

Glad Report

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Gladstone Schools — Growing great people.

GHS graduation rates rival top schools

Graduation rates at Gladstone High increased to 84 percent in 2013, up 5 percent from last year, and 15 percent over Oregon's state average of 69 percent. Including GED, adult diploma, and modified diploma students, Gladstone's 5-year completer rate is 89 percent.

At GHS, 95 percent of Latino students graduated on time, vs. 61 percent statewide. At GHS, 86 percent of low-income students graduated, vs. 60 percent statewide. Over 58 percent of Special Education students graduated with a regular

diploma, surpassing the state average of 37 percent.

"As a small school, we have a personal connection with kids." said Vice Principal Patti Alexander. "We are relentless in urging each student to meet requirements."

To improve graduation rates, retired principal Stu Evans said GHS launched Saturday School, lab classes in reading, writing, and math, and even daily check-ins for some.

"Saturday School is now weekly in hopes we can reach 100 percent," said new Principal Natalie Osburn.



Bob's Red Mill helps food pantry

The Backpack Buddy program serving 70 Gladstone families got a boost this year from Bob's Red Mill. The whole grain company provided substantial donations of oatmeal, brown rice, and granola to supply the program's new food pantry at Gladstone High. An added bonus is the work training opportunity for adult special education students, who sort, package, and count the food.

We're Glad:

 More than 300 volunteers help students at John Wetten Elementary. This means more one-on-one help for kids!



Gladstone High's holiday drive provided food, clothing, and toys to 22 local families. Extra toys were shared with the Fire Dept. toy drive.

Community Corner

GHS alum Leif Coorlim fights modern slavery



Justice and opportunity: those are the two themes Leif Coorlim brings to his work as a documentary film producer.

Coorlim, a 1997 graduate of Gladstone High, is an Executive Editor at CNN International. Motivated by a desire to make a difference, he has focused his work on The Freedom Project, a series of documentary films about child soldiers, child sex trafficking, and forced labor.

"Human trafficking was an issue nobody was talking about," said Coorlim. "The idea was to do story after story, to get people to do something."

Governments and businesses took action, and The Freedom Project was nominated last fall for the Sakharov Human Rights Prize.

"I have to give Gladstone teachers a lot of credit for helping me find my way," he said. "Mr. Carrigg started me in journalism. Mrs. Wilson, who taught AP English and creative writing, she was a big promoter of all the kids. And of course my soccer coach, Mr. Simon. The Gladstone High faculty was very engaging, and encouraged me to try new things."

His advice for current students? "Find out what you want, and go for it," said Coorlim. "Identify what you truly love doing, and immerse yourself in it."



Kindergarten students perform a song for Principal Lu, an educator visiting from China. The children learned to greet him with a hearty "ni hao," which means hello in Mandarin.

Chinese educator visits schools

In November, Gladstone Schools hosted a week-long visit by Gaoyuan Lu, the principal of a 2,600-student high school in China's Shaanxi Province. The visit was part of an educational exchange program that sent Chinese educators to three states. In March, Gladstone Superintendent Bob Stewart will travel to Principal Lu's school to learn about the Chinese education system.

"... in China, students face a lot of pressure and have very little freedom."

Lu, traveling with a volunteer interpreter, had the opportunity to spend time in all four Gladstone schools. He interacted with students at each site. He also met with school leaders to find out more about teacher and student evaluations, student support systems, and technology programs.

Lu found many differences between Chinese and American schools. "You walk into an American school, and it is quite flat, but in China you see tall building after building, quite spread out." Lu said. "Also, American students seem relaxed and free, but in China, students face a lot of pressure and have very little freedom."

Grant helps Wetten students gain resiliency

An \$80,000 grant from CareOregon will launch a ground-breaking effort at John Wetten Elementary, supporting elementary students who suffered traumatic events in early childhood. The project is in response to a Kaiser Permanente study that showed high-stress childhoods impact long-term health.

