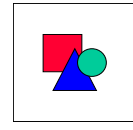




# Glenforest Secondary School



From the Desk of C. Horvath, Principal

A warm welcome to everyone. One of the factors of how "good" a school is may be the extent of learning opportunities that are offered to the student body and staff. Research shows that if a student is to remain in school and to reach his or her potential, the child is to feel fully engaged not only during the formal school hours but after hours as well. Therefore, here are just a few items that may illustrate just how rich the learning community is here at Glenforest Secondary School. In addition, research also proves that staff who continue to learn and have multiple opportunities to learn more about their profession and enhance their teaching repertoire also feel that they are feeling more effective. This in turn links directly to improved student learning. The following is just a glimpse of what has been happening since the beginning of the school year.....

- ☞ There are approximately **70** different clubs, teams and events that are planned for this year.
- ☞ **The Big Brothers and Sisters Teen Mentoring Club** continues into its' second year as students from Glenforest S.S. mentor students both in Glenhaven Sr. Public School and Forest Glen Public School.
- ☞ **The Breakfast Club** operates each morning to offer wholesome snacks for all students to ensure they have a healthy start to their day.
- ☞ Ecosource has been a sponsor of the **Green Team** that has conducted a full scale audit of our waste in a typical day to check how environmentally sound Glenforest S.S. is as a whole. Food scraps proved to be the largest component of this audit and as a result, a full recycling program will be initiated in the cafeteria in the near future. Parents and students are reminded that **litterless lunches** are an excellent way to reduce waste.
- ☞ The **Hockey Team** is off to a great start and it has been several years since the Gryphons have hit the ice.
- ☞ We had a very successful **Terry Fox Fundraiser** which raised \$6,000 towards the Terry Fox Foundation for Cancer Research. Students organized a walk and BBQ and everyone was encouraged to contribute a "toonie for Terry".
- ☞ Our **English Presentation Skills (EPS)** class helped to create a wonderful assembly for Remembrance Day. The choir, poetry, dance and drama was the work of Glenforest students. A poppy drive was held to raise funds for the Veterans. Currently pop can tabs are being collected which will be dedicated to a fund that will provide a wheelchair for a veteran.
- ☞ A wonderful edition of the **Talon Times**, our school newspaper came out recently. It included the voices of everyone.
- ☞ Eight of our students ranked top honours in the **12<sup>th</sup> Annual Canadian High School Design Competition** sponsored by the Design Exchange and Carleton University.
- ☞ The green space near the south parking lot has been cleaned up and branches have been trimmed to improve our curb appeal for our community neighbours.
- ☞ A group of three **teachers from Korea** have spent a week visiting Glenforest Secondary School and visited a variety of classes. They are conducting a study visit to help them improve their English skills and to make comparisons between the two educational systems.
- ☞ A four week placement of **Ontario Institute of Studies in Education, Faculty of Education** students, will be completed as of Friday, November 16<sup>th</sup>. There are a total of seven student teachers placed with experienced teachers on staff to apply their theoretical skills in a classroom setting.
- ☞ The implementation of the **"Counting on You"** program has just taken place. A series of after school courses both for Literacy and Numeracy are taking place to act as a support for students to improve their skills in these areas.
- ☞ The **Student Services Team** has provided the setting for various workshops on postsecondary options including presentations on universities from Eastern Canada, college, and an alternative careers fair.
- ☞ The **Co-operative Education** program has successfully placed 32 students in unique and custom designed placements. Options for a two credit course will be offered beginning in second semester.
- ☞ Glenforest S.S. continues to score highly in the EQAO results. In the grade 9 Mathematics testing, the **Applied** program achieved a **66%** of all students at or above the provincial standard (levels 3 and 4) over time. The **Academic** program has achieved **92%** at levels 3 and 4.

- ☞ Our school also scored highly in the EQAO results in Literacy. The **Academic** Level English students achieved **97%** at or above the provincial standard (levels 3 and 4) versus the board rate of 94%. The **Applied** Level English students achieved **81%** versus the board rate of 59% at or above the provincial standard (levels 3 and 4).
- ☞ Several staff have attended workshops on **Assessment and Evaluation**. An Assessment Team will be created to review policies and update our practices where needed.
- ☞ Shauvik Shah is the very first Glenforest student to act as the board **Student Trustee** representing students from all secondary schools south of the 401.
- ☞ Grade 9 **Take Our Kids to Work** day occurred on Wednesday, November 7<sup>th</sup>. This day allows students an opportunity to explore a career area of their choice.
- ☞ **Commencement** was held on Friday, October 19<sup>th</sup> with 273 graduates. This convocation also included the first graduating class of International Baccalaureate students that received both their Secondary School Diploma and the **Diploma in International Baccalaureate**.
- ☞ A very successful fundraiser of the **Music Department** was held. The music room was turned into a Haunted House complete with goblins, screams and spooky music. Our neighbourhood school, Forest Glen Public School were invited and were thoroughly prepared for Halloween.
- ☞ The **Student Council** hosted a very successful Halloween dance. Most if not all students were dressed in their scariest costumes and they danced to music provided by a deejay. Most high schools do not offer night time dances but the history for Glenforest S.S. is that a great deal of maturity and responsibility is demonstrated and proves to be a very popular event.
- ☞ The **Social Sciences** Department has been integral in accessing professional development for our staff in use of the SMART Board technology. Both the workshop and demonstration were conducted and as a result several staff have been integrating this into their program.
- ☞ The **Learning Centre** has a new SMART Board installed which is being put to good use. Four Glenforest gifted students will be attending IDEA Laurier on November 30<sup>th</sup> at Wilfred Laurier University. A Shad Valley representative visited to talk about the summer enrichment opportunity.
- ☞ **Science Fall Planting** 100 Grade 10 students completed a fall planting activity in Fleetwood Park with the help of the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority. Many of the trees now in Fleetwood Park were originally planted by Glenforest students over the past few decades.
- ☞ The **Math Department's peer tutoring** program is in full swing. Tutoring is available during the second half of each lunch period in room 210. In October, the Math Department invited a representative from Texas Instruments to visit Glenforest. It was an excellent workshop on applications of the new T1-nspire calculators.
- ☞ In preparation for this year's **Skills Canada Competition**, a new club has started building on last year's provincial gold and silver medals and our national bronze medal.
- ☞ On Friday, November 16<sup>th</sup> the grade 10 and 11 music classes will host a concert of **Argentinean Tangos** by the All'Amore Ensemble and **art classes** will take part in a portfolio presentation by Humber College.
- ☞ Grade 10 and 12 art classes are attending the **Art Gallery of Ontario for workshops**.
- ☞ **The Investors of Tomorrow Club** are competing in a National Stock Market Competition.
- ☞ The **Marketing** class is participating in a simulation put on by Junior Achievement.
- ☞ The **Law** classes are visiting the Criminal Courts on Friday, November 16<sup>th</sup>.
- ☞ Several Languages classes are attending the film "**I Have Never Forgotten You: The Life and Legacy of Simon Wiesenthal**" which teaches students about hate, racism, anti-Semitism and intolerance.
- ☞ From the **Physical Education** Department we have had a very successful season for the following teams: Field Hockey, Junior Girls' Basketball, Senior Boys' Volleyball, Junior Boys' Volleyball are entering the ROPPSSAA finals as of Thursday, November 15<sup>th</sup> and we had one student compete in Cross Country at the OFSSA championship.
- ☞ Thanks to the **Student Activity Council** who somehow keeps track of all this co-curricular activity!

As you can see we are off to a great start to the school year with many more initiatives continuing into the new year.