

Third graders make Valentines for homeless

Gladstone children in Kaitlyn Gillies' third grade class made Valentine Cards for a non-profit called Street Books. The cards were provided to homeless people so they would have cards to give to their loved ones.

"Many people chose Valentines and wrote notes to their friends and family," said Laura Moulton of Street Books. "We are grateful that students gave their time and energy to help people who needed a little extra love."

PHOTO CAPTION: A homeless man shows off a Valentine card made by a third grade student at John Wetten Elementary in Gladstone.

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Gladstone cheer takes third at State

In a flurry of tumbling, jumps, chants, and pyramids, Gladstone High's Varsity Cheer Squad captured third place in the state competition. A video of the team's performance is available here: <https://www.facebook.com/GladstoneSchoolDistrict>

"The girls knew they nailed their routine," said Coach Angie Schassen. "This is a priceless moment I will remember forever! Pure emotion for 15 girls that put each other first. This is why I coach."

PHOTO CAPTION: Gladstone High's Varsity Cheer team poses with their third place trophy at the state competition.

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Gladstone Jazz Band takes second in league

The jazz band from Gladstone High School took second in the Tri-Valley League competition, just 3 points from first place. Outstanding solo awards were given to Rhian Hughes on trumpet, Brevin Tatom on guitar, and Jadon Smith on bass. In addition, the saxophones won the award for outstanding saxophone section.

"I'm proud of these outstanding musicians for their artistry and their hard work," said Band Director David Kays. "They competed well, and had fun performing."

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Gladstone swimmers advance to State

In last week's meet, several Gladstone High swimmers qualified for the state competition at Mt. Hood Community College on February 20 and 21.

- Sarah Clyde (100-meter Butterfly & 500 meter Freestyle)
- Alex Stewart (50-meter Freestyle)
- Boys' 200-meter Freestyle Relay (Trask Telesmanich, Andrew Gross, Harrison Jarrett, &

Alex Stewart).

Placing in the top six in finals were Aimee Battaglia (6th – 100-meter butterfly); Sarah Clyde (2nd – 100-meter butterfly & 500-meter freestyle); Chloe Ouchida (5th – 100-meter butterfly); Alex Stewart (3rd – 50-meter freestyle), and Trask Telesmanich (6th – 100-meter freestyle).

Gladstone group sponsors free training in Mental Health First Aid

As part of their work to enhance health and safety for students in Gladstone, the Gladstone Youth Coalition will sponsor a free, day-long training on youth mental health first aid.

The course will be offered on Friday, March 13 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Good Roots Community Church, 1908 SE Courtney Road in Oak Grove. Free lunch will be provided. To register, email organizer Kris Bella at kbella@northwestbs.com.

“We welcome any participant who works with kids,” said organizer Kris Bella. “Coaches, youth pastors, librarians, school staff, scout leaders, law enforcement officers, youth mentors, and school volunteers are strongly encouraged to take this training.”

The training will prepare adults to help a young person who is experiencing a mental health challenge or in crisis.

State officials plan February 24 parent info session on state tests

The Oregon Department of Education, in partnership with Oregon PTA, will hold a parent information meeting about the new Smarter Balanced assessments at **6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 24** at **Gladstone High School**. This forum will feature Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction Rob Saxton and several members of his staff.

WHAT: *Parent Information Meeting: Smarter Balanced Assessments*

WHEN: *6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 24*

WHERE: *Gladstone High School Auditorium, 18800 Portland Avenue*

[Use the Fine Arts/Technology entrance]

FOR WHOM: Parents and Guardians of K-12 students from any school district

INFO: <http://gladstone.k12.or.us/high/schools-to-begin-smarter-balanced-testing/>

The new state-required tests will be given in Language Arts and Math to grades 3 to 8 and grade 11 starting this spring. Smarter-Balanced replaces the state’s OAKS tests, given for many years. Seventeen other states will also be giving Smarter Balanced tests.

Aligned to Oregon’s Common Core standards, the Smarter Balanced tests include writing at every grade level, new question types, and performance tasks that allow students to demonstrate research, writing, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills.

Parents and guardians from any school district are invited to bring their questions and learn more about the tests.

Spanish and American Sign Language interpreters and refreshments will be provided. Limited free childcare is available by reservation only. Call 503.655.2777 to make a reservation.

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Gladstone wrestlers advance to State

After a strong season, several Gladstone High wrestlers have advanced to the state competition:

- Derek Penn
- Dijaun Davis
- Adam Taylor
- Alvin Lopez
- Blake McNall
- Kyle Kintz