



KENDRA SEGUIN PHOTO

SPRINGTIME STYLE: On the second day of spirit week, **Megan Kennedy-Spence** and **Riley McCartney**, both grade 11, prepare for spring break in their Tourist Tuesday attire.

Students spring into spirit

JOE ZHOU
Staff reporter

Colourful displays of blooming flowers decorate students and the school building for Floral Friday, the last day of spirit week before spring break.

Monday saw students from all grades covered in their grade colours, followed by Tourist Tuesday. Students then paired styles with friends to celebrate twin day on Wednesday, and Thursday was designed to celebrate fashion from the past.

Spirit week is a classic, yet simple way to promote school spirit by setting a common goal for students, therefore creating a common bond between all members of Gleneagle's community.

This particular spirit week not only plans to bring relaxation to students for one of the busiest weeks, but is also a great chance for students to show off their energy.

"Many students are excited leading up to the break," said **Renee Boldut**, grade 12

and student council member. "We wanted to give them the opportunity to show their school spirit."

"We did a great job putting things together, but we could have used more advertising to celebrate it more," commented **Shelly Zhou**, grade 11 and student council member.

"We are determined to [help] every student enjoy this week, and that requires a proper introduction of our school culture to students, [regardless] of their background," added Zhou.

St. Patrick's Day is also two days away, which inspired a special event of this spirit week: a scavenger hunt. On Monday, 21 bags of chocolate gold coins were scattered in various nooks around the school. The first students to find them got to keep them. An additional 21 bags of chocolate were added on Thursday for extra fun.

"All you have to do is look for chocolates in the hallways or stairwells," cheered **Jobina Sitoh**, grade 12, student council member. "Enjoy whatever chocolate you can find."

Musicians set for Cuba tomorrow

KENDRA SEGUIN
Staff reporter

From March 16 to 24, a total of 85 Gleneagle students and staff will travel to Havana, Cuba.

The spring break trip will include visiting Cuban students, performing at a fine arts school, and exploring the city.

"The key activities will be performances at the National School of the Arts, visiting the middle school in Matanzas, [...] going to the open market in Havana, and sightseeing in old Havana," said **Edward Trovato**, music teacher and trip organizer.

"We have been excited about the trip since grade 9," said **James Liggins**, grade 12. "Now that it's [one day] away, we're ready to go."

"The best part of the trip, for me, is seeing it through the eyes of the students," commented Trovato.

"The interaction between the Cuban students and the Canadian students, although [the Cuban students] may not speak English and many of our students don't speak Spanish, is through a common language, which is music," added Trovato.

"I am really excited to bring *Tre Lâ* to Cuba," said Liggins, about the choral piece he will be conducting. "I think it will be a lot more fun performing in Cuba because we will be out in the world and will have the opportunity to sing in different areas, instead of just the MPR."

The music department is also bringing approximately \$15 000 worth of donations to Cuba during their trip, including instruments, music equipment, and medical and dental supplies.

"It will be interesting to experience a different type of life [...] and to be able to appreciate what we have, especially when interacting with the fine arts school," concluded Liggins. "They don't have access to all of the funds and instruments that we do, and it will be cool to share with them."

Gleneagle diversity divides, defines culture

KENDRA SEGUIN
Cutting Edge columnist

There are many words that can be used to describe Gleneagle: diverse, inclusive, polite, hardworking, communal. Each individual has their own unique definition of the school based on their personal experiences and perspectives. Given this diversity, Gleneagle struggles to find a clear overarching school spirit.

School culture is a central part of the high school experience. It is often said that when students look back on their time in the education system, they will not remember projects or tests, but instead will remember the memories made with classmates.

A shared student culture manifests itself in a variety of ways: participating in spirit week, rallying around a sporting event, or wearing school-branded merchandise. This spirit helps a school to define its identity and create a place of belonging.

At Gleneagle, participation in school-wide events tends to be low. Despite the fact that spirit weeks and dances are meant to bring students together, there is not a high interest surrounding these events.

The same can be said about Gleneagle houses, a system introduced two years ago that was meant to unify students across grades, but was left behind when it was not accepted by the student body.

In comparison to other schools in the district and beyond, it is clear that Gleneagle has little student buy-in when it comes to building culture through traditional school spirit events.

Just because Gleneagle does not celebrate out loud, does not mean it lacks pride. Rather, Gleneagle offers many programs that inspire school pride on a different scale. Students have the opportunity to create strong connections among small groups through many distinct niches, including sports teams, the performing arts, and specialized programs such as TALONS and COAST. These



subcultures provide individualized experiences that make Gleneagle feel like home to many. This diversity defines Gleneagle.

