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# GLENLAWN GAZETTE

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# GRADE 9 SPIRIT WEEK

## MINI SPIRIT WEEK: A PREVIEW FOR GRADE 9s

It is only the second time in Glenlawn's history that something like this has happened. On December 17, 2025, credit must be given where it is due. A big thank you goes to Mr. Krahn, our Spirit Week leader, for introducing a mini but fully energetic edition of Glenlawn's Spirit Week culture. The event was designed to give just a glimpse of the real thing: the loud, hyped, drumbeating, arms-raised-high, talents-on-stage, excitement-bursting, cheer-filled chaos known as Spirit Week.

This event was exclusive to Grade 9 students. The entire grade was divided into four teams based on the official Spirit Week colours: Red, Yellow, Green, and Blue. The mini edition was created to prepare the young Lions, so they are not taken by surprise by the wave that arrives half a year later: the actual Spirit Week.

## GRADE 9 PERFORMANCE

The Grade 9s brought genuine enthusiasm and energy that did not go unnoticed. Multiple students stepped forward, showing talent, bravery, and a willingness to challenge themselves on stage. From the Spirit Week committee's perspective, the turnout was both surprising and encouraging. It proved that this year's Grade 9s might not be "doomed" after all. The talents on display were promising, especially for first-time participants. From the egg drop challenge to basketball and Mario Kart, Grade 9 students demonstrated early strengths across many activities. However, Spirit Week is where energy is proven, not promised. This mini edition should only be considered the warm-up. With that said, Grade 9s should keep this same energy going and not let it fade when the real wave arrives.

**\*\*THIS ARTICLE INTENTIONALLY EXCLUDES SCOREBOARDS OR TEAM PLACEMENTS FROM THE GRADE 9 SPIRIT WEEK. HIGHLIGHTING COMPETITION WAS NOT THE PURPOSE OF THIS MINI EDITION.\*\***



# GRADE 9 SPIRIT WEEK

## INTERVIEW WITH GRADE 9 STUDENTS

Fortunately, the newspaper was able to interview several Grade 9 students for this article. A loud shoutout goes to Mr. Storie and Mr. Trunzo for helping facilitate these interviews. The group was a mix of math enthusiasts, athletes, musicians, and movie lovers. Despite their different interests, they shared one common trait: youthful energy. Only Bakumi had experienced something similar during middle school. For most of the group, this was an entirely new experience.

When asked whether the challenges were difficult, confidence appeared quickly.

"No, it was very easy... nah," Thomas said.

Bruno immediately echoed, "Nah, nohn, nohn."



It was a fair response. Trend-based challenges are not meant to be extremely difficult, and this mini version was intentionally designed to be simple so that everyone could participate. Several students admitted that the real pressure was not the challenges themselves but performing in front of their peers. The interviewees participated in a variety of activities, including math challenges, basketball, trivia, cup stacking, and the egg drop challenge. Members of the winning team credited encouragement from Mr. Trunzo and Mr. Bonkoski, along with the promise of pizza, as motivation for early involvement.

When asked how the event could improve, the most common answer was simple: more challenges. Zoe suggested adding more group-based activities to help shy students feel comfortable joining in. Thomas proposed a coding competition judged live by a random audience member, an ambitious idea for a first introduction to Spirit Week. Another recurring suggestion was to introduce awards even during the full Spirit Week to encourage participation and recognize effort.

"It was entertaining, and I'm glad we got to skip classes," Zoe said, with immediate agreement from the rest of the group.

Bakumi added, "I enjoyed wearing an ugly colour of green and not getting joked about."

Their responses reflected a first step into Spirit Week culture. They were confident, curious, and still figuring things out. Most importantly, they were beginning to understand that Spirit Week is more about school spirit than just prizes.

The preview accomplished its goal. The Grade 9s practiced their cheers, tested their confidence, and caught a glimpse of what lies ahead.



# GRADE 9 SPIRIT WEEK

## SPIRIT WEEK LEADER EVALUATION

The newspaper was also able to gain insight from the leader, organizer, planner, and executor of Spirit Week itself: Mr. Krahn.

"The energy that the students brought to the event was indeed hyped. They were excited and ready to go, with lots of engagement and cheering. The Grade 9s learned their cheers well, and I think they will be ready for the big, one-shot, full-school Spirit Week."

I was also impressed with their level of competitive spirit. It was not bad at all.

However, the Grade 9s often underestimate how much of the student population participates and how everyone shows up dressed in full-colour chaos. They also underestimate that they might get booed if their cheers are not done properly.

