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Teachers blog from Egypt

Egyptian history is part of social studies classes at Kraxberger Middle School in Gladstone. When Kraxberger teachers Lori Chambers, Amy Otto, and Laura Fuller had an opportunity to travel to Egypt this summer, they found a way to bring their students along, setting up a travel blog to share their adventures.

Before school was out, the social studies department encouraged students to follow their travels and post questions on the blog, <http://ottoegypt.blogspot.com/>.

Full of travel photos and the teachers' adventures, the blog covers history and cultural topics ranging from the 2011 Arab Spring and Egypt's presidential election to religious customs, wildlife in the Red Sea, and contemporary Egyptian foods.

"Our goal with the trip – and the blog – was to get our students excited about learning both during the summer months, and when they return to school this fall," said Otto. "Travel brings history alive and makes it real in a way nothing else can."

Carlos Castañeda joins Gladstone School Board

This summer, Carlos Castañeda was sworn in as the newest member of the Gladstone School Board after being elected in May. A resident of Gladstone for nearly two decades, Castañeda was born in Columbia.

He and his wife Alexandra are the parents of two Gladstone students, Natasha (14) and Lisette (12). They own Print Kolor, a local print shop.

"I am excited about joining the School Board because I am a leader with the heart of a servant," said Castañeda. "I respect everybody."

GHS robotics team wins grant

Gladstone High's robotics club was awarded a \$2,500 grant from the Oregon Department of Education in support of their FIRST Robotics program.

"Getting the grant has inspired us to aim high for this year's competitions," said club mentor Angie McNaughton. "We are so grateful for this support."

The team learns how to design, build, and program robots, competing regionally in competitions designed to increase student engagement, skills, and career interest in technology and engineering. Besides robotics, the group learns teamwork, strategic planning, electrical and mechanical fabrication, website development, publicity, and fundraising.

High school students interested in joining the team can email contactus@gladstonerobotics.com.

Dave's Killer Bread supports Gladstone students

With a grant of \$2,000, Dave's Killer Bread made certain that from the start of the new school year, Saturday Opportunity School at Gladstone High will be available to help students.

The program provides 3 hours of help from a team of teachers, access to school computers, and a quiet place to study for any Gladstone student who wants to catch up on tests and assignments.

"On a typical Saturday, we see over 100 students coming in for help," said Principal Natalie Osburn. "We want every student to have the support they need to succeed in school."

Besides the grant, Dave's Killer Bread also provides 120 free loaves of whole grain bread each week to the Gladstone Food Pantry. This month, the facility begins a new partnership with the Oregon Food Bank as Oregon's 25th school-based food programs. The facility, open to all, serves families on Thursdays from 3 to 5 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon in a portable classroom behind Gladstone High School.

Rotary clothing drive benefits two groups

As families clean out closets in preparation for back-to-school shopping, the Gladstone/Oak Grove Rotary Club has seized the opportunity for a clothing drive.

"We are gathering clothes for two support organizations in our community," said Rotary member Leslie Robinette. "Donations of gently-used clothing for babies, kids, and teens will go to the Gladstone Community Clothes Closet, along with any new packages of socks and underwear. Most-needed items for youths include shoes, pants & shorts for elementary boys, and girls dresses for any age."

All adult clothing and blankets donated will be delivered to The Father's Heart Street Ministry, which serves homeless adults.

"To save time for our volunteers, we ask that folks separate their donations into separate bags for kids and adults," said Robinette.

Donations can be delivered during business hours to the Gladstone branch of U.S. Bank, 19900 SE McLoughlin Blvd., and to Edward Jones Investments at 820 Portland Avenue in Gladstone.

Gladstone schools provide free lunches

With one in five Oregon kids living in poverty, the federally funded free summer lunch program provides stability during a season when no school meal programs are provided.

Gladstone Schools is a sponsor of the program, providing nearly 5,100 free meals this summer at two sites, Kraxberger Middle School and the Gladstone Center for Children & Families.

“We know learning doesn’t stop when school’s out,” said district spokeswoman Leslie Robinette. “That’s why, in addition to free lunch, we also provided a drop-in robotics program, summer activities for middle schoolers, and educational programs presented by the Gladstone Public Library.”