

**Gladstone School District honored for expanding access to college**

This week the College Board honored the Gladstone School District as one of 130 districts in the United States on the Gaston Caperton Opportunity Honor Roll for creating opportunities for traditionally underrepresented students. Gladstone has dramatically expanded access to higher education, providing rigorous academic options and innovative college-preparation programs.

Districts on the Honor Roll showed significant and consistent growth in the number of underrepresented students and students from lower-income backgrounds participating in AP® courses, taking the SAT® college entrance exam, and applying to four or more colleges.

“To level the playing field and give each student the best odds of college and career success, we have put in place strategic programs at every level of education,” said Superintendent Bob Stewart. “While we will not be satisfied until every student graduates college and career ready, each of our schools can be proud of the progress we have made, because each has contributed to it in a significant way.”

The district focuses on early childhood learning, family support programs, and social-emotional learning, building a culture of care through the use of trauma-informed education and discipline practices.

At the secondary level, middle schoolers are immersed in the AVID college-readiness system, learning organizational and problem-solving skills, with encouragement to take rigorous classes. Gladstone High helps each student execute a six-year plan to take them two years beyond high school.

These programs have yielded one of the state’s highest graduation rates, 20 percent above the state average for Hispanic/Latino students, and 15 percent above the state average for students in poverty.

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**Gladstone students explore Google Expeditions**

Last week, every student at Kraxberger Middle School had the chance to dive through the Great Barrier Reef and hike through an Amazon jungle without ever leaving their school gym. The special opportunity, shared by just two dozen other Oregon schools, was provided by the new Google Expeditions Pioneer Program.

“Look over here – I’m swimming!” shouted seventh grader Jonah Smithson, rolling on the gym floor. “There’s a shark above us with a fish in his mouth.”

Using View-Master devices, which turn smartphones into virtual reality headsets, students could look above, below, and behind them to immerse themselves in a series of programmed locations, zooming in to get a closer look.

“The kids are right here in the gym, but what they’re experiencing is half a world away,” marveled social studies teacher Lori Chambers. “They feel like they’re really there.”

With over 100 expeditions to choose from, Google Expeditions offers teachers the opportunity to take kids to the places they’re learning about, boosting student engagement. A biology class can explore the Galapagos Islands, or a social studies class can journey to Egypt.

“Some of our kids rarely leave Gladstone, but this expands their horizons,” said science teacher Celeste

Pellicci. "Google Expeditions bring classroom lessons to life in ways that are enormously engaging."

**PHOTO: Gladstone eighth graders Maya Hegedus, Danaeja Skeie, and Chloe Villanueva explore the Great Barrier Reef using Google Expeditions.**

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**Gladstone robotics teams win awards, advance in competition**

Kraxberger middle school's two robotics teams had a strong showing at the FIRST Pacific Northwest District competition at Oregon State University. Team 8188 placed 9<sup>th</sup> in the qualifying round, winning the Connect Award and taking second place for the Inspire Award. Team 8132 placed 13<sup>th</sup> in the qualifying round, winning the Rockwell Collins Innovate Award.

"The robots flew through inspection and held up all through the day with only a few minor issues," said mentor Shawn Price. "We're proud that between our two teams, we were nominated for all six award categories."

The competition gave middle school and high school teams the opportunity to build and program robots to perform prescribed tasks against a field of competitors. Along with technology, engineering, and computer programming, students learn fundraising, marketing, branding, teamwork, and presentation skills.

Next, the teams move on to the Super Qualifiers on February 13 and 14.

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**Gladstone 8<sup>th</sup> grader named wrestling champ**

Kraxberger 8<sup>th</sup> grader Chael Williams recently became the 152-pound State Champion at the Kids State Tournament. Williams, who has been wrestling since second grade took fourth in state his sixth grade year but did not place at state last year.

Besides being a wrestling champion, Williams is also an honors student. He plans to wrestle for Gladstone High School next year.

**PHOTO: Gladstone 8<sup>th</sup> grader Chael Williams was named the 152 pound State Champion at Oregon's Kids State Tournament.**

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**Driver education program seeks applicants for spring, summer**

The Gladstone Community School is taking applications for spring and summer driver education classes. The ODOT-approved program helps teens learn life-long habits and skills that have been proven to reduce driver risk.

Spring classes begin March 28, and summer classes begin June 20. Course tuition is \$299 for drivers under age 18, and \$224 for students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch. To register, visit <http://gladstone.k12.or.us/district-departments/community-education/>. For more information, call Sue Surratt at 503.650.2570.

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**Auction fun to raise funds for Gladstone schools**

Don't miss the Gladstone Education Foundation's biannual Dinner & Auction on February 20 at the Clackamas County Fairgrounds. All funds raised will benefit Gladstone kids and classrooms!

The event theme is "Let's Make Waves," and beach attire is recommended. The evening includes a silent auction, a luau dinner, and an oral auction, with lots of fun along the way!

Tickets are \$40 per person or \$320 for a table of 8. Auction items include sports and event tickets, travel get-aways, unique experiences, services, gift baskets, hand crafted items, gift cards, and much more.

To donate auction items or buy tickets, contact Tammy Tracy at [tracyt@gladstone.k12.or.us](mailto:tracyt@gladstone.k12.or.us) or call 503.655.2777, ex. 577.