



KENDRA SEGUIN PHOTO

VYING FOR VALEDICTORIAN: Seven candidates, from left to right, **Victoria Makovetski**, **Madison Suchodolski**, **Jay Kim**, **James Liggins**, **Elisa Testa**, **Ben Sigerson**, and **Anaita Dadinatha**, all grade 12, presented speeches depicting their high school experience to the grade 12 student body. By student vote, Sigerson won the title of valedictorian.

Grade 12 students select 2019 valedictorian

KENDRA SEGUIN
Staff reporter

On May 17, grade 12 students took to the polls in order to vote for their grade 12 valedictorian. Seven student speeches were presented to the senior student body, before it was revealed on Tuesday that **Ben Sigerson**, grade 12, won the honourable position.

“[Winning] hasn’t really registered,” said Sigerson. “It’s a surreal thing.”

In order to run for the position of valedictorian, interested students were required to fill out a nomination form that included ten student and two teacher support signatures. The forms were then reviewed by counselors and administration to ensure that the students met eligibility requirements such as honour roll and good school citizenship.

On May 16, Sigerson along with fellow candidates **Anaita Dadinatha**, **Jay Kim**, **James Liggins**, **Victoria Makovetski**, **Madison Suchodolski**, and **Elisa Testa**, all grade 12, presented two-minute speeches during CL.

“[The speech] is a chance for candidates to show the grade 12 class [...] that they

can relate to what [the students] have been through, that they would be comfortable getting up and speaking in front of a large audience, and that they would be a good representative of the grade 12 student body,” said **Victoria Butterfield**, counsellor.

“I always thought the valedictorian had to be someone who was super smart and well known,” said Dadinatha. “When I found out that wasn’t the case, I decided that [running for valedictorian] was something that I knew if I didn’t do, I would regret in the future.”

During the speeches, grade 12 students had the opportunity to score each speech on three different criteria: content and organization, voice and language, and eye contact and body language.

“I was very nervous leading up to the speech, but once I was up on stage with the other speakers, I felt much more calm,” commented Liggins. “During and after the speech, I was really proud of what I had done, and the class was very receptive.”

The first round of votes resulted in Dadinatha, Liggins, and Sigerson placing as

the top three candidates.

“I was excited to place in the top three because I was honestly unsure of how I did since everybody gave great speeches,” said Liggins. “My progress in public speaking has really improved since grade 9, so I’m proud of myself for just running.”

A second day of voting occurred on May 17 in the front foyer, where graduates had to present their student IDs before formally voting for their choice of valedictorian.

“I don’t feel like it’s about me,” said Sigerson, following his win. “It’s not the same feeling as when you have a project to present and you get a good mark, but instead it’s a feeling of accomplishment, gratitude, and humility.”

Sigerson will present his final speech on June 15 during the commencement ceremony at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre.

“I can’t say everything for everyone, and I can’t even say everything for myself, but if I say enough and am honest and legitimate about it, then that’s the best I can do,” concluded Sigerson. “It’s all I can ask of myself and hopefully, it’s all the school asks of me.”

StuCo strays from student body

AMANDA DING

Cutting Edge columnist

Every year, students look forward to coming back from summer break and getting into the routine of school again. This may not be for homework and projects, but for school clubs, events, and social gatherings.

