

**MAY:**

21 - Victoria Day

**JUNE:**

8 - PA DAY

26 - Graduation

27 - Awards Assembly

**THE GAZETTE**

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

**Meaningful Programming.** What does that really look like in the lives of our students? Often, in conversations with the staff here at Glenwood, I will ask the question *'How will learning this, impact our student's world today and when they transition into adult living?'* This month, I received an amazing picture from one of our parents. It showed one of our students, standing in front of her bathroom sink. The amazing part was seeing her using her visuals to support her as she washed her hands independently. Hand washing was part of this student's **Individual Education Plan**. Her teacher, with our Communication Disorders Assistant, broke down the task, created visuals and with the support of our educational assistants, helped to teach her this important skill. Think of how many times we wash our hands? Now, this child can do this meaningful task independently both at school, but more importantly, at home!



Another student, who is new to Canada and had never attended any school before this year, needed a way to communicate. With the parents, who were also learning English, communication goals were created. A plan was created with his teacher and our Speech and Language Pathologist to teach him to sign. With incredible determination and the support of all of our staff, today he can communicate with over 80 words through American Sign Language! He now has the ability to

communicate with us and regularly comes to the office to 'chat' with Leigh, our Office Administrator. This communication skill is not just for his time at school, but more importantly has gone home with him and into his family life.

These are the stories that transform an **Individual Education Plan**, into a life changing document. We are so grateful for the opportunity to partner with you as we teach your son or daughter through **Meaningful Programming**. Thank you!



Please mark **Thursday May 24th** on your calendars as this will be a wonderful afternoon at Glenwood. Between 1 - 2:30, we will be Walking and Rolling around the school. **Glenwood's Annual Walk and Roll** is one of our major fundraisers each year. Our goal is to raise **\$1,995 to purchase a Soft Therapy Rocker** for ALL of our students to use in the Snoezelen Room. We are so

fortunate to have this room and we want to continually make it better! Please join our students, staff, family, alumni, and representatives from the HWDSB and many of our community partners for this event and enjoy live music and a BBQ!

I hope you enjoy reading about the learnings that are happening in our school and celebrate with us, as those learnings go out and into our students' world. Glenwood continues to be a **'special place to learn in a meaningful and fun way!'**

Sincerely,

Todd Graves,

Vice Principal

Glenwood Special Day School

**NUT FREE GLENWOOD** Reminder to all families that Nut Products should not be sent to school. Questions? Please contact School Office/Mr. Graves.



# WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE?



## **I***ndependence in Action*

Our students have been working on their **independent** self help skills. One student can change his shirt. He can take off his long sleeve shirt and put on a short sleeve shirt. Another student is learning how to brush his teeth and comb his hair. Another student is learning her routine in the washroom. Our students are also learning to vacuum, recycle and take the laundry down to the kitchen. We are very proud of the students' accomplishments!

~ Laura, Room 12

## **W***alkin & Rollin Our Way Into May*

We are enjoying that Spring is finally here! With that being said, Room 4 is excited for our upcoming "Walk and Roll" fundraiser being held on May 24th here at Glenwood School. Students will get the chance to be outside listening to live music, meeting local mascots such as Bruiser from the Hamilton Bulldogs and cheering alongside some of Hamilton's very own Ti-cat Cheerleaders! They will enjoy 'walking and rolling' around our school block raising money towards our fundraising goal. This is a great opportunity for students, staff, families, alumni, HWDSB system staff and the community to get involved in helping our school to be a better place to learn. We look forward to seeing you and thank you in advance for your help and support in this upcoming event. This will certainly be an event to remember.

~ Sherri, Room 4

## **T***aking our Glenwood Apartment and LifeSkills Program to the Next Level*

We are pleased to announce that the HWDSB Foundation has again generously provided Glenwood with a **\$1000 grant**. This grant will be directed at making improvements to our laundry area in the Glenwood Apartment which will improve the accessibility and functionality of the area for students. More details will follow as the improvements are made. Thanks HWDSB Foundation!

~ Katy & Elyse, Prep Teachers

## **C***hanging Worlds*

In Room 6, we have seen how assistive technology can change a student's world. CG has recently started using a set of bone induction headphones - these are special headphones that bypass the middle ear and send sounds directly to the inner ear - and staff have noticed an immediate difference. CG smiles and laughs when he hears songs for the first time through his headphones (they sounds a lot better than when Ken sings them). When we introduce an FM system last week (a system that uses a microphone and a receiver to send sounds to CG's headphones), CG was then able to hear staff voices and the sounds that surround him. He wore them outside at recess and spent most of his time listening to the sounds of the world around him - birds singing, wind blowing, other students and staff talking. He hasn't been able to enjoy these sounds for quite a while, and through the use of assistive technology, he is able to more fully connect with his world!

~ Ken, Room 6

## **S***ensory Activities - Why we do what we do.*

Sensory activities help our 7 sensory systems "perk up" at times and calm at others. Research shows that sensory activities help to restructure the nervous system over time so that the individual is better able to tolerate sensory input (sounds, smells, touch, etc) and to regulate. Some of our favourite sensory activities are plastic stretch hoses that make a fun sound when they are stretched open quickly as well as the relaxing sounds of instrumental classical music (auditory sensory system a.k.a. hearing). The students also enjoy squeezing squishy toys and hand/forearm massages (tactile sensory system a.k.a touch) and aromatherapy smells such as citrus and rose (olfactory sensory system a.k.a. smell). Two less known sensory systems are the vestibular and proprioceptive systems. Try spinning, swinging, pushing, pulling weighted backpacks, pressure vests, etc to help meet the needs of these sensory systems if you feel your child may benefit.

~ Angela, Room 2

## **W***e See the Sun Finally!*

When the sun is out, Room One is out! To prepare for Walk and Roll and Special Olympics, Room One is focusing on becoming more physically active around the school and community. From structured games in gym (bowling, basketball, scooter races) to community walks around the school, Room One is ready to roll.

~ Amanda P, Room 1

## **R**oom 3 Gets Growing

Spring is in the air and Room 3 is busy gardening! We started with a classroom mini marsh from the Bay Area Restoration Council (BARC) earlier this month. Students helped to plant our plants such as Dark Green Bulrush, Blue-Flag Iris and Broad-leaved Cattail. Our kit also came with a snail which has made itself at home eating Duckweed. Towards the end of the school year these plants (and the snail) will be returned to BARC to help with the restoration for Cootes Paradise. We have also started some seeds and can't wait to watch our seedlings grow!



Ivan, Room 3

## **T**aking Care of Each Other in Room 14

Positive School Culture and Well-being for all students and staff is a priority for HWDSB. It is important for all students to feel safe and cared for while at school. In Room 14 we promote well-being by taking care of each other. Students enjoy helping out one another in the class. They will get lunches and backpacks for their friends and will check to see if the others are ok. We also take care of ourselves by completing grooming activities and taking part in physical fitness and movement games. We love going for walks in the neighbourhood to take a break from the classroom. Students also have the chance to develop self-calming strategies using sensory items such as weighted blankets, spinners and textured materials. Students are also learning how to ask for help to solve issues. Room 14 is a great environment to work, learn and play!

~ Penny, Room 14





	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>  Day 4 - Sports Day	<b>4</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>  Day 4 - Glenwood 9 Holes	<b>11</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>  Day 4 - Spring Picnic/ BBQ	<b>18</b>
<b>21</b> Victoria Day	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>  Walk and Roll-a-thon	<b>25</b>  Day 4 - Outdoor
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	