



Leopard News

Principal: Wendy Wilson

John Wetten Elementary, 250 E. Exeter St., Gladstone, OR 97027

Phone: (503) 656-6564 Fax: (503) 656-0917

APRIL 2017

Dates to Remember

- 4/5 **CALENDAR CHANGE:** NO Early Release
- 4/10 Site Council Mtg, Library, 2:30 p.m.
- 4/12 Spirit Day (Fancy Schmancy Day)
- 4/12 School Board Mtg, DO Board Room, 6:30 p.m.
- 4/12 Early Release, 1:20 p.m.
- 4/13 1st Grade Science Night, Cafeteria, 4:30-6 p.m.
- 4/13 Open Enrollment Family Open House, 6:00 p.m.
- 4/14 All School Field Trip, Ten Grands Symphony
Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall
8:45-11:30 - 1st, 2nd & 4th grades
11:00-1:30 3rd & 5th grades
- 4/17 **CALENDAR CHANGE:** School in Session
- 4/19 **CALENDAR CHANGE:** NO Early Release
- 4/19 Volunteer Tea, Main Gym, 2:30 p.m.
- 4/26 Early Release, 1:20 p.m.
- 4/27 4th & 5th Grade Choir Concert, Main Gym, 6:00
- 5/1-5/5 Staff Appreciation Week
- 5/3 **CALENDAR CHANGE:** NO Early Release

Important News

Character Trait Winners: The character Trait for March was **Team Work**. The following students were recognized by their teacher for exhibiting this trait:

<u>Teacher</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Name</u>
Mrs. Hart	1	Gloria Kavonius
Mrs. Lowther	1	Randy Mendez-Vasquez
Ms. Wright	1	Lyla Caldwell
Ms. Watkins	1	Rylee Locke
Ms. Vierra	1	Parks Young
Ms. Sutton	1	Trey Mather
Mrs. Bigbee	2	Jacob Smith
Mrs. Bohrer	2	Hannah Gnerer
Mr. Hill	2	Emma Branstetter
Mrs. Pheil	2	Jasmine Nuss
Ms. Stephen	2	Addison McNutt
Mrs. Waverly	2	Levi Sanderson
Ms. Banka	3	D. J. Uselton
Mrs. Black	3	Rhyannen Kendall
Mrs. Exum	3	Mckenna Miller

<u>Teacher</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Name</u>
Ms. Thompson	3	Evelyn Ayala
Miss Gillies	3	Carson Morrow
Miss Wilson	3	Chris Alejo-Santos
Mrs. Aldridge	4	Will Corwin
Mrs. Kelso	4	Avery Barnhart
Mrs. Lane	4	Donovan Robinson
Mrs. Mullen	4	Jase Schmidt
Ms. Ott	4	Ruby Noel
Mrs. Morse	4	Matthew Branstetter
Mrs. Mitchell	5	Garrett Tysor
Miss Atkins	5	Kyler Burke
Mrs. Fox	5	Mylah Ramirez
Mrs. Mudd	5	Selah Wallace
Mrs. Thomas	5	Ben Lau
Mrs. Smrkovsky	DLC	Jason Marshall

School District changes calendar due to snow days: The Gladstone School Board approved changes to the calendar to make sure that Gladstone students meet the state requirements for hours of instruction after losing several school days to snow and ice.

April 17, originally planned as a staff-only day, will become a regular school day for students.

In addition, Five (5) Wednesdays formerly planned as early-release days will become full school days. Those dates are as follows: **April 5, April 19, May 3, May 17, and May 31**.

Each year we carefully plan our school calendar to exceed state requirements for instructional hours. In a year with so many snow days, this helped limit the changes needed.

Spring Choir Concert: 4th and 5th grade choir will perform April 27th @ 6:00 p.m. in the Main Gym. We are so excited to present a concert full of songs from all different cultures! We hope you will join us and celebrate our hard work.

A Note from the Volunteer Coordinator: If you plan to chaperone a field trip, please make sure you submit a background check. All volunteers are required to submit a background check every year. **Here is the link for the background check:**

<https://www.helpcounterweb.com/welcome/apply.php?district=gladstone>

The link for the background check can also be found on the school website under the quick links section. It's a reddish box that says "volunteer application".

If you have any questions, contact: Theresa Schmidt, Volunteer Coordinator, schmidtt@gladstone.k12.or.us, 503-656-6564 ext. 265



Save the Date...Volunteer Appreciation Celebration, Wednesday, April 19th

2:30-3:00: We would like to invite all of our wonderful volunteers to a Volunteer Celebration. This is time for staff and students to thank you for all that you do for our school. Please RSVP to Theresa Schmidt at: schmidtt@gladstone.k12.or.us or (503)656-6564 ext.265. This will ensure that we have enough goodies for everyone. Hope to see you at the volunteer celebration!

