

Glenlawn Gazette

GLENLAWN COLLEGIATE

SPECIAL EDITION: MAY 2025

Vol. 1, No. 1

SPIRIT WEEK HIGHLIGHTS: A DAILY RECAP

by Kyra Anyadike & Soyun Noh

All Glenlawn students past and present share one thing in common, and that is a love for our iconic Spirit Week! Here is a recap of this year's festivities.

Day 1 – Physical Day

Theme: Colours

Spirit week kicks off on the 6th of May, and the students of Glenlawn Collegiate flood the campus wearing electrifying monochrome outfits. Tuesday's theme assigns colours to represent each grade; Grade 9s wear red, 10s yellow, 11s green, and 12s blue. The halls were filled with a vibrant array of colors.

How low can Glenlawn go? Limbo is a Spirit Week fan favourite, as well as this year's debut event. In this activity, two students from each grade level test their flexibility and balance in a bendy competition.

Day 2 – Game Show Day

Theme: Retro

From the cloaks and tunics of ancient Greece to futuristic tech-wear, the school becomes an impressive display of historical fashion. Creativity is key on Retro Day!

The time has come to LIP SYNC FOR YOUR LIFE! An entertaining blend of song, dance, and a whole lot of creativity, the highlight event of Wednesday would have to be Air Bands. Each performance displays the unique style and talent of each grade.

Day 3 – Technology & Technique

Theme: Formal

On the third day of Spirit Week my true love gave to me: gorgeous dresses, sleek button ups, and 6-inch heels! For one day only, Glenlawn trades in the pajama pants and oversized hoodies for formal wear befitting a red carpet!

From acoustic ballads to head-banging metal, students flaunt their musical prowess in our very own battle of the bands, Voice Your Stuff. Each grade formed bands and performed a 15-minute-long set. The performances were of high quality, displaying impressive teamwork and individual expression.

Day 4 – The Finale

Theme: Unity



A prismatic smoothie of Glenlawn pride, the entire spectrum of colours feels represented on the fourth and final day of Spirit Week. Unity Day combines the colours from Colours Day into a meaningful theme that brings the school together.

Day 4's highlight was the unveiling of the grade banners, each designed and created by students. These banners reflected the creativity and teamwork of each grade, with clear themes and colors representing our school's unique identity.

Friday's events concluded into what was an impressive finale.

To some, Glenlawn's Spirit week might just seem like an unnecessary distraction from schoolwork. But when you look just a little under the surface, it is an incomparable learning experience. For instance, larger events like dance-off or the film contest provide management and planning skills that are exceedingly difficult to learn in a classroom setting. Overall, the Festival was incredibly successful, leaving lasting memories for everyone involved.



Inside Spirit Week: The Coordinators' Take

by Yara Tutova & Rhianne Daylo

With Spirit Week wrapped up, we asked the coordinators of big events like Airband, Banners, Dance Off, the 30-Hour Film, and Voice Your Stuff how it went. Their answers made one thing clear: growth, creativity, and teamwork all come with their fair share of challenges.

One of the most common struggles would be participation. A lot of coordinators said they were disappointed by the lack of involvement. The Grade 11 Airband coordinator shared, "My biggest disappointment this year is that we couldn't get more people to join. I think having a bigger team would have made everything feel more complete."

Some events, on the other hand, had plenty of people but not enough to do. A Grade 9 Voice

Your Stuff coordinator said, "I feel like, for next year, I'd recommend for the teachers to make sure that everyone in Voice Your Stuff has at least one song to perform in, and that everyone has a role."

Presentation was another big theme. A Grade 11 from the 30-Hour Short Film said, "For next year I really want to improve on camera angles and colour grading. Although I think overall our video was pretty good, we had some problems with the colouring for some reason and didn't have enough time to fix it."

The Grade 10 Dance Off lead brought up something interesting: "Picking music choices more catered to the age of the judges. I think there was a bit of bias with the judging because

of it." Definitely something to think about next year.

One of the Banners coordinators hit on something really real: burnout. "At some point, I became the Banner person. I would walk down the hall and people would ask me, 'Are you going to win this year?' or 'I bet it looks amazing!' It just became all about meeting everyone's expectations, and that's when it stopped being fun. Next time, paint for the fun of it and not for the win."

And finally, time management. A Grade 9 Airband coordinator put it simply: "My biggest wish is that we had started faster because we didn't do that bad, so I feel like if we started earlier, it could have been way better."

No event is perfect, and that's okay. What matters is that you learn from this year's lessons and apply them to make next year's Spirit Week even better.

Spirit Week Showdown: The Final Results

by Sophia Marie Cuyno

The moment we've all been waiting for. Grade 12 takes the gold with a total score of 2700, followed by Grade 11 with 2360, Grade 10 with 1960, and Grade 9 with 1740. Who could've guessed? It was a surprisingly tight race between the Grade 9s and Grade 10s this year.

