

Gladstone Schools chooses two school leaders

The Gladstone School District announced the hiring of two new leaders for the coming academic year.

Christina Alquisira will be the early learning director for the Gladstone Center for Children & Families [GCCF]. She will replace Interim Director Carol Kemhus, who has been filling the role on a temporary basis.

Alquisira brings to the role experience as the Early Learning Coordinator for the Forest Grove School District, and years as a school counselor at Cornelius Elementary School. A fluent Spanish speaker, she holds a Master’s Degree in Education from the University of Alaska Fairbanks and a Bachelor’s Degree in Psychology from Humboldt State University.

Becky Lukens will be the new principal at Kraxberger Middle School, replacing Nancy Bailey, who retires in June.

Lukens founded Pacific Crest Community School in 1993, and serves as Co-Director and teacher there. Previously, she taught history at West Linn and Nestucca Union High Schools. She holds a post-Master’s Degree in Education from Lewis and Clark College and a Bachelor’s degree in History from the University of Oregon.

“The brilliance that is potentially in every student who walks through the door should be supported,” said Lukens. “Our job as teachers is to pull students out of their comfort zone in a safe way so they’re willing to take risks and find where they want to go.”

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First graders learn keyboarding & computer skills

Gladstone kids growing up in the Information Age learn a lot more than reading, writing, and math at school. Starting in the first grade, they also take a weekly technology class, learning keyboarding and computer skills.

Technology teacher Barb Coffey uses fun strategies to teach keyboarding skills, such as Dance Mat Typing, which helps students learn home row keys.

“Our students love using Brain Pop, one of the highest rated educational websites,” says Coffey. “This gives them the opportunity to practice at home what they learn at school.”

PHOTO: Gladstone first grader Donovan Corbett practices keyboarding skills in his weekly computer class at John Wetten Elementary.

Girls explore science careers

Six students from Gladstone High School attended the Women in Science event sponsored by Stop Oregon Litter & Vandalism [SOLVE]. Participants in the day-long event included Abby Bender, Lindsey Clark, Tiana Green, Michaela Delepierre, Renada Villanti, and Chloe Ouchida.

The event, created for girls and women age 12 to 24, gave students the opportunity to talk with local scientists, and to learn about different career paths available in the sciences.

PHOTO: Gladstone High School students Abby Bender, Lindsey Clark, Tiana Green, Michaela Delepierre, Renada Villanti, and Chloe Ouchida spent a day exploring science careers thanks to a recent event sponsored by SOLVE.

Gladstone High coach offers Spring Break soccer camp

For families seeking a fun, affordable way to keep kids active during Spring Break, Gladstone High soccer coach Greg Hess plans a 4-day afternoon camp.

Boys and girls will learn fundamentals or hone the skills they already have: dribbling, passing, shooting, ball control, and scrimmages. They need to bring soccer shoes, shin guards, a ball, and a water bottle.

The camp runs Monday to Thursday, March 23-26 from 1 to 3 p.m. at Gladstone High School. The cost is \$35, and the camp is open to youths age 8 to 14. To register, visit <https://apm.activecommunities.com/gladstonesdcommed> or call 503.650.2570.