"To develop in healthy ways, children need... strategies to self-regulate emotions..."

"Children are impacted by toxic stress in different ways. Some have difficulty regulating emotions, while others show lack of attention, impulsivity, or extreme passivity," explained Wetten Principal Wendy Wilson. "To develop in healthy ways, children need connections to caring mentors and strategies to self-regulate emotions, behaviors, and attention."

Building resiliency:

Staff training is a key part of the project. Predictable routines, attachment to positive adults, and sensitivity to emotional development will benefit each student. Those with higher levels of stress can build coping strategies through support groups, mentors, and mental health therapy.

The goal:

"We all know a few amazing adults who managed to find success despite very challenging childhoods," said Wilson. "Our goal is to make that success possible for every child, despite childhood traumas."



GMA Clothes Closet opens February 13

Serving kids from birth to 18, the volunteer-run facility at Gladstone HIgh School is open from 3 to 5 p.m. Thursdays and from 10 a.m. to noon Saturdays. To find it, take the fire lane off Nelson Ave. to the GHS portables. Donations of clean, gently-used clothing are needed. For details, call LaRae at 503-758-4411.

Parent courses give tips to motivate children, teens

Free, four-week classes offered this spring will give parents new strategies to boost communication and motivate their kids. Childcare is provided.

The Parenting Teens class at Kraxberger Middle School runs Thursdays from 6 to 8 p.m. on April 3, 10, 17, and 24. The Parent Power class at John Wetten Elementary runs Tuesdays from 6 to 8 p.m. on May 6, 13, 20, and 27. Register at www.lastingrelationships.org.

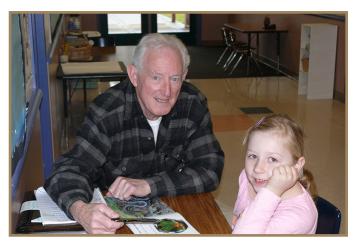
Glad Facts

Gladettes take top prize

Gladstone High School's dance team outmatched 5A and 6A teams, finishing first in state in Hip Hop at the Category State Championships.



Their next goal? Success at the State Championship in March.



Volunteers needed to work with children age 4 to 11

Volunteers help students to get the most out of their education, allowing more time for one-on-one or small-group guidance. Can you help?

Lunch Buddies:

This program at John Wetten Elementary needs volunteers who can spend lunch and recess time to mentor the same student one hour each week until June. To apply, call Angela Johnson at 503-656-6564, extension 265.

Gladstone Center for Children & Families:

Volunteers are needed to help children age 4 to 6 in Head Start, Family Stepping Stones and kindergarten programs. Activities include guiding Learning Zone lessons, and reading with children in small groups. To apply, call Susan Trone at 503-496-3939, ext. 303.

Proficiency focus builds success in middle school

Kraxberger Middle School staff are working to build student achievement through an emphasis on proficiency when evaluating student work.

"This strategy shifts the focus from earning points to mastering the concept," explained Principal Nancy Bailey. "Students realize that if they do not demonstrate proficiency the first time they are assessed, they keep working until they do. In addition to increasing academic content knowledge, students gain skills in responsibility and perseverance." How does it work?

- 1) **Students get added chances to show proficiency** when they have completed an agreed-upon study plan.
- 2) **Grades are based on mastery** of the learning goal, not behavior. Students don't pass or fail based on extra credit, attendance, or participation. Behavior is assessed, but separately. Students earn a life skills grade and an academic content grade in each class.
- 3) **Additional help** to achieve proficiency is available before and after school.

"Our proficiency focus is preparing kids to strive for excellence when they face bigger challenges in high school" said Bailey. "Over time, we help each student develop as a more self-directed learner."

The Glad Report is published by Gladstone Schools to keep our community informed of school happenings. Editor: Leslie Robinette robinettel@gladstone.k12.or.us • More online at http://gladstone.k12.or.us

Gladstone Schools

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