

## **Gladstone Community Clothes closet seeks donations**

With the goal of opening in February, the new Gladstone Community Clothes Closet at Gladstone High School seeks laundered, gently-used clothing, shoes, and jackets for kids from birth to 18. New packages of socks and underwear are also needed.

Donations can be delivered Thursdays from 3-5 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon at the portable classroom on the North End of the Gladstone High campus. For easy drop off, donors can drive down the fire lane off Nelson Street, just north of the high school.

The center, run by the Gladstone Ministerial Association, hopes to open in February, or sooner, serving youths in Gladstone. For information, call LaRae Applebee at 503-758-4411.

---

## **School seeks guest readers to entertain on book night**

Are children mesmerized by your storytelling? Do kids find you entertaining? Volunteer at John Wetten Elementary's Everybody Reads event, a celebration of children's author Dr. Seuss. Guest readers can bring their own picture book, or the school will provide one.

The school day event is scheduled for March 3, from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. To volunteer, call teacher Serena Mullen at 503-656-6564, ext. 269, or email her at [mullens@gladstone.k12.or.us](mailto:mullens@gladstone.k12.or.us) by February 1.

---

## **Gladstone District accepts applications for Open Enrollment**

Gladstone Schools is now taking Open Enrollment applications from non-district residents for the 2014-15 school year for students in grades K-10. Applicants may come from any Oregon district or county.

Schools included are:

**Gladstone Center for Children & Families:** full-day kindergarten

**John Wetten Elementary:** a grade 1-5 school with weekly PE, Music, & Technology

**Kraxberger Middle School:** offering proficiency-based learning for grades 6-8

**Gladstone High:** a small, college preparatory high school

For applications and information, visit <http://tinyurl.com/GladstoneSchoolsApplication> or call Sandi Frohnert at 503-496-3935.

---

## **Parent Power class helps with motivation, discipline, & communication**

If your New Year's resolution is to learn parenting strategies that work, we have the

perfect class for you. And it's free! Bring your spouse or come with a friend. [Here](#) is a lesson from the class.

Register now for Parent Power, a 4-night course in February at John Wetten Elementary. Classes will be held Tuesday nights from 6 to 8 p.m. on February 4, 11, 18, & 25. Free childcare will be provided. Sign up now at [www.lastingrelationships.org](http://www.lastingrelationships.org) or call 503-546-6377.

.....  
**Latino family night gives parents strategies and fun**

Latino families are invited to a weekly gathering at the Gladstone Center for Children & Families that provides free dinner, children's activities, parenting tips, giveaways, and more. The event welcomes Spanish speakers and English speakers. Events are from 6 to 8 p.m. on the following dates: Wednesdays, on January 15, 22, and 29; February 5, 19, and 26, and March 5. Fridays, on January 10, February 14, and March 14. The Gladstone Center for Children & Families is located at 18905 Portland Avenue in Gladstone.

For information, call Nydia Santos at 971-255-5680 or Zulma Ramirez at 503-278-3578. The project is sponsored by Northwest Family Services in partnership with Gladstone Schools.

.....  
**Family Focus Forum offers a day of free parent workshops**

Whether their current parenting dilemma is helping children through transitions, adjusting to middle school, or motivating them to get their homework done, parents will find plenty of new strategies at the Family Focus Forum.

This free, daylong parent conference in Oregon City is on Saturday, February 8 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. at Oregon City High School, 19761 S. Beaver Creek Road. To register, visit [www.FamilyFocusForum.org](http://www.FamilyFocusForum.org) or call 503-785-8877. The event includes free breakfast and lunch, plus childcare.

.....  
**Deadline approaches for auction donations, ticket sales**

Those wishing to attend or donate to the Gladstone Education Foundation's Dinner & Auction need to order tickets or make donations by January 25. Tickets are selling fast.

The event benefits schools in the Gladstone District. For tickets (\$40), donations, or information, call Tammy Tracy at 503-655-2777, ext. 577.

.....  
**GHS juniors to participate in pilot of new Smarter Balanced state test**

Gladstone High has been selected to test-drive the new Smarter Balanced state test for 11th grade English Language Arts. The exam will be given in late April or early May,

part of a statewide trial run of the new standardized tests students will be taking starting in the 2015-16 school year.

While this means another 3-5 day testing round for juniors (in addition to the state-required OAKS test), participating in this pilot effort will allow teachers a chance to learn more about the rigor, impact, and logistics of the new tests. An added bonus is that this gives our juniors more experience in taking different types of exams, useful preparation for college. More information will be shared with parents and students as the testing window approaches.

.....  
**Gladstone High hosts family night**

Parents and students from the Gladstone High community are invited to a special Family Night event on Wednesday, January 22 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Light dinner & free childcare will be provided.

The night includes sessions on Cyber Safety, Registration for Dual-Credit Classes, Communication Tools for School Success, and panel discussions with teachers and with students.

.....  
**\$80,000 grant to Wetten Elementary helps students coping with trauma**

An \$80,000 grant from CareOregon will launch a groundbreaking effort in Gladstone Schools, supporting elementary students who suffered traumatic events in early childhood. The goal is improving children's long-term health and academic success.

A Kaiser Permanente study in 1995-97 revealed that individuals who faced Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) such as abuse, domestic violence, loss of a parent, or living with a substance abuser have dramatically increased life-long risks from health issues, addiction, and depression.

“The evidence is overwhelming regarding the impact of trauma. By addressing this issue through Trauma Informed Practice, we look forward to further enhancing the well being of Gladstone children,” said Superintendent Bob Stewart. “CareOregon has been a wonderful partner with the Gladstone community. We have benefitted from their knowledge, expertise and resources. This next step in our journey together is truly exciting.”

Wendy Wilson, principal of John Wetten Elementary, has been studying education and counseling strategies to help students coping with ACEs. She understands that students who have had highly stressful experiences in their lives may also have difficulty succeeding academically. Research has shown that constant stress impacts brain development in young children.

“Children are impacted by toxic stress in different ways. Some have difficulty regulating emotions, while others show lack of attention, impulsivity, or extreme passivity,”

explained Wilson. “For these children to develop in healthy ways, they need connections to caring mentors and strategies to self-regulate their emotions, behaviors, and attention.”

Staff training is an essential component of the program, as the school works to build teacher awareness of the reasons behind children’s behavior, and to learn trauma-sensitive, strengths-based approaches and routines to help children cope.

“Providing predictable routines, attachment to positive adults, and teachers in touch with children’s social/emotional development will benefit our entire student body,” added Wilson. “Children who have experienced higher levels of trauma and stress can build resiliency and coping strategies with help from small support groups, one-on-one mentors, and mental health therapy.”

“We are pleased to support the efforts of Gladstone Schools to address early childhood trauma,” said Patrick Curran, CareOregon’s chief executive officer. “It is a great example of what we are trying to accomplish through Coordinated Care Organizations: addressing the important determinants of health early and comprehensively. We believe this initiative will have a life-long impact on these children.”

“We all know a few amazing adults who had the worst childhoods imaginable, but managed to find success despite the odds,” said Wilson. “Our goal is to make that possible for every student who experienced childhood trauma.”

To contribute to Gladstone’s Overcoming ACEs Project, send donations to the Gladstone Education Foundation/17789 Webster Road/Gladstone, OR 97027