

**Gladstone Schools to lower class size, buy textbooks, restore school days, reduce fees**

Superintendent Bob Stewart released the proposed 2014-15 budget for Gladstone Schools, confirming the district’s commitment to lower class sizes, add teachers, restore lost school days, and purchase textbooks. These changes were made possible due to increasing enrollment, a change in the state’s calculation of low-income students, and an \$860 per year increase in the state's weighted per-student funding from the previous biennium.

“The past six years of budget reductions in Oregon have been a challenge for our schools,” said Stewart. “I’m grateful to our staff for their commitment to move education forward despite hard times, increasing graduation rates, increasing college credit opportunities, and launching several new support programs for students. As the tide of Oregon’s economy begins to turn, I am confident that adding school days and staffing will amplify our work to help each student achieve more.”

This winter, Gladstone Schools gathered input from nearly 500 parents and district employees through focus groups and surveys. Stated community priorities included adding adult support for students, adding time for classroom instruction and professional development, lowering costs to families, and adding support for the social-emotional needs of students.

In response, Gladstone’s budget proposal includes:

- Adding 8+ full time teaching positions over the 2013-14 budget.
- Reducing class size averages to 29 for elementary students and 32 for secondary students.
- Adding 4 days to the school year, including 2 more student instruction days and 6 more hours for staff development
- Purchasing new math books for grades K-1, new English language arts materials for grades K-5, and some English materials for grades 6-12.
- Reducing student fees, including elimination of course fees at all schools.

The Gladstone Schools Budget Committee, comprised of School Board members and community members, approved the proposed budget on May 7. The School Board will hold a public hearing to adopt the budget for 2014-15 on June 11.

.....

**Gladstone Teaching Preschool receives grant to address childhood trauma**

A \$10,000 grant from the Schlesinger Foundation will help support the Gladstone Teaching Preschool. The school, which opened in April, serves economically disadvantaged children and special needs children using inquiry-based learning.

Located at the Gladstone Center for Children & Families, the school is a partnership between the Clackamas ESD’s early childhood program and the Opal School at the Portland Children’s Museum.

“This effort to build resiliency and school readiness for young children will provide a long-term benefit to students coping with life challenges,” explained Lennie Bjornsen, director of student and family support for Gladstone Schools. “Our goal is to level the playing field as early as possible.”

.....

**Kraxberger robotics club plans Burgerville fundraiser**

Community members can support Gladstone's middle school robotics club, the Kraxberger Gearheads, at a fundraiser dinner at the Gladstone Burgerville restaurant on McLoughlin Blvd. The group will receive 10 - 15% of sales on Saturday, May 10 from 4 to 7 p.m.

The after school club teaches students fabrication, electrical work, and computer programming as the group's two teams prepare for regional competition.

.....

**Job search workshop planned at Gladstone Center for Children & Families**

Need help finding a job? Want a better job? Sign up for a free Job Talk Workshop at the Gladstone Center for Children & Families: 18905 Portland Ave. Adults and teens welcome.

The class runs 2 to 5 p.m. on Monday afternoons May 12 & 19, & June 2 & 16. Advance registration required: Call (503) 594-3091.

.....

**Gladstone High stages spring musical**

Drama students at Gladstone High School will stage the musical Generations. Through music and dance, the performance tells the story of a young American couple's journey from 1960 to today.

Performances include a preview at 5 p.m. on Thursday, May 15, with shows at 7 p.m. on May 16 and 17 at the Gladstone High auditorium, 18800 Portland Avenue. The performance is free, but donations are gladly accepted at the door.

.....

**Free bike helmets provided at Bicycle Safety Rodeo**

Gladstone's annual Bicycle Safety Rodeo provides kids with the opportunity to learn bike safety skills by participating in a challenging bike course. Free bike helmets will be provided to participants. By Oregon law, all bike riders age 16 and under must wear a helmet.

The event takes place on Saturday, May 17, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Gladstone Center for Children & Families parking lot, 18905 Portland Avenue. The Gladstone Police Department and the Gladstone/Oak Grove Kiwanis Club sponsor the event, with help provided by the Gladstone High School Key Club.

.....

**Golf fundraiser to benefit Gladstone Schools**

Golfers, kick off your involvement in the Gladstone Cultural Festival at the golf tournament fundraiser organized by the Gladstone Education Foundation. All proceeds benefit Gladstone Schools.

The tournament is at 7:30 a.m. on Friday, August 1 at Stone Creek Golf Course. Participation is \$125 per Golfer. Hole sponsorship is \$1000 and includes golfing for four players. To sponsor a hole or to register your team, call Bill Kemnitzer at 503-522-2884 or email [billkemnitzer@aol.com](mailto:billkemnitzer@aol.com).