



ANIKA LEE / PHOTO

COME "JAZZ" WITH ME: Jazz band students perform with professional players for the Jazz Gala, which was held on February 27. The event was both a fundraiser and a showcase, with Vocal Jazz and Jazz Band students performing pieces that they had practiced for over six months.

Jazz students recreate 1920 New Orleans at Annual Jazz Gala

KIUKO NOTOYA
Staff reporter

Gleneagle's annual Jazz Gala was held this past Saturday. The Gala has been sold out for the past two years and those in attendance were treated to an evening of music and fine dining. The performers were all members of the jazz ensembles, jazz band, vocal jazz and jazz combo. All groups are audition based and there is even a waiting list to join.

The performers were joined by special guests, Juno and Grammy Award winning musicians: **Campbell Ryga, Dennis Esson, Ken Surges, Tom Shorthouse and Ken Ivaz.**

As guests entered, they were greeted by the jazz combo featuring vocal soloist **Anika Venkatesh**, grade 9.

"It was a really cool experience to perform with professional on such an amazing occasion. It was an amazing night and I'm looking forward to the next few years in the music department greatly". The first ensemble to perform was vocal jazz with a setlist of seven songs ranging from jazz with **Ella Fitzgerald** to top 40's with **Mark Ronson** and **Bruno Mars**.

Next, the jazz band performed

songs with various vocal solos in between.

Nicholas Chew, grade 12 said "I think it was a pretty good show, the only year I thought was better was my grade 9 year. Also, the atmosphere was somewhat more lax than usual, at least for me."

The vocal solos were **Sarah Doyle**, grade 10, singing **Frank Sinatra's** Come Fly With Me, **Liam Burgess**, grade 12, singing Louis Armstrong's What a Wonderful World, **Jessica Ross**, grade 12 and Chew singing a duet of Save the Last Dance For Me by The Drifters, and **Michael Kim**, grade 12 and member of vocal jazz, singing **Frank Sinatra's** I've Got You Under My Skin.

The evening ended with all the ensembles on stage performing "It Don't Mean a Thing", originally by Duke Ellington.

Fiona Mollon, grade 11 and a member of vocal jazz said "Being one of the performers, I got to see all the nitty-gritty of how the gala gets set up and run. From start to finish everyone was working together and working hard. Seeing everything come together as the night began and the crowd trickled in was amazing. Overall it was

an outstanding night filled with great music and a great audience." She continued "Having been at last year's gala as well as this year's, I can definitely say that this recent gala went much smoother. Something just clicked and everyone was doing what needed to be done. The crowd also seemed a lot more responsive and more excited than the previous year, which definitely helped boost the performers' energy and confidence. I hope next year, my final year, is just as spectacular."

The total amount of silent auction goods added up to a value of over \$7000, all of which will go to bringing students from Cuba, which the Gleneagle music department visited last year, to Canada so that they could perform alongside Gleneagle students at the Jazz Gala next year. In order to make this goal a reality, all proceeds from the spring concert, happening on March 9th, will be going to this cause. "I remember the little boy that played the trombone in Cuba." Said **Daniel Mun**, grade 11. "Even though he was a lot younger than me, he was so much better than I was amazed. These talented children lack the resources to support their skills."

The evening was a very enjoyable show and another great accomplishment for the music department.



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OSCARS COLORBLIND: A controversy rises as not a single black actor is nominated for any awards at the 2016 Academy Awards



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TINY DANCER: Bernice Mau twists and turns her way towards great success after performing at the Word Dancing Competition.



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Senior Girls Basketball team qualifies to advance into the provincial championships after a dominating 73-43 victory against Carson Graham.



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Oscars shine light on unfair film industry, Hollywood biases

Too white. This is the accusation thrown at the respected Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Science. The hashtag #OscarsSoWhite trended on Twitter with the release of the Oscar nominations, the most highly anticipated portion of the Hollywood award ceremony.

Not a single coloured actor was shortlisted in any of the four main acting categories. This resulted in a social media frenzy, with many dubbing the event as the “Academy Award whiteout.”

The outrage was a result of prominent actors such as **Samuel L Jackson**, **Idris Elba**, **Michael. B Jordan**, and **Will Smith** being excluded from the list of major award nominees despite garnering critical and popular acclaim for their portrayals in *The Hateful Eight*, *Beasts of No Nation*, *Creed* and *Concussion* respectively.

However, the solution to this problem is not to blindly instigate a witch hunt against the Oscars, but instead commence thinking about the bigger issue at hand.

The reality is that the Oscars are reflective of a larger systemic problem.

As **George Clooney** said, “I would make the argument, I don’t think it’s a problem of who you’re picking as much as it is: How many options are available to minorities in film, particularly in quality films?”

With 85% of all top actors in the US film industry being white; it is easy to see why not enough coloured actors are being nominated for the Academy awards.

A look at the casting call for the movie *Straight Out Of Compton*, a bibliographical

drama film about the Compton, California hip hop group N.W.A, shows us how the film industry views coloured actors.

It called for a wide range of different colour gradations for girls. And if that isn’t disturbing enough, it blatantly ranked girls based off of skin color. Grade A and B girls were required to be light skinned while grade C girls were darker skinned African Americans with weaves and grade D girls were African Americans with their natural hair. It’s ironic that a film about the struggles of African Americans attempting to achieve success in a discriminatory environment utilized the same practices that it was preaching to fight against.

Furthermore, when we look at movies like *Aloha* and *Breakfast at Tiffany’s* the prejudice that exists in the industry is clear to see. Instead of casting an Asian actor to portray Asian characters. the creators of both films casted white actors for the roles.

This is why raising our pitchforks at the Oscars won’t lead to any changes from occurring because the problem stems back to the widespread discrimination that is imbedded within our film industry.

