

DECEMBER:

23 - LAST DAY BEFORE
WINTER BREAK

JANUARY:

9 - BACK TO SCHOOL

THE GAZETTE



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

At Glenwood, we begin every staff meeting with a **time of celebration**. Staff highlight gains that our students have made, advancements in programming and exciting new initiatives. We have dedicated space in this month's Newsletter to share those celebrations with our Glenwood School Family.

I would like to highlight a few programming and staffing celebrations. During November, we have begun to train staff and introduce MyGAZE technology in our 3 Multiple Classrooms. We have 3 MyGAZE units that allow students that are non verbal and have limited mobility to operate a laptop screen through their eye gaze. Presently we are allowing the students to enjoy engaging in cause and effect activities as they develop eye gazing stamina and skills. From there, the potential for communication and learning is incredible! Monica Knott, our Speech and Language Pathologist and member of the Intensive Support Services Team and Lucia Crespo, our Communication Disorders Assistant are leading this initiative with our teachers and EAs. We will share more information about this technology at our Annual Review.

We also received a grant from the HWDSB Foundation to purchase items for our Glenwood Apartment. This apartment, within the LifeSkills Room, will be fully operational by January and allow for authentic learning of skills that will support our students today and as they move into adulthood. The apartment will have all new IKEA furniture that will include; a single bed with sheets and blankets, dresser, night stand, carpet, kitchen table and chairs. Student will, according to their IEP and learning profile, develop life skills such as making a bed, cleaning, putting clothes away in drawers, vacuuming, cleaning and setting a table and so much more. This next step will build upon the learning that has already begun in Katy's Kitchen, with Katy and Marc. We will include pictures of our Glenwood Apartment in our Next Newsletter.

Lastly, I want to celebrate our staff! We have an amazing team of professionals that have prioritized the learning of your child. Each day our staff engage your children in learning activities that are meaningful and engaging. I am very impressed with the ongoing professional development of our team. Many staff have engaged in ongoing learning that has included such activities

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as; Book Clubs on Collaborative & Proactive Solutions and 7 Habits of Highly Effective People, online courses offered by the Geneva Centre on ABA and autism, Leadership courses from our Board, and taking additional teaching qualifications, to mention only a few. This level of ongoing learning has had a very positive impact on the instructional practice of our staff.

Also related to our staff team, I want to thank Sandra Ireland for her time with us as the LTO teacher in Room 10. Sandra, with her extensive background in ABA, has been a wonderful asset to our team. We wish her well as she is expecting her first child. We also wish Steve Davidge well as he enters retirement and thank him for his years of service.

I am excited that we were able to hire Amanda Zacharewicz as the permanent teacher for Room 10. Amanda has been an LTO prep teacher here at Glenwood for the last year and has been a significant asset to our school in her leadership. Holly Otterman, will take on the position of LTO prep teacher. Holly brings knowledge and experience having had numerous LTO assignments including a year as a Learning Resource teacher.

We have so much to celebrate as we work together to help your child reach their full potential. Thank you for partnering with us to continually make Glenwood **‘a special place to learn.’**

Todd Graves

Vice Principal, Glenwood Special Day School



With the Winter months comes Cold Weather and Sicknesses. This is a friendly reminder to please dress your child in layers. We do go outside whenever possible and want to ensure that our kids (and ourselves) are dressed for the weather.

With cold weather also comes coughs, sneezes, runny noses, etc. If your child is feeling under the weather and you are keeping them home please remember to call the office at 905-525-2140 and let us know. We worry about our students when they aren't here.

Stay warm and healthy this Winter.





Angela's Room 2

It has been wonderful to have a group of McMaster University students from the **McMaster Arts for Children program** join our class on a regular basis this Fall. The program exposes our students to unique hands-on art activities, while simultaneously instilling an appreciation for them. Our students always light up with many smiles and enjoy engaging and interacting with new faces while continuing to focus on **independence** and **communication** goals while the special guests are in the room (such as requesting, choice-making, including opportunities to display great skills on talkers such as "yes/no", "more", etc.). We feel it is a win-win situation because both the McMaster team members and our students grow and learn from this experience.

