

NR 3-13-14

**Kraxberger Middle School offers class on parenting teens**

Is your teenager a mystery? Is your pre-teen suddenly speaking a language you don't understand? Parents will find help navigating these challenging years through a Gladstone class called *Raising Teenagers without Losing Your Mind*.

The free class is scheduled for Thursday nights in April, from 6 to 8 p.m. on April 3, 10, 17, and 24. A \$10 optional book, *Active Parenting of Teens*, will be available. Free childcare will be provided.

The research-based program teaches adults how to parent teens by using encouragement, building their self-esteem, and creating a relationship based on active listening, honest communication, and problem solving. Participants will focus on turning the challenges of the teen years into opportunities for their growth.

To register, visit [www.lastingrelationships.org](http://www.lastingrelationships.org) or call 503-278-3572.

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**Middle School robotics team needs donations of old electronics**

The Gearheads, a competitive robotics team at Gladstone's Kraxberger Middle School, is seeking donations of old electronics and other electrical items students can use as they learn the basics of electrical engineering, computer programming, and fabrication.

Requested donations include small televisions, electric alarm clocks, old computers, laptops, flat screen TVs, printers, old cell phones, or old cameras. The group also needs donations of colored pencils, crayons, paper, soldering irons and supplies.

"Our sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students are learning a lot about soldering, tool use, and wiring by deconstructing old technology," said club mentor Shawn Price. "These are useful skills as we design, wire, and program robots for competition."

To make a donation, call Price at 503-723-5609 or email [shawn.price@gladstonerobotics.com](mailto:shawn.price@gladstonerobotics.com).

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**Gladstone Lunch Buddies program seeks volunteer mentors**

The Gladstone School District is seeking volunteers for the Lunch Buddy program, which pairs at-risk elementary students with an adult mentor. The mentor spends 1 hour each week sharing lunch and recess activities with their lunch buddy. To apply, call Volunteer Coordinator Angela Johnson at 503-656-6564.

The district's early childhood center is also looking for mentors to work with small groups of preschool and kindergarten students on Learning Zone lessons on science, dramatic play,

music and community. To apply, call volunteer coordinator Susan Trone at 503-496-3939, ext. 306.

Students who meet regularly with adult mentors are:

- 80% more likely to graduate
- 58% more likely to earn higher grades
- 52% less likely to skip school
- 46% less likely to try drugs
- 27% less likely to use alcohol

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**Donations sought for garage sale fundraiser**

To help raise funds for Gladstone schools, the Gladstone Education Foundation is seeking donations of clean, gently used items such as toys, games, small appliances, jewelry, books, sports equipment, tools, or furniture. A rummage sale is planned in June.

To make a donation, call Corinne at 503-722-2284 or Kathy at 971-227-2655 to arrange for drop off or pick up of items.

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**Gladstone Center offers free Story Hour**

The Gladstone Center for Children & Families will offer a free, story hour for children age six and under. This is an opportunity for children to build early reading skills and vocabulary through shared reading, play, and fun language activities. Each story time session has a different theme.

All children attending will receive a **free book** at each session, donated by the Gladstone/Oak Grove Rotary Club.

Story Hour is on **first and third Thursdays from 4:15 to 5 p.m.** at the Gladstone Center, located at 18905 Portland Avenue in Gladstone. Event themes are as follows:

*March 20: Stories by Eric Carle*

*April 3: Pets*

*April 17: Earth Day*

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