If we want to see more actors of colour on the Oscars’ stage, we’ll have to do more than retweet #OscarsSoWhite, but instead start to demand intuitional changes and push directors to cast coloured actors as more than the stereotypical roles we often see them in today.

•The Edge welcomes letters to the editor. They can be given to any English teacher or sent to theEdge@sd43.bc.ca



Driver responsibilities determine fate on unpredictable roads

PORSHA SCHAFFER
Edge columnist

While the prospect of getting your licence can trigger both fear and excitement in the minds of teens, it is a great step worth taking. You can earn your licence at any time after 16. Don’t let fear and procrastination keep you from achieving your licence. It is a life necessity and putting it off is not a good idea. You should get it sooner rather than later.

It means moving up into adulthood. You first earn your L, learners, then your N, new driver, and eventually your full drivers licence.

Postponing it won’t do any good; it will only slow your progress, as you must have your L for a minimum of a year, and your N for a minimum of two years.

Getting your licence can bring a newfound independence. It offers many other benefits such as the ability, convenience and transportation aspects. Being able to drive also offers a freedom: you can go anywhere and be in control.

Lots of people fear getting behind the wheel because they don’t want to be involved in an accident. Even if you do everything right, other drivers are unpredictable, and accidents are not always preventable.

The consequences of driving accidents are

much higher than other common consequences a young person may face.

An accident could result in death. A driver must also keep in mind that they are responsible for the safety of their passengers,

...the ability to be able to drive is an important one to possess. Not only does it provide a convenience, but should an emergency arise, you know to step up.

—Porsha Schaffer
Edge columnist

away from danger. Even if you don’t drive daily, still knowing how to drive can benefit you and others.

Owning a car is expensive. A lot of people struggle to realize they aren’t only paying for the car but gas and insurance as well.

Insurance is there to protect you, but it is costly. The younger you are when you start driving, the more years you have to start accumulating a discount.

From the time you obtain your L, you begin to earn a

in the future you might have a car or a family to drive around. Starting younger means when you are older you won’t be at step one. There is a max to the discount you can earn though, its 43%.

Learning to drive is a critical skill, offering independence and convenience. While you can earn your licence at any time in your life, getting it sooner is much better than getting it later.

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ARTONA

5 %

count on insurance for every year that you go accident free. By the time you are twenty, you could have a 20% discount on your insurance, even though you may or may not own or drive a car.

When you are younger, and possibly don’t own a car, this may seem irrelevant, however



SOURCE: WWW.BCAA.COM

TALONSTalk

Regarding the article below, *The Edge* asked:
“What feature do you wish your phone had?”

“ I wish my phone came with a taser function.
— grade 12

ARTONA

“ It would be great if my phone came with a dog whistle.
— grade 11

ARTONA

“ I wish my phone had a feature that would fastforward time!
— grade 12

ARTONA

ARTONA

“ I wish there was a feature that would give me good lighting wherever I am for my selfies!
— grade 9

ARTONA

“ A feature that would help me do my homework would be a lifesaver.
— grade 10

ARTONA

“ It would be really useful to be able to use my phone to pay like a credit card.
— grade 10

Virtual reality becoming the only reality

AUDREY HAR
Edge columnist

A few weeks ago, Samsung unveiled two new cellphones at the mobile world congress in Barcelona, Spain: the S7 Galaxy and S7 Edge, teaming up with Facebook to push Virtual Reality, (VR) in mobile phones and social networking.

How have we come so technologically far that it is now possible to create an alternate reality? Will communicating between mobile phones really benefit our social lives?

When mobile phones were invented, only the most affluent consumers could afford to have them installed. When cellphones were invented, you could only make a call for maximum 30 minutes, then charge it for ten hours.

Today, cellphones are 730% lighter and 1830% thinner and offer up to 24 hours of call-time on 3G and 12 hours of internet service with less than an hour of recharging

time. Nowadays, phones have various features such as coloured screens, built in cameras, and even voice recognizing “artificial intelligence” such as Siri. Cellphones aren’t just cellphones anymore; they’re smart-phones. We can find technology in many different shapes and forms. Cellphones, televisions, laptops, to name a few. There is an acronym called ‘IOT’, or ‘Internet of Things’,

“ Technology can be convenient and brilliant, but are we abusing our usage of smartphones?”

—Audrey Har
Edge columnist

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where everyday objects such as light bulbs, windows, now have electronics embedded inside them.

As technologies and devices become smarter every day, humans are naturally becoming more reliant on technology for support.

Because people now use more electronics than ever before, technology has become even more integrated into our lives.

Apps such as the pedometer app proves that most of us now carry cellphones with us everywhere. Are we subconsciously relying on technology, dwelling in the digital world, becoming reclusive of our reality, and blocking out communications?

Phones have become a necessity for people. Part of it is because cellphones themselves are very addictive. However, our addiction also originates from the fact that there are so many things you can do with a light device that fits in your hand. You now only need a small phone for business and entertainment, instead of a heavy desktop computer.

Sure, technology can be convenient and brilliant, but are we abusing our usage of smartphones? Instead of facing each other, we often find ourselves with our heads down, staring at our phone screens at a restaurant, completely unaware of our

surroundings, scenery or people around us.

VR is a proof that technology is becoming a vast part of our lives. Technology has helped in incredible ways, making our lives easier by acquiring certain responsibilities we had to complete by ourselves.

Artificial intelligence has majorly contributed its calculations for newer, impeccable technology and skills. There certainly are handy and clever uses for such technology, but are VR headsets really necessary for our lives, when it is creating barriers between communications and possibly invading our privacies against each other’s will?

What could happen to our daily lives if we wear those headsets every day? Imagine if devices become thinner and smarter, while humans become lazier and more dependent on technology? These are some questions we should ponder about before we rush out to buy the newest, coolest-looking headsets.

