \$4.50 per drink with a variety of flavors. The drinks are provided by Bon Vivant Fashion Cafe and coupons will be distributed to purchasers. The main goal of the fundraiser is to build a water well in Ecuador and a Father’s Day card sale in June will be the last fundraiser of the year after this bubble tea sale. The bubble tea idea was taken from marketing class last year who had a successful sale. The club is also planning a Father’s Day card sale afterwards. Facebook shares and announcements will promote this event. This is the first time the club is fundraising via bubble tea and weather is a huge influencing factor.

–Olivia Sun

Gleneagle business club wraps up year

Gleneagle business club, Chameleon Pencils, ended the year with a \$500 profit. A total of 700 pencils in the school and 500 in the community were sold. They also helped students in Guatemala by sending one pencil for every pencil purchased here in Canada. “Initially, I doubted whether it was going to work and make a profit,” said vice president of sales and marketing, Miguel Widjaja, grade 11. “But it was amazing how many pencils we sold. I am exhilarated with how things went. In the end, what really surprised me was how well everyone worked as a group together, especially the sales team. I’m surprised at how people were dedicated to their work which shows that students at Gleneagle persevere what they love.” “The business club is growing in popularity,” said Widjaja. “Last year we didn’t get a lot of interest, but this year we saw a huge amount of attraction. Our next step is to involve anyone who wants to be involved.”

– Yasaman Hoorfar



ADAM HAYES SOURCE

WAVE YOUR HANDS IN THE AIR LIKE YOU REALLY CARE: The first ever Fun N’ Fit hosted by leadership turned out to be a great success! Students took advantage of the excellent workshops offered and everyone had a terrific time. Participants included administrator **Gerald Shong** and Coquitlam mayor, **Richard Stewart**.

Key club unlocks at Glenagle for the first time

MARIE TURCOTT
Staff reporter

Key club, a student-run international high school organization has made its way to Gleneagle. Founded in 1925 with over 250 000 members, it is the oldest and largest service program for high school students. The first meeting was held at Gleneagle early in May, and had a turnout of 40 people. The name of the club is a little misleading. “You make the key to your future. This is a club where students can be empowered to become leaders. It enables them to bring positive change to the local community, country, and the world,” said **Jonathon Ok**, grade 11. “Key club International is sponsored by Kiwanis International and it assists Kiwanis in carrying out its primary mission, to serve the children of the world,” said **Sean Lee**, grade 11. “On the high school level, members perform acts of service in their communities, such as cleaning up parks, collecting clothing, and organizing food drives.” “I want to see more Gleneagle presence in the community and spread awareness,” said founder and former president **Jeffery Gao**, grade 11. Gao turned his position as president over to **Jessica Nguyen**, grade 11, but

remains as a dedicated supporter of the club. “Our short-term goal is to raise \$600 to get chartered to become an actual branch of Key club. Our long term goal is to build up our club and organize some events. We’re also hoping to go to DCM, a divisional council meeting, where a bunch of people come together and meet other Key clubbers

“ You make the key to your future. This is a club where students can be empowered to become leaders. “

—Jonathan Ok
grade 11

to network,” continued Gao. As of now, Gleneagle’s Key club is mainly getting together with other Key clubs within its assigned district. “Having started so late into the year, we aren’t officially starting our own events. We’re collaborating with Pinetree’s Key club event, ‘The Amazing Race,’ and starting with volunteer opportunities from pre-existing events. This will probably be our major focus within the short time we have left in the year,” said Lee. “But an advantage to having started

early around the summer is that we are able to provide interested members with various volunteer opportunities through the events during the summer.” “The Amazing Race’ will help kids connect with other kids, and blossom confidence, knowledge, and leadership skills while having an awesome time,” said Ok. “It is beneficial for students to join as it will help create a network of acquaintances which create new horizons and a wider view of the world.” Some neighbouring schools, such as Pinetree, have already been a part of Key Club International for a number of years. “At our school, we do fundraisers like busking and garage sales. We also host events throughout the year like the “Hunger Games,” said **Jinny Jang**, grade 11 Pinetree student. “The fundraising goes toward our main goal at the moment, which is The Eliminate project.” “Students who wish to take part in something which offers them a unique high school experience, and despite their young age, want to make a big difference are encouraged to become a part of Key Club,” said Ok. Meetings are held in room 118 every Friday at lunch and all students are welcome to join.