However, this diversity divides Gleneagle. When there is nothing that all students can bond over, it is easy for individuals to become so comfortable within their specific niches, that they don't engage with the rest of the school.

Without a common sense of spirit or identity, an overall Gleneagle culture cannot exist. In order to develop strong school spirit, the Gleneagle community must work together. As the school is already filled with many distinct subcultures, the easiest way to create overall culture is by combining these smaller groups together.

For example, one of the most successful school events each year is the spring carnival, where all of the school's clubs come together to host one big event. Although each group has its own specialization, all students bond under the umbrella of one large event.

If the school hosts more activities like this, Gleneagle's culture would flourish.

Once the school has developed a culture, there is no room for complacency. For the culture to remain relevant, students and staff must reflect regularly on Gleneagle's identity, in terms of how it is defined and how it lines up with current beliefs.

School spirit is at the heart of school culture. Without it, school is nothing more than an institution.

TheCuttingEdge

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Know something you think we should address? Email us at gleneaglecuttingedge@gmail.com to share your ideas and thoughts.



DIANE HUANG PHOTO

A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE: *Athos Xu, grade 11, and Alana Sun, grade 12, work on a pre-build for the Physics Olympics. The Olympians competed at UBC last weekend.*

Physics Olympics pushes student aptitude

DIANE HUANG
Staff reporter

Gleneagle's Physics Olympics team competed at the 41st Physics Olympics on March 9, held at UBC.

There are six parts to the Olympics: 2 pre-builds, 2 labs, Quizzics and Fermi.

"Every year, there's Quizzics, which is a game-show style event, and Fermi, which is based on estimating really weird quantities," explained **Aileen Zhang**, grade 12 and one of the leaders of the Rube Goldberg pre-build. "[Players may be asked to estimate] how many atoms that made up Julius Caesar are in the average Caesar salad."

"Two lab events this [year] are based on astronomy and fluid dynamics, and then [there are] two pre-builds: one of them this year [is] a timepiece that measures time and

the other one is a 60-second Rube Goldberg machine that can make noise, turn on a light, and drop a sugar cube in a cup," said Zhang.

The other Rube Goldberg leader is **Han Cho**, grade 12. For the timepiece, the leaders are **Alana Sun** and **Brian Sun**, both grade 12.

Made up of grade 11 and 12 physics students, the team has been preparing since the beginning of February. Due to numbers, the team split up into two teams for the pre-builds. Most of the materials used for the pre-builds are average everyday objects such as toilet paper rolls and styrofoam boards.

"I think our members work really hard. Basically, without [Zhang's] help, we [could not] organize this event," concluded **Steven Chen**, grade 12 and member of the Rube Goldberg team.

Girls' rugby nets two wins, starting strong

ISA YOU
Staff reporter

After three exhibition games at the start of the season, the girls' rugby team played their first official game against Semiahmoo yesterday. The girls started out strong, despite having difficulties at the start of the season.

"We rely on all grades," said **Simon Quinto**, coach. "We don't really lean on our seniors. We play whoever deserves to be on the field."

Gleneagle hosted an exhibition game on February 28 against Abbotsford, with the Talons winning 35-10.

In a second exhibition game against Earl Marriott Secondary on March 5, the girls won again, this time 49-5.

The team's wins can be partially attributed to the dynamics between players.

"Obviously, you have anxiety in games, but if you're enjoying yourself and you enjoy being a part of a great group, then [...] sometimes it doesn't matter about the wins and losses," said Quinto.

Given the opportunity to grow, the team seeks to keep developing.

"As [we] grow throughout the season, we'll get much better," said **Bliss Parry**, grade 12.

NewsinBrief

Boys' rugby begins, welcomes new coach

Since the beginning of Gleneagle, **Chris Turpin**, social studies teacher, has coached the boys' rugby team. This year, he will take a break on the spectators' bench.

Nick Bolton, psychology teacher, has been welcomed into the position as the new coach for both of Gleneagle's boys' rugby teams.

The rugby season has seen a significant delay in its start due to the unexpected snow-fall over the past two months. Games have been rescheduled to begin every Thursday following Spring Break.

"I want to see kids coming out and enjoying the sport," said Bolton. "More players are always better for us."

Practices are Mondays to Wednesdays for juniors, and Mondays to Thursdays for seniors, both running from 3:40 to 5:00.