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LETTERStotheEDITOR

Re: Social media addiction can devastate more than just a good night’s sleep

I agree that social media addiction has affected our lives greatly. Always being exposed to the internet, constantly clinging onto our phones, and always anticipating when the next message might pop up. It puts us into almost like a “trance”, under the anxiety the technology brings today. We stray from our priorities, because we convince ourselves it is more important to answer our phones, lightning speed, rather than to focus on the task at hand.

-Jamie Kang

While I do agree that social media can become a problem for some people, I don’t think it has gotten to a point where it is serious. Sure, there are people who check their phones during class, but haven’t we all? I have yet to come across someone completely disengaged from class and bon their phone the whole time. In fact I don’t e know anyone who is addicted to social media, and certainly not someone who wakes up in the middle of the night to check it. I think this article was a little extreme, and only represents a small minority of people

-Dan Cho

I agreed with parts of Sungwoo’s article on teens addiction to social media. While I wouldn’t go as far as to say we are all addicted to social media, I believe we have started to lose the ability to simply turn off our phones and leave them at home.

Many times, I find myself hanging out with friends and almost everyone has their phones out. They’re scrolling through social medias or playing games, simply because they don’t know how to deal with the silences that occur during a lag in a conversation.

It’s these times and I just want to take a basket and collect everyone’s phones, putting them to the side until we all go our separate ways.

-Jessica Seemann

It’s true that social media has become a huge part of society, but social media addiction hasn’t. Sure, there may be a few people who have experienced its effects of isolation or anxiety, but the majority of people would never sacrifice their precious sleep to check facebook in fear they would miss out on their friends, who are probably all asleep too anyways. The points stated in this article make it seem like “social media addiction” is an epidemic in today’s society when it really isn’t all that common.

Trust me, teenagers aren’t freaking out over losing their phone because it means they’ll miss the latest tweets. They’re upset because that phone probably cost more than a used car.

-Joanna Giannopoulos

Re: Is spirit of giving genuine at Gleneagle?

Dear Pourochista, although I agree that charity should be given from a place of care and empathy, the idea that every single person will help those less fortunate is frankly unrealistic. Should those that donate for selfish reasons be declined? Of course not, I don’t believe we should question why people are donating but humbly accept what they do give.

-Abby Church

I find the article “Is the spirit of giving genuine at Gleneagle” to make a few hasty assumptions, but also raise some excellent points. Though Rahmati correctly states Gleneagle is in an upper middle class neighbourhood, that shouldn’t translate into an expectation of higher donations. Not all of its students come from that neighbourhood, and if so, lower income areas would automatically be considered

less generous.

This article also assumes that donations are the main method of giving back to the community over the holidays, while I know that for many, volunteering and raising awareness of issues are just as prominent.

However, I strongly agree that the way fundraising has overtaken our school is problematic. It’s obvious that we can’t fund-raise away the roots of issues like homelessness, racism or addiction - if we are solving the problem, we shouldn’t see more and more fundraisers popping up at our school each year.

Perhaps, instead of the relentless bombardment of holiday donating we face each year, students could focus on promoting awareness campaigns and volunteer opportunities - something that students may be able to find deeper engagement and sense of purpose in. It’s hard to foster the spirit of giving in Gleneagle when the things we are asked to give are not genuine solutions at all.

-Vanessa Giannopoulos

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Disciplined dedication takes dancer to world competition



TAKING IT TO THE TOP: Grade 9 student, **Bernice Mau**, and her cousin, **Zachary Lee**, 16, showed their ballroom dancing moves at Canadian Close Championships in Calgary, earning silver. They travelled to Riga, Latvia in December, competeting against 60 junior competitors from around the world.

BORIS KIM
Staff Reporter

Not everyone is born with talent. But, with hard work and discipline one can become good enough to represent Canada in a world class competition.

“I believe I was six when I started,” said **Bernice Mau**, grade 9 world-class dancer.

Like many world-class competitors, Mau started her dancing

career at a very young age. Her interest in dancing was discovered when she watched Dancing with the Stars on a regular basis when she was little.

Fortunately for Mau, her aunt was a dancer so talent met opportunity, resulting in dance lessons.

Mau started to learn Latin ballroom dancing, a rhythmical style with many elements such as the lively and fast-paced international samba, and the sharp yet smooth

Cuban cha-cha-cha.

To be a world-class dancer requires time management to balance performance with school work.

“Coming into high school I was a bit nervous because I was afraid of all the work that I could be getting,” said Mau.

After school ends and most students are hanging out with friends or doing homework, Mau goes to Vancouver to work on her

dancing.

Mau has been going to the studio to practice her skills three to four times a week for nearly nine years. That’s over 5000 hours to become a better dancer.

Mau’s motivation was the atmosphere of being around dancers better than her, causing desire to reach their levels, especially at competitions.

However, reaching the highest level was not a smooth road with traffic signs every hundred meters.

“At times it can be very stressful trying to communicate and understand each other when it comes to my teammates and coaches,” said Mau.

But Mau was able to find a solution to deal with the issue.

“Because my partner is my cousin, we kind of grew up together so we’re kind of like brother and sister now. With my coaches, they care a lot about us. They want us to really do well so that’s really helpful.”

With the help of her coach and the teamwork between Mau and her partner, she went to many competitions locally and internationally.

After years of practice and attending countless competitions, Mau finally reached a new level of success. In December, Mau travelled to Riga, Latvia to compete in the World Dance Sport Federation World Championship.

“I know that many people do not even consider it as a sport because they think that the level of intensity is too low,” said **Abby Church**, grade 11. “But having experience in dancing, I know how

challenging it can be because every small movement matters and the level of precision can be very difficult to master. To know that someone in our school went to Worlds really amazes me.”