Talons triumph at CAIMUN conference

DELARAM HOORFAR
Staff reporter

Gleneagle students went to their last Model United Nations conference of the school ty, CAIMUN on May 16 to 18 and won yet another award. **AJ Lahouaoula**, grade 10, won the best delegate award in this conference. This year he has been to four conferences and won three awards. “I have to say it was probably the best MUN experience I’ve had yet. I met a lot of new people there, my committee was one of the best at the conference and

the quality of discussion was really good, which I enjoyed,” said Lahouaoula. “I’ve always had nothing less than a great time at each conference I’ve been to, and it’s definitely something I’ll be doing for the rest of my high school. It’s an amazing activity that I suggest everyone does at least once in high school,” he added. This year the club was led by **Iman Lahouaoula**, grade 12. “Generally in the whole year, I’ve been really happy because my goal was to have more people join this year and to open it up to everybody in high school. There were a lot new people in the

club this year and a lot of people did well too,” said Lahouaoula. “It definitely teaches you a lot, especially in public speaking and confidence level,” she added. **Julio He**, grade 12, who joined the MUN club this year notes, “MUN is not only an opportunity to improve our public speaking, it is also a way to engage and create connections with people all over the place . . . It really is an amazing experience, and I wish I had more time in high school to continue participating in these conferences.” This year Gleneagle won five awards in total.

In-depth night demonstrate students’ hard work

MARIE TURCOTT
Staff reporter

TALONS went in-depth to present their passions at the annual in-depth night on Monday, May 26. The students bring together projects they have been working on for five months to display for family, friends, and past and future TALONS. Job action and the recent events have added another component to the complexity of the evening, but the event carried on successfully.

“In-depth night is a chance for the students to share and celebrate their learning. With so much of the learning in school, you give it to the teacher, the teacher marks it and you get it back. You don’t get an opportunity to share it with anybody else. So this is an opportunity to share your learning and educate other people as well,” said **Quirien Mulder ten Kate**, TALONS teacher.

“Everybody chooses their own project. They spend five months learning new skills and researching

a topic they want to do. On the night, we also get the chance to meet new people and build knowledge,” said **Benjamin Chang**, grade 10, who learned how to make different breakfast foods .

“I think the biggest thing I’ve learned is the independence, and the ability to help myself survive later on in life. Even if you choose other topics - it doesn’t necessarily have to be something like cooking where you depend on food - but there are a lot of topics you can choose that will give you skills that will help you throughout your life,” added Chang.

“If you choose something that you are really passionate about, and you are planning to do something similar to [it], it does help with career choices. You research and you know more before you make decisions,” said **Elle McCleave**, grade 10, who researched pet care. “It also really helped with my career choice; I had no idea before because I thought that I couldn’t do veterinarian stuff but now that I know

that I can.”

Stage performances tend to be the highlight of the night. “My favourite part was the slam poetry performances by **Lile Hendriks**, **Emma Field**, and **Jamie Fajber** [all grade 9] because they were really funny and entertaining,” said **Eric Jang**, grade 9. “Seeing everyone’s progress come to an end, and how much people managed to do in five months was quite unique.”

“It’s been very tiring with everything that’s happened, but I think it’s been really incredible, also because it’s the last in-depth for me as a grade 10,” said **Jeanie Mao**, who did cosplay. “I tend to get stressed out really easily, especially when things don’t go as planned. Cosplay things can change with the drop of a hat, so it’s really nice to just learn how to release all that stress.”

Some examples of other projects showcased during the night were vegan cooking by **Emily Boyco**, nail art by **Tiffany Kim**, and portrait drawing by **Lori Jiang**, all grade 10.



PORTRAIT DISPLAY: Grade 10 TALON student proudly displays her work during the in-depth night.

Layoff frustrates younger teachers, at ‘whim’ of district

DELARAM HOORFAR
Staff reporter

Over 25% of Gleneagle teachers received layoff notices due to district 43 budget cut-offs. These teachers are the ones who have taught for less than 8 years and 4 months.

“As an experienced teacher I feel really impotent because I realize how difficult it is to do your job and do it well especially in the beginning of your career,” said **Cindy Quach**, English teacher and Gleneagle union representative.

“I feel completely gutted by the instability that my colleagues have to face ... these are the people who work really hard and are skilled teachers and I just feel so badly that they are caught in this very challenging situation,” she added.