Thank you to our PFO: We would like to send a big shout out to our PFO for providing amazing community events for our families to enjoy. They recently held two events, a family dance party and movie night. Both of these events exceeded expectations and were fun for everyone who participated. We look forward to the next event they are organizing which will be the Family Literacy Carnival on May 6th. Thank you PFO!

Gladstone schools to start next school year after Labor Day: After seeking input from student families and employees, the Gladstone School District has decided that the 2017-18 school year will begin after Labor Day, with the first day for students on September 5, 2017. For next year, key dates include:

- Winter Break: December 18, 2017 to January 1, 2018
- Spring Break: March 26-30, 2018
- Last day for students: June 14, 2018

Two easy ways to help Gladstone schools: Two shopping programs make it easy for supporters of Gladstone schools to benefit education, social service, and youth programs in Gladstone schools. Both provide funding to the Gladstone Education Foundation, which supports grants to classrooms, schools, and youth programs across Gladstone.

Fred Meyer shoppers can link their rewards card to the Gladstone Education Foundation to support Gladstone Schools. They still get personal fuel points & rebates, and Gladstone Schools gets a quarterly donation from Fred Meyer. With 150 people signed up, the GEF raised \$3,500 last year. To sign up, visit www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards and enter Gladstone Schools, #80945.

Amazon Smile is another program that supports the Gladstone Education Foundation. To participate, shoppers should visit this website: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/93-1284265>. Each time shoppers use this Amazon site, .5% of their purchase price will benefit Gladstone students.

JWE News by Email: Please take a moment to sign up for our JWE News by email if you haven't already. You can do this simply by emailing Linda Alberico at albericol@gladstone.k12.or.us and ask to be added to the list or you can write a note and give it to us in the office.

Gladstone elementary school showcases trauma-informed education model: When he started second grade in Gladstone, "Jacob" was living in a car with parents who battled addiction. After attending four schools in two years, the seven-year-old had a history of major behavior issues and a very short attention span. Now, halfway through the school year, Jacob has made a lot of progress. He is bonding with his teacher, making friends, and learning to regulate his emotions. What made the difference is the Culture of Care at John Wetten Elementary School.

In the past four years, the staff at John Wetten Elementary has done pioneering work to build an education model to support students who experienced Adverse Childhood Experiences, or ACEs.

ACEs include physical, sexual, and emotional abuse; household substance abuse; adult mental illness; separated, divorced, or incarcerated parents; and domestic partner violence. Many Oregon youths have experienced one or more ACEs. A 2015 survey of 11th graders revealed that 43 percent lived with divorced or separated parents, 35 percent lived with someone battling depression, 34 percent lived with a problem drinker, and 23 percent lived with a street drug user.

ACEs impact a child's life-long physical and behavioral health. They also impact the child's success in school because of issues like stress responses, behavior, inability to focus, and poor attendance.

"When a child is in survival mode, their natural response is fight, flight, or freeze," explained Principal Wendy Wilson. "It's impossible for students to learn in that state."

Grant funding from CareOregon and MODA enabled Wilson and her team to work with consultants like trauma specialist Rick Robinson and discipline specialist Dr. Jody McVittie to transform school operations and staff understanding of student needs. They call it a Culture of Care.

"Building a Culture of Care in classrooms involves teaching students how their brain works, and how to calm themselves down when they feel stress levels rising," explained Wilson. "It means building calming and predictable classroom and school routines that make transitions easier not just for students with ACEs, but for all children."

Teaching students how to build self-management and self-control is a key strategy, as is encouraging bonding between adult mentors and students.

Teachers and staff carefully monitor the emotions they project, and understand the impact of that on students. In addition, the school focuses school discipline in a new way: *first connect, then correct*. Using empathy and listening, teachers tune into the reasons behind a child's behavior and focus on that first, before moving to corrective action. Through all of these approaches, school becomes a benevolent sanctuary, a safe place for each child.

Gladstone's Culture of Care is already paying dividends in reduced behavior problems, improved school attendance, and dramatic jumps in state test scores, including gains of 10 to 14 percent in English Language Arts and 8 to 14 percent in math.

Now Gladstone leaders are sharing what they've learned with other educators around the state, including a recent conference of the Coalition of Oregon School Administrators and a seven-district ACEs collaborative. Superintendent Bob Stewart carried the message to legislators in Salem, helping them understand this work in hopes of expanding the effort statewide.

"The research is clear: If one child is having a hard day, it impacts each child in that classroom by creating distractions and delays that interrupt learning," said Stewart. "Because we know this work has a positive impact for every student, our next goal is to expand it to the middle school level."