To get there, Mau had to score Top 2 at nationals.

The atmosphere at the World’s competition was notably different from other competitions that Mau has been to.

“It was pretty intense. Unlike other competitions, this was something very different. It’s still really cool to be able to have a chance to represent Canada and have people around you that are doing the same thing and they want the same things as you. Everyone wants to win of course, so it’s very... I don’t know how to explain it, you kind of feed off of each other. You want to beat them, [and vise versa], right? So it makes you want to work harder.”

After she gave her very best in every turn and every step, she came top 40 in the world; a title she we be able to use for the rest of her life; unless she can do better sometime in the future for a better title.

Mau has a lot of ambitions as “[she] wants to be able to have a chance to go to Worlds again, and probably, hopefully get better than [she] did before.”

“I want to have people look up to me and be able to see me and want to start this type of dance because it’s not really common. Not a lot of people do it as if they did ballet or something, so I want to make it broader and hopefully I can do that one day,” Mau concluded.

Talented talon takes the stage with incredible performance

CHARLES LEE
Staff reporter

You hear them on the radio, you see them on TV. Perhaps you even follow them on Instagram. Whatever the case, we listen to musicians sing almost everyday. However, we never wonder: What happens behind the scenes? What do singers do to improve their singing? Most importantly, how does one become a singer?

Anika Venkatesh, grade 9, has the answers for you. Venkatesh is currently enrolled in the school’s TALONS program and is a part of the school Choir and Vocal Jazz groups. Outside of school, she is an aspiring musician that has performed throughout the Tri-Cities area. She has performed at festivals like the Port Coquitlam Mayday Festival, Vancouver Christmas market, Richmond Night market, and competed in classical voice competitions hosted by CDMF Performing Art’s Festival. Venkatesh loves singing and making music, and for her, the point of singing is not to just become famous.

“I feel like a lot of music has become really commercialized nowadays... it feels as though anyone can really become a pop-singer in this day and age, with the right

agent and the right equipment,” said Venkatesh. “I feel like ever since I’ve professionally started singing, I’ve always just done it because I love to do it, and I love how it feels. As of right now, I don’t think I’d want to really sell my music with gimmicks and bling, y’know?”

While she does a lot of music performances and various competitions, Venkatesh believes that the real highlight of her career is just trying out new things and making her own music.

“The real highlight of my career so far has happened more recently. I’ve found that I’ve gotten to a point with my voice where I can start creating my own music. I haven’t done any complete original compositions as of yet, but I’ve arranged pieces of music and mashed-up different songs and recorded them. Basically just learning new things and seeing myself grow,” said Venkatesh.

Of course, having a music career doesn’t come without commitment. Venkatesh has worked hard to start her career, and starting out isn’t always as fun as it seems.

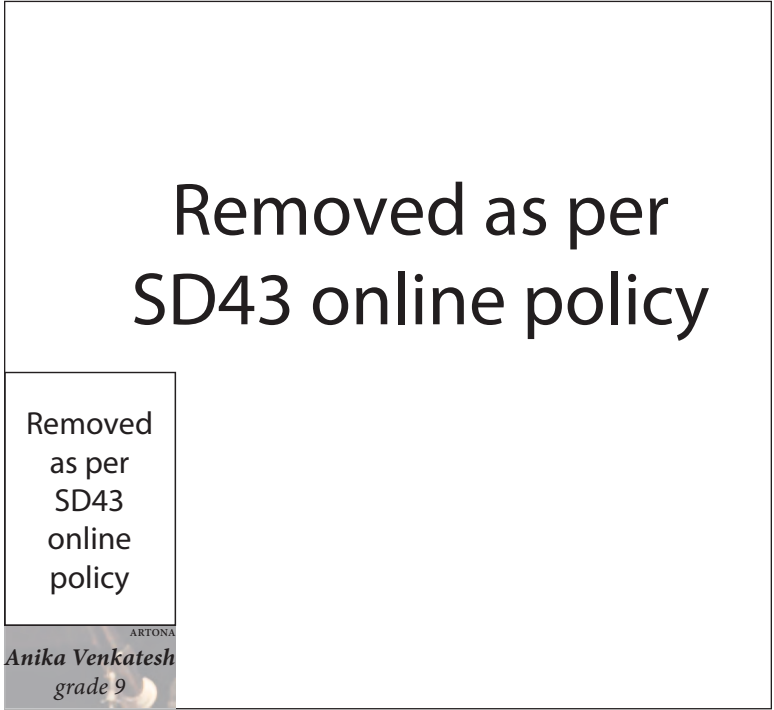
“I remember I used to get really frustrated and bored when I was younger practicing my voice, because it was all technical work and I just wanted to sing the songs

I wanted and not have to do scales or technique, as I thought it’d just come naturally. But keeping with it, I’ve really learned that you can never stop learning, and you have to try and learn as much as you can if you want to go far,” said Venkatesh.

Venkatesh has inspired many of her friends with her talent and energy, and she is considered a very important part of our school’s music department.

“I, along with a handful of other people in Gleneagle, have had the privilege of performing onstage with Anika. And it is awesome. She’s got this incredible vibe and her talent is just unbelievable. I mean, it’s more than just talent at this point,” said **Jobina Sitoh**, a grade 9 also involved in the music department. “She lives and breathes music. Anika holds such a strong passion for it and seeing joy radiating out of her face when she sings makes me so happy. I think she’s just begun her journey and I plan to be with her every step of the way.”

“She really takes in information and translates it into proper performance, and I really enjoy how efficient she is with her work,” said **Nick Chew**, a grade 12 music student who’s also the director of the vocal combo.



HITTING THE HIGH NOTES: Grade 9, shows off her talents at many events, such as last week’s Jazz Gala.

