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Gladstone hires new middle school principal

The Gladstone School District has hired Len Reed as the Principal of Kraxberger Middle School. Reed, who lives in Oak Grove, is currently a Planning Principal for Portland Public Schools. She replaces interim principal John Olson.

“We are excited to find such an outstanding leader for Kraxberger Middle School,” said Superintendent Bob Stewart. “After considering applicants from a very strong and diverse pool, we are delighted that Len will bring her experience and her passion for middle school to our team.”

An educator for 17 years, Reed served as principal of Jason Lee, a K-8 school in the Portland Public School District. Prior to that she was Assistant Principal at Rancho Viejo Middle School and Dartmouth Middle School, both in Hemet, California. She began her career as a teacher of language arts, social studies, AVID, reading, and student success skills in southern California.

Ms. Reed’s administrative experience includes successfully increasing student achievement, boosting parent involvement, reducing bullying, using data teams to improve student outcomes, and implementing intervention systems by building relationships and encouraging appropriate behavior. In addition, she has successfully helped qualify two schools as demonstration sites for AVID, the college readiness system used at Kraxberger.

“I am excited to be a part of the Gladstone team in serving this wonderful community,” said Reed. “I’m ready to join in the work of making Kraxberger Middle School a place where students learn and thrive. We will be a school to watch.”

Photo: Len Reed will be the new principal at Kraxberger Middle School.

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Gladstone High music groups excel

At recent Clackamas Community College music festivals, two Gladstone performance groups earned bragging rights. The band won first place in their division, and the jazz choir took second place at the vocal jazz festival.

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School garden helps Gladstone Food Pantry

On a recent Saturday, when most teens were sleeping in, a group of Gladstone High students were out in the pouring rain planting a garden.

The school garden, created by a student club called Gardeners of the Galaxy, is in its second year. With help from the Student Senate and the Community Service class, the group grows kale, arugula, tomatoes, summer squash and other fresh produce for customers of the Gladstone Food Pantry. Students also plan to plant salad greens in the school courtyard to provide fresh food for the cafeteria salad bar.

The project is led by farmer Matt Brown of the non-profit Food Waves, whose mission is teaching youths about the nutritional value of fresh produce as they learn to grow their own.

“We’re excited about training people to grow their own food,” said Brown. “The fresher produce is, the more nutritious it is and the better it tastes.”

PHOTO: Gladstone High students prepare their raised beds for spring planting. The food they grow will be donated to the Gladstone Food Pantry, located at the high school.