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**Swimmer Adin Williams takes three gold medals**

In December, Gladstone High School junior Adin Williams took first place in three swim events at the Can Am Paralympic Swim Meet in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Williams, who has dwarfism, took first place in the 50-meter freestyle, the 50-meter butterfly, and the 100-meter freestyle, competing against qualifying category S6 American and Canadian swimmers with dwarfism or other disabilities.

Among Paralympic swimmers, his world ranking is 20<sup>th</sup> in the 50-meter butterfly, 23<sup>rd</sup> in the Men's 50-meter freestyle, and 28<sup>th</sup> in the 100-meter freestyle. He currently competes for the Gladstone High School team, and he competed at the Can Am event on behalf of the Oregon City Swim Club.

Adin is currently under consideration for the International Wheelchair and Amputee Sports Federation [IWAS] World U23 Championships in Ireland this summer.

"The best part about watching Adin progress as a swimmer is seeing him compete," said swim coach Charlotte DeBaltzo. "He's a powerhouse who thrives on competition and there's no doubt in my mind that during every race, he gives it his all. I'm so glad to have him on our team."

**PHOTO: Gladstone High swimmer Adin Williams competed internationally at the Can Am Open for Para swimmers, taking first in three events.**

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**City councilor visits middle school leaders**

Gladstone City Councilor Linda Neace visited the leadership class at Kraxberger Middle School to share leadership strategies with 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students.

She discussed how teams work together to reach compromise when making decisions, ways to work for positive change, how to run for elective office, and the importance of community involvement.

"I want students to understand that it's important to respect others' opinions even when you don't agree," said Neace. "Leaders need to keep an open mind."

**PHOTO: Gladstone City Councilor Linda Neace discussed the art of leadership with students at Kraxberger Middle School.**

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### **Holocaust survivor speaks to Gladstone High class**

Advanced sophomore English students at Gladstone High have a deeper understanding of the Holocaust after a presentation by Holocaust survivor Evelyn Banko.

Born in Vienna, Austria in 1936, Banko’s family faced persecution when Nazis seized Austria. After being tipped off about pending deportations to concentration camps, the family fled to Latvia.

After repeated attempts to immigrate to the United States, they were finally able to do so in 1940, ending up in Portland, Oregon. A retired teacher, Banko is a frequent speaker on her experiences as a child refugee.

“I’m grateful my students had the opportunity to hear Evelyn’s story to help them understand the impacts of prejudice and emigration,” said teacher Siri Bernard. “These issues are still very relevant today.”

**PHOTO: Holocaust survivor Evelyn Banko shared her experiences as a child refugee with students at Gladstone High School.**

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### **Nominate an outstanding teacher by January 31**

The nomination period for the [Oregon Teacher of the Year](#) closes at the end of January. Anyone can nominate a teacher and all Oregonians are encouraged to nominate their favorite teacher today at [oregonteacheroftheyear.org](http://oregonteacheroftheyear.org).

The 2019 Oregon Teacher of the Year will receive a \$5,000 cash prize (with a matching \$5,000 going to their school) and serve as a spokesperson and representative for all Oregon teachers.

New this year, Regional Teachers of the Year will each receive a cash prize of \$500 and will be celebrated across the state.