

DECEMBER:

7 - PA DAY

23 - LAST DAY BEFORE
WINTER BREAK**JANUARY:**

25 - PA DAY

**THE
GAZETTE**

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

'Too Busy' can be a good thing or a not so good thing. As the holidays approach, it is always a challenge to achieve the proper balance. As I reflect on the last few months at Glenwood, I would say we have been **'good busy'** and I think that is a great way to be. We continue to focus on each of our students' learning, according to their Individual Education Plan, on **Communication, Independence, Transitions and Life Skills**. In addition to these skills, we are expanding a focus on **Numeracy** and **Literacy** according to each student's profile and on **Leisure Activities**.

We continue to team with many great educational partners in the community. We have had numerous **Mohawk College** EA students complete placements, as well as 2 **Western University** Teacher College students and **McMaster** students completing various programs. Every student that has completed a placement at Glenwood has shared that it is an excellent learning experience. We have also had numerous visitors from other schools within HWDSB and other Boards come to experience Glenwood to learn about Structured TEACCH and MyGaze technology.

In the classroom update section, you will read about many partnerships that Glenwood has within our school board, through System Teams, as well as community agencies. Our **Autism and Neurodevelopmental Services Team** (formerly the ISS/ASD team) continues to strongly support our students as well as other teams such as the **Blind and Low Vision Team, Deaf/Hard of Hearing Team** and the **Orientation and Mobility Specialist** to name a few. Partnerships also continue with **Lynwood Charleton Centre, CPRI** and various **residential programs** for our students. However, our greatest partnership occurs with the parent(s) and guardians of our students, supporting us in the development of IEP, sharing information,

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giving us suggestions on skills to support their child's learning and even preferences as their child's likes and dislikes change. I want to thank each parent and guardian for the trust you give us on a daily basis to care for, teach and learn with your child.

As we enter a very 'busy' season at school and in our homes, I encourage each of us to pause and **reflect** on the gains our students, your children, have made. **'Good busy'** continues to make Glenwood **'a special place to learn'**.

Todd Graves,
Vice Principal,
Glenwood Special Day School



Reflections

As 2018 draws to a close we **Reflect** on the many positive steps our students have taken towards their learning goals, life skills and social interactions. Here are a few highlights of reflection from our classroom teachers and other Glenwood staff.

Our Glenwood Apartment Is Only Getting Better!

We are thrilled to announce that we have received another grant of \$1000 from the **HWDSB Foundation** to enrich our Life Skills program in the Glenwood Apartment. The money will be put towards purchasing the following:

- * A more accessible cupboard so students can independently access tasks
- * Child safety knives for the cooking program
- * An electric apple peeler and food processor which students can control through a switch
- * A set of dressing boards which students can use to develop and practice the skills of dressing (tying, zipping, buttoning, buckling, etc)

Thank you HWDSB Foundation!!

~ Katy and James, Life Skills

Working Hard!

Room 4 has had a fantastic start to this school year! We have been working hard during **independent work time** each day. R has been working on his **fine motor skills** by stacking items, opening and closing items with zippers and Velcro and placing coins in the piggy bank. C and A are working hard on **MyGaze** and building their stamina each day. They are becoming more engaged and working on accessing all areas of the screen. We are exploring different MyGaze programs to gain their attention through sensory, target practice and cause and effect programs. Room 4 looks forward to building on their IEP goals and all their new learning to come this year!

~ Sherri, Room 4

Amazing Gains!

This school year seems to be flying by, and with it Term 1 of the CDA program. There have been amazing gains this term with students appropriately using their own means of **Communication** to make choices, comment on the things around them, and expand their social skills around the school. It is always a joy to see how far everyone has come in just a few months. As we now prepare to celebrate the holidays and get busy planning time with family and friends, think of your child's favourite pastime this season and model language around it. After all, we all love to talk about the things that we love the most! Enjoy the holidays!

~ Lucia, CDA

It's Always Great to Learn from Others

This year we have two new professionals assisting the staff with two of our students who have impaired vision.

Mrs. Exelby is an Orientation and Mobility Instructor who visits our classroom once a week. The staff and student are learning techniques on how to hold a long walking cane and how to use their hands to trail throughout the school. Both of these mobility principles have really fostered student independence.

Mrs. Wilcox is a Teacher who specializes in Low Vision. She is assisting a student to use his light box, sort mittens/socks and pour water into a cup, and sharing teaching strategies with our team.

Have a wonderful holiday.