My Placement at Glenwood

There are two aspects that come to mind when I think of Glenwood; the uniqueness of the school to the community and the amazing students that attend. I have had the opportunity to volunteer in many schools, but in terms of uniqueness, none have matched Glenwood. I am very excited to be a part of this community for my second placement through Mohawk College as an Educational Support student. During my short time at the school, I have had the opportunity to work with several students on their communication, gross motor and life skills. Although placement periods are only scheduled to be twenty days in total, I feel as though I have learned a lot, not only from the staff but the students as well. The experiences gained here are great memories to last a lifetime.
- Karyn K. Mohawk College Educational Support Student

- On behalf of the students and staff at Glenwood, thank you Karyn for all that you have given to our school with your willingness to learn, care and support our students. - Mr. Graves

Cindy's Room 1

We are excited to welcome a new student to our class in November. He loves to joke around, laugh and is transitioning to our school quite well. The students have been very welcoming to him!

We have been working on building **Independence** within the classroom environment. Each student has adjusted very well to using their own visual schedule that includes Picture Exchange Communication (PECS). The students are working on peeling off their own pictures upon completion of an activity and checking their schedules to see what is next. Furthermore, we are about to introduce Free Choice activities as well, so students can choose an activity that they really enjoy, rather than being provided with an activity that the adults feel they may enjoy. This is such an important step in building **independence** and **self-advocacy**!

Jeri's Room 3

Room Three is excited to have MyGaze technology in the class. This system is made up of a computer monitor with a camera that tracks eye movement. The eye movement, once calibrated, allows students to participate in a variety of visual skills, including visual tracking, tracking shift gaze and saccadic eye movement. This technology will support our students learning and communication! We are very excited to have this new technology in our classroom.

Celebrations Continued

Brenda's Room 4

We are very excited to see the roll-out of our latest communication opportunity with the 'MY GAZE' technology. We have had the supplier come and begin to train our staff with our board Speech and Language Pathologist and our schools CDA. This technology involves each student working through pre-programmed activities to train the student how to use their gaze to advance their opportunities of communicating their wants, needs and ideas. We are eagerly awaiting the ideas our students will soon have the ability to communicate.

Ken's Room 6

As part of our journey to align with the **Structured TEACCH** model, we have introduced a community table in our class. Students use this table whenever we get together – for meals and snacks, crafts, and other group activities. All of our students have adjusted amazingly well to this! It almost seems as if we have been using a community table all along.

One of our students has made amazing progress with **communication** in using talking switches to tell staff when he wants more of something (more walking, more food, etc.), and to tell us about some other needs he might have. He has been working with Lucia, our CDA, to enhance his understanding of cause and effect as it relates to his use of switches.

Sandra's Room 10

Our student have been working hard and making many incredible gains! We are using the Structured TEACCH program in our class and almost everyone in the class is now completing **independent** work at their work stations! We are also increasing our **communication** skills using a variety of different forms (pictures, signs and words). It was great to see all the boys vacuuming in our Lifeskills room. We are so proud of our students and their learning!

Karen's Room 11

Our students are developing their **communication - social skills**, specifically with regards to "taking turns". The students are telling a peer "*It's your turn*" during calendar time. Each student is responsible for walking over to a peer, saying "*It's your turn (name)*" and then handing the visual prompt over for the peer to use for their turn. This skill development has also been extended to "turn taking" during partner activities. We are very proud of our students progress and patience with each other as they develop this very important social skill.

Another celebration has been our very successful walking trips into the community. So far we have visited Fiddes Wholesale Produce and Fortinos. These outings have allowed our students to practice **life skills** and **transitions** in a meaningful way.

Laura's Room 12

Here are some of our student celebrations relating to our **Structured TEACCH** program...

A student can select his weighted blanket from his free choice activity board, walk over to the weighted blanket and bring the blanket to staff. After 5-10 minutes of free choice he can take the weighted blanket off and return it to promote **communication, transitions and independence**.

Another student can **transition** to the TEACCH table with his visual symbol, sit and prepare to work.

When the staff say "Check your schedule" a student can eagerly stand up from his desk and **independently** walk over to his visual schedule to see what the next activity is.

And a 4th student can perform 6 work activities at his desk before he has a free choice activity. He can move the work bins off a small table on the left hand side in front of him, perform the work, then push the finished work onto the small desk on the right hand side.

