

NR 011515

**Gladstone Schools to hire key education leaders**

The Gladstone School District is casting a wide net in its search for top caliber candidates for two administrative positions, Director of Early Learning and Principal of Kraxberger Middle School.

“Gladstone is a regional leader in early childhood education, and we are excited about taking our program to the next level, to level the playing field for kids at the youngest age possible,” explained Superintendent Bob Stewart. “In addition, we see the middle school years as a crossroad for teens, when they are actively choosing their future. If we can provide them with the essential assets, we can boost their odds of long-term success and good health.”

The Early Learning Director will oversee the Gladstone Center for Children and Families, a frontrunner among such programs across the state. The role includes planning and development of kindergarten and other early childhood programs, collaborative ventures with Head Start, partner schools, and agencies, and connecting early learning with K-12 education.

The new Principal of Kraxberger Middle School, a small middle school serving 480 students in grades 6-8, will need to be an innovative, collaborative leader. Focus areas include student support, parent involvement, staff development, curriculum planning, student engagement, proficiency-based grading, building a Culture of Care, and afterschool programs.

Applications for both positions are posted on EdZapp at <https://applicant.edzapp.com/login.aspx>.

.....  
**Literacy project plans Grand Opening; volunteers needed**

A new non-profit aims to make sure every child in Clackamas County has books to call their own. The Clackamas Bookshelf, launched in August by Katy Preston, gathers used book donations, cleans them up, and hands them out to low-income kids of all ages.

“The research is clear,” says Preston. “The more books a child has in their home, the greater the likelihood that the child will have strong reading skills and school success.”

Housed in a portable at Gladstone’s Kraxberger Middle School, the project has already distributed more than 2,100 books to children in the Gladstone and North Clackamas School Districts. In the years ahead, they hope to expand the program to serve every school district in Clackamas County.

The organization plans a Grand Opening to introduce itself to parents, teachers, and community members. The event is scheduled for 2 to 6 p.m. on Saturday, February 7 on the Kraxberger Middle School campus, 17777 Webster Road, in Gladstone. Non-children's books will be on sale for 50 cents each as a fundraiser for the program, and sets of children's books will be raffled off.

The project seeks volunteers to help clean donated books. To lend a hand, email Katy Preston at [katy.preston10@gmail.com](mailto:katy.preston10@gmail.com).

.....  
**Gladstone High students hold blood drive**

The Key Club from Gladstone High School helped fellow students start the new year by giving back, hosting a blood drive this week. In all, 120 students stepped up to donate, contributing 86 units of blood.

"We're proud of our students for thinking of others," said Principal Natalie Osburn. "Lives may be saved and people will be helped thanks to this event."

.....  
**Middle school provides drug and alcohol screenings, interventions**

Kraxberger Middle School students will benefit from free, on-site drug and alcohol screenings and intervention programs provided by Northwest Family Services, a non-profit partner.

Services include screening for substance use, mental health issues, and potential violence. plus short term or long-term treatment, including motivational interviewing, and change therapy.

"In Clackamas County, 13 percent of 8<sup>th</sup> graders had at least one alcoholic drink in the past 30 days," said Principal Nancy Bailey. "If parents suspect a teen they love is experimenting with drugs or alcohol, we urge them to contact us right away for a referral."

.....  
**Guest speakers show 8<sup>th</sup> graders career options**

School is more relevant if students can see how it relates to their career interests. To help eighth graders explore their options, Gladstone's Kraxberger Middle School offers an elective on Career Exploration.

The class includes presentations by a series of guest speakers from the community. Presentations this term include a drone pilot, a caterer, and a small business owner, as well as a submarine electrician and an employee of the Port of Portland.

Last week, Megan Schaper came to talk to the group about her work as a professional musician. She described a wide range of jobs she had experienced, from choral conductor, recording artist, and music teacher to her current role as an administrator with the Youth Music Project, a non-profit that provides free music lessons to low-income students.

“This is a fun opportunity for students to think about what roles interest them,” said teacher Barb Coffey. “This helps students choose high school electives with at least a broad goal in mind.”

PHOTO:

.....

**Gladstone to launch elementary book clubs**

John Wetten 4th and 5th graders will have the opportunity to participate in book groups this winter and spring, thanks to a \$600 grant from First Book.

The grant will provide each participant with six titles the group can read together. Each child will keep the books at the conclusion of the club.

“This is a fun way to reinforce the reading skills we teach in class,” explained Principal Wendy Wilson. “Kids can practice using evidence in the text to support their interpretation.”