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**Girl Scout leads distracted driving assembly for Gladstone High students**

Megan Kuhn, a senior at Gladstone High School, is working to earn her Gold Award, the highest honor in Girl Scouts. She has been a Girl Scout for 13 years. Her capstone project focused on raising student awareness of the dangers of distracted driving, a growing problem given the use of smart phones.

At the event, Newberg High senior Natalie Peterson spoke about the accident she had last spring while on her phone. Students also heard from local parent Diana Jones who lost her daughter to a head-on collision while texting. Gladstone students signed a pledge to avoid distracted driving, and they will receive kits including a poster, a pledge card, and a window cling.

“I chose this as my Gold Award project because I have seen so many accidents in our community, including people close to me,” said Kuhn. “People don’t take this problem seriously. Teens think they are invincible until it happens to them. Prom and graduation are coming up, and I want to spread the message to influence other students.”

**Photo: Girl Scout Megan Kuhn, a senior at Gladstone High, organized a school wide assembly on distracted driving. The project was part of work to earn her Gold Award, the highest honor in Girl Scouts.**

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**Gladstone High student awarded competitive scholarship**

Angeles Valenzuela, a senior at Gladstone High School, will be the first in her family to go to college after receiving an Act 6 Scholarship to Warner Pacific College, providing for her full financial need. She was chosen as one of 10 winners from a pool of over 300 applicants.

“My goal is to major in psychology, with a minor in social work,” she said, “I want to work in child protection and social work. My dream is to build a shelter for at-risk kids.”

**PHOTO: Gladstone High senior Angeles Valenzuela will be the first in her family to attend college thanks to a competitive scholarship to Warner Pacific College. She plans to study psychology and social work.**

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**Gladstone High students showcase talents at Skills Competition**

Several Gladstone students were recognized in the Clackamas Regional Skills Competition, which offered students a chance to compete in academic and career-technical fields.

Top award winners included:

Willy Campbell	Engineering	First Place
Sarayna Cappoen	Math Level 1	First Place
Kierra Green	Biology	Second Place
Isaac Melchor-Martinez	Math Level 1	Third Place
Lydia Rivers	Inorganic Chemistry	Third Place
Maddie Thompson	Inorganic Chemistry	Third Place

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**Gladstone schools to start next school year after Labor Day**

After seeking input from student families and employees, the Gladstone School District has decided that the 2017-18 school year will begin after Labor Day, with the first day for students on September 5, 2017.

For next year, key dates include:

- Winter Break: December 18, 2017 to January 1, 2018
- Spring Break: March 26-30, 2018
- Last day for students: June 14, 2018

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**Gladstone Robotics team to compete**

Gladstone High School’s Robotics Team 3131 will compete March 23-25 in a regional competition at the Clackamas Academy of Industrial Sciences in Oregon City. The event is part of the FIRST organization, For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology.

Through school-based FIRST clubs, students learn how to design, construct, wire, and program robots to compete in completing different challenges. Along the way, they also learn teamwork, planning, 3-D printing, and communication skills, with opportunities for paid internships and college scholarships.

“Our team is strong this year, and we are excited to get our robot out on the floor,” said mentor Steve Stewart.

A live video feed of the competition will be available at [www.thebluealliance.com/watch/gdl](http://www.thebluealliance.com/watch/gdl)

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**Gladstone Schools invite applicants for fall 2017**

The Gladstone School District will admit students from outside district borders in the 2017-18 school year. Spots are open in kindergarten through grade 10.

“Gladstone schools are at the heart of our small, close-knit community,” said Superintendent Bob Stewart. “We offer an innovative, whole child education, supporting individual needs while providing a robust academic program.”

Gladstone offers a culture of care, with full-day kindergarten in a unique early childhood center. Elementary school provides weekly classes in technology, music, P.E., and library. Middle school features a 5-day outdoor school, the AVID college-readiness system, and electives from digital media and Chinese to band, Spanish, and building. Gladstone High School offers 36 AP and college credit classes, plus a spectrum of arts and career-technical programs.

Each school will offer opportunities for tours or student shadow experiences starting in February. To arrange for a tour, contact the school office. Applications, due April 1, are available at <http://gladstone.k12.or.us/>. For more information, call Natalie Weninger at 503.496.3935.