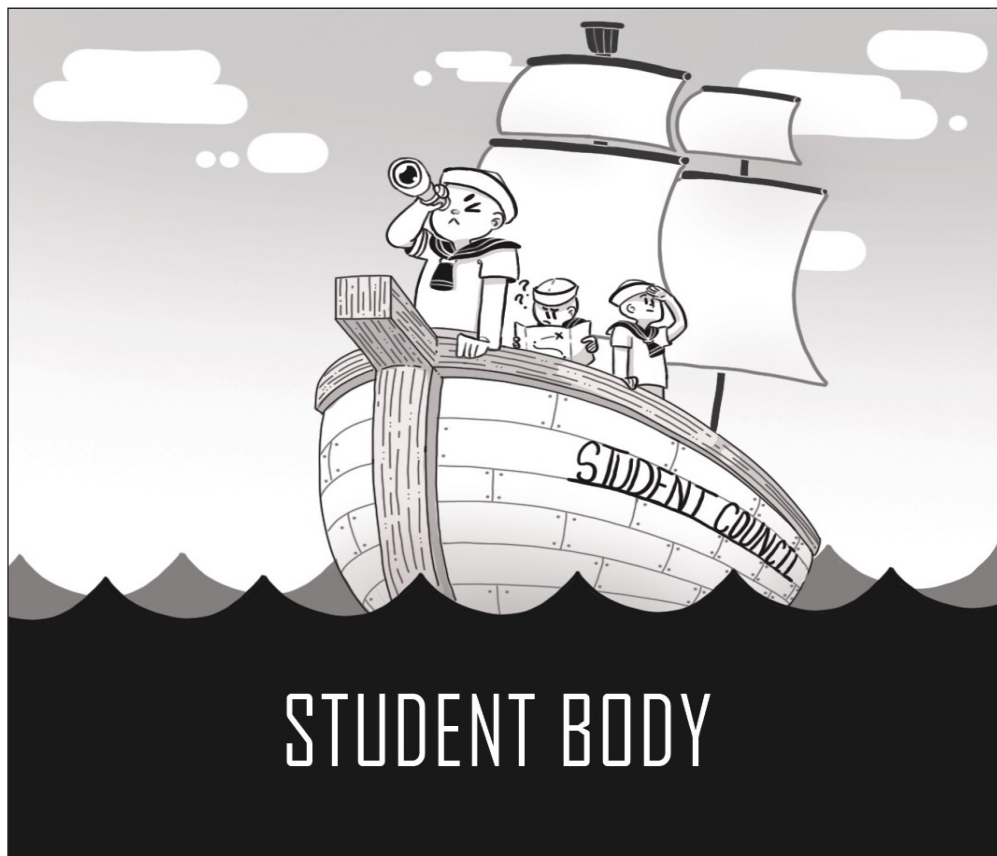
That is where Gleneagle's student council comes in. They provide students with school dances, spirit weeks, and Valentine's Day events that promote school culture and get the student body involved with something fun. However, this year, there were not many participants in the winter formal, spirit weeks lacked enthusiasm, and primarily senior students participated in Talontines.

If these events were meant for students to have fun, then the objective of the events was not achieved. Perhaps the solution can be found when taking a deeper look at Gleneagle's student council.

What the student council essentially does at Gleneagle is plan and execute events to promote school spirit. Although a student council is built on the opinions of the student body, much of what the Gleneagle student council does is shrouded in mystery. It even seems that way to some of the members of the club.

Members of *The Cutting Edge* recently surveyed 100 Gleneagle students, 25 members of each grade. While 87% of students knew about student council, most students did not know the presidents, **Jobina Sitoh** and **Anika Venkatesh**, both grade 12. In fact, not one grade 9 or 10 student surveyed knew the names of the presidents. Just over a third of the surveyed students were unsure of student council's role in the school. While 33% of the surveyed students said they do not think Gleneagle's student council is essential for the school, the grade 9s and 10s surveyed overwhelmingly indicated that student government is a priority.

This data can be used to see that a large portion of the Gleneagle community is in the dark about what student council does, or



is, despite it being a group that is supposed to represent the student body.

Gleneagle's student council has grown to over 56 members that make decisions for events. Although there are many people involved, it is a constant cycle of a 'student council only' community. Executives of student council are chosen by the members of student council, and then the new executives choose new members.

This system makes it difficult to achieve a more varied opinion from other parts of Gleneagle, when already so few students care or know about student council. By having certain requirements to be in student council, as well as elections only available to student council members, it becomes exclusive.

The connection that must link the thoughts of the student body with the student council is communication. While students need to care about having representation,

representatives need to find ways to make students care. Student council is the largest club in Gleneagle, and members have the responsibility to stay in touch with the student body. The students must also be active citizens and make themselves aware of what is happening in their government.

