

NOVEMBER 8, 2018

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1



KENDRA SEGUIN PHOTO

**REUNITED ONCE AGAIN:** Two grade 10 students, a grade 11, and a grade 12, discuss and prepare the new student newspaper, *The Cutting Edge*, a continuation of the discontinued school paper, *The Edge*.

## Students keeping Gleneagle voices alive

**KENDRA SEGUIN**  
*Staff reporter*

History has proved to repeat itself with Gleneagle's journalism course once again being cut this year. The official student newspaper, *The Edge*, will not be published within the 2018-2019 school year, but a group of students have come together to produce a smaller student publication known as *The Cutting Edge*. This new newspaper intends to preserve the student voice.

"After hearing of the journalism course cancellation, the journalism students felt disappointed and wanted to continue the newspaper somehow," explained **Diane Huang**, grade 11 and writer for *The Cutting Edge*. "We decided that if we couldn't take the course, we would just write by ourselves."

*The Cutting Edge*, which is officially recognized as a club, will function similarly to the previous journalism course. However, the publication itself will have distinct

differences from *The Edge*, most noticeably in its size and layout.

"[The writers] have to take the newspaper and figure out what the concentrated version is," said **Ken Cober**, principal. "Now they're doing it in a new way with restricted time, restricted human-power, and restricted resources. They really have to know exactly what their message is and their purpose."

The current six students enrolled in the club collaborate amongst one another in the production of the newspaper along with the support of sponsor teacher, **Lynn Cecchini**.

"I agreed [to sponsor the club] because I felt like this project could provide an opportunity for students to give the paper a presence in our school," said Cecchini. "It is a way to plant a seed for having a paper continue in the future."

The initial reasoning behind the journalism course cancellation was the low enrollment during last spring's course selection. **Charlotte Lightburn**, former yearbook

teacher, proposed a solution to the enrollment issue, offering to run a combined course.

Due to personal circumstances, Lightburn has been unable to teach this year, eliminating the combined course module. However, this does not ultimately eliminate the possibility of having journalism return as a course.

"If we get enough students choosing the [journalism] course, then absolutely the course will come back," said Cober.

"We hope that by producing the newspaper, it will make students, especially grade 9 students, more aware of the opportunity," said Huang.

"As long as there are people passionate about sharing news and ideas, *The Edge* will live on," concluded Huang.

Students interested in writing for and contributing to *The Cutting Edge* can visit the library every Tuesday during block five. Alternatively, they can send an email to [gleneaglecuttingedge@gmail.com](mailto:gleneaglecuttingedge@gmail.com).

# Honour classes not necessary

AMANDA DING  
Edge columnist

With a new school year, there are often many students who want to push their limits in learning with new goals. Often, this motivation for success drives them to choose an honours class to get the most out of their learning.

From year to year, Gleneagle offered honours classes, which were mainly in math and science. This year, only a grade 10 science honours class is being run. Students may wonder if Gleneagle might be falling behind with academics, in comparison to other high schools such as Pinetree or Port Moody secondary. However, this is not the case. In fact, it is quite the opposite.

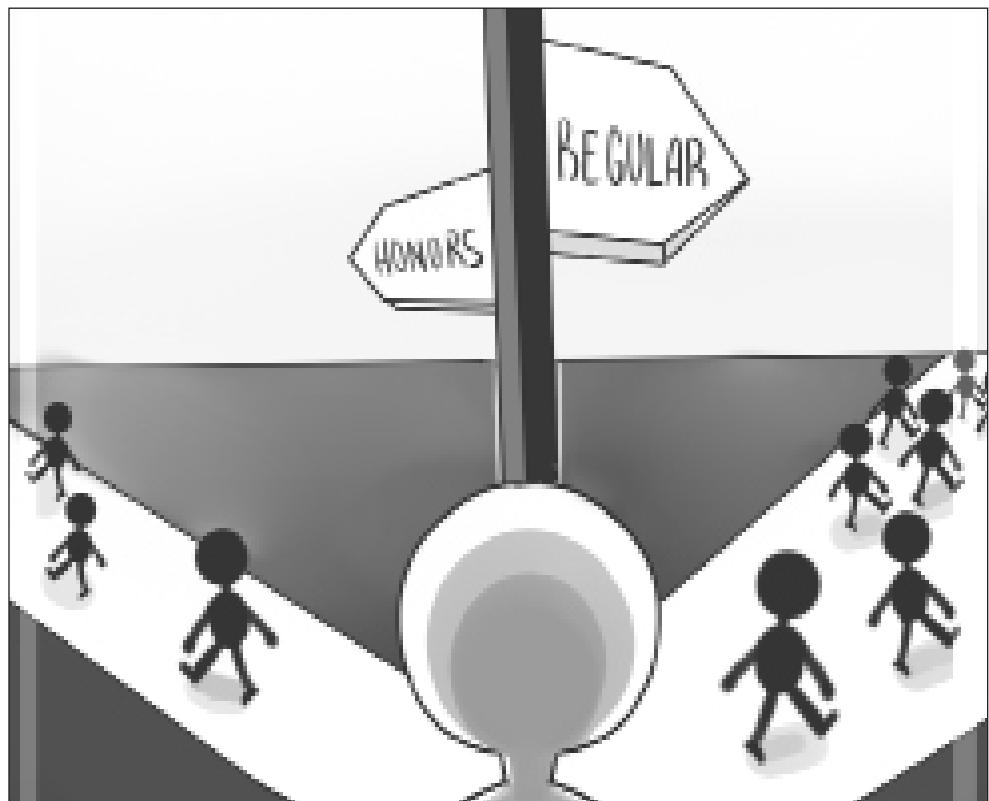
The truth of honours classes is that they are not truly benefitting or providing all the students in school with the best academic opportunities. They are just being used as ways to show off to others how high of a grade one could get being in a more esteemed class.

