

NR 020117

**State leaders visit Gladstone middle schoolers**

Oregon Legislators Senator Alan Olson and Representative Mark Meek recently spoke to 8<sup>th</sup> grade social studies students at Gladstone’s Kraxberger Middle School. The state leaders answered student questions and talked about how to campaign for public office, how a bill becomes a law, and how state government works.

“My classes have been studying the Constitution and government,” said teacher Amy Otto. “We are excited that Senator Olson has invited us to Salem in March to tour the state capitol and see the Legislature in action.”

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**Webinar, cash prize promote college savings plans**

The Oregon College Savings Plan is giving away one \$529 account to a family at John Wetten Elementary School through the Be College Ready program. All elementary school parents are eligible to win, yet many parents have not entered! To enter the sweepstakes go to <http://www.becollegeready.net/cash-for-college.shtml>.

College may seem a long way off for your child, but don’t wait to start saving. A recent study by Fidelity found that parents typically try to save enough money to cover 70 percent of college costs, but end up only saving 29 percent. The sooner you start saving, the closer you’ll be to reaching your goals.

A special program being offered to Gladstone kindergarten parents, who will receive \$25 when they open a new Oregon College Savings Plan account or add to a pre-existing one for their kindergartner. Parents can visit <http://www.becollegeready.net/account-funding.shtml>. The deadline is February 28.

The Oregon College Savings Plan provides families a tax-advantaged way to save money for higher education expenses. The funds are invested and the growth on those investments is tax-free as long as funds are used for higher education, whether college or trade school.

A free webinar is offered for those wishing to learn more about the Oregon College Savings Plan. Two sessions will be offered:

**Feb. 9 at noon**

Go to <https://orost.webex.com/orost/j.php?MTID=m74d0157c76c94350f494ac26e49d8a9e>  
Or call 1-650-479-3208 Access code: 806 279 954

**Feb. 9 at 4 p.m.**

Go to <https://orost.webex.com/orost/j.php?MTID=mc70aa8850bc505edf036b586ce6f8399>  
Or call 1-650-479-3208 Access code: 801 009 440

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**Two easy ways to help Gladstone schools**

Two shopping programs make it easy for supporters of Gladstone schools to benefit education, social service, and youth programs in Gladstone schools. Both provide deliver funding to the Gladstone Education Foundation, which supports grants to classrooms, schools, and youth programs across Gladstone.

Fred Meyer shoppers can link their rewards card to the Gladstone Education Foundation to support Gladstone Schools. They still get personal fuel points & rebates, and Gladstone Schools gets a quarterly donation from Fred Meyer. With 150 people signed up, the GEF raised \$3,500 last year. To sign up, visit [www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards](http://www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards) and enter Gladstone Schools, #80945.

Amazon Smile is another program that supports the Gladstone Education Foundation. To participate, shoppers should visit this website: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/93-1284265>. Each time shoppers use this Amazon site, .5% of their purchase price will benefit Gladstone students.