Throughout the week, Grade 12 consistently pushed for 1st place, with Grade 11 close behind. Grade 10 followed, while Grade 9 steadily crept toward 3rd place. It wasn't until Thursday, Formal Day, that the Grade 9s finally overtook Grade 10. It was a memorable day for the 9s, as they dominated with their science project and their Voice Your Stuff presentation, which engaged the entire crowd.

Going back to Colour Day, Grade 11s truly showed us how athletic they are by dominating the Work It Out challenge, soccer, and limbo. The Grade 9 volleyball team also surpassed all expectations, finishing in second place.

On Friday, Unity Day, it was the 10s' time to shine. With a victorious tug-of-war win, the Grade 10s beat not only the 11s but also the 12s. Combined with an amazing first-place finish in banner artwork and presentation, the 10s pulled themselves into 3rd place.

Spirit Week was a successful and memorable event. Shoutout to all students for bringing their spirit and showing off their amazing outfits! A huge thank you to the Spirit Week Committee for all their hard work, and to the staff and students who helped organize this unforgettable event!



Did You Know? The History of Spirit Week at Glenlawn

by Vidhi Bhavsar

Spirit Week at Glenlawn has a long and exciting history that dates all the way back to 1957! Back then, it was not called Spirit Week — it was known as "Pep Week." Originally, this fun event took place during the last week of February, and surprisingly, it was held outside! Imagine all the activities and competitions happening in the chilly winter air.

Over the years, Spirit Week has become a huge tradition at Glenlawn, bringing together all the grades to celebrate school spirit and friendly competition. The Grade 12 students have dominated the event, winning an impressive forty-three times, including this year. The Grade 11s have claimed victory thirteen times, Grade 10s twice, and Grade 9s have yet to win.



One of the most interesting facts about Spirit Week is that it draws attention beyond Glenlawn itself. Students and visitors from other schools have come to watch and be inspired by the positive energy and dedicated support from every grade. Despite the fierce competition, everyone keeps it healthy and fun — making Spirit Week a unique and memorable experience for all involved.

Why Spirit Week Matters: Beyond Costumes

by Vidhi Bhavsar

Spirit Week is not about dressing up — it means so much more to students at Glenlawn. We asked students from different grades why Spirit Week matters to them, and their answers show how this tradition brings the school together in powerful ways.

For Grade 9 students, Spirit Week is about awakening school spirit and creating memories that last a lifetime. They love how it encourages everyone to engage with the whole school, making their first year feel special and connected.

Grade 10 students see Spirit Week to bring unity to the school. It is a chance to display skills, embrace creativity, and feel strong together as a grade. They appreciate how the



week celebrates unity within diversity — everyone contributes something unique, yet they come together as one. Grade 11 students explained that Spirit Week gives everyone a boost to get through the last stretch of the school year. It is not just about competition; it is about bringing every grade together for some healthy fun and friendly rivalry. Seniors in Grade 12 believe Spirit Week is the one time when the entire school truly feels united. It is a fun event that creates bonds not only within grades but across all students. They highlight how it encourages leadership and planning skills while bringing everyone together in a positive way. In short, Spirit Week is much more than costumes and competitions — it is about connection, unity, creativity, and making memories that last long after the week is over. It is what truly makes Glenlawn feel like a community.

Behind the Scenes: The Backbone of Spirit Week

by Zainab Ali

When you see the excitement on stage during Spirit Week—the cheers, the dances, the wild competitions—it's easy to forget what's happening behind the curtain. This year, we got an exclusive peek backstage by chatting with Mr. Krahn, the Spirit Week mastermind, along with three backstage crew members who kept everything running smoothly.

The backstage team plays a huge role in making sure Spirit Week happens without a hitch. From setting up games and cleaning up after contestants to moving heavy sets and managing mystery events, these folks have their hands full—and they love it!

Fissy, a Grade 12 member in the committee, said she helped make the plan run smoothly, whether it's setting up games or sneakily snapping pictures with the cameras. She admits, "I like backstage, it's fun to laugh at people, laugh with people, watch people win or lose, cheer my grade on."

Bianyelis helped with set-up and keeping things on track, but also enjoys jumping in on stage events when she can. Fiona's role was mainly moving sets and supporting Mr. Krahn directly, and she's been backstage since Grade 9. She shared, "I like backstage because I get to be in control of things and make sure they work the way I like."

Of course, it's not all fun and games. The biggest challenges for the crew were dealing with last-minute changes, like scrambling to fix things when events ran overtime or people didn't show up. Fiona recalled those hectic moments: "Krahn would get really stressed out, and then everyone just had to run around and try to make everything right." Bianyelis

also talked about the stress of finding the right stuff exactly when it's needed, and the headache of shifting events around because of no-shows.