“I think as any young staff member in any profession in their first few years, it’s frustrating to not be able to be rewarded for the successes that you have had or the hard work that you demonstrate because this is not the indication of young teachers are not good at their jobs,” said **Clayton Richardson**, social studies teacher who has taught for four years. “It is an indication of how many students are in the school district and how much money the school district has available to keep young staff employed.”

“It is not something that we did not know about getting in the profession. But it is still frustrating nonetheless to not be able to exceed expectations and then be rewarded with it either with a job or further contracts or with future positions. You are sort of left to the whim of the school district

for your first eight years, maybe even ten but it is not like there is an alternative and hopefully they’ll find one soon,” Richardson added.

“One of the saddest things about being laid off is possibly not being able to return to a school,” said **Kathryn Kurylo**, Spanish teacher. For example I have taught in Terry Fox for two years and I got to know the students there and I never got to go back and see what their final years looked like. So now in Gleneagle I have seen some of the students in grade 9 and 10 and I want to see them through grade 11 and 12 and maybe not being able to do that is quite sad.”

The list of laid off teacher is not publically avaiable, but hopefully all teacher will be returning to Gleneagle through the recall process.

TALONS learning adventure trip includes bear on *camp-us*



FUN ON THE ROCKS: TALONS teachers and students explored nature and visited abro- original chief in thier adventure trip on May 16 to 20.

ERIC LIU
Staff reporter

Not even a visit from a black bear could stop students in the Talons program from having a positive learning experience on their annual adventure trip on May 16 to 20.

A black bear visited **Jamie Fajber**, grade 9, on the third day. “When I saw the bear, it was one of those defining moments when

you see your life flashing before your eyes,” said Fajber. “It was really scary... But happily, we had **Mr. [Bryan] Jackson** who went and scared the bear away. He became my hero that night,” Fajber added.

The student’s activities over the five day trip included touring the Britannia Mine Museum, hiking around Levettia lake and Brohm lake, camping at Alice lake, and visiting the Squamish Chief. The Talons

finished off their trip with kayaking, and arrived home on Tuesday evening.

Besides the bear, everything went well, “One of the reasons it went so easy is that we had great weather, it was never too hot. But mostly, it was the preparation the students did before we went on the trip,” said **Andy Albright**, teacher who supervised the trip. “They were well prepared, and that is what really made this trip work.”

Students who participated in this trip learned new life lessons, and gained a brand new outlook on life.“The entire trip was a learning experience,” said **Alison Kim**, grade 9. “Everything we did mattered, and there was a lot of emphasis on leadership and communication. The learning part never took away from the fun in the end,” Kim added.

“I learned the true value of teamwork, trust, and co-operation,” said **Cheslie Chan**, grade 10. We were able to solve each problem efficiently as a group. The trip would not have been so successful without everyone’s collaboration,” Chan added.

The trip was made possible because of the many volunteers. “There were many people working in the background. For example, we had some parent volunteers this year, and that made it possible for us to do hikes that we wouldn’t be able to do otherwise,”

said Albright.

“The bus drivers also volunteered their time. They were paid for the day but stayed overnight and became part of our supervision group. They were also firefighters, so they were good at putting the camp fires out,” Albright added.

“The hardest part of the trip was being in the wilderness for five days without showers. But you get to know people really well, even people you didn’t really talk to for the most of the year,” said Kim. “The best part was forming new bonds and even stronger bonds with your friends,” Kim added.

“I really think it is the sense of fun, excitement, and the willingness to work that the students brought that made the trip work. The teachers just provided the support that was necessary, but they do everything,” Albright said.

“We got by with just what we have, which was each other. In fact, we flourished with the most important resource we had, which was us,” he added.

“The trip is like a good meal, it takes a lot of preparation, but it looks effortless once it is on the table, and we eat it fast. But the memory of it lives on in our hearts forever,” Albright concluded.

