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Middle schoolers build maglev vehicles

Seventh grade science students at Kraxberger Middle School tried an innovative engineering project, constructing miniature maglev [magnetic levitation] vehicles that run along a metal track. The project was funded by a grant from the Gladstone Education Foundation.

Maglev is a system of train transportation that uses two sets of magnets. One set repels, pushing the train up off the track so it levitates. The other set of magnets moves the floating train quietly and smoothly at a high rate of speed made possible because there is no friction.

"Most students had never heard of maglev vehicles before we did this project," said teacher Todd Dauenhauer. "This really opened their eyes to the power of magnetism."

PHOTO: Satara ThomTon glues magnets to her maglev vehicle.

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Gladstone begins kindergarten registration

Children who will start kindergarten next fall [age 5 by September 1] are invited to join their parents at a special Gladstone March into Kindergarten event.

"Kindergarten is a magical time of growth and learning," said Director Jere Applebee. "Students in our full-day program benefit from technology-rich classrooms, strong academics, creative play, and specialist instruction in art, music, P.E., and science."

The orientation is scheduled for Tuesday, March 20 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the Gladstone Center for Children and Families, 18905 Portland Avenue. The evening includes classroom tours, a school bus ride, and the opportunity to pick up school registration packets [for Gladstone residents] or Open Enrollment applications [for families living outside Gladstone].

For more information, call Heidi Smith at 503.496.3939.

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Gladstone kids celebrate love of reading

This year's Everybody Reads Day event at John Wetten Elementary was the biggest ever, with 40 volunteers on hand to read children their favorite stories. Special visitors at the event included Timber Joey, Gladstone High football coach Wayne Harris, parents, a Humane Society volunteer [with her dog], and former principal John Wetten, the school's namesake.

"This was the biggest volunteer turnout we've ever had, with three or four readers for every classroom" said Volunteer Coordinator Theresa Schmidt. "The staff really gets into the spirit of the day, dressing up as storybook characters. And the cafeteria served green eggs and ham."

Many students received free books donated by The Clackamas Bookshelf, a Gladstone non-profit.

PHOTO: To celebrate Everybody Reads Day, technology teacher Greg Wendling dressed as Waldo, a favorite children's book character.

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Gladstone Education Foundation seeks board applicants

The Gladstone Education Foundation is accepting applications for openings on their board of directors. Since 2000, the Foundation has raised more than \$1 million dollars in private funding to promote academic achievement and enhanced learning opportunities for Gladstone students, educators, and youth organizations.

"We are a motivated team of hands-on volunteers who collaborate on fundraisers and grant giving to help Gladstone students, staff and community members," said Executive Director Tammy Tracy. "We are looking to recruit some energetic and innovative folks with a commitment to schools to join us in moving the foundation forward."

More information about the Gladstone Education Foundation and applications for Board positions are available at www.gladstonefoundation.org. For more information, contact Tammy Tracy at tracyt@gladstone.k12.or.us or 503.650.2577. Applications are due no later than March 31, 2018.