If students of the community are able to voice their thoughts and give input on events that are made for them, there is bound to be an increase of interest and student involvement. The ultimate goal of student council is to bring the school together and allow any student to be a part of the making of Gleneagle culture.

Students want more out of their student council. Gleneagle's student government has great potential to grow from a club that organizes events to an organization that shares and represents student voice in the school. The only way this can happen is by opening up to the student community.

TheCuttingEdge

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ON TRACK FOR PROVINCIALS: Competing against a Terry Fox athlete, **Joshua Laughlin**, grade 11, runs with all of his strength. Laughlin will continue to provincials next week.

Track and field athletes prevail in Frasers

ALEX ZHANG
Staff reporter

Track and field triumphs as two players advance from the Fraser Valley championships into the provincials.

Liz Gilder, grade 12, and **Joshua Laughlin**, grade 11, both placed high in their respective events, qualifying them for the provincial championships.

Along with Gilder and Laughlin, **Ethan Yang**, grade 11, and **Lucie Thomas**, grade 10, also competed in the Fraser Valleys.

The Fraser Valley championships, held last week from in Langley, saw the four athletes

compete and place in a variety of events.

Gilder achieved 6th place in the women's triple jump event, while Laughlin took 5th place in the men's 400-meter run and 6th in men's 200-meter dash.

Yang placed 17th in the men's 3000-meter run and 20th in the men's 1500-meter run. Thomas came in 26th for both the women's 100 and 200-meter dashes.

"They're committed, they work hard, and they're super excited to go to provincials," said **Michele Wilson**, coach. "It's an internal drive because it's an individual sport."

Provincials will be held in Kelowna next week, from May 29 to June 1.

Talons In-Depth night showcases projects

LUCAS HUNG
Staff reporter

The culmination of a five-month long project to develop new skills in the TALONS program will take place on the evening of Monday, May 27 in Gleneagle's MPR.

The project, known as In-Depth, is an integral part of TALONS. After choosing a skill, which can range from cooking to making chain-mail armour, students work with a highly trained community mentor of their chosen field.

On In-Depth night, students showcase their hard work through performances and learning centres.

Izabela Fabbro, grade 9, will have a booth where she will give advice on how to find the

right shoes and properly train for long distance runs. **Grace Kim** and **Caitlin Owens**, both grade 10 TALONS students, chose to investigate forensic science and plan to create a mock crime scene for the event.

"We've gone to lectures at SFU concerning forensic science and etymology," said Kim. "We've learned that there's a lot of misconceptions surrounding forensic science as portrayed in TV shows, whereas these SFU lecturers actually work in police cases, and the process is really different in real life."

While learning a new skill is interesting, it requires motivation as well.

"When my treadmill was broken, and the ground was covered in snow and ice, I had to find ways to adapt, such as finding different times of day to run," said Fabbro.

NewsinBrief

Girls' rugby off to provincials

Gleneagle's girls' rugby team began competing at the provincial level yesterday, and will continue until Saturday.

Having started out the season strong, the girls have won all of their games in season play, as well as their semifinal against Mouat, placing the team second in the Fraser Valleys. Provincial rankings will be released tomorrow.

-Isa You

Student council hosts carnival

Next Friday will be an afternoon filled with activities hosted by clubs from all around the school.

Gleneagle's annual spring carnival will include club-provided live performances, food, and various activities out on the field.

Specifically, GSA is hosting a karaoke contest, Key Club is selling ice-cream croissants and Business Club is making piña colodas.

Additionally, student council has organized an open mic, as well as provided prizes for those who participate in events.

-Alex Zhang

Students partake in blood drive

Through partnership with the Canadian Blood Service, students helped a great medical cause by donating their blood to the annual blood drive.

21 donors in grades 11 and 12 went to the Coquitlam ECBC on May 13 to donate their blood. Students each gave 480 milliliters of blood to the drive.

