

**Auction nets \$56,000 for Gladstone Schools**

The Gladstone Education Foundation auction raised net proceeds of \$56,000 to benefit students and programs in Gladstone Schools. The February 15<sup>th</sup> event was the group’s largest ever, with 300 community members attending.

\$20,000 of the total was raised in a ten-minute “paddle raise” in support of programs for disadvantaged families, including the new Gladstone Clothes Closet and the Food Pantry that supports the Backpack Buddies program.

“We are proud of the way Gladstone stepped up to support kids,” said GEF President Bill Kemnitzer. “So many people contributed to this wonderful effort, from alumni, parents, and retirees to businesses, staff, and students. Our community has a big heart.”

Since 2000, the Gladstone Education Foundation has provided thousands of dollars in support for school needs. Recent contributions include funds for a new timing system for the Gladstone High School track, support for instrumental music at John Wetten Elementary, and funds for environmental field trips.

**PHOTO CAPTION: Gladstone School Board member Bruce Wadsworth demonstrates “country chic” style with his myrtlewood cowboy hat at the Gladstone Education Foundation’s western-themed dinner and auction. The event raised \$56,000 for Gladstone Schools.**

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**Kraxberger robotics teams shine at first competition**

Just returned from their first robotics competition at McMinnville’s Evergreen Air and Space Museum, the two teams from Gladstone’s Kraxberger Middle School are already planning design improvements for next year’s event.

Together, the 28 sixth, seventh, and eighth graders, under the leadership of volunteer mentor Shawn Price, are learning far more than fabrication, electrical wiring, and computer programming.

Members of the after school Gearheads club are also learning what Price calls “gracious professionalism,” including skills in brainstorming, teamwork, record keeping, writing reports, debating, and presenting. Price finds ways to make that fun, including the opportunity to take apart old electronics to understand how they work, and the chance to build a Rube Goldberg machine.

The teams were pleased with their sixth place finish in the first round of the competition, but took an analytical approach to set goals for next year.

“The bulldozer feature was a design success, but we need to improve the scoop,” said sixth grader Katie Wilmot. Her teammate Eric Hanson noted that the teams with overly complicated models broke down a lot.

“I noticed that our tractor steering was more maneuverable than the car steering some of the others used,” commented 6<sup>th</sup> grader Omar Cham. “Next time I want to add a retractable arm.”

Price praised the group for the performance of both robots against a field of 28 teams, including a 6<sup>th</sup> place finish for Team 8188, and 19<sup>th</sup> place for Team 8132. He was especially proud of the group’s teamwork in their panel presentations.

“Grace under pressure. That’s what I call gracious professionalism,” he smiled.

**PHOTO CAPTION: Gladstone sixth graders Omar Cham (left) and Eric Hanson analyze the performance of their team’s robot after a regional competition. Both are members of Kraxberger Middle School’s new Gearheads Robotics Club, which meets after school.**

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**Healthy Living grant to support Gladstone middle schoolers**

An \$8000 grant to Northwest Family Services will help sixth, seventh, and eighth graders at Kraxberger Middle School learn about nutrition, food preparation, exercise and healthy eating habits with the goal of life-long health.

The effort is part of the school’s free after school program, which provides snacks, homework support, team building, and enrichment activities, from ultimate Frisbee and chess, to gardening, hip hop, and robotics.

“Our goal is to find after school clubs and teams for every student,” said Lennie Bjornsen, Director of Student and Family Support. “These opportunities build essential assets for kids, from adult mentorship and a positive peer group to structured time, skill mastery, and goal setting.”