

**Gladstone School District invites applications for Open Enrollment**

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.

“Gladstone Schools 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.”

For the 2015-16 school year, the School Board approved Open Enrollment for students entering kindergarten through grade 10. Applications are due April 1, 2015. The number of openings varies by grade level.

**Kindergarten:** [45 spots] This well-established full-day program is part of the Gladstone Center for Children & Families, a state-of-the-art early childhood facility. Students receive weekly instruction in art, Chinese, physical education, music, and technology.

**John Wetten Elementary:** [62 spots in grades one to five] Students have weekly learning in music, Chinese, physical education, music, and library. Free afterschool programs are offered in choir, book discussion, cheerleading, and debate.

**Kraxberger Middle School:** [101 spots in grades six to eight] This small school offers a 5-day Outdoor School for each sixth grader. Electives include Spanish, band, choir, technology, art, and Chinese. Afterschool programs include robotics, choir, board games, and intramural cross-country, basketball, volleyball, and track.

**Gladstone High School:** [80 spots in grades nine and ten] This small, college prep school offers 66 electives, with 15 career-technical programs, and 23 AP or college credit classes. This year’s 4A state football champion, the school has 21 competitive athletic and music programs and 13 clubs, including a competitive robotics team. Saturday School and other support programs help students succeed academically. The school has one of the state’s highest graduation rates.

To apply or to find out more, contact Sandi Frohnert at 503-496-3935. Application forms are posted on the district website: [www.gladstone.k12.or.us](http://www.gladstone.k12.or.us). If more students apply for a grade level than the number of openings available, a lottery will determine admission.

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## **8<sup>th</sup> graders build bridges**

What do middle schoolers know about engineering and physics? A lot more after they've finished the bridge building project in 8<sup>th</sup> grade science teacher Celeste Pellicci's class. The Kraxberger students built balsa wood bridges, and then broke them to determine the maximum weight they could hold.

"The project teaches kids about the concepts of criteria, constraints, trade-offs, blueprinting by hand, and types of bridges," says Pellicci.

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## **Gladstone junior bowlers excel**

Three students from Kraxberger Middle School are competitive bowlers, thanks to years of practice, instruction, and youth competitions. All three bowl in the Future Pros youth league at Kellogg Bowl in Milwaukee.

**Brian DeLuisa-Anderson**, a 7<sup>th</sup> grader, joined his first league at age seven. He began bowling at Kellogg in 2010, with a first year average of 119. Currently his average is 218, and he has twice bowled a perfect game of 300 in the past month. In the year ahead, he will be traveling all over the country to compete.

**Kerissa Andersen**, an 8<sup>th</sup> grader, began bowling in 2010, and since then has increased her average from 94 to 173. She and DeLuisa-Anderson both bowl in the Oregon Junior Classics tournaments, and have won or placed on the Junior Bowlers Tour.

**Omar Cham**, a 7<sup>th</sup> grader, began bowling in 2011 and has since raised his average from 89 to 157. He competes in tournaments on a regular basis.

"Every time a youth bowler places in a tournament or competition, they earn College Scholarship money," said Brian's mother Lenore DeLuisa. "They also earn scholarship money for league bowling."

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## **Free class helps parents of teens**

Parents hoping to improve family communication, boost student motivation, and build effective discipline strategies will learn that and more at free 4-week parent course offered this winter.

**Parenting Teens without Losing Your Mind** will be offered at Kraxberger Middle School from 6 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday nights: February 3, 10, 17, and 24. Free childcare will be provided. To register, visit [www.lastingrelationships.org](http://www.lastingrelationships.org) or call 503-546-6377.

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## **Gladstone School District seeks volunteers**

If your New Year's resolution is to help others, schools in Gladstone have some fun opportunities for volunteers. To apply, call Volunteer Coordinator Theresa Schmidt at 503-656-6564, ext. 265.

- **Book Club Leader for grade 4-5:** John Wetten Elementary is seeking a volunteer to lead an afterschool club of ten 4th & 5<sup>th</sup> graders in book discussion 1 hour per week, starting in February. Books are provided.
- **Lunch Buddies:** Meet once a week or twice a month with an elementary student for lunch and recess to provide a positive role model and mentoring.
- **SMART Readers:** Read with preschoolers at the Gladstone Center for Children & Families twice a week, and join the team from Start Making A Reader Today, this year's winner of the Library of Congress Literacy Prize. To volunteer, call Nathan Buck at 971-634-1607.

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**Gladstone offers free books and science fun**

From birth to age eight, children's brains grow rapidly, as they develop vocabulary and reasoning skills based on their experiences. The Gladstone Center for Children & Families plans two afternoon events in January to prepare young children for school success.

**Story Hour**, at 4:15 p.m. on Thursday, January 15, will focus on the theme of community safety. Besides sharing books, the event includes activities, free books for kids 5 and under, and a raffle. This event is intended for parents with children from birth to six.

**Science Hour**, at 4:15 p.m. on Thursday, January 22, will focus on colors and patterns in our world. This event, for ages 3 to 8, helps parents, grandparents, and caregivers encourage and support science learning at home. Each child will take home a fun project.

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**Free parent classes support raising kids from birth to six**

Monthly, drop-in classes are available throughout the school year for families with specific information depending on the age of one's children. Participants are encouraged to share their experiences and bring their toughest questions. Families may attend any or all of these classes. A free meal and childcare are always provided. Classes will be at the Gladstone Center for Children & Families, 18905 Portland Avenue.

**Incredible Infants** is a 10-week series for new moms and babies under 8 months. Each week covers new information about milestones in first-year development, how to care for and play with your infant, the importance of self care, sleep issues, and bonding.

Space is limited for this series, so to register, call Chelsea Hamilton at 503.496.5764. Classes are Wednesdays from 12:30 to 2 p.m. from January 14 to March 18.

**Beautiful Babies:** This class for parents with children under 18 months meets first Thursdays from January through May. Topics include child development and milestones, parenting styles, self-care, sleeping, feeding, and playing with your baby.

**Terrific Toddlers:** This class for parents with children 18 months to 3 years old meets 2nd Thursdays from January through May. Topics include toilet training, child safety, positive discipline strategies, learning through play, and ways to encourage language and social development.

**Growing Up:** This class for parents with children age 3 to 6 meets 3rd Thursdays from January to May. Topics include school readiness and adjustments, healthy screen time and nutrition, love languages, and positive sibling and peer relationships.