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Kraxberger team advances to state robotics competition

Kraxberger Middle School sent two teams to the Super Qualifier, facing tough competition from a group of 31 teams.

Team 8132 earned the Connect Award for their work to build connections between their team, their community, and local engineering, science, and technology businesses. They finished in 12th place and will advance to the state competition in Hillsboro with their robot, Mr. Roboto. Team 8188 won its first match, but did not advance to the state finals.

“Win or lose, both teams worked through some challenging building and programming issues this season,” said Coach Shawn Price. “I am proud that they showed gracious professionalism in every competition.”

PHOTO: Kraxberger Robotics Team 8132 will advance to the State competition after winning the Connect award at Super Qualifiers. [photo by Shawn Price]

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John Wetten students flock to book battle

Gladstone kids are reading more thanks to Oregon Battle of the Books, an after school club tied to competitions across the state. This year over 50 4th and 5th graders from John Wetten Elementary are participating. Each has agreed to read all 11 titles selected by the state organization. A scoreboard in the library tracks the progress of each team.

“The goal is to make reading fun by offering our competitive students are reading challenge,” said Volunteer Coordinator Theresa Schmidt. “Students are really looking forward to our battle at the end of March. They even want to use their recess time to prepare.”

The program is led by library assistants Nancy West and Julie Kempster, who are working to expand students’ reading interests, to improve reading comprehension skills, and to promote cooperative learning and teamwork.

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Gladstone swimmer headed to State competition

Avery Marshall is on a mission. A three-sport athlete, she has competed in cross country, swimming, and track throughout her high school career, missing only a single season due to injury.

A junior at Gladstone High School, Marshall excels in swimming, and has just qualified for State for the third year in a row. Freshman year she qualified in the 100 freestyle and the

400 freestyle relay. Sophomore year, she qualified in the 100 freestyle and the 200 individual Medley, one of the hardest competitive races. She also qualified this year in those two events.

Over the course of her time at Gladstone, she has managed to drop more than three seconds from her 100 freestyle and 12 seconds in her 200 individual medley. She is entering State with times of 58.48 seconds in the 100 freestyle and 2.26.59 in the 200 individual medley.

“Avery has been an outstanding swimmer on our team,” said Coach Charlotte DeBaltzo. “She connects with everyone on the team and encourages her teammates to swim their best races. She is a good example to the rest of the team of how hard work and dedication can pay off.”

PHOTO: Gladstone High swimmer Avery Marshall has qualified for State in the 200 individual medley, with a time of 2.26.59. [photo by Charlotte De Baltzo]

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Gladstone High cheer team takes fourth at State

Gladstone High School's cheer squad captured 4th place at the state competition last weekend. They competed in the small co-ed division.

Gladstone cheer coach Shelby Tracy said, "We are so happy, humbled, and excited to be bringing home a fourth place state trophy. The team stepped it up this year and entered a new and incredibly competitive division. They went up against much bigger programs -- programs they have looked up to the last four years. They fought for harder difficulty than we've ever had, and they executed wonderfully on the mat. We could not be more proud!"