"What an honours class is meant to do is to provide additional enrichment for students who want it. It is not meant to be something that's prestigious, or looks better on a transcript," said **Scott Findley**, English teacher.

Many times, with students signing up to an honours class, it was only for the recognition of getting good marks in a honours class. "When [students] were challenged with extra enhancements or extra enrichment, they didn't want the extra enrichment, they just wanted a higher grade," continued Findley.

There are students who do want more enhancement with their learning, but when a group of them are taken out of a regular class, other students are not able to have the same experiences.

"Those people who want the extra enrichment, having them spread out through all the classes, then helps elevate the classroom discussion and work," said Findley. "It is then the job of the teacher, when [they] encounter that student who wants enrichment, to provide it for that individual learner."



With all of this in consideration, it becomes a question if Gleneagle really needs honour courses, or if it is better for the remaining honours classes to be cancelled.

"We believe in excellence in all classes. I don't really like the idea of only having something special for [an honours student] and not for the other classes," said **Mark Liao**, science teacher. "However, from another perspective, it's nice to offer the honours class to students who want to be surrounded by like-minded individuals."

Sometimes, honour classes are used to attract students. They lure people to Gleneagle, to stop them from going to other schools, just because they have courses labelled with the word "honours."

Students do think honours classes are

beneficial, but they can also understand the reasoning of not offering them. **Tiffany Ke**, grade 10, explains how it is helpful to have honours classes, as it enables students to go deeper with their learning. "You also need to sign up for honours too, so the people in honours actually want to be there," said Ke.

"I believe honors courses and accelerated classes are essential for nurturing students [who] may not fit in properly inside a 'normal' classroom," said **Otto Mao**, grade 11. "[However], honours courses may be important, but only for a small niche. It would be better to have a more [academically] balanced school," concluded Mao.

Honours classes may be a great opportunity for extra depth in a subject, but that's what all classes should have.

## The Cutting Edge

**Staff:** Amanda Ding, Diane Huang, Kendra Seguin, Alex Zhang, Joe Zhou

**Cartoonist:** Tara Asadi

**Advisor:** Lynn Cecchini

Interested in writing for The Cutting Edge? Visit the library Tuesday in block five or email



NATHAN CUSHING PHOTO

**THE BELL OF HALLOWEEN RINGS AROUND THE WORLD:** Five grade 12 students Dress up for Spirit week. Two Chinese zombies follow a black and white impermanence, who are under the control of a Taoist priest.

## Spirit week ends successfully

**AMANDA DING**  
Staff reporter

Every year, many holidays pass by, and the students of Gleneagle are ready to celebrate with a spirit week and fun activities.

Halloween is a special holiday where Talons go all out. Starting October 29 to November 2, students dressed up as teachers, planned paired costumes with friends, showed off their Halloween style in a fashion show and more. Behind these events, Gleneagle's student council ensured a great time.

"For banner designing [our] team likes to make use of posters to capture students' attention and get them involved in the events," said **Michelle Yung**, grade 10 and member of student council.

## Sr. boys volleyball to Frasers Valleys

**ALEX ZHANG**  
Staff reporter

Tomorrow, the senior boys' volleyball team will continue onto the triple A Fraser Valleys qualifications against Kwantlen Park Secondary. The team, coached by English teacher **Daniel Beley**, pulled through the fall season with some difficult losses throughout the term.

There were seven new junior grade 10s and five returning players. They persevered with a hard-fought match against home

Students outside of student council also made sure to put in effort to show school spirit.

"Spirit week is a great chance for students to relax," said **Tiffany Lam**, grade 11.

"It allows everyone to join in on the fun and do things they normally wouldn't try to do, such as wearing pajamas to school or dressing up as their teachers," added Lam. "In addition, days like twin day in spirit week give students a chance to have a stronger bond with their schoolmates."

Along with great events, such as candy tasting and teacher trick or treating, Gleneagle did well showing school spirit.

As students dressed up as their favourite memes, Halloweek ended with an incredible amount of student participation.

team Port Moody on October 29. "It's a very young team," said Beley. The difficult game ended in a loss, three sets to one.

Despite the many defeats during the season, the Talons still saw many improvements in their playing. Coach Beley praised the chemistry and good time that they had together.

"I feel like it was a smooth year. It was definitely tough," reflected **Josh Laughlin**, grade 11. "It wasn't easy getting organized at first. I think we stood well against the teams, but we have a lot of work to do as a team."

