

NR 021215

Gladstone middle schoolers advance in robotics competition

Kraxberger Middle School's two robotics teams had a strong showing in the regional competition at Oregon State University. Each team spent six weeks designing, building, and testing their robots in preparation for the event.

Pit crews and drivers worked furiously to overcome occasional technical glitches so their robots could compete in a series of games.

"My hat goes off to both these teams," said mentor Shawn Price. "They faced many challenges, from robot arms not working to wiring problems, but they worked with smiles on their faces and gracious professionalism."

Team 8132 earned enough points to earn a spot at the Superqualifiers competition on February 21.

Organizers of the statewide robotics program say that participants are significantly more likely to attend college and major in science or engineering.

PHOTO CAPTION: The Kraxberger Gearheads [in the red shirts] compete in a regional robotics competition at Oregon State University. Gladstone's Team 8132 has advanced to the Superqualifier round on February 21.

Gladstone High students earn science credits from OIT

This month, students in Kevin Zerzan's Environmental Science class measured plant biodiversity in their campus bioswale, using transect sampling with quadrats to estimate the diversity and population of plants.

The class has also worked harvesting willow cuttings and stakes for bioengineering restoration at Dahl Beach on the Clackamas River.

The labs are part of the curriculum required by the Oregon Institute of Technology, which provides the opportunity for students to earn four college credits by taking the course.

"Students were excited to be outside, using scientific techniques that have real-world applications," said Zerzan. "We're lucky that Gladstone schools not only provides the opportunity to earn college credits, but also has the facilities to foster experiential learning,"

PHOTO CAPTION: Taylor Anderson and Juan Ruiz use transect sampling to determine

[plant diversity in a campus bioswale.](#)

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Gladstone District invites community to review new textbooks

After doing extensive research, Gladstone Schools has selected new textbooks for English Language Arts in grades 6 to 12. The district invites community members to review and comment on the proposed texts, which are on display in the District Office (17777 Webster Road) through February 27.

Collections by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt was the text chosen for middle schools. The books offer a balance between fiction and non-fiction, with engaging thematic units that appeal to students. The materials are designed to support the Common Core State Standards, with an emphasis on writing, close reading, and Socratic Seminars.

For ninth grade, *EMC Mirror and Windows Level IV* was chosen for its versatility, the mix of traditional and newer pieces, and high student interest. This text is adaptable for serving multiple skill levels in the same classroom. It is aligned to Common Core curriculum, includes writers from diverse cultures, and provides students with both fiction and non-fiction reading selections.

The district team also recommended some adapted texts for *Romeo and Juliet* and *Macbeth*, as well as McGraw-Hill's *Journalism Today*, updated to include digital journalism.

"We invite parents and other community members to drop by and review these materials," said Deputy Superintendent Pia Leonard. "Their feedback will be helpful to the School Board, who will vote on whether to purchase the books at their March 11 meeting."

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Clackamas Bookshelf sells used books in Gladstone

The Clackamas Bookshelf, a new non-profit based at Kraxberger Middle School, is on a mission to provide free books to low-income kids. Since the group began work in August, they have given away 3,200 books to youths across Clackamas County.

One way the group raises funds to buy children's books is through the sale of used adult books for 50 cents each. At last weekend's Grand Opening, they raised \$1,000 for the project, selling everything from best sellers, romance, science fiction and classic novels to how-to books, cookbooks, history, and biographies.

"We want to make sure every single kid in Clackamas County has a book to call their own," said coordinator Katy Preston. "We know that the more books a child has in the home, the better their success in school, and in life."

The Clackamas Bookshelf is open for book sales and donation drop-offs on Mondays from 3 to 5 p.m. and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. In a portable on the north side of the Kraxberger Middle School campus, 17777 Webster Road. Those who visit during school hours should first check in at the school's front office.

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Bingo night offers family fun for kids six and under

Families with children six and under are invited to the annual Pizza/Bingo night at the Gladstone Center for Children and Families (GCCF). The event is the center's annual fundraiser.

Pizza dinner, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. is \$3 for adults, \$2 for children, and free to kids age two and under. Bingo is \$1 per card, with unlimited games. Raffle tickets are \$3 each or three for \$5. The GCCF is located at 18905 Portland Avenue in Gladstone.

The event emphasizes the importance of parents and children sharing family meals and games on a regular basis.