

NR 020515

Gladstone Schools plans tours for Open Enrollment applicants

Since Oregon’s Open Enrollment law began providing an annual opportunity for school choice, many families seeking the benefits of smaller schools and the security of a close-knit small community have chosen Gladstone Schools.

The district is accepting Open Enrollment applications for the 2015-16 school year through April 1. Application forms are available on the district website at www.gladstone.k12.or.us.

Families interested in touring schools in Gladstone are invited to do so, with different opportunities available at each school:

Full-Day Kindergarten -- Gladstone Center for Children & Families:

Drop-in tours on Tuesday, February 24 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Call for an appointment: 503.496.3939. Walk-ins welcome.

Grades 1 - 5 -- John Wetten Elementary:

Tour for potential applicants
Wednesday, March 11 from 5:30 to 6:15 p.m.

Grades 6 - 8 -- Kraxberger Middle School:

School tours arranged by request.
Call 503.655.3636.

Grades 9 - 12 -- Gladstone High School:

Half-day student shadows by request on Wednesdays in February.
Call 503.655.2544 to schedule.

“The Gladstone School district has a clear mission – *Growing Great People*,” explained Superintendent Bob Stewart. “Our smaller school community means we can personally know and nurture each student, providing more challenge or support as needed.”

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Gladstone police to take Polar Bear Plunge

Gladstone’s School Resource Officer Eric Graves is such a big fan of Special Olympics that he’s willing to dive into the 34-degree waters of the Columbia River to raise funds for the cause.

Graves, along with other officers from the Gladstone Police Department “Penguins” will take part in the annual Polar Plunge on February 28. All donations will benefit the athletic program for youths with disabilities.

“I have participated in this event for the past six years, but last year was the coldest,” said Graves. “We had a great reminder why we were there shivering when one of the Special Olympics athletes came over to thank us for plunging. He told us that without the support of the donations we gathered, he would not have been able to participate. Knowing that, we felt a little warmer.”

To make a cash deductible donation to Special Olympics, visit the Polar Plunge website at <http://www.kintera.org/faf/home/default.asp?ievent=1106547> and search for Eric Graves or the Gladstone PD Penguins. The more funds that are raised, the more special needs athletes can compete.

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Families invited to share science fun

Science Hour, on Thursday, February 19, invites kids eight and under to learn about making things move. The event is designed to help parents, grandparents, and childcare providers encourage and support science learning. Each child participating will receive a free science activity to do at home.

The event is scheduled at 4:15 p.m. at the Gladstone Center for Children & Families, 18905 Portland Avenue in Gladstone.

PHOTO CAPTION: The monthly Science Hour at the Gladstone Center for Children & Families helps parents, grandparents, and other caregivers learn fun ways to teach science to kids age 3-8.