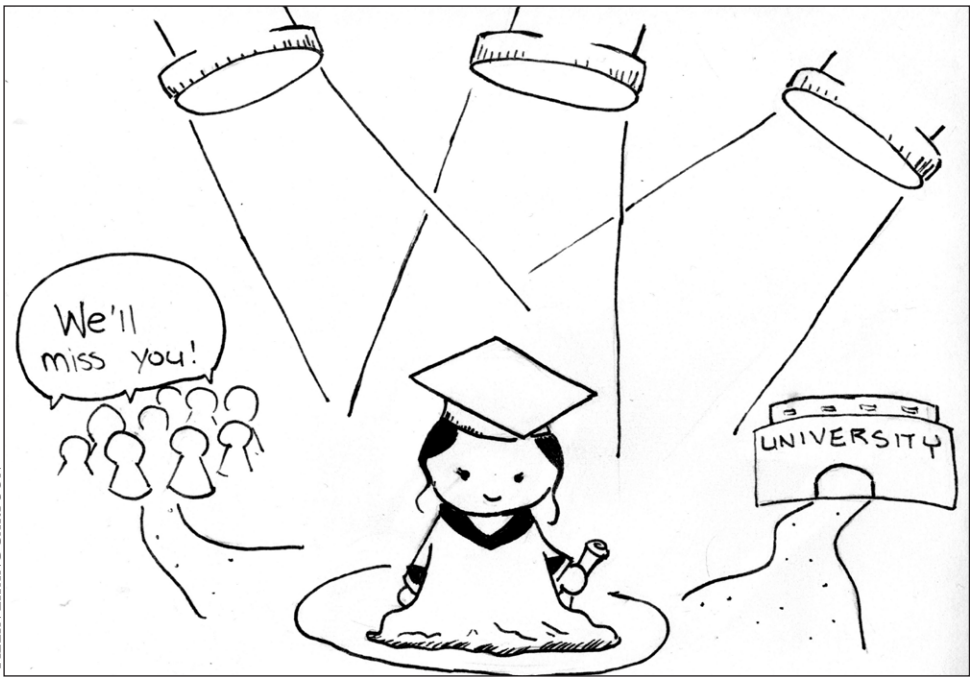


Bryan Jackson
TALONS teacher

ANDY ALBRIGHT PHOTO

MARIE TURCOTT PHOTO

Early grad choice between friends, opportunities, goals



FAREWELL TO FRIENDS: Getting prepared for a new life at university is nothing compared to the choices that are made by graduating early.

MARIE TURCOTT
Staff reporter

School. Some say it'll be the best years of your life, while others disagree. We stumble in as children, without a clue as to what we're in for. Before we know it, we're tossed and turned, losing our childlike-selves in the muddle.

Somewhere along the way we grow up, or at least enough to find our feet when we're finally spat out into the world. We can only hope that those 12 years have prepared us for what lies ahead.

But some decide that 12 years is too long a time, and feel the need to cut it short. These are the students who skip a grade, or graduate a semester early.

"I don't believe that's it's just students with the highest GPA, but it takes a certain type of person with a certain type of motivation," said **Shaunna Martin**, counselor. "Some people graduate early because they want to work to make money for post secondary,

some want to move on with their life, and some have the credits and the academic ability to do so."

"My parents had been trying to get me to skip a grade since grade three, because nothing was working out and my teachers [had] to give me extra work all the time," said **Leanne Felton**, grade 12.

"They finally convinced me. I did half of grade five, and skipped the rest and went straight to middle school," said Felton. "I tried it and it still kind of sucked. But after three months of that, I dropped out all together and was homeschooled for two years."

"I skipped grade five because my teacher recommended it. I was in a split class so it wasn't that difficult to fit in with the older kids," said **Macguire Rintoul**, grade 12. "Now, all my friends are older and can do things, like driving, while I have to wait," lamented Rintoul.

Deciding to move ahead does not mean you can't receive 12 years of free schooling.

"I skipped grade seven, and I've already graduated. Now I'm finishing up some courses this semester I've been needing to do for university," said **David Sherwood**, grade 12. "I would have not had to come back another semester if I had stayed with kids my age. I'm happy with my decision."

Graduating early not only requires academic stability, but also a great deal of dedication.

"I did some studies outside of school, like English exams and university AP exams. It's really time consuming but if you put some effort into it, it's okay," said **David Rhee**, grade 12.

Other obstacles that come with acceleration include not only the pressure of keeping up academically with older peers, but also the challenge of fitting in.

"The biggest challenge was the 'friendship thing.' I knew a bunch of [the grade fives] who were at the middle school, but they were all weirded out that I was in the same school as them," said Felton. "So none of them would hang out with me, and I was all alone . . . and really intimidated by middle school," she added.

