

OCTOBER:

10 - THANKSGIVING

NOVEMBER:

4 - PA DAY

**THE
GAZETTE**

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

I continue to be so impressed with our students and their amazing ability to learn! One always wonders how the transition time between summer holidays and the new school year will be. With the support of our great parents, community partners and amazing staff, the learning of our students just continued from where we left off in June! It is a challenge to truly describe what a 'day in the life of Glenwood' looks like. It is for that reason we planned our "**Day In the Life**" open house on **October 3rd**! It was wonderful to have parents, community partners (our friends from Lynwood Charleston Hall), and HWDSB system staff experience Glenwood. During the morning and afternoon sessions, our visitors had a chance to tour the school, learn more about our programming, enjoy watching a Day 4, *Painting to Music* activity and connect with other parents and friends. If you were unable to attend and would still like to have a tour, please contact the office.

As we start another school year, our goals for each of our students will continue to develop and move forward. Over the next few weeks, you will be receiving a copy of your child's **Individual Education Plan**. This is a living document that will reflect and document our learning goals for your child. Your involvement in the development of the IEP is critical, as you know your child the best! Within the IEP, you will see a focus on **COMMUNICATION, TRANSITIONS, INDEPENDENCE AND LIFE SKILLS**. Similarly, some of our students are on **Safe Intervention Plans** and your input is also valued.

We had two exciting deliveries this month at Glenwood. To support the communication and independence of our student in our 3 Multiple Rooms, we now have 3 **MYGAZE** communication systems that can be shared with our students that are unable to manually or verbally manipulate a keyboard. Through the use of eye

movement and gaze, our students will have new access to communicate through technology. Over the next few months, our staff and students will learn how to use this technology. Again, I am so excited to learn with our students! The other delivery was from 5 young men from **CHOICES Hamilton**, an agency that employs adults with developmental disabilities. They arrived, with a support worker, and unloaded and delivered donated supplies to our school. It was very encouraging to see where some of our graduates may work after graduation. As they socialized with some of our staff, I was reminded ‘why’ the goals we are working on during our student’s school years are so important.

Over the next few months, you may hear the names of others people working at Glenwood. We have a great partnership with **Mohawk College** and their Education Assistant program as well as our **HWDSB co-op program**. Over the next 2 weeks, we have had the opportunity to highlight Glenwood and our programming to 75 Mohawk students as they toured our school. After the tour, each college student was paired with an EA from Glenwood and they had a chance to learn together. I was very proud of our EA team as they shared ‘celebrations’ and successes of our students.

As you read our October Newsletter, please note the important dates and activities that relate to you and your child. Together, we continue to make Glenwood *‘a special place to learn.’*

Sincerely,

Todd Graves

Vice Principal
Glenwood Special Day School

A special place to learn"

If your child is absent please remember to call and cancel transportation. It may require calling BOTH the before and after school carriers if they are different.

DISCOVER. EXPLORE. CREATE. LEARN.

This year, Glenwood's Discovery Room has been updated to better suit the learning strengths and needs of our students. With a focus on **life skills, independence and communication**, the Discovery Room has something for all to explore! September's theme was "Back to School" and our students were able to participate in many crafts and sensory activities, pack a backpack using visuals and tactile items, and engage

in a conversation with staff regarding their life at Glenwood using communication prompts, switches and yes/no visuals. Each month will be dedicated to a new theme to provide our students with diversity. We aim to ensure the Discovery Room is a safe place with loose boundaries for our students to discover, create, learn and explore on their own! Happy Discovering! - Amanda Z



LIFE SKILLS WITH MARC

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 Ameer!



Ameer has been doing a great job with our Mail Delivery Program. Way to go Ameer! ~ Marc

ROOM 14 ROCKS

The students in Room 14 are doing a great job **transitioning** throughout the school. We enjoy going to Snoezelen, the LifeSkills Room and the gym. One of our favourite places to visit is the Discovery Room. Each student has the chance to ex-

plore and experience a variety of hands on activities. It gives our students a chance to play and problem solve in a different environment. There is always something to discover in the Discovery Room!

~ Penny P

ROOM 3 LOVES USING THE SOUNDBEAM!

In Room 3, we use a touch pad system where, upon having slight pressure placed upon the sensor, a student is able to make the Soundbeam play a pre-selected and pre-recorded sound. Some of the skills involved in using the Soundbeam are deliberate eye gaze, intentional movement, reaching, pressing down and lifting hand to release pressure.

The Soundbeam produces a wide variety of musical sounds, including animal sounds, like a dog barking, the cheering of a crowd, or the 'revving up' of an engine. The happy expressions and sounds of joy that our students express while using the Soundbeam are exciting to experience! Our class goal for each Room 3 student is for them to be able to intentionally reach for

and press on the sensory pad, then release the pressure that their hand exerts.

We are very fortunate to have this system. The Soundbeam at Glenwood is portable and on a rolling cart, so that all classrooms can access it.