That is why the Mini Spirit Week is important. It gives them a chance to practice and allows them to see a glimpse of how we run the main event here at Glenlawn. The purpose of the Mini Spirit Week is to prepare Grade 9s by letting them try some of the actual activities we use during Spirit Week, such as limbo, the basketball challenge, Super Smash Bros, Mario Kart, and more. It also helps them practice their cheers.

This reporter's final message to our Grade 9s? SIGN. UP. FOR. STUFF!



# WINTER WONDERLAND

At Glenlawn, the week leading up to the winter holiday break was celebrated with a series of themed days, organized by Student Council. People got to dress up according to the themes, watch movies, and participate in fun activities at lunch.

The week kicked off with Red, White, and Green Day on Monday, and the always popular PJ (Pajama) Day on Tuesday, with lunch for both days featuring the opportunity to purchase candygrams for other students. Wednesday was Santa Hat Day, with organized games being held in the Den at lunch. Thursday featured a Whiteout theme and Gingerbread house building competition, where teams of 2-3 students competed against each other to build the best gingerbread houses.

Friday wrapped up the week with the classic 'Ugly Sweater' day, with a holiday movie being played in the Den, along with tasty treats!



**DID YOU KNOW?**

New Year's resolutions are a common way for people to start the new year. Most resolutions focus on improvements to health, relationships, and finance, but unfortunately 80% of people will give up on their resolutions by February. Part of the reason so many people give up on their resolutions is because they make them the wrong way.

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# CONCERT BAND AND CHOIR

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Music brings everyone together through the harmonies, melodies and rhythms. The band and choir students have shown this through their enchanting songs they performed at the winter concerts.

One highlight piece from the Senior Concert Band was 'A Night in Budapest' by David Bobrowitz. 'A Night in Budapest' is a very lively piece, starting off slower to build the anticipation that the brass section brings in. The call and response sections in this piece were done beautifully by our Senior Concert Band.

One of the many highlights from the Concert Choir was 'Circa Mea,' a more intense piece, with an incredible solo performed by Jana Al-Sawair. Another highlight from that night was 'For Good,' the famous song from Wicked, with lovely solos from Tessa Turner, Addison Bahniuk and Indya Klostermaier-Starkewski. The three of them portrayed Glinda and Elphaba.

These musical groups have shown not just their passion for music, but their commitment to the craft.



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# GUITAR COFFEE HOUSE

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## STRUMMING UP SOME FUN!

On December 17th, Glenlawn hosted our Winter Coffee House. This concert was presented by Mr. Erickson and his guitar classes for the semester. This show featured solo and small group performances from the Grade 11/12 guitar class, and performances from both electric ensembles, consisting of the Junior Band (Grades 9 and 10) and the Senior Band (grades 11 and 12). The goal of the show was to celebrate the skills developed by the students, and to share those skills with family, staff, and students.



What made this show different from other school concerts was the format and energy; instead of everyone being seated at the bleachers, the audience sat at round tables and enjoy delicious desserts and coffee brought in by the performers and Mr. Erickson. The coffee house was also unique in that Mr. Erickson had students choose the songs that they performed in their solo/small groups. This gave students a chance to learn and perform their favourite kinds of music for everyone to hear. The Grade 11/12's showed a wide musical range in genres like jazz, pop, ballads, and classic rock. The show opened with his Junior electric guitar ensemble who performed ZZ Top's 'La Grange' and Stevie Wonder's 'Isn't She Lovely,' and closed with the Senior electric ensemble who performed The Beatles' 'While My Guitar Gently Weeps' and Ozzy Osbourne's 'Mama, I'm Coming Home.' Another highlight of the night was the Grade 12 recognition, an annual tradition where each senior is gifted with a guitar strap embroidered with the Glenlawn logo.

The guitar program's hard work was on display as they put on an entertaining show for attendees and used this opportunity to showcase the musical talent within the school. The coffee house created an exciting end of the 2025 concert season and kickoff the winter break.

Sad you missed the show? Don't 'fret!' Glenlawn will be hosting the Spring Coffee House on June 17, free of charge. Stop by to listen to some music, eat some desserts and support Glenlawn's students!



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# PEACEFUL VILLAGE

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Concerned about missing a deadline on a new assignment because that one pre-calculus problem already burned you out? Why not get that assignment done while making new friends, and then enjoy a warm slice of pizza for dinner? That's exactly what the Peaceful Village (PV) program is all about.