Penny's Room 14

The amazing students of Room 14 continue to develop skills and independence as they complete their lunchtime Classroom Chores. Students match the visual symbol card to their job for the week and find the materials needed. Each day students are sweeping, delivering lunch bags, washing and setting the table. We have also started developing skills to use the microwave to heat up their own lunches. It is fantastic to see the students develop confidence and a sense of accomplishment while developing meaningful Life Skills!

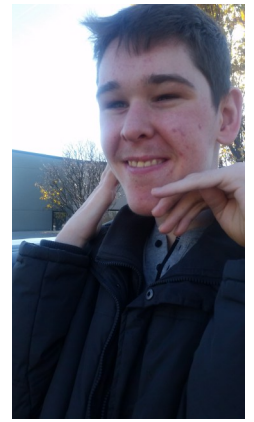


As the month of November is coming to a close, the United Way fundraiser is also wrapping up. Together, Glenwood staff and students have

raised over \$500 to date. Our United Way Coffee cart and bake sale were a huge success and our pajama day dance raised over \$200 alone! Thank you for all of your generous contributions thus far. Stay tuned for a final total donated by our Glenwood Family.



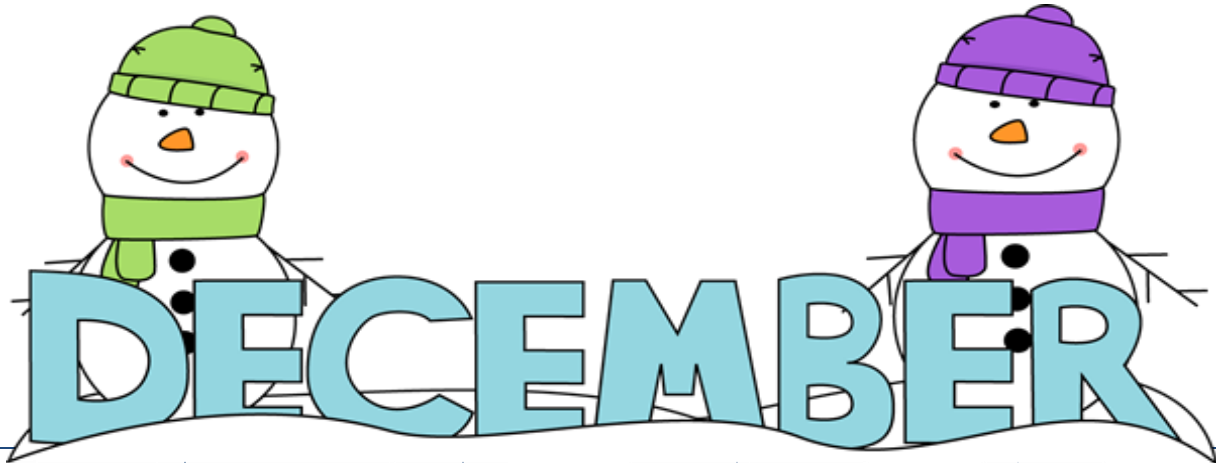
Each month we celebrate the outstanding job of one of our students within the life skills program. This month our Outstanding Employee of the Month is Quintin B! Quintin has been doing a great job with both our Shopping and SPCA Programs. Way to go Quintin!
~ Marc Johnson



Glenwood's Life Skills program is celebrating the wonderful grant from the HWDSB Foundation. The money from this grant will help to furnish Glenwood's Life Skills Apartment. This apartment will allow students to develop some of the housekeeping skills they can use to assist in the maintenance of their household. Watch for photos in the January newsletter. Thanks HWDSB Foundation!

Celebrate
SUCCESS





			1	2 PA DAY
5	6	7	8 Day 4 - Santa's Workshop	9
12	13	14 Jesse & Jan	15 Day 4 - Holiday Dance	16
19	20 Jenny the Library Lady	21 Christmas Blizzard Shopping Spree	22	23 Day 4 - Movie
26 WINTER BREAK	27 WINTER BREAK	28 WINTER BREAK	29 WINTER BREAK	30 WINTER BREAK

Upcoming Important Dates:

Back to School - January 9, 2017