For other aspiring musicians out there, Anika advises that: “If you really love doing something, it’s important to keep at it even when you think you sound awful, or when you just can’t hit that note, or when you just hate doing your warm-ups; powering through those rougher patches, I promise, will ultimately lead to the greatest self-satisfaction in the end. Never

stop learning, and always keep moving forward!”

Like many other musicians, Venkatesh believes that music is more than just an entertainment or a source of comfort.

For her, it is also a passion and hobby, and she is committed to continue making music a big part of her and other people’s lives.

Musical theatre students get inspiration from Broadway star

SUNGWOO HWANG
Staff reporter

Musical theatre students improved on their understanding of character and performing by working with Broadway professional **Daniel Maté** for special master classes in the last three weeks.

Maté is a multiple award-winning musical theatre composer. He just returned from a decade of writing and producing musical theatre in New York. He received the 2013 Kleban Prize for Most Promising Musical Theatre Lyricist. He also wrote book, music, and lyrics for “*The Story of Jo-Beth*.”

“I’m focusing on having the performers explore the songs from inside,” said Maté. “With a show popular as *Beauty and the Beast*, it can be easy for some performers to just get on stage and sing. My job is to remind them that it’s actually a story that’s happening in real time for real characters and try to get them thinking inside the human emotional logic of the songs.”

“The students seem really inspired by him,” said **Amy Clausen**, drama teacher and director. “[Maté] brings more challenging and more complex and rich kind of teaching. So the students are being challenged to think carefully about the emotional journey of the character but also why



Daniel Maté
Award Winning
Composer

the song writer chose this word.”

“The students sound great and they have the real ability to act and sing at the same time,” Maté added. “They take directions very well and are really experimental. They are also very committed and totally commit to their roles and work really hard.”

“[Maté] is an amazing mentor that cooperates with a cast in not only a respectful way, but in a comfortable and inspiring way,” said **Waleed Hakeem**, grade 11 cast member.

The students improved greatly and they got to experience new ways of understanding their characters in depth. Maté mainly focused on letting them get to the heart of the character’s experience and it opened up the music in a new way for them.

“After working with Daniel, I feel like I have a whole new way of not just understanding but feeling the lyrics I am singing,” said **Claire Lundin**, cast of *Beauty and the Beast* in grade 11.

“If an actor is not connected to what they are singing, the audience is not either. It’s not just about singing the right notes, and the work he did with me really focused on that,” added Lundin

“They’re now experiencing the emotional life of the character differently so it’s really exciting for me to watch as their director



SUNGWOO HWANG PHOTO

BROADWAY MASTER DANIEL MATÉ INSPIRES STUDENTS: *to really connect with their characters and perform with all their hearts. From left to right, grade 11, grade 12, grade 11.*

and I think it’s also exciting for them to sing,” continued Clausen.

“Instead of just trying to get the notes right, now they’re really trying to get the

character to develop more. I’m seeing great improvement and I’m seeing students really rise to this challenge and take on it in their learning,” concluded Clausen

Improv invitational set to feature eight Gleneagle students

CHARLES LEE
Staff reporter

Drama students from all over the district will be participating in Gleneagle’s Improv Invitational on April 8. Co-sponsored by the school’s improv club and the Second Storey Theatre, the event will host Pinetree, Riverside, Dr. Charles Best, and Meadowbrook School from Maple Ridge, will be sending students.

The invitational is not competitive and eight Gleneagle students will be performing. Confirmed performers include **Cassandra Williams**, grade 10, **David Gogic**, grade 11, and **Kylee Brown** grade 10. The names of other participants are unknown for press time. To prepare for the show, students have played improv games to build teamwork as well as hone their improvisation skills.

“The fun part about improv is that we can’t prepare. That is, there is no script so you don’t know what is going to happen,” said **Amy Clausen**, drama teacher and founder of the club. “What we have been doing is working on our skills... Working in improv has a lot to do with saying ‘yes’ to an idea that comes up and advancing the scene theatrically and making sure that you can just accept an idea and just go for it without too much preplanning.”

Tickets are \$5 at the door, and proceeds will go into helping the club create more improvisation opportunities such as inviting guest instructors for workshops. The invitational will also help provide students the chance to practise their improvisation skills in preparation for competitions such as the Candian Improv Games next year.

This is the improv club’s first year. There is no set team, and anyone can come in on a casual basis to play games and work on improvisation.

“As members of the improv club, you can just come and just watch and have fun,” said **Kelsey Hazelwood**, grade 11. “There’s no pressure to actually get up on stage, so I think it really helps out.”

The club is currently in its start-up year,

and Clausen’s main goal is to get students interested in improvisation and aim to be able to get a team started for next year’s Canadian Improv Games.

Every Wednesday, students work to improve their improvisation skills through games and sometimes workshops. So far, students have had workshops with two guest instructors, one being the Canadian Improv Games’ provincial director **Alistair Cook**, and the other being the head of the Second Storey Theatre **Graham Myers**, both of whom are well-known Lower Mainland improv performers .

Student filmmakers prep for provincial festival

ALIROD AMERI
Staff reporter

Film makers in the Animation and Film Production classes are preparing their best pieces for entry into the BC Student Film Festival, a province-wide competition that sees entries from hundreds of middle, secondary, and post-secondary students.

Gleneagle students participate in the festival every year, under the guidance of **Jodey Udell**, media teacher.

The festival will be held at the beginning of May at Capilano University’s Bosa Film Centre.

Students will get feedback in the form of judging sheets. Udell said “It’s nice to have [their work] exposed to a peer group, and with the BC’s the peer group is wide. “

Most submissions are from students who had film or animation classes in first semester, however there are some students who have submitted work not produced as part of a class.