The Peaceful Village program has 9 different sites throughout the city of Winnipeg, with both cooks and tutors working together so that there is help and food available for you every day. "Before I joined, I was a shy kid who didn't want to interact with others, but as I joined, I was able to become more of myself," explained Hanif, one of the grade 12 students that has been enrolled in PV since Grade 9. "This is a good environment to be part of because the act of just taking and engaging in convos has boosted my esteem."

"From my experience, I have noticed that students who attend the program tend to be more friendly and jovial because they tend to make more friends and study with people that they would not talk to otherwise", shared Daniel, one of our Glenlawn graduates now tutoring in PV.

Around Winter Break is when that sense of belonging hits its highest, with the students' talents shining bright in the Village Kitchen while all the families enjoy the performances and meals. "I enjoyed performing with my friends and playing games together with them," said Yuehan from Grade 11. "I feel like the Village Kitchen is important because it brings families together," shared Camila from Grade 12. "I got to meet a whole new group of people because of the Village Kitchen" told Yuehan.

Even though PV runs from 3:45 to 5:30, this group isn't bound by the walls of the Den. Leah Aidiu, team leader of the PV staff here at Glenlawn, shared the details. "Every year we provide food hampers for families, good stuff, just kind of like a gift for them." PV also provides its students with opportunities outside the province like this year's Toronto exchange trip. "I was so excited when Leah told me I was going to be an ambassador of the Peaceful Village... I was so scared but at the same time so happy because I was the chosen one, you know?" recalled Camila.

Whether at home or across the country, Peaceful Village gives students the confidence to step forward and connect with others no matter where they go.



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# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

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Each February, the Black History Month committee plans a whole week of fun and tasteful events; like the Puff-Puff sale! Organized entirely by the students, this year the Black History Committee planned fashion shows, a puff-puff sale, educational presentations, and wrapped it all up with a movie night. It was a month to connect, learn and celebrate.

"Why Black History Month matters? It matters to empower students, to contribute to school culture, by sharing educational things about the culture they live in," says Ms. Wasyliw. "Students who ran Black History Month were incredibly engaged and dedicated and they were able to do an incredible culture showcase, a great educational piece, a fundraiser to share their favourite snacks from Nigeria, as well as share in a movie night."

The puff-puff sale was a hit, as it is every year. The West African doughnut everyone loves sold out before the lunch hour was even over! The week wrapped up with a great movie night, watching Black Panther, where they sold popcorn and soda.

But behind the scenes, staff supervisors Ms. Collins-Kramble, Ms. Stephenson and Ms. Wasyliw were there helping out with logistics and making sure everything went smoothly.

"Our role as supervisors is to help students get organized, and to accomplish the goals that they have. They do all of the brainstorming themselves, we help more with the logistics. For example the cultural showcase, they choreographed all the dances, wrote all of the speeches." says Ms. Collins-Kramble.

For Ms. Collins-Kramble, like many of us, the importance of the events goes beyond just one week. "The reason why I think it's really important for schools and our school especially to continue to have a specific opportunity for students, specifically P.O.C. students, to celebrate their culture is because history only remains history if we continue to teach it."

Glenlawn's Black History Month committee reminds us every year that celebrating culture isn't just one week or month, but it's every day. Whether that be by making a dish or snack, or wearing certain jewelry and clothes, culture is all around us.



# BLACK HISTORY MONTH



# MAMMA MIA

## MAMMA MIA - HERE WE GO AGAIN!

Glenlawn has just wrapped up their 2026 musical production of Mamma Mia. This Tony award winning musical originally conceived by Judy Craymer and consists of the music from the iconic Swedish band ABBA!

Mamma Mia takes place in Greece and centres around the upcoming wedding of Sophie and Sky. Sophie's father's identity has been a mystery her whole life, but when she finds her mom's (Donna) old diary, Sophie finds out the three possible men who it could be - Sam, Bill or Harry. Sophie invites all three men to the wedding and that's when the chaos starts to unfold. The musical also features the life of Donna, an independent single mother who is the owner of the Taverna. Her daughter's upcoming wedding has been difficult for Donna to process, leading her to reflect on her past mistakes. With help from Tanya, Rosie, Ali, Lisa, Eddie, Pepper and the rest of the large ensemble make for a vibrant, hectic musical with themes of family, friendship and of course, disco!

The process of putting on a musical is a lot of work from a lot of different people. Our amazing team consisted of students who were involved in cast, crew, tech, photography, costumes and a live band with conductor Katie Erickson! Glenlawn is very lucky that we have our producer & musical director Ms. Roscoe, and assistant directors Montana Lehmann and Kyle Mroz who come from the professional theatre world to lend extra guidance.