Preparation helps. The day before Spirit Week, they walked through all the games, checking setups for volleyball, basketball, and more. That practice run helped them know exactly what to do on the big days.

And what's the best part of being backstage, we asked? Fiona loved knowing the mystery events before anyone else and hyping up her friends before their turn, saying, "I'd tell them, no, it's going to be okay." Fissy enjoyed the laughs and the energy of cheering people on, while Bianyelis appreciated both helping behind the scenes and joining the fun on stage.

When asked if backstage work gets the credit it deserves, Fiona pointed out something important: "I think most people don't notice what's going on backstage, even though it's what makes everything happen... people should appreciate the background crew a bit more."

Looking ahead, she hopes future Spirit Weeks will see Grade 9s better prepared: "Just to make sure that the Grade 9s actually know their cheers before Spirit Week even happens, because the booing is never appreciated as a Grade 9."

continued on page 5



continued from page 4

If backstage is the heart of Spirit Week, the MCs are definitely the hype engines, they are the voices and faces that keep the energy alive on stage. This year, Tobi shared her experience of being one of the event's MCs, giving us a peek into what it's really like to hold the mic and keep the crowd going.

Being an MC isn't just about talking. Tobi explained that she had to prepare what to say but also be fair and inclusive, making sure no grade felt left out. "I had to remember that I had to not be very biased towards my grade, and make sure that I was including the grades of nines and tens, and everybody else as

well."

The best part for Tobi? Watching the crowd's spirit explode during the grade cheers. "Everyone's just participating in the cheers in a very hyped school spirit, which made my spirit lift, as they do that."

When it came to practice, Tobi said she mostly went with the flow. "I don't think you can practice all those kinds of stuff. You just go with the flow."

What makes a great MC? For Tobi, it's optimism — the ability to stay bright and bubbly even when things don't go as planned. "Sometimes kids are not going to do what you want them to do, so you just must keep on being optimistic and keep on being the bright, happy, bubbly self."

Of course, nerves come with the territory. "Uh, yeah, I'm human — of course, I get nervous sometimes. But I try to be the kind of person who, after a while, doesn't care if I'm nervous. I'm just going to do it anyway."

Keeping the energy up in front of a big crowd is a mix of personality and the crowd's vibe. Tobi called herself an "upbeat person," and said the excitement of the crowd is contagious: "Once I get to the crowd where people are already cheering and happy? It just kind of rubs off on me."

She also tweaks her tone depending on the moment, whether cheering on struggling grades or pumping up winners. "When the Grade 9s are losing, I try to tell them good lines to cheer their grade up, and if the Grade 12s are losing, I cheer on 'What are you guys doing?' or 'Go team!'"



We also had the chance to talk with Mr. Krahn, the long-time leader who brings Spirit Week to life. He's been leading the event for over a decade, around 12 or 13 years, and his passion for it remains strong.

When asked how he got involved, Krahn explained that he wasn't part of Spirit Week initially. "I wasn't involved at first, but seeing how fun Spirit Week was, I jumped in." After the previous teacher left, he took over the reins and has been running the show ever since.

His main goal for Spirit Week has been clear from the start: to "boost school spirit by showing off all kinds of skills." He emphasized that the event is especially important for students who don't often get the spotlight, aiming to "highlight the diverse skills and abilities of the student body."

Krahn shared some memorable moments from the week, like "watching Jackson take charge as MC during the grade grudge event," and the excitement of the Grade 10s winning tug-of-war. One laugh-out-loud highlight was hearing the whole school belt out "Let It Go" on the first day —

a true Spirit Week classic.

When it comes to competing, Krahn said he'd join in events like the volleyball challenge, Super Smash Bros, or Mario Kart. However, he'd skip the spelling bee or poetry slam because those would "freak me out."

On a lighter note, he described a fun but wild Spirit Week theme his wife's school tried: "Fake Injury Day," where students come to school with fake casts and crutches. He laughed, "Hilarious but probably a nightmare for teachers!"

By week's end, Krahn admitted he was tired, rating himself an 8 out of 12, but said his team helped him recover fast. When asked about receiving an award, he shrugged it off, saying it should go to the students and committee for their courage and hard work. Still, he joked a "Spirit Week Survivor 2025" T-shirt would be a fitting keepsake.

Shoutout to every student who stepped up, stayed late, lifted equipment, raised the mic, clicked the camera, or just brought the energy — thank you. You are the reason Spirit Week felt alive.



Top Looks from Spirit Week

by Dasha Burchenko

Spirit week is a time to dress to the nines and show off your style, whether that be clean and cute or messy and rugged. Dressing up allows for many creative minds to buzz about. Here are some of the top outfits from each day

Photo Credits:
Fissy Olanrewaju
Bianyelis Francisco
Deborah Ugbah-Chukwuemeka
Luyan Zhao
Soyun Noh