"Leaving my friends behind was hard . . . I'm happy now though because I've had good experiences with the older age group, and I feel like I fit in," said **Carlin Bannister**, grade 11. "I would only say skip a grade if it's going to benefit you, if you have good reason to, and only if you feel like you have enough experiences with the real world," she added.

"High school is like a shelter, and university is for real, so you're kind of going into the real world a bit early," said **Rhee**. "I wanted to take some courses but I

grade 12

grade 12

grade 12

grade 11

don't have the time to take them. But for me, the benefits [outweigh] the disadvantages."

If given the opportunity to go back and rethink his decision, Rhee admitted, "I think it's kind of too early for me to step into the real world and I just want to take some time. It's obviously better to graduate with your friends."

"I guess graduating early requires maturity and a level of tactical ability but it's worth it if you're dedicated," said Sherwood. "Dedication is the key to success."

"You'll never have a high school experience again," said Martin. "It's a once in a lifetime thing and even college and university is not like it. The last four months is hard but amazing, because you're going through it together and there's something to be said about going through something for four years and then finishing it together."

"I would say that the philosophy of our school is that students who want to move on with their life . . . are allowed to do so. We would never stand in the way of someone's goal, or what they want to do; we would support and guide them," added Martin. "I recommend that students do what is best for themselves after having input from family, friends, teachers, and as long as they're doing what they want for the best reasons possible."

No matter how boring, crazy or stressful school may seem, most make it through, and each discovers something different about themselves. Some feel the need to rush on through, while others want to take as much time as they can. **Abraham Lincoln** once said, "In the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years."

Smiles, powerful weapons to relieve stress, pain, conflict

AMY LI
Staff reporter

Never doubt the power of a smile, but smiles weren't created to be equal. Each one of them is characterized differently.

For instance, an irritable smirk might give an different feeling than a cheesy grin. "Anything from sarcasm, pleasure, contentment, and appreciation can be expressed and perceived in the form of a smile," said **Bolan Linghu**, first time mom.

K a y v o n

Motamed, assistant youth coordinator, defined a smile as, "the physical change of the lips to signify happiness or contentment."

Guohui Liu, statistical analyst, acknowledged smile as "the best way to demonstrate happiness at a particular moment for something that might be insignificant to everyone else but you. It could be seen from the mouth but it is more meaningful if it could be identified in the eyes," he added.

Furthermore, smiling is one of the earlier forms of communication, according to kid-shealth.org.

"A child is often known to have the purest and most memorable smile," Liu said. "As feelings mix with experiences, smiles

change with them. Little by little, things will penetrate into the smile you have," he explained. "[Faked] smiles may be on the lips but not from the heart."

"The first ever smile on a child is the purest and it will everlastingly remain in your heart but this could be caused by different interpretations," said Linghu, "Surmise, conjecture and competition often leads you into assuming that there's more behind a pure smile. Adults live in a competitive and complex world with much to consider."

Smiles are very powerful antidotes to stress, pain and conflict, according to help-guide.org. They are contagious and infectious, and free. Often, smiles can be as medicine to help strengthen your immune system, boost your energy, diminish pain, and protect you from the damaging effects of stress.

"Its healing power is priceless," mentioned **Minoo Khadem**, grade 10.

"In all honesty, smiles are natural makeup to wear to remind people that there is hope. It's . . . beauty is inestimable and takes no time to put it on or remove," said **Michael Kim**, grade 10. "It also acts like an appetizer to brighten your stomach."



POWERFUL SMILES: the power of a smile, even those of the rich and famous can have a dramatic impact on changing people's moods.

Girls rugby scrum to fourth in province



DON'T MESS WITH OUR GIRL: Gleneagle girls run defence for ball carrier, grade 12, at a game against a rival team at the Provincials last weekend. It can be said that the rugby team always tries their best

AMANDA HUANG
Staff reporter

The girls rugby team did not qualify to compete for the gold medal and placed fourth in the provincial championships held at Port Alberni on Vancouver Island from May 21 to 24.

The girls played against Norkam Secondary on the first day and claimed an overtime victory.

They then faced GP Vanier Secondary, the number one seeded team.

The Talons scored the first try early, but Vanier had evened the score by half time. Gleneagle then scored the second try in

the second half of the game. However, Vanier once again evened the score with only thirty seconds left. The girls lost in the overtime when Vanier won with a penalty kick.