Students such as **Zack Alves**, grade 11, and **Sina Soltani**, grade 11, created their submissions in Film Production 11, and are now working on refinements.

“It’s kind of a hobby, we’re all passionate about film making,” said Alves.

Students take extra time to work on their

submissions. Soltani said that filmmaking “starts with writing a script, then developing the script, then working on characters and actors.” There are also many technical elements, and students “learn a lot about how lighting and cameras work.”

There will be separate categories for junior

everyone laughs and you make a fool out of yourself, but it’s in a good way where you can learn from it and just have a good time.”

“Sometimes improv can be really intimidating to people if they feel like everybody’s watching them and they’re going to make a mistake,” said Clausen. “Anyone can come watch and get a sense of what skills they want to work on. It’s a positive and supportive environment, and it’s meant to be lots of fun. Anyone’s welcome!”

The improv club runs every Wednesday’s at lunch in the drama room and is open to all students.



ALIROD AMERI PHOTO

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION: *Film production students work on projects and prepare them in anticipation of the BC Student Film Festival.*

Rugby teams to tackle San Francisco sides

ERIKA LEE
Staff reporter

From March 16- 22, San Francisco, California will become the destination for the girls’ and boys’ rugby teams. Grade 10-12 rugby players from Gleneagle will play against American teams “giving [them] the experience with high level teams in hopes [they’ll] be prepared for provincials – which is the goal!” said **Jaewon Park**, grade 11. Both teams will be playing three games each while on the trip.

The upcoming trip serves as “new opportunities and experiences like traveling without my family, staying with a billet and of course [playing] some good rugby,” said **Beatriz Roque**, grade 11.

For **Cara Baynton**, grade 10, it’s the “excitement to get closer to the new players that just joined.”

Roque continues and says she sees “this trip as a chance to really bond with [her] teammates in hopes the new built chemistry can be shown on the field.”

Above all, this could possibly be “one of the last big trips for the seniors before [they] graduate which is why it makes it a special one,” stated Park. **Sam Yi**, grade 11.

Yi has “been playing since he was in grade 9” and he is happy to be “playing over the break because it means they’re staying fit

when some of their competition isn’t,” added Yi.

In previous years, the rugby teams have travelled to Duncan, BC and for **Isabella Saujani**, grade 11; it was “[her] motivation to go on this trip because it seemed like a great learning experience and fun memory to look back on.”

“I still hear stories from the trip two years ago and I want to share the same stories in the future,” said Yi, as he shares the importance of this trip. Roque states the significance of participating as “it’s [her] first time travelling for a sport and I’d really like to grow connections and have a good time exploring San Francisco.”

Through the “fun and exploration” that Saujani commented on, also comes “the challenges that is being a fairly young team,” said Park. For the boy’s rugby team, “it’s a team comprised mostly of grade 11s and it will be hard work competing against other schools,” said Yi.

Despite the challenges, for Baynton, she is “confident” and states “everyone is doing really great.”

Saujani continues with “everyone seems competent and excited to play so I don’t have many worries.”

It’s the last big trip for many of the seniors and for **Becky Sucholdoski**, co-captain, grade 12, she hopes for a “crazy adventure with people [she] would have never met if it weren’t for rugby.” She continues and says “it’s also my last grade 12 year so I won’t get another opportunity like this again.”

“It’s going to be a good time to enjoy ourselves and I want to remember this forever,” closed **Denis Dume**, grade 11.

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ARTONA
Timothy Song
Grade 10

PRINTED WITH PERMISSION OF RICHMOND ROCKETS SPEEDSKATING CLUB

BLADES OF GLORY: *Timothy Song*, grade 10, competes at the BC games which occurred in February. Despite this being one of his first major competitions, he was able to take third place with three silver and one bronze medal for speed skating.

Skater Song glides into third at winter games

SUNGWOO HWANG
Staff reporter

Timothy Song, grade 10, skated to third overall with three silver and one bronze medal for speed skating at the BC winter games that were held from February 26-28.

In order to prepare for the competition, Song spent five days of the week in the skating rink after school until 9 pm.

Despite his extensive commitments, his grades have been maintained. However, with such an overloaded schedule, it is difficult for him to stay connected with his friends and family.

“Because of my busy schedule, I often end up ignoring my closest friends which leads to quarrels and misunderstandings,” said Song. “However, it helps that my friends often understand the situation I’m in where

I have to constantly multitask. I do sometimes make time for hang outs though. This is because I think taking time off to enjoy myself is important for my mental health,” added Song.

One thing that Song has gained from his speed skating career is learning how to accomplish many tasks in little time: sometimes that requires immense concentration.

An example of this is that even during his speed skating practice, he finds himself reciting biology terms. He also carries around a notepad wherever he goes with his schedule for the day.

“[Song] does so many things and he does it fantastically, but every once in a while the pressure can get to him,” said **Zaena Tesfa**, grade 10 student. “But despite having so many things on his plate, he’s still able to accomplish all he sets out to do and keep

a smile on his face which is no small feat,” added Tesfa.

“When you look at someone like [Song], you can notice that he gets involved in many activities and become a well-rounded person,” said **Quirien Mulder ten Kate**, Talons teacher. “He is very dedicated to his classes and he is very dedicated to areas that he’s chosen to develop. He has the intrinsic drive to be the best person he can be and he’s very resourceful.”

Even though this can be very stressful and hard for him, he pushes forward with a vision of a better future.

“By telling myself that if I just push through this now, I’m going to have a much easier time later in my life, I don’t lose my passion and I keep finding ways to use my time as efficiently as I can,” added Song.