A second Con-X organized blood drive will occur on June 10.

-Amanda Ding

Boys' rugby falls short of provincial championships

After battling out a tough matchup against Terry Fox last Thursday, May 16, the boys' rugby team lost the game 78-0, resulting in the team falling short in the playoffs to qualify for Fraser Valleys. The team will continue working towards the Coquitlam 7's tournament in June.

-Alex Zhang



DIANE HUANG PHOTO

PROUD OF PASTEL: *Phia Guan, grade 11, stands beside one of her pieces on display at the SD43 Art Show at Coquitlam Centre. The exhibit will be open until Monday, May 27.*

Art show exhibits student talent

DIANE HUANG

Staff reporter

Wednesday marked the opening of the SD43 Art Show that will run until May 27. The art show brings together four schools in the district to celebrate and display student art at Coquitlam Centre.

"I organized the show this year, and students from each of the schools volunteer to act as security for the art display during all hours that the mall is open for the duration of the exhibition," explained **Robyn Croft**, art teacher.

"I feel so lucky and excited to display my art [and] I'm so lucky to be part of a community so dedicated to the arts," commented **Phia Guan**, grade 11. "The Coquitlam show is excellent exposure for art students and is a chance to be in an art show," added Guan.

"Having my art shown in a place where diverse people go really puts limits on what student artists display," noted **Adrienne Desiderio**, grade 12. "I just feel hesitant, not about the pieces, but if anyone would understand what's happening in the art and relate to it."

This year, Gleneagle has six display boards

for studio art, graphics, and photography classes, as well as one scholarship board.

"I choose students who show excellence in Art Careers for the Scholarship board. It is very hard to choose, but we can only fit three. They choose up to 6 of their artworks to exhibit and compete for scholarships," commented Croft.

The scholarships and awards are given by a panel of art specialists and retired art teachers in the district.

Dilveen Abi, grade 12, won the University Women's Club Scholarship, while **Weijin Ross**, grade 12, won the Coquitlam Centre Emerging Artist Award.

"Visitors can expect to see impressive artwork in many 2-D mediums from across the district," said Croft. "It is exciting to see what is happening in the art departments not only at Gleneagle but from other schools."

All of the display boards are spread out on the mall's second level with Gleneagle's main boards in front of L'Occitane.

"I'm proud of these [displayed] pieces because they represent an exploration of mediums, emotions, and ideas that I'm still learning about," concluded Guan. "I believe these pieces show my growth as an artist."

We Dance Off tonight in MPR

JOE ZHOU

Staff reporter

Me to We is hosting a dance competition tonight from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the MPR.

"We Dance Off" is similar to Coffee House, held earlier this school year. Tickets were on sale earlier this week and will also be available tonight at the door. They are \$5 for students and \$10 for adults. All proceeds will go toward supporting education in Tanzania, a country in East Africa.

Each audience member will receive four voting ballots which can be used to cast votes for dancers. At the end of the event, one solo and one group winner will be determined.

This is the first time that Me to We is hosting a dance competition.

"We wanted something new," said **Deon Feng**, grade 11 and event organizer. "With the number of people and the type of people in Me to We, it is totally possible for us to organize another big event."

The theme of the event is '80s Neon, a throwback style of disco. Me to We will provide chips and other snacks for everyone attending the event.

Auditions were held in April to select dancers willing to showcase their talents on stage. However, being a first-time event, few people auditioned. Therefore, Me to We changed their strategy and invited dancers instead.

"We want to add something enjoyable to the community. People can come and laugh at us when we are dancing," said **Lucas Hung**, grade 11, event coordinator, and dancer.

Tonight, four solo dancers will perform on stage in the first half of the event. Following the intermission, there will be six group performances.

The event will feature a variety of dances, with K-pop and hip hop being the most popular. Other dance styles include Chinese traditional dance, jazz, and freestyle.

"We had struggles and difficulties, but now we are over it. It is going to be great. You all should come," concluded Feng.