During the final practices before opening night, I got the chance to speak with some of the people involved to ask them about what song they were most looking forward to the audience getting to see.

I first spoke to Tessa Turner the student playing the lead role of Donna, she chose the song Does Your Mother Know when asked why, she says despite not being in the song she thinks "It's so funny and it's very interesting to watch." Next, I spoke with Kit Vosbough the head of crew, who says Dancing Queen is the song of the night "Dancing Queen! That's my favorite one because of the choreography and I like how fun it is." My next interview was with guest director Montana whose favorite song was Money Money Money "Because it's the first time everyone is on stage, and I can tell everyone has a lot of fun during it." I asked my final questions to Ms. Roscoe, my first question was what led her to choose this musical she says, "I wanted to do something that is a big-name musical that was well known, and I know everyone loves the music." The song she was most excited for was Lay All Your Love On Me "The energy is infectious and everyone has a great time."

During the 7 shows we got the opportunity to preform for a senior home, elementary schools and evening shows that all were able to attend. In fact, our final show was sold out, that being the first time since Covid! We are extremely proud of our students and staff and want to say thank you for the hard work, thank you for the dedication and of course, "Thank You For The Music."

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# BASKETBALL

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## 9 GIRLS

The Glenlawn Grade 9 Girls team might be small in numbers, but they make that up with their dedication and skill.

Early in the season they lost to CJS, but they made a comeback. Down by 8 at halftime in a rematch, the girls weren't going to have a repeat of events, and won by 6 points. You might say it's luck, but I'd say that's grit.

"The girls have competed really hard this year. We're a team with only 7 players... They've been working hard developing their skills," says Coach Moore. Coach Moore highlighted something that shows the team isn't just a number on the scoreboard: "They're really supported of each other,". In a team where numbers are low, the support matters more than we think.

The Grade 9 girls are an excellent example of determination and teamwork. Keep an eye on these lions, they may be a small team, but they're mighty.



## JV GIRLS

For the Glenlawn JV girls team, it's not always about the scoreboard, but about the work they put into the game. With many games ahead, head coach Dan Law tells us about a group of players that don't just care about the scoreboard, but each other.

"Their energy, hard work, effort, and connection is at a very high level any coach could have," said Law. "Everything has been great, to be honest."

The team is still learning and developing, and the growth on the court is a reflection on the coaches, the effort and dedication these players bring to every practice and game.

With games still left in the season, Coach Law is positive that the team will get some more wins. If what Coach Law said is anything to go off of, these Lions are just getting started.



# BASKETBALL

## JV BOYS

The Glenlawn JV boys season up to this point has been about growth, character and brotherhood. From the coaches, the staff involved, and the players on the floor, the game isn't just about points to them.

"These guys have become like brothers," said head coach Joe LaRiviere. "They've grown tremendously since the beginning of the season. Most importantly, they're maturing as young men. We're not seeing a lot of wins this season, but a lot of personal wins,"

Assistant coach Marco Trunzo echoes this statement, expanding on the character his players have shown both on and off the court, saying it's one of his proudest achievements this season.

"They hold themselves with pride and they are good representatives of what we here at Glenlawn strive to be," said Trunzo. "The skill and overall passion they're showing is wonderful and I think we're going to have a real run in the playoffs,"

The passion Trunzo describes is felt by the players too. Aaron Cho says that the team's connection has been steadily building during the season, and the results are starting to show.

"At the beginning it was rough, but I feel like we're getting better every time," said Cho. "Playing together as a team, coming to practice, it's fun."

With the playoffs on the way and a team that's getting closer every game, Glenlawn's JV boys team is proving that not all victories are the ones seen on the scoreboard.



## VARSITY BOYS

The Glenlawn Varsity boys are in the last stretch of the season, and a good one at that.

"We get better everyday. 1% better everyday. By the end of the season we're 50-60 percent better. So if we get better everyday- as long as we take steps forward and not backwards- that's a win for us," said Coach Spencer Harrison before a practice.

His words about getting better everyday is clearly seen as the boys aren't just playing to win, but for fun.

One of the impressive moments this season was late January when our graduating all-star Ayanle Abdi scored 40 points in a single game.

The season isn't over yet, but the stakes just got higher with playoffs coming. So make sure you share your support for the Lions, they've earned it.

# GLENLAWN BASKETBALL





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