Curling his way to both BC’s and the button

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ARTONA
Zachary Curtis
Grade 11

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PRINTED WITH PERMISSION OF ZACHARY CURTIS

SWEEPING TO SUCCESS: *Zachary Curtis*, grade 11, takes a quick break in between curling while preparing for the provincial mixed gender curling competition coming up.

international championships. From the first time he picked up the broom to the moment he stepped on field competitive curling players, the effort and sweat Curtis has put in his curling career is distinguished. Now here he is, sweeping all the way to this visible bright future. “We hope to defend our title as provincial champions and head back to the u18 internationals at the end of March, which is what we have been strive for and the impetus for this stage,” said Curtis. Being a professional curler is what he is working towards, but among all the problems fair seems to be a big one. Not

a big amount of money is contained in the sport. As a result, Curtis notices that he will have to enroll for a second job in order to feed himself which is a motivation for him to not give up his studies. However, despite these challenges his passion in curling will not fade. He has been following his dream for years and will continue to thrive for it. In two months, Curtis will be heading to the mixed double provincial, which includes a team of one male and one female. Like every other game he has played, he will take this seriously and intensely, looking forward to the game he confidently waits.



SMALL TEAM, BIG WIN: The Senior Girls Basketball Team poses in a team photo, along with their coaches. Top row, left to right: **Patty Anderson**, coach, grade 10, grade 11, grade 12, grade 11, grade 11, **Tony Scott**, coach. Bottom row, left to right: grade 10s and grade 12.

Senior girls net provincial berth with big win

BRAEDEN MUNDRUSIAK
Staff reporter

The Senior Girls’ Basketball team clinched a spot in the provincial championships following their overwhelming 73-43 win against Carson Graham on February 23.

“If we hadn’t won against Carson Graham, our season would’ve been over, making it a crucial game,” said **Mikaela Bordignon**, grade 10.

“We all fit together like a puzzle in that game, everyone was focused and ready to compete,” commented **Kelsey Hazelwood**, grade 11.

Prior to clinching a spot in the provincials, the girls took part in the Fraser valleys, February 15-20, losing in first round play 39-70 against W.J. Mouat.

“It was a tough loss against a good team,” said Bordignon. “It wasn’t a very good start to the tournament, however, we knew we had to win our next game.”

During second round play, the girls’ beat Sardis 61-41.

“We all played really well,” said Hazelwood. “Beating Sardis was a real turning point in the tournament,” expressed Hazelwood.

The girls’ engaged Centennial in third round play, earning a 52-40 win.

“When we played Centennial, we came out hard and worked well as a team,” said Bordignon. “We’ve played them many times before, and the games have always been close,” added Bordignon.

During fourth round play, the girls’ played Heritage Woods, beating them 45-41.

“I knew right from the moment we warmed up it was going to be a great game,” said Hazelwood. “Communication was a key factor in the team’s victory,” added Hazelwood.

Fifth round play resulted in a disappointing loss to Charles Best, 38-59. “We lost because our focus was lacking in the third quarter,” said Bordignon. “It was a 10 point

game up until the third quarter; however, they started scoring at the end of the game, and we never could close the gap,” added Bordignon.

The girls’ finished sixth overall at the Fraser Valley Tournament.

The road to the provincial championships was arduous, but the girls are hopeful for a good result.

“We’re a small team, so we know we can’t compete in a fast-paced transition game,” said **Sara Knowles**, grade 11. “Instead, we slow the ball down and play it our speed,” added Knowles.

“We have worked so hard to get to where we are, and we are going to work even harder in the provincial championships,” said Hazelwood. “I am so excited, and I think it is going to be great!” exclaimed Hazelwood.

The provincial championships run from March 2-5. The girls’ first round opponents will be Oak Bay. Results were not available at press time.

Junior girls finish season, start spring league



STRONG ATTACK: Grade 10, leads the team during a game with Dr. Charles Best Secondary.

CATHY LIU
Staff reporter

The junior girls basketball’s season ended off with a bang. The last game the girls played was against Maple Ridge, ending with a four point difference. The girls have played in many tournaments, including the Kiwanis Classic tournaments in Maple Ridge, the Junior Girls Candy Cane Classic tournament, and a tournament in Victoria.

Although the season has ended for the junior team, they are practicing until the spring league starts. “The season went excellent; the girls went from the bottom of the food chain to above average,” commented coach **Patty Anderson**.

The last few points in the games were close. “I am very proud of the way they learned to commit to the game, never a day goes by they are not in the gym working on their game. I found some girls that became

passionate about the game,” commented Anderson.

“I’m proud of the team for how much effort they’ve put into developing their skills and feeling more comfortable on the court. For the newer girls, it was awesome seeing them transform from nervous kids learning to handle the ball, to players ready to attack the hoop or challenge their check. The more experienced girls were able to develop their confidence on the court, and it really shone through during the games.” says **Alyssa Turcott**, grade 10

Each and every member of the basketball team has improved in their own way. “I feel like improved by practicing and learning from the older girls, and I thought it was a good environment,” says **Alisa Joung**, Grade 10. “Of course there is always room for improvement, and I’ll do my best to play harder and smarter next year!” stated Turcott.

Anderson is looking forward to seeing how the team will continue to grow in the future. “I will be going back to the senior team next year; this was my one year break from senior, so I am looking forward to bringing the grade 10’s with me. We hope to find a great coach to take over junior!” While Turcott comments, “I hope that next year the team will work hard in getting shots up and crashing the boards. I also hope that everyone will continue to put effort into playing their hardest for every second of the game.

Lone wrestler grabs sixth in BC championships

BORIS KIM
Staff reporter

The wrestling team ended their season with placing sixth in the province in their weight category at the wrestling championships in Abbotsford on February 26.

After the provincial tournament, **Hannah Wood**, grade 10, scored top six in her weight class to move on to the final tournament which took place the next day on February 27. Wood placed sixth in the entire province.

