

**FEBRUARY:***19 - Family Day***MARCH:***2 - PA DAY**12 to 16 - March Break**30 - Good Friday***THE GAZETTE****PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE**

**Glenwood Special Day School and Mohawk College**, one of our many community partners, have a special relationship. Yearly, we organize a visit to Glenwood for all students in their Educational Assistance Program. This exposure continues to support their learning of programming for students with special needs profiles. It is also a wonderful time for our EAs to highlight their skill sets and share the importance of their role in your child's education. Each term we also take placement students during their final placement assignments. We welcome **Erin, Sarah and Korina**, our EA placement students, to Glenwood and know that it will be a great learning experience for them over the next term. It is also exciting to see many of our placement students return to Glenwood when they become HWDSB Educational Assistants. Last week, I again had the privilege to preform mock interviews at Mohawk College for the EA students with representatives from other school boards. One of the questions I regularly ask the students was **'how would you use assistive technology to support student learning?'** knowing that this is part of their program and that it is a critical resource for all students. In this month's Newsletter, staff have the opportunity to share how they use technology in their programming here at Glenwood. As you read various classroom's submissions, I hope you will be as excited as I am about our growing knowledge and use of technology to support your child's learning in our core areas of **COMMUNICATIONS, TRANSITIONS, LIFE SKILLS** and **INDEPENDENCE**.

I would also like to mention three, of many highlights, that occurred this month here at Glenwood. Firstly, here at Glenwood we are committed to partnerships with the medical community. At times, we will go with families to appointments, to support the family and also to provide further information to such

places as the Ron Joyce Children's Health Centre. Last month we were pleased to welcome **Dr. Mahoney**, to our school. We had an opportunity to share with Dr. Mahoney and members of his team the programming that we are doing daily at Glenwood. As he serves many of our students through a medical lens, he wanted to learn more about the learning that is happening at school. It was a wonderful visit and we continue to partner with him and the medical community. Second, we also had visitors from **MacNab Secondary School's Special Education Department**. They came to Glenwood to observe our programming and take best practices back to their school. The staff at Glenwood are always excited to share with others to support their learning. And finally, my greatest highlight this month was about a student in our school and the huge step he literally took last week. This student, due to numerous reasons, was unable to transition out of the school and onto the playground. Through the hard work of his **classroom team**, partnering with staff from our **Intensive Support Services Team, Lynwood Charlton Centre's Children with Complex Needs Team** and **the family**, this young student transitioned out of the school and onto the back playground to explore a new world! We are so proud of him for taking this brave step!

As you read this month's Newsletter and learn more about the assistive technology that is being used within Glenwood, please know that we want to continue to partner with you to support your child's learning with **COMMUNICATION, LIFESKILLS, INDEPENDENCE** and **TRANSITIONS**. For one student this month, that **TRANSITION** skill took on new meaning to all of us. Glenwood continues to be a **'special place to learn and explore!'**

*Todd Graves,*  
*Vice Principal,*  
*Glenwood Special Day School*



## **HWDSB Launches Parent Voice Survey to Gather Input for Improvement**

Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB) invites parents, guardians and caregivers to participate in a Parent Voice Survey to share what you think HWDSB is doing well, and how might HWDSB improve its education services.

Parents, guardians and caregivers play an important role in HWDSB and we value your opinion. Your feedback helps us make decisions about how we deliver school services for students.

HWDSB has made a commitment to partner with its parent/guardian and caregiver communities, and to work together to help students learn and grow to their full potential.

This survey should take no longer than 15 minutes to complete. There are no right or wrong answers. All data collected in this survey is anonymous and combined as a group.

You can find the survey online at <http://bit.ly/HWDSBParentVoice>

If you would like to learn more about how we use the data and maintain your privacy, please visit <https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/about/privacy-and-access/>

Thank you for taking the time for this survey and helping HWDSB with your feedback.





## **T** *echnology in Room 14!*

Students in Room 14 use **iPad technology** in many functional ways. During instructional Teaching Time activities the iPad is an engaging learning tool. Students develop and practise fine motor, matching, letter formation, keyboard and writing skills using the **Bits Board App**. The iPad has become a key component to enhance student communication skills using the **Proloque** program. The visual and technological supports allow all students to have their own voice to make requests for what they need or want. The students also use the iPad as a motivating, preferred activity when they can just enjoy music or games. It is great to see independence in our students through the use of technology while learning educational, communication and leisure skills.

~ Penny Parry, Room 14

## **T** *echnology in the Glenwood Apartment*

Technology is highly embedded into the Life Skills/Leisure program in the Glenwood Apartment. Students benefit in several ways from the use of technology:

**Switches** are used to control the operation of kitchen appliances such as mixers, food processors, peelers and blenders

**IPads** are used to take videos of students performing life skills. These can be used to show progress to parents and also to provide feedback to staff in terms of how we can support students better with and without our prompts.

The **SMART Board** is used to provide students with music choice boards as a form of leisure.

We are working with the Board's 21st Century Team to continue to build on these great resources to support our students learning.

~ Katy and Elyse, Prep

## **P**utting the **ART** back in **SMART Board!**

Through my teaching career, I have often seen the SMART Board become a glorified projector screen. Having one in our room meant that we had to get creative in the ways we use it. Our **SMART Board** is used regularly in morning routine for the calendar, weather and attendance. Some of our students also use this technology to create art. A recent favourite is **Silk - Interactive Generative Art** where our students can use their hand or pointer stick to generate colourful silk strands on a black background. Not only is this a good use of fine/gross motor skills for the artist, but it is relaxing for those watching. One of our students in particular gets very engaged and can be seen (even heard!) pressing on the SMART Board and moving his hand all over the screen. In that moment, he is an artist focused not on nearby dangling cables or a pile of papers...but on his art and the colours he is creating.

~ Ivan Quach, Room 3

## **T**echnology Corner

All students in our class use the **Sounding Board** program on the **iPad** as part of their visual schedule and to assist with transitions between activities. So for example, we show them the photo of the next activity we are going to do (e.g. SMART board, Art, etc). For one of our students who is new to Canada from Syria in the past couple of years, we have built in Arabic and English words into the program to help her learn English by associating the word with her first language. We can tell by the smile on her face with some of the pictures and words she hears that she understands what activity is next.

~ Angela Saccomano, Room 2

## **T**echnology Corner

Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) can look different for each individual student. At Glenwood we use different kinds of AAC technology to help give our students a voice. Some of the high tech devices used at Glenwood include **iPads** and our newest addition; **My Gaze**. Currently students use My Gaze as a training tool to strengthen the use of their eyes in order to build skills that will eventually help them navigate a communication system. These skills include accessing all areas of the screen, clicking on targets, tracking objects, and building stamina. As this is a very physically and mentally taxing activity, we are proud of the hard work our students in Room 2, 3, and 4 have put into their My Gaze activities.

~ Lucia Crespo, CDA

# FEBRUARY

			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Day 4 - Winter Photo Hunt
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Buster The Bus	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Day 4 - Winter Olympics
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Day 4 - Valentine's Day	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>19</b> Family Day	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>26</b> Day 4 - Slide Show Presentation	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>		

**Upcoming Important Dates:**

**PA Day - March 2**

**March Break - March 12 to 16**

**Good Friday - March 30**