

Gladstone’s Backpack Buddies program seeks food donations

With a recent uptick in the number of families who need food, the Backpack Buddies program in the Gladstone School District needs donations of non-perishable foods. The program serves 70 families, providing a bag of nutritious foods each week.

“Recently the Table Church committed to deliver chili and corn bread mix for 30 families a month,” explained program coordinator Leslie Robinette. “With a growing number of mouths to feed, we hope other groups will step up to make a monthly commitment.”

Program partners include churches, Dave’s Killer Bread, Bob’s Red Mill, the Gladstone library, Gladstone/Oak Grove Rotary, and the special education program at Gladstone High School.

Donation needs include peanut butter, tuna, soups, macaroni & cheese, chili, pasta, and rice, as well as canned fruits, beans, and vegetables.

Donors can deliver to Gladstone High School [18800 Portland Avenue] weekdays from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call Leslie Robinette at 503.974.5077.

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Book clubs take students on unusual adventures

Thanks to a \$900 grant from First Book, students at Gladstone’s Kraxberger Middle School will have the opportunity to participate in after school book clubs this year.

Unusual Adventures is the theme of the first two book clubs, starting in mid-February with leadership from Gladstone Public Library staff. Students who participate will read a variety of genres from adventure stories and graphic novels to mysteries and award-winning books. The students will get to keep all the books they read.

Additional books groups will be planned this spring and summer to give additional students the chance to participate.

“We are very excited about this opportunity for kids to make new friends, discover new books, and connect with adult mentors,” said Principal Becky Lukens.

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Children’s activities expand in Gladstone

To boost school-readiness skills, the Gladstone Center for Children & Families [GCCF] offers a series free events after school each month from October through May. The GCCF is located at 18905 Portland Avenue in Gladstone.

Story Hour: On first Thursdays from 4:15 to 5 p.m., children six and under are invited to share books and activities. Each child attending will receive a free book. Gladstone/Oak Grove Rotary supports this event.

Bilingual Story Hour: On third Thursdays from 4:15 to 5 p.m., children six and under are invited to share

books and activities presented in English and Spanish. Each child attending will receive a free book and a snack. This event is sponsored by the Gladstone Public Library

Science Hour: On fourth Thursdays from 4:30 to 5:15 p.m., children and parents are invited to explore science and engineering through hands-on activities such as building structures, studying motion, and making hypotheses. For information, call Kassy Babeckos or Rebecca Russell at 503.496.3939.

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Valentines breakfast to support community programs

The Kiwanis Club of Gladstone/Oak Grove plans a community breakfast on Valentine's weekend. The event is a fundraiser for community programs supported by the group, including United Way, holiday giving, the Veteran's Parade, and a scholarship.

Breakfast includes pancakes, sausage, eggs, juice, and coffee for \$7, with children 6 and under served free. The event will take place at the Gladstone Senior Center, 1050 Portland Avenue.

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New website provides parent resources

Clackamas Parenting Together has created a new website to provide families with information about parenting classes, play groups, story times, support groups, and other family resources. The site includes an online event calendar.

To explore opportunities and resources, visit www.ClackamasParenting.com.

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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 or call 503.655.2777, ex. 577.

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Parent volunteer needed to help screen applicants for Assistant Superintendent

Gladstone Schools Superintendent Bob Stewart needs a parent to serve on the Screening Committee to provide input on the selection of the new Assistant Superintendent. The committee's first meeting will be Thursday, February 18.

If you are interested, please email your name, email address, phone number, and your children's schools to Leslie Robinette at atrobinnettel@gladstone.k12.or.us.

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Gladstone schools invite open enrollment for 2016-17

The Gladstone School Board voted to admit students from outside district borders in the 2016-17 school year, with open enrollment spots for students from kindergarten through grade 10. Applications, due April 1, are available at <http://gladstone.k12.or.us/>. For more information, call Natalie Weninger at 503.496.3935.

“As a friendly, small town community, Gladstone offers an innovative, caring education experience,” explained Superintendent Bob Stewart. “We work to serve the whole child, supporting individual needs while providing a robust academic program. Our small size means we can take the time to know each student.”

Gladstone’s full-day kindergarten will open spots at the Gladstone Center for Children & Families, a technology-rich program including weekly instruction in music, science, art, and physical education.

John Wetten Elementary will open spots in grades 1 to 5. The school provides weekly technology education, music, P.E., Chinese, and library time. Afterschool programs include art, science, and choir, plus clubs ranging from Chinese and robotics to woodworking and golf.

Kraxberger Middle School will open spots in grades 6 to 8. The school uses the AVID college-readiness system. Electives include art, band, choir, Spanish, and Chinese. After school programs include drama and robotics, plus intramural volleyball, cross country, and basketball.

Gladstone High will open spots in grades 9 and 10. The small, college preparatory school is known for having 36 college level courses, on-site career-technical electives, and Mandarin Chinese. Over 64 percent of students participate in sports, the arts, and activities ranging from robotics to Key Club. Academic support programs include after-school tutoring and Saturday School.

Each school will offer opportunities for tours or student shadow experiences starting in February. To arrange for a tour, contact the school office.