

FEBRUARY:

20 - FAMILY DAY

MARCH:

3 - PA DAY

13 to 17 MARCH BREAK

**THE
GAZETTE**

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

January has been a month full of celebrations! Over the course of the month and wrapping up this week, we have had **43 IPRC Annual Reviews**. It has been so exciting to sit together with parents, care givers and community partners and celebrate the success of our students and make plans to move their learning forward. In many of our meetings, we were supported by our wonderful HWDSB system support staff, which included such roles as the **Psychological Services, Intensive Support Services** (formerly the ASD and ACT Teams), **Speech and Language Pathologists, Orientation and Mobility, Blind and Low Vision** and our **Special Education Consultant**. Together, we reviewed each student's identification, placement, discussed transition plans and programming. As a result of every meeting, the committee recorded recommendations that will be addressed over the next school year. Another component of our meeting focused on reaching 'out' into the community and 'ahead' past their 21st birthday. As we look 'out and ahead' it is very important to ensure transition plans are being developed well in advance. Such planning includes being registered with **CONTACT Hamilton** and connecting with the **Developmental Services Ontario (DSO)**. If you have any questions about either resource or this process, please contact your child's classroom teacher or myself.

Over the next few months you may hear about some new people in your child's classes. Glenwood Special Day School has a strong partnership with **Mohawk College** and their **Educational Assistant Program**. Three Mohawk students will be doing their final placements here with us. We have found that this is a wonderful learning experience for those students and a great opportunity for our students to engage with other caring adults.

Please save **February 22** in your family calendar, as we will be having our **Annual Family Fun Night!** As in previous years, this is a student friendly event specially

designed for your child. It is a cost free night full of interactive activities and games designed by our students and staff, special treats, popcorn and door prizes. Our evening runs from 6-8 pm with a concert at 7 pm by **James Ferris** from the Corktown! James and his friends, including **Gator Gus**, will get everyone celebrating! We are looking forward to **Family Fun Night!** Come one and come all! We are excited to welcome many of our alumni families and graduates back to Glenwood for this night as well.

We have much to celebrate here at Glenwood Special Day School and in the lives of our students. Please take a moment and reflect on your own celebrations and I encourage you to share them with a friend! Together, Glenwood is *'a special place'* to celebrate our students' learning.

Todd Graves

Vice Principal, Glenwood Special Day School

Employee of the Month



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 Susma! Susma has been doing a great job as our CEO of Glenwood Snack Cart Co. Way to go Susma!

~ Marc Johnson



February 20

Back To It with Room 1

Happy New Year to all of our Glenwood families and friends! What a wonderful beginning to 2017! The students settled in nicely following an extended break and we are back to following our visual schedules that include PCS symbols. The students are learning to choose from up to three choices during their free choice time, following a learning activity. This has been going very well and the staff continues to learn what motivates our amazing students. Also some exciting news is the return of the Classroom Teacher, Terry Laufman, during the mornings and Cindy is quite thrilled to remain in the afternoons. Finally, we are seeing some snow again which means lots of icy experiments involving snow paint, food colouring, snow stress balls, and snowmen!

Room 14 had a Fantastic Start to 2017!

With the beginning of a new year, comes new learning! It is great to see how the students look forward to trying the new activities introduced during direct teaching times. They are all eager to see the new materials in the bins at the beginning of the week. We have also observed new friendships and social interactions between the students. Lilyanna was a good friend when she asked CT to play with the ball and scoops in the gym. Dawson will say “Hi” to his friends and will ask about them if they are away. Bryanna shows caring for her friends and waits to take her turn during group activities. Mackenzie continues to make amazing creations using a variety of new art materials. In February we will be making a music video, developing Life skills in the new Glenwood apartment and exploring new leisure or free time activities.

Keeping Active with Room 11!

The students in Room 11 worked on learning some exercise skills during Gym time, in preparation for doing a Walking Fitness program on YouTube! They are learning walking on the spot, kicks and walking side to side. Recently, the students have put their newly learned skills into action as they participated in the first part of a Walking Fitness program. Staff and students watch the fitness program on the Smart Board and all participate together.

Room 3 Rocks MyGaze!

The activities described below are currently favourites of the guys in room 3, who all demonstrate a terrific and contagious sense of humour. Each of the programs has a visual and auditory response. These activities also help the students understand cause and effect.