~ Laura, Room 12

Celebrating Glenwood - Community Partnerships

"It takes a village to raise a child." This certainly holds true at Glenwood School! As we look back to the first part of the school year, we celebrate the many **enriching partnerships** we have had with community partners / agencies. As the Special Class teacher in Room 11, I have had the opportunity over the past few months to partner with Lynwood Hall Center (Forest Site staff and site Occupational Therapist), Ron Joyce Children's Health Center (ABA Worker and ASD program nurse), LHIN (Occupational Therapist), and several medical practitioners. Partnerships such as these provide valuable supports and resources to help meet the needs of our students. We look forward to continued partnerships in the new year, which will help our students to grown and achieve their full potential.

~ Karen, Room 11

Celebrating a Great Fall Term!

It has been an amazing term in the Gross Motor Room! We have seen fantastic work done by all of the students and we continue to celebrate all the successes, no matter how big or small. We have seen students pedaling the tricycle a little bit further, standing in their standing frame a little bit longer, requiring a little less assistance to get to a standing position, and stretching their arms a little bit further to reach a toy. By using e-tran boards or switches we also make sure the students get a chance to **Communicate** to us their choice of the next activity, for example using the walker or the standing frame first. We always try to focus on the positive, strive to achieve the best we can, and make sure we have fun while we are doing it!

~ Sue, R.Kin. , Gross Motor

So Much to Celebrate!

As we come to the end of the calendar year, Room 3 has much to reflect on and be proud of! We have been fortunate to have wonderful volunteers, **Karen** and **Prabhnoor** who help with classroom activities and transitions, and our **McMaster Arts for Children** volunteers who came weekly to engage our students in art activities. Currently we have **Alicia** joining us as a teacher candidate from Western University completing her Alternative Field Experience. This has allowed our students to interact with different and new individuals within a safe and comfortable learning environment.

Our room and staff continue to work in getting to know each of our students and plan for success by working to individual strengths. We have seen a lot of growth overall, especially for those students who are spending another year in Room 3. Some of these notable achievements include one student's ability to independently drink using their sippy cup. For another student, we are seeing them successfully spell their name using eye gaze and the E-tran board!

~ Ivan, Room 3

What a Great Fall We've Had in Room 2!

Room 2 has had so much great learning and celebrations so far this year! We have one student working hard on self-propelling in his Wheelchair (with strategies/suggestions from our new Orientation and Mobility Specialist). We have other students working hard on independently using new oral chew toys to help with their oral sensory needs. We are also working hard on adapting Structured TEACCH strategies (to assist our students who are visual learners) for our Multiples Classroom (work bins, preferred activities, physical structure, etc). We wish you all a great holiday season! Stay Warm!

~ Angela , Room 2

Holiday Greetings

What a great year 2018 has been! It is truly amazing when we look back on the accomplishments of each student. This year we welcomed a new student to our class/school, RH. We enjoy hearing his views about the military and the Toronto Maple Leafs! We were delighted to see CT return, we missed her great sense of humour. BL communicates home and school events using her talker. She continues to show real talent when adjusting the settings of her devices. LW is working very hard on her reading and is excited to see Hannah (our Learning Resource Teacher) each week for some extra support. MC's smile brightens everyone's day and she chooses hard work over easy every time! AYM shows increased independence completing tasks. He beams with pride when he finishes his work! We are looking forward to an exciting and rewarding 2019.

~ Penny, Room 14

Welcome (Back)

James Empringham, comes to us from AM Cunningham and will provide prep coverage to our teachers. James has brought many new and enriching programming ideas to our school, which even include bringing out the hockey nets to the playground for some ball hockey while teaching other students how to rake leaves and shovel snow.

Hannah Young, is a familiar face here at Glenwood, as she regularly supplied here in the past and did an LTO in Rooms 1 and 12. Hannah is our half time Learning Resource Teacher and is at Glenwood every other day.

We also welcome back **Amanda Zacharewicz** from her maternity leave to be Room 10's teacher to continue to build on the relationships with her students, their families and community partners.

The knowledge that each of these teachers bring in the area of Special Education and their enthusiasm to teaching continues to enrich our school and the growth of our students!



With the Winter months comes Cold Weather and Sickneses. 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.



December

3	4	5	6	7 PA DAY
10	11	12	13 Day 4 - Santa's Workshop	14
17	18 East Hamilton Optimist and Santa Visit Glenwood	19 Blizzard Shopping Spree	20 Hamilton Police and Santa Visit Glenwood	21 Day 4 - Movie
24 Winter Break	25 Winter Break	26 Winter Break	27 Winter Break	28 Winter Break
31 Winter Break				

Upcoming Important Dates:

Back to School - January 7

PA Day - January 25