With Wood’s achievement, **Mark Tustin**, wrestling team coach, said “Hannah had her first win at Fraser Valleys and she lost to the first place athlete in grade 12 and Hannah is in grade 10. Then she won her next two matches which qualified her to move on to the next day in the consolation finals. She wrestled against some tough competition and she placed sixth in the province which is really strong.”

Before the provincial tournament, wrestlers had to place top five at the lower Fraser valley zones. Wood placed first followed by **Emily Garcia**, grade 9, who placed third, followed by **Beatriz Roque**, grade 11, and **Aileen Zhang**, grade 9, who both placed fifth. No male athletes placed.

“I tried my best at zones but I guess I wasn’t ready yet,” said **Shoma Asano**, male wrestler, grade 11. “I feel like it was a valuable experience for me and it gives me motivation to try even harder next year.”

Some athletes felt thrilled to reach the provincial level, despite that fact that it was their first year of wrestling.

“Throughout my wrestling season, I had never won a match and I usually ended up pinned on the mat in the matter of seconds,” said Roque. “Because it was my first year wrestling, I never really got the hang of wrestling until Fraser valleys. I lost my first two matches and I progressively started to understand wrestling more and I even won my last match. It was an amazing feeling to have my arm raised at the end of the match for once. Going into Fraser Valley’s I had no intention of qualifying for BC’s and it came as a nice shock that I actually made it.”

“It was a great experience for me as an athlete,” concluded **Sam Yi**, grade 11. “I learned a lot about myself through wrestling. I didn’t get to do as well as I hoped, but I would definitely do it again.”

SPORTS in Brief

Badminton tryouts

The tryout was held on Tuesday after school and the results are not clear. Junior team may be able to form this year but still in process.

Netball team starting

This year we had 68 people registered for the netball team, 35 seniors and 33 juniors. The first try out just happened this week and the results will soon be available to check for the players.

End of season for jr boys

The junior boys wrapped up their season with a result that doesn’t meet the early expectations.

The team was able to reach the finals but the result turns out to be unsatisfactory.



ConX Leadership

Leadership, ConX creates caring community on calendar

ASHLEE AHN, AJ LAHOUAOULA
Staff reporter

At Gleneagle Secondary, the student body is at the forefront of the growing school culture, and the Leadership and ConX programs have played a tremendous role in the collective endeavor to grow school spirit.

Gleneagle's Leadership program welcomes students of all grades to

develop their roles as leaders at the school. As **Adam Hayes**, Leadership and ConX teacher, describes the program: "The leadership program is about [the student]. The course gives students



the ability to conduct their own personal growth and allows them to set ambitious goals that will impact them for the rest of high school." While the program is instrumental in running numerous events at Gleneagle, the curriculum extends far beyond that; students engage in various classroom projects and activities focused on character development, while also offering them a unique perspective

on various themes such as teamwork, connection, and empowerment.

"My role as a teacher isn't to control the learning, but instead to act as a guide and help students grow a new attitude on the themes of the program," Hayes notes. The leadership program is marked by a learning environment that is controlled by the students. "In leadership, we place a lot of focus on the individual and their personal growth and development

as leaders and human beings contributing to the lives of the people around them. And in doing so, it often has a trickle effect into the broader community to be in a state where they are also givers," concludes Hayes.

Gleneagle's ConX program is an extension of the classic leadership program at the school. "ConX draws upon the skillsets

the students have already developed and grown in previous years of work," says Hayes. "The program challenges



these skills; they must begin applying at a higher level or at an intensified rate." The course aims to enable students in their upper years to continue exploring the means of empowering the community. It also works to help students achieve success in character development through discussing various leadership topics and theories and running a multitude of large-scale events throughout the year.

Hayes discusses the origins of ConX: "It started as a club; there were no expectations, there was no structured component, and there was no class credit. Members were nothing more than volunteers that got called into the field. Because Ms. Johal was always so busy with counselling,

she wasn't able to put in the time that she wanted to incorporate a classroom

element to the program. I decided to propose the idea of a 4-credit independent-studies course to the administration team, and they loved it. ConX is in its second year, and it's already grown quite a bit. I'm really excited to see how we continue to evolve."

The cornerstone of the ConX program is connection; through the course's curriculum, connection occurs amongst members of the program and with members of the community. "It asks them to be ambassadors within the school, think about the big pictures and the levels of giving so they can be more like philanthropists," ends Hayes.

Upcoming events

Covenant House Sleep out, April 5: An event aimed to raise awareness and help support Covenant House, an organization that assists homeless and abused youth. The sleep out aims to give participating students an idea of the life that homeless people must live every night.

Spirit Assembly, April 7: An annual event, the spirit assembly brings together the entire student body for an afternoon of spirited school events. This year, the spirit assembly is fundraising to provide support for the newly arrived Syrian refugees within our local communities. All proceeds will go towards creating a Welcome to Canada kit filled with essentials for the refugees.

Terry Fox Assembly, April 12: The annual school wide assembly and run to support cancer research. This year, the assembly will be welcoming Terry Fox's old Basketball coach, Bob McGill.

Movie Under the Stars, April 13: Gleneagle's very first outdoor movie night, the popular movie hit Back to the Future will be played on a two-storey tall movie screen on Gleneagle's field.

Earth Week, April 18-21: Gleneagle's very first spirit week centered on sustainability; the event will consist of various events such as a school art contest, tree planting, and an assembly on climate change, presented by the Suzuki Foundation.

Grade 12 Slumber Party, April 28: A unisex slumber party, exclusively for grade 12 students, that aims to develop a deeper level of camaraderie and connection among the graduating class of 2016.

Talk To Me, May 6: An annual event that is built around the theme of resilience, with a diverse range of people delivering motivational speeches and discussing their stories of hardship and strength. All proceeds will be donated to the Mood Disorders Association of British Columbia.