## SPORTS in Brief

### Sr. girls v-ball meet Fraser Valley

The enior girls' volleyball will be stepping up to the AAA Fraser Valleys next Tuesday, November 13. This will be the last tournament and game of their season.

-Alex Zhang

### Sr. boys soccer ends the season after losses

This year, the senior boys' soccer team was made up entirely of juniors. The last game of the season was against Port Moody Secondary on October 25. They will not be advancing to the Fraser Valleys.

-Diane Huang

### Jr. girls v-ball finish after losses, tie

The junior girls' volleyball team finished the Riverside tournament on October 27. The team was previously defeated by Abbotsford, Seaquam, and Delta. In the third game against Terry Fox, the team worked hard, ending the match with a one set tie. Their last game against Archbishop Carney was a tight match, but was still lost 2 to 1.

-Alex Zhang

### Cross country victory

The girls and boys' cross country teams concluded their season with victories. The grade 12 boys team placed first in the districts on October 24. **Ethan Yang** and **Lucy Robinson**, both grade 11, qualified and competed at the provincial level in Nanaimo last weekend.

-Kendra Seguin

### Jr. boys v-ball wraps up

The junior boys' volleyball team played their final districts against Port Moody on October 29. The game ended in a 3 to 1 loss, concluding their season. The team ran into a shortage of players when the season began, only racking up nine players for the court.

-Alex Zhang



DIANE HUANG PHOTO

**BLUES BE GONE:** A grade 10 student gets into character while singing “St. Louis Blues” with the vocal jazz ensemble at Gleneagle’s annual fall music concert.

## Fall concert shows off diversity

**DIANE HUANG**  
Staff reporter

It is a rare opportunity to see and hear all of Gleneagle’s award-winning ensembles in one music-filled night. The annual fall concert did just that in the MPR, with everyone from the music department performing for the first time this year on October 24.

The junior and senior concert bands, the concert choir, vocal jazz and jazz band all performed for a crowd of friends and family.

The selection of music was diverse with pieces from a wide range of genres and a piece with its roots in the Squamish First Nation. One of the pieces for senior band was composed and arranged by **Benjamin Sigerson**, grade 12. Sigerson’s piece is titled “Open Window in a Storm.”

“I just wanted to write something for the band and one thing led to the other and the piece sort of made itself,” explained Sigerson.

“Any musician would do my music justice, because I feel honoured just to hear something I’ve made be played, but I think the senior band did really well,” added Sigerson.

“The second piece was “Gathering of Eagles” which was composed by Robert Buckley, a local composer, a piece he wrote [with] direct permission from the chief of the Squamish Nation,” explained **Edward**

**Trovato**, music teacher. “The base melody comes from the Squamish [Nation], and then he scored it for concert band.”

“We need to be doing more with aboriginal music, arts, and customs,” added Trovato.

“The “Gathering of Eagles,” was a much more straightforward, easy piece to start off the year, but “Open Window” had rhythms some people had never seen before,” said **Han Sol Jin**, grade 11.

Even though there were some struggles, the senior band pulled through, giving the audience a unique experience.

“The concert went pretty well and the choir was pretty error-free,” said **Kayla Price**, grade 10, and member of the junior band, jazz band, vocal jazz and choir.

“Vocal jazz went a little better than I thought. We were a bit low on energy before the concert, but we pulled through and had fun on stage,” added Price.

“The pieces we played were what I consider a warmup to begin the year, and as we go along we’ll be playing even more beautiful pieces,” added Jin.

The next concert is the winter concert in December.

“The Christmas concert is called “Carols by Candlelight.” We do a huge variety of Christmas, Hanukkah and winter songs,” concluded Trovato.

## Theatre prepares MetFest mime, western classic

**JOE ZHOU**  
Staff reporter

With the hot days of summer behind, Gleneagle’s musical theatre students have begun rehearsing *West Side Story* and MetFest’s *Emotional Baggage*. **Justin Maller**, new drama teacher, is prepared to challenge his actors with the two different plays.

After Gleneagle’s success last year at Metfest, placing second in the district, this year’s talented performers decided to step things up with a special show that does not include any dialogue.

“[This is] a challenge for the actors this time around, because we aren’t allowed to express emotions through lines, so we need to convey the whole story without speaking.” Said **Payton Dembicki**, grade 11.

*Emotional Baggage* is a unique show that brings the audience through a journey of the characters’ personalities.

The musical, *West Side Story*, follows a storyline similar to *Romeo and Juliet*. The modern love story shows insight into problems such as immigration, gun usage, and teen violence. The show is also enriched by many dance scenes and character connections.

“*West Side Story* is more mature and serious; and it brings social issues onto the stage,” said **Leo Chan**, grade 12.

Maller is putting in much of his time and resources to help the students achieve success.

“Students like to get a chance to work on something more emotional, in-depth; something [when] they can actually be a character, dealing with a problem and trying to find a solution,” commented Maller.

“This year’s training is intense,” said Chan, “I expect [that] all the crew members will do well.”

*West Side Story* will be performed in May, while *Emotional Baggage* will be on stage November 27.