Bottles: In this activity, there are a variety of green glass bottles of assorted sizes and shapes on 3 shelves. When the student makes eye contact, the bottle explodes, and then a new bottle replaces it. The sound of breaking glass is heard.

Xylophone: In this musical activity, there is a colourful animated xylophone on the screen. When the student makes eye contact with one of the xylophone keys, a musical note plays and motion lines emanate from the musical instrument.

What’s Up Room 12?

Everyday we ask each other, “What did you do last night?” The students in room 12 have an array of answers - went up and down on the escalators at Jackson Square Mall, listened to some music, bounced on my yoga ball, looked out the window to see the cars, bounced my basketball or played with my sensory toys. The students also have some preferred activities that are dear to them - listening to music while wearing my weighted blanket, playing with my beads, looking up special occasions on the iPad and lastly working.

The students are really looking forward to Valentine’s Day!

Busy Busy in Room 4!

Room 4 students and staff have been busy using our MyGaze technology. This is an exciting programme with many new skills to learn. Each day students have the opportunity to improve their stamina while learning to focus their gaze on various objects on-screen with cause and effect programmes. Our long term goal, once trained, will be for our students to be able to access communication programmes to better tell us their wants and needs.

Our class painted their own t-shirts for our New Year's dinner and with a few splatters of paint here and there, they turned out well.

At the very end of January we have been working on our 90s music video for the upcoming Glenwood 1990s Video Production.

Looking forward to the activities in February.

Happy New Year Room 2!

Room 2 has been having a "Happy New Year" so far! We've had fun exploring new activities on the MyGaze technology, including "Jukebox" and "Cookie Machine" where students' eye movements and gazing enables the technology to come alive with music and movement. We've also been busy getting ready for our school's annual New Year's dinner which was an enjoyable time of gathering with our Glenwood family. Happy New Year everyone!

Moving Forward with Room 6

The arrival of February means that we have said goodbye to one of our students, who has moved out of the Hamilton Area. We have an in-school open house on January 31st and an in-class pizza party to say goodbye. You will be missed Q!

As one member of the class leaves, we welcome Eryn to our room! Eryn is an Educational Assistant student at Mohawk College and will be with us on Thursdays and Fridays until the 17th of February. Welcome Eryn!

In class, we are using first-next-then as part of our strategy to encourage students to use visual schedules where appropriate. This is a step toward the Structured TEACCH program that we are implementing in Room 6.

Our staff continues to pursue Professional Development opportunities, including Andrea's learning on Collaborative and Proactive Solutions (CPS).

We are all looking forward to the arrival of spring, and more opportunities to interact with the community on neighbourhood walks and trips to the store!

Working Hard in Room 10!

We are been busy working hard in Room 10! We have introduced our lunch time "Room 10 Classroom Chores" which involve sweeping, doing the dishes, taking out the lunch bags and giving them to our peers, and spraying and cleaning the desk when lunch is complete. Chores are rotated weekly so everyone has the chance to learn a new skill. We are so proud of each student so far for adapting well to these new tasks! Way to go Room 10!

GLENWOOD'S SUPER FAMILY FUN NIGHT

WEDNESDAY FEB 22ND

6-8 PM

Glenwood's School Council invites:

All Glenwood Community Families;

- *our STUDENTS with their PARENTS, SIBLINGS, CAREGIVERS!
- *our STAFF and their families!
- *our BUS DRIVERS and their families!
- *our ALUMNI and their families!
- *our NEIGHBOURS and their families!

*~ Providing an opportunity for our families
to meet and network ~*

LIVE BAND!

GAMES
& PRIZES

REFRESHMENTS

**Please join us at the school for a Great Evening of Irish/
Celtic Music, games, prizes and FUN FOR ALL!**

*We may be able to help! If you are unable to attend because of
transportation issues, please let us know and we will arrange for you to join us!*



February



		1 IPRCs (Rescheduled from Jan 17)	2	3 Day 4 - Winter Scavenger Hunt
6	7	8	9	10 Day 4 - 90's Music Video Production
13	14 Day 4 - Valentine's Dance	15	16	17 Report Cards Go Home
20 FAMILY DAY	21	22 FAMILY FUN NIGHT	23	24
27 Day 4 - Make a Snowman	28			

Upcoming Important Dates:

PA DAY – March 3, 2017

March Break - March 13 to 17