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Gladstone tykes celebrate Earth Day

Preschool and kindergarten students at the Gladstone Center for Children and Families celebrated Earth Day with books, bugs, and botany.

Children shared *The Carrot Seed*, a book by Ruth Krauss. Next, with help from Matt Brown of Food Waves, they had the opportunity to plant their own seeds in the school garden, where they hope to harvest their first spinach crop for the school cafeteria by the end of May.

The Master Gardener's bug display was a big hit, introducing children to helpful garden insects like lady bugs, ground beetles, praying mantis, and damsel bugs. Children also tackled an art project using recycled items.

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Kids talk with Chinese school; GHS adds Mandarin program

Gladstone kids are learning a lot more than reading, writing, and math this year. They're also learning Chinese, thanks to the Confucius Classroom program provided by Portland State University and the Chinese government.

Gladstone's Chinese teacher Miao-Miao Fan traveled more than 6,000 miles from her home in China's Hunan Province to teach in Gladstone this year, serving students from kindergarten through 8th grade.

Besides teaching children words, phrases, and songs in Mandarin, students are also learning about Chinese culture. This year they have learned chopstick use, sampled dumplings, tried Chinese paper cutting, and learned Chinese knot weaving. They also made Peking Opera masks, and learned Chinese playground games.

On April 22, a group of students from John Wetten Elementary had the opportunity to talk with students from Ms. Fan's school in China through a Skype videoconference. With teacher interpretation, the children asked each other questions about school life. The Chinese students demonstrated their jump rope technique for the Americans, and the Gladstone kids performed a song and a dance for the Chinese students.

Because of the community's increased interest in Chinese, next fall, Gladstone will add a second Chinese instructor to provide Mandarin language instruction for grades 9-12.

"Long-term, I see this cross-cultural experience opening many doors for our students," said Superintendent Bob Stewart. "Some may choose to study Mandarin in college. Others may enrich their lives through travel. Someday, as business

professionals or diplomats, they may even build trade and diplomatic relationships with other nations.”

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John Wetten principal honored for early intervention work

Wendy Wilson, principal of Gladstone’s John Wetten Elementary, was honored this month with the Implementer of the Year Award from Oregon Response to Intervention and Instruction.

The award recognizes the school’s proactive efforts with early interventions for students with learning and behavior challenges.

Struggling learners are provided with interventions at increasing levels of intensity to accelerate their rate of learning. These services may be provided by a variety of personnel, including general education teachers, special educators, and specialists.

“We are delighted that Wendy has been recognized for her leadership in the school’s relentless work with students,” said Deputy Superintendent Pia Leonard. “The school team shares this honor because of their hard work and constant focus on literacy.”

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Golf Tournament to benefit schools

Stone Creek Golf Course is the setting for the Gladstone Education Foundation’s annual Golf Tournament. Last year’s event raised \$7,000 for Gladstone Schools.

The tournament is scheduled for Friday, July 31, with a shotgun start at 1:30 p.m. Registration is \$125 per single or \$450 per foursome, including range balls, green fees, a golf card, a gift, a box lunch, a barbecue, and awards. The course is located at 14603 S. Stoneridge Drive in Oregon City.

Corporate sponsorships are available at \$1,000, \$750, and \$250. To register or sponsor the event, call Tammy Tracy at 503.650.2777 or Terry Marsh at 503.789.7922.

“This is a fun way to kick off participation in the Gladstone Community Festival,” said GEF board member Leslie Robinette. “Stone Creek is a gorgeous championship course.”

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Gladstone offers drug turn-in event

To keep drugs from getting into the hands of addicts or youths, a no-questions-asked drug turn-in event is planned in Gladstone. Prescriptions, vitamins, over-the-counter medicines, samples, and pet medications will all be accepted for safe disposal.

Sponsored by the Gladstone Youth Coalition and the Gladstone Police Department, the event will take place on Saturday, April 25, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Gladstone Police Department, 535 Portland Avenue.

“Prescription medications are among the most commonly abused drugs. Flushing them down the toilet or putting them in the trash can be dangerous for people and for wildlife,” said event organizer Jeremy Schumacher. “We want people to know that they can bring unused prescription drugs to the Gladstone Police department any time, not just at this event.”