“The [game against Vanier] was probably our best game in the season,” said **Amy Leem**, grade 12 and team captain.

“We worked really really well as a team. We challenged the first-seeded team and I think we were the better team on the field. Everyone played their hardest. They went up and beyond of their capabilities,” said Leem.

The girls lost their third game against Yale Secondary and as a result came fourth

in the province.

“I’m happy with our performance in the provincials, but I’m not necessarily too content with the result,” said Leem. “Our team really deserved to win.”

There are 28 players on the team, and the four grade 12 members are graduating.

Leem thinks that the girls still need to improve on the backline, which is made up by seniors. However, Leem remains optimistic about the future of the team.

“I think even if the grade 12’s graduate, our team would still be a really tough team,” commented Leem. “That showed in the provincial this year. We had a lot of injuries yet we still played our best game.”

Junior golfers make par going into tourney

BRIAN CHEONG
Staff reporter

The Gleneagle golf team proceeded to the BC Provincial Golf Championships held from May 26 to May 28 after finishing fourth at the senior Fraser Valley Championships at Pagoda Ridge in Langley on May 15.

The team consists of junior players **AJ Ewart**, grade 9, **Henry Lee**, **Chris Matthews**, and **Riley Banyton**, all grade 10.

“Our team did what we had to do in order to qualify for the provincials. We are a very young team and a fourth place finish is fantastic,” said **Brian Unger**, coach. “Since [the team] is so young, it probably wasn’t very realistic for a first place finish against senior golfers.”

“I’m very happy with our performance. Our goal was to make it to the provincials and we did just that,” said Lee.

Ewart was the best performer of the entire tournament, managing to score two under par with 70 strokes. Lee came in second with an even par with 72 strokes.

“Looking at these scores, [Ewart and Lee] were arguably the best golfers in the Fraser Valleys,” said Unger. “It’s fantastic that they are both from Gleneagle and are both juniors and not seniors,” he added.

“It feels amazing to play well and help the team succeed. We all worked together to bring the team where it is now and now we are preparing for the BC provincials,” said Lee.

Due to their success at the Fraser Valleys and the senior districts, the team will be participating in the most competitive tournament in the province come May 26.

“The competition becomes more challenging at the provincial level. I am hopeful for a top ten finish,” said Unger.

“I think that the provincials [gave] us

experience and [will] make us play better later on. It’s [has been a] good learning experience and made us more mature,” said Banyton.

“I believe that if we play the best of our abilities and the level we know we can all play at, we will be very happy with the results,” concluded Lee.

Results were not available at press time.

Track stars sprint to finish line for this week’s provincials

JENNY YANG
Staff reporter

Track and field is approaching the end of the season as **Hana Tyndall**, grade 9, **Justin Questroo**, grade 10, prepare for BC high school provincials this Thursday.

Questroo ranked second place in the 400m race, and fourth for 200m at the Fraser Valleys held on May 15. “I want to get in [the] top two at provincials for 400m at least,” said Questroo.

The provincials started yesterday and Questroo ran a 400m race. He will be running another 400m race today, then a 200m on Saturday.

“I want to get into top five for 200m,” said Questroo. “It’s a healthy lifestyle and I’m good at it.

I enjoy running. I’m going to continue running next year.”

Questroo joined the track and field team in late March but also he has been training with Coquitlam Cheetahs since February.

Tyndall also got third in a high jump and fifth in hurdles at the Fraser Valleys.

For the high jump, her record was 1.45m, and 20.43 seconds in the hurdles.

“My goal in the provincials is to get a personal best,” said Tyndall.

“I love what I’m doing. I’ve been doing track forever, and I enjoyed this season.” Tyndall ran hurdles yesterday and the high jump on Friday. Results were not available at press time.



Hana Tyndall
grade 9



Justin Questroo
grade 10

SPORTSInBrief

Senior boys rugby head to Provincials

For the first time in five years, SD43 is sending a senior boys’ rugby team to the BC Provincial Championships.

The Talons defeated Prince of Wales Secondary 26-7 on Wednesday afternoon in Abbotsford. The crossover match up featured the sixth seeded Fraser Valley vs the fifth seeded Lower Mainland and, by defeating Prince of Wales, captured a berth to the provincials.

– Anika Lee

Junior boys rugby finishes season

Gleneagle’s junior boys rugby team ended their season and is now preparing for next year.