The team will be competing in the triple A tier two league, which means they will not qualify for provincials.

-Alex Zhang

Girls' soccer team kicks off

The girls' soccer team coached by **Terai Short** and **Carnell Turton** has officially begun their season. Two tryouts were held on March 5 and March 6.

"Hopefully there will be a lot of playing time this year," said Short, on the small team.

Their exhibition game was Tuesday at Gleneagle against Terry Fox.

-Diane Huang

TALONS garage sale sees another year of success

A group of TALONS leadership students continued a well-established tradition on March 2, hosting the annual TALONS Garage Sale outside the MPR. Items including books, puzzles, sports equipment, and even potted plants were sold, raising over \$400 for the Coquitlam Animal Shelter Fund.

"It was great. It was fun. We made a lot of business," said **Neilan Tan**, grade 10 student.

-Lucas Hung



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MEMORIES WITH MELODIES: *Liam Northcott, grade 11, plays Memories of You at the spring concert. Audience members previewed songs that will be performed in Cuba next week.*

Spring concert debuts new piece

AMANDA DING

Staff reporter

On March 13, the MPR was filled with the joyous sounds of music. Gleneagle's senior and junior concert bands, jazz band, vocal jazz, and choir performed for families and friends.

The spring concert is one of the music department's annual programs.

Among the guests, was composer, **Robert Buckley**. The piece played by the senior band and choir, *Highway of Heroes*, was commissioned by **Edward Trovato**, Gleneagle's music teacher.

"We're going to perform [*Highway of Heroes*] at the concert and in Cuba," said Trovato.

It was also the first time Gleneagle has gotten a piece of music commissioned.

"No one has ever heard this piece before; it's brand new," added Trovato.

The students were nervous and excited to be able to premiere the piece.

"You don't really understand the honour that comes with commissioning a piece until you get to the concert [and realize] we're debuting [the piece]," said **Claire Moon**,

grade 12.

"We've been talking about having a piece commissioned for us for Cuba since last year I would say," continued Moon. "But it wasn't until around January when we finally got the ball rolling."

The students have been able to improve their skills with practice and perseverance.

"We have been working hard during rehearsals to prepare ourselves," said **Tiffany Lam**, grade 11.

"Especially in the song *Bugler Holiday*, we practice the sixteenth note runs with the woodwinds to ensure we could play it well," added Lam.

Students of the choir group sang mainly acapella songs; *Walk Out On The Water* and *Espiritu de Dios*.

The jazz band played tunes that they are taking to Cuba, like *Guantanamera*, while vocal jazz sang *Desafinado* among other pieces.

Students in the junior band played the *John Williams Trilogy*, which had songs from *Jurassic Park* and *Schindler's List*.

The senior band joined together with the choir to perform the finale, *Highway of Heroes*.

First GlenFest draws crowd of music lovers

LUCAS HUNG

Staff reporter

On the evening of March 1, the first-ever GlenFest music festival was held in the MPR and gym. The event was hosted by TALONS leadership students and drew more guests than expected. GlenFest raised \$820 for the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre.

"It was definitely a very big project, and we're glad [that so] many people enjoyed the event," said **Ashley Badu**, grade 10 student.

Acts, featuring students from Gleneagle and around the district, included a piano quartet, a Queen medley, and a rap duo.

January, a Port Moody Secondary band, took home the spoils when they won the crowd vote by nearly 20 tickets, receiving a three-hour recording session from Paranoid Sound Studios.

In second place was **Bernice Atienza**, grade 10 at Terry Fox, and Gleneagle student **Tori Kazemir**, grade 11, nabbed third place. In fourth place was ROCK, a band featuring Gleneagle students **Paco Estrada**, **Evan Tseng**, **Alex Zhang**, **Joe Zhu**, and Port Moody drummer, **Carson Sanca**, all grade 10. Rounding out the top five were **Payton Dembicki** and **Elyjah Del Bianco**, both grade 11.

"I felt so alive and so proud of what we had done," said Estrada. "[GlenFest] was an amazing experience and I'm so thankful to the other guys in the group," added Estrada.

"GlenFest was a challenging event to plan, but there was a massive payoff in how both the audience and performers both enjoyed it," said **Edward Marakhov**, grade 10 student and event organizer.

Event proceeds went to the Downtown Eastside Women's Shelter, a shelter providing care for women and children in need.

TALONS students also hosted an escape room event that took place before the music festival. The escape rooms raised an additional \$160 for the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre.