

JANUARY:

9 - BACK TO SCHOOL

FEBRUARY:

20 - FAMILY DAY

**THE
GAZETTE**

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

After starting this January Newsletter numerous times, I thought I would change my plan and allow you to be part of the reflection process. It is a time of year when we pause and say thank you for those special **people, moments** and **experiences** that have happened in our lives over this last year here at Glenwood Special Day School. So, as I pause, I ask you to as well. And, take a moment and complete this thought; ***'Today, I am thankful for...'***

The staff at Glenwood would like to **thank you** for the privilege of working with your amazing child. We take this role very seriously and are so grateful for the trust that you have given us. Together, we are excited about this next year and the ongoing learning that will occur in our student's lives as well as our own. Working together will be a significant part of the month of January, we will be holding **43 IPRC Annual Review meetings**. These reviews allow for the review of identification, placement and programming. It is a valuable opportunity to collaboratively work together with our parents, guardians, school and system staff and community partners for the learning of each student. If you have not yet returned your Meeting Notification form before the break, please send it in asap in January. I am looking forward to working with you during these meetings.

As I regularly say, ***'Glenwood is a special place to learn'***. This month, the generosity of students, families, community partners and friends highlight the wonderful people that make up the Glenwood community. During November and December, the Glenwood community partnered with the **Hamilton-Burlington United Way** in their yearly campaign. From a very small school we exceed the \$600 raised last year. The Glenwood community donated **\$900** to the work of the United Way! Glenwood also just hosted the **Glenwood Blizzard**, which is one of our major fundraisers. Again, we exceeded last year's total and we raised **\$1,500** for support our special programming that we offer here at Glenwood. Thank you for all of your support in both events and a special thanks to the MANY staff that took on leadership roles!

We have much to be grateful for here at Glenwood. However, we also realize that many people are also facing challenges during this season. We also want them to know that they are in our thoughts. Glenwood is not only ***'a special place to learn'*** but it is also a ***special community***.

Todd Graves

Vice Principal, Glenwood Special Day School



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 Sebastian! Sebastian has been doing a great job with our Paper Towel Delivery Program. Way to go Sebastian!

~ Marc Johnson



Happy New Year from all the Staff and Students of Room 14!

In December, students and staff were busy baking, making crafts and listening to sounds and songs of the holiday season. It was great to see students sharing social interactions and enjoying the company of each other. We have really become a **“school family”** as we have gotten to know and trust one another. The concept of **trust** is so important when working together. It is wonderful to observe our students showing genuine interest and concern for their classmates. They help each other and will ask about someone if they are away. We are so impressed with how our students care about one another! A great lesson that we all could learn from their example. We wish you all the best in 2017!



Best Wishes from Room 12

It will be wonderful to see everyone back after the holidays! Our students always seem eager to return to school to see their friends and the staff members.

Our students are learning another facet of the Structure TEACCH Program. When the students travel to the Discovery Room, Snoezelen Room or the Gym, they carry their portable schedules with them. It is a great reminder on what the students should do at that activity. When the students go into the Snoezelen Room they must take off their shoes, enjoy leisure time, and put on their shoes when they are finished their session. In the Discovery Room, the students select different areas that they would like participate in such as, listen to a story, play some music, touch and feel various sensory items, perform a life skill activity (ex. pack your lunch) and lastly a communication activity such playing a bingo game. In the gym, there are numbered centers that develop various gross motor skills.

We are very proud of each one of our students!

Taking Turns with Room 10

In December the students and staff in Room 10 have started a new day 3 activity focusing on **taking turns** and **playing with our friends** at our community table in the classroom. During this time, we have been working on colours, counting and building a snowman! Interacting with our classmates **builds relationships, trust**, and the ability **to engage in play and leisure**. We are excited about the learning of social skills around the community table!

-A. Zacharewicz
(Classroom Teacher)



What's New in Room 4

Students and staff have had a very busy December preparing for our Holiday Blizzard and learning to use and work our MyGaze technology.

Students have been using their fingers, sponges and brushes to prepare our items for the Blizzard. We have been keeping our craft a very big secret so as to surprise everyone on the day. Students have been very cooperative with hand-over-hand assistance and some independent attempts to use paint/brushes/sponges.

Staff have received several sessions of training on our new MyGaze technology. This technology is state of the art and has the potential to give non-verbal students a voice. Much training is necessary before each student will learn to be proficient at using their eye gaze to move objects on a computer screen. Currently students use ipads and the SMARTBoard technologies whereby they touch the screen to receive results. MyGaze technology involves using their eyes only. With over eighty exercises, having a gradual increase in skill level, MyGaze programmes have the ability to personalize some of the training sessions with our own pictures. Photos have been entered that are familiar to our room 4 students. Since entering these photos, student engagement has increased. The goal for all students has been to build-up stamina, increase time looking and following an object as well as attempt to have each student look at all areas of the screen.

We hope everyone has a restful holiday and each student comes back in January with an excitement for learning and return to familiar routines.

Holiday Greetings from Room 3

As we approach the Christmas Break, we in room 3 like to reflect on some of the main events that we participated in or experienced. We loved the Hallowe'en parade and dance. We really became excited for the day events that included food or special treats. On Wednesday mornings, the McMaster Art for Children (MAfC) worked with us on creative, colourful and fun fine motor tasks. We had an EA student from Mohawk College visit us 3 days a week for her practicum. We were sorry when Karyn finished, but she has promised to return for the occasional visit! Jan, one of our retired staff, brings Jesse, her therapy dog from Therapy Tails, to see us and to let us pet her. Jesse loves us. We had a Christmas Dance with DJ Sue, who helped us rap, rock and roll the gym. We received an amazing technology system, MyGaze, that allows for increased communication. We are thankful for such a fun, busy and engaging fall.

Happy Holidays from Room 6

Beginning this month, Room 6 will be spending additional time in the **Glenwood Apartment** (previously known as the life skills room). We will be working on everyday tasks that we can then transfer to life outside of school, such as making a bed, putting away clothes, clearing dishes from the table, or other learning tasks. This is in addition to the time the students already spend with Katy on a regular basis.

Our team continues to pursue on going learning with Ken beginning his Special Education Specialist course this month, and our Educational Assistants continuing to undertake Professional Development on a regular basis.

We are looking forward to a busy, fun, and productive 2017 together!

Happy New Year from Room 1

We have had some fun times in Room 1 , throughout the entire month of December! From doing Christmas crafts, cooking apple oatmeal, building a gingerbread house, and attending the Holiday Blizzard, we sure have been busy!

This month, the students have been introduced to new Structured TEACCH Picture Exchange Symbols. They are on their way to mastering the use of their personal visual schedules so it was time to introduce Choice Boards. Knowing what motivates the students to complete work is essential when using Choice Boards and with this in mind, each student has individual choice pictures that corresponds with their likes and what makes them happy. We will continue to use our Choice Boards moving into the New Year. We are also using the Sounding Board App on the ipad to help students make choices from real pictures. The App can be downloaded from the App store on your device for free and is quite user friendly!

We wish you and your family a wonderful holiday and a very happy New Year!

Glenwood Life Skills Apartment

"The Glenwood Life Skills' Apartment is now up and running thanks to the wonderful grant from the HWDSB Foundation! Students are able to put clothes away in drawers, dust, vacuum, set and clear the table and even make a bed in an environment that resembles a small living space. Developing these important housekeeping skills not only give our students a sense of accomplishment, but also will allow them to contribute to their own household or community living setting. Thanks again to the HWDSB Foundation for making this possible!"



JANUARY

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|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| 2 WINTER BREAK | 3 WINTER BREAK | 4 WINTER BREAK | 5 WINTER BREAK | 6 WINTER BREAK |
| 9 Back to School | 10 | 11 | 12 Day 4 - Campfire Sing-a-long with Marc J & Friends | 13 |
| 16 IPRCs | 17 IPRCs | 18 | 19 Day 4 - Winter Bingo | 20 IPRCs |
| 23 IPRCs | 24 IPRCs | 25 | 26 Day 4 - Annual New Years Dinner | 27 PA DAY |
| 30 IPRCs | 31 | | | |



Upcoming Important Dates:

Family Day– February 20, 2017