The most recent game that the boys played was at Harrier field against Earl Marriott from Surrey on May 7 but they lost 30-20. It was the tier 3 semifinals, so the boys finished third overall.

Prior to this game, they dominated Aldergrove on April 30 in Fraser Valley quarterfinal playoff action by 22-5.

This year, the team consisted of mostly grade 9 players but was still able to stay fit and strong. “Our team communication is one of our strengths and we have good leaders on the team,” said **Cosimo Candeloro**, grade 10.

– Anne Rhee

Badminton concludes successful season

Gleneagle badminton team ended their season by achieving at the Fraser Valley Championships on May 16.

Max Pang, grade 11, and **Ivan Liu**, grade 12, placed eighth for boys’ doubles. Prior to this game, they played in the Upper Frasers on May 9 and were top five.

Janice Wu and **Michael Wang**, both grade 12, also played as mixed doubles but lost by 21-17 and 21-15. They were in the top eight in the Fraser Valleys.

Although both teams had achieved high results by going into Fraser Valleys, this was their first time to play with their partners.

– Anne Rhee

SPOTLIGHT

SLAM DUNK FOR TALONS COACH:

On May 10, athletic directors from around the province gathered in Burnaby for the annual BC School Sports general meeting **Tony Scott** received the BC School Sports coach of the year award for basketball.



Tony Scott,
PE teacher & BC
School Sports
Basketball Coach
of the Year

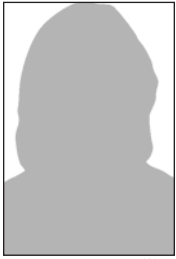
Scott was recognized from the over 400 schools in BC, and received his award in front of large crowd representatives from all seven regions of the province where his dedication to basketball and student athletes was highlighted.

Scott also received the 2014 Ken Wright Memorial Award in recognition of coaching excellence.

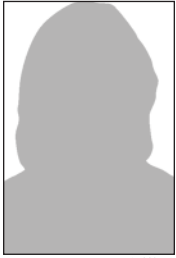
Talented Talons snatch three of four district art scholarships

KAREN LAU
Staff reporter

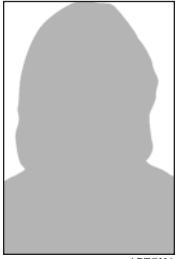
Gleneagle art students displayed their works at the annual Coquitlam Centre Art Show from May 21 to 26, and Talons were awarded three out of four of the scholarships offered.



Sun Young Kim
grade 12



Stephanie Ngyuen
grade 12



Lynn Ra
grade 12

“It’s a district-wide secondary art show that’s been held at Coquitlam Centre for twenty-plus years,” said **Melanie Stokes**, art teacher. “It gives [others] a great opportunity to see what students are doing across the district.”

Gleneagle was permitted three boards as well as an additional board for scholarship contenders, and mediums ranged from photography to paintings to three-dimensional works.

Sun Young Kim, **Stephanie Ngyuen**, and **Lynn Ra**, all grade 12, competed amongst other students across the district for a number of awards. Kim received the Hedy Pothorn Memorial Scholarship, awarded to innovative female students. Nguyen was named the district’s top female artist, and Ra received the Coquitlam Centre Scholarship for the top Gleneagle student.

“Gleneagle always, always does very well. Ever since I started here, Gleneagle students have either won the top male or top female award, to my knowledge,” said Stokes, who believes the three competitors were among the school’s strongest serious art students.

“Before, I kind of didn’t really want to show my works to others . . . but I think this is a really cool experience,” said Ra.



TRADITIONAL KOREAN CULTURE: **Sun Young Kim**, grade 12, painted artwork for the annual Coquitlam Centre Art Show was heavily influenced by traditional Korean culture.

Ra submitted six pieces to the scholarship board, including a 3 dimensional piece titled “Desire,” which she notes is her favourite.

“I tried to illustrate peoples’ inner selves when they desire something very much. When people really want something . . . they can get crazy about it,” said Ra.

“I think it [the art show] is a great experience because art

students can gain more exposure in the community,” said **Joyce Chang**, grade 12, whose surrealist painting was featured at the Art Show.

“I hope that the show will inspire [other students] to do their own art work and come to our classes,” said Stokes. “You don’t have to be an art careers student to enjoy art. You can do it for the love of it.”