- Terri, Kim & Andrea

ROOM 2 NEWS

It has been another exciting start to another exciting new school year at Glenwood! The first week of school we enjoyed some fun activities that helped us all get to know each other. A big thank you to the families new to Room 2 this year for taking the time to complete the package titled "This is Me". It has been wonderful to read through them to gain a better understanding of your child and life at home. I will always have your child's best interests at heart.

Through the month of September we have been busy establishing routines in our classroom, and we have all gotten off to a great start. Thank you so much for your hard work at home that has gone into working with your children to get them into school-year routines. I'm sure it is a lot of work after the long summer. Our programming this September has involved 4 key areas of **communicating, life skills, transitions and independence**. These areas overlap in many ways and we always work hard to encourage as much independence as possible so that every student can reach his/her potential, whether that be communi-

cating choices on the Smartboard, greetings or responding to Yes/No questions on the talker, or using the iPad. We hope to move forward this year with increased use of the iPad and the Sounding Board program on it. We also work hard on life skills teaching here at school –such as independent walking, dressing, grooming, holding a cup, self-feeding and many other important self-help skills. If you are working hard on a life skill at home or have considered having your child learn a certain skill, always feel free to get in touch and let us know what it is. We are happy to help.

I appreciate the notes I have received in Home Communication Books. They are an important part of communication between home and school and help me know your child in order to assist them with their potential and success. Even the smallest piece of information can be helpful. Please remember to read them daily. Use the communication book to send me notes as often as you need to.

Room 2 staff this year is myself - Angela Saccomano, and our two

Educational Assistants Amanda Kyle and Martina Curcija. If there is ever anything we can help you with at school or with life at home, please don't hesitate to ask!

Fall is a great time for an autumn stroll! The leaves have started to change colour and the temperatures outside are lovely! Here are some nearby wheelchair accessible trails at conservation areas that are great:

HAMILTON TO BRANTFORD RAIL TRAIL:

www.conservationhamilton.ca/activities/conservation-areas/activities/trails-bikeways

CRAWFORD LAKE CONSERVATION AREA:

www.conservationhalton.on.ca/ShowCategory.cfm?subCatID=1083

MOUNTSBERG CONSERVATION AREA:

www.conservationhalton.on.ca/ShowCategory.cfm?subCatID=1416

Happy Autumn! Take care everyone. –*Angela Saccomano*

ROOM 4 STARS

Students and staff in Room 4 have been getting back into the school routine. Our theme has been colours and we have been painting and making rainbows using students' chosen colours.

We have also experienced some wonderful sensory activities where students were able to operate a mixer, using a switch, to make King Cole Tea Mousse. Taste testing was an interesting experience.

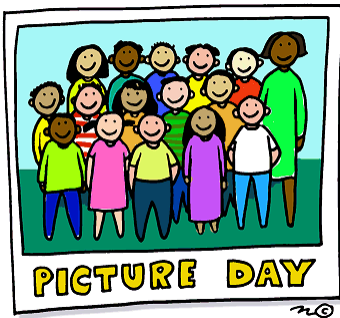
As we finish September and head into the month of October, Room 4 is going to focus on the numbers one to nine. We are looking forward to fall activities in our class and our weekly day four activities.

- Brenda, Carole & Wendy

INTRODUCING...

Cindy Ogden has accepted the position as the Special Class Teacher (Longterm Occasional) for Room 1. Cindy taught the Primary/Junior class at Hillcrest school last year and prior to that she has had several years of experiences working in hospital and academic settings, providing rehabilitation and academic support to individuals who have an acquired brain injury. Cindy is excited to be part of such an amazing team of staff and students! Please feel free to contact Cindy by calling Glenwood School.

Picture Day



Thursday October 27th, 2016

More info to follow.

Stay tuned for details.



Please detach and send to Mr. Graves

SCHOOL COUNCIL 2016-2017

As we head into the new school year, we would like to invite your participation in School Council.

Our next meeting is being held **Wednesday November 9th at 6:00pm.**

We have had a wonderful team of individuals who have demonstrated a heart for the students of Glenwood, programs that benefit students and the Health and Safety of everyone in the building.

If you are interested in serving on council in any capacity please complete the following information and return it to school or stop by our Meeting. We look forward to seeing you!

Your Name: _____

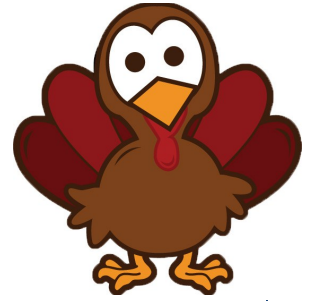
Your Child's Name: _____

Contact Info: Phone: _____

Email: _____



October



3 A Day in the Life of Glenwood Day 4 - Paint to Music	4	5 School Council	6	7
10 Thanksgiving	11 Day 4 - Design a Mini Putt Hole	12	13	14
17	18 Day 4 - Pumpkin Carving	19 Jenny the Library Lady	20	21
24	25 Day 4 - Halloween Movie	26	27 Picture Day	28
31 Day 4 - Halloween Dance/Parade				

Upcoming Important Dates:

PA Day November 4