Concert bands take double gold at international music fest



SHOWING OFF THEIR SKILLS: *Gleneagle’s senior band performs at Rocky Point Park in Port Moody on last Saturday for the community.*

NATALIE KRAEMER
Staff reporter

On May 22, Gleneagle’s very own junior and senior concert bands travelled to Langley to compete in the Kiwanis International Music Festival, under the direction of music teacher **Eddie Tavato**. Both junior and senior bands were awarded gold.

Cassidy Stahr, grade 11 alto saxophone player, said before the competition she was “confident that Glen’s performances would be very well executed because [they] had a guest conductor come in and give the bands advice from a different point of view.” Stahr stressed that the guest conductor “made us all pay attention to things often overlooked in rehearsal.”

Once the band got to the performance room, many noticed that “our sound was bouncing around this particular room in very different ways to what we are used to,” according to Stahr. Despite having her “part well prepared, [she was] nervous” due to the altered sound added Stahr.

“It was a pretty cool experience playing in a festival setting, however the pressure and nerves were quite different than our standard house concerts.” **Alison Kim**, grade 9 clarinet player adds. “It was pretty much an auditorium with only our seniors and the adjudicators and all of them had their eyes on us to judge our performance.”

Kim says her “highlight was playing our pieces, it was quite interesting playing some pieces that we learned quite a while ago, and seeing our improvement. The adjudicators were able to see past our small mistakes and ultimately decide that our bands has far more pros than cons.”

On May 24, Gleneagle’s bands performed at Rocky Point, Port Moody in what Tavato called “a day of fun and not competitive music presentation”. **Sina Maloufi**, grade 11 guitar player agrees that “the festival is more for fun than anything else. It provides an opportunity for different schools to showcase their bands.”

Nick Jun, grade 10 saxophone player, comments that “I don’t prepare myself mentally as much as I musically prepare myself.

I think of performances as a glorified rehearsal, that way I don’t get as nervous when in front of an audience.”

On June 21-30, the TD international Jazz Festival is being held in downtown Vancouver. The festival is invitation only, and Gleneagle’s jazz band earned their spot by placing first in their category at the Envisions Jazz Festival in February. “It’s a series of days where a multitude of musicians, jazz or otherwise, celebrate Vancouver by playing at both outdoor and indoor venues,” said **Sepher Rashidi**, grade 12 bass player.

The music played at the festivals “ranges from very independent bands to extremely established acts. For example, jazz legend **Herbie Hancock** played at last year’s festival,” said Rashidi.

“It’s kind of surreal, as some of the biggest names in jazz play the TD Festival. I feel honoured that Gleneagle’s jazz band

has been invited to be a part of it,” said Maloufi.

Gleneagle will “be playing mostly older repertoire so all that needs to be done is polishing”. Stahr adds that the jazz band “practices two to three times a week in the morning before school. The dedication required by those showing up at 7: 30, as well as our teacher Mr. Travato really says something.”

The importance of not only a good performance, but also enjoying yourself on stage is stressed by Jun, “It’s also good to have fun, thinking about a gig too much could mess you up”.

Rashidi adds that there are also volunteer opportunities at the TD Jazz festival. “[he] volunteered at the festival last year as a drum technician. and found it was a very rewarding experience.” He adds that “there is so much culture in the festival and it makes me proud to be from Vancouver”.

SPOTLIGHT

SHINING STARS TAKE HOME FILM AWARDS: *At the BC Student Film Festival, **Jeanie Mao**, grade 10, claimed first place in the Junior Animation Category, while, **Simon Chi**, grade 12, took third place in Senior Public Service Announcement. In the highly contested Narrative Drama Category, **Chi**, **Kelsey Field** and **Nadine Strampe**, both grade 11, finished in the top 5 in the province.*

The results from this week’s SD43 Reel Stars Film Festival were even more impressive, with Mao’s Animation winning even though she was competing against senior students. The trio of Chi, Field, and Stampe earned first in the Dramatic Narrative category, while Chi also won for Top Comedic Narrative, 2nd Place in PSA, 2nd Place in Thriller/Horror/Action category and the Award for Best Cinematography. These honours were more than enough to have Chi voted as the Top Film Maker in the Festival.

*Other notable finishes included **Shannelle Saujani**, grade 11, earning a fifth place in Animation, and **Gabby Chia**, grade 11, finishing fifth in the Thriller/Horror/Action group.*

