

NR 042016

Kindergarten scientists celebrate Earth Day

In honor of Earth Day, science classes at the Gladstone Center for Children and Families focused on horticulture, with several activities planned in the school garden.

Kindergarteners planted milkweed seeds for a new butterfly garden they will use for future lessons on the life cycle of butterflies.

“The children got to use their math skills for this effort, counting out seeds, measuring dirt, and counting squirts of water on each planting,” said science teacher Kassy Babeckos. “Students were excited to plant their own school garden.”

Other Earth Day activities included planting vegetable starts, studying worm science, and planting beans to grow at home. Farmer Matt Brown from the non-profit Food Waves was a partner in the project.

Photo: *Gladstone kindergarten students Visna Than, Cole Ellis, and Xander Duffield celebrate Earth Day by planting milkweed seeds for the school’s butterfly garden.*

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Community donates to Backpack Buddies

The Backpack Buddies program in Gladstone Schools restocked their empty shelves thanks to two community food drives.

The Gladstone Library celebrated National Library Week with a Food for Fines event, forgiving one dollar in library fines for each food item donated. Saint Stephen’s Lutheran Church went door-to-door, gathering over 250 canned and boxed food items.

“We know kids can’t focus on learning if they don’t have enough to eat,” said Backpack Buddies coordinator Leslie Robinette. “Thanks to our partners, children in 70 Gladstone families have better odds of academic success.”

To contribute to Backpack Buddies, call Leslie at 503.974.5077.

Photo: *Patrons of the Gladstone Library donated over 400 pounds of food to Gladstone Schools’ Backpack Buddies program, which serves 70 families each week. Pictured is the library’s new director Linda Lewis with employees Jennifer Ryder and Dillon Zoe.*

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Gladstone High plans blood drive

Hospitals need a supply of blood on hand for cancer patients and accident victims. To help meet this need, the Key Club at Gladstone High is organizing a blood drive in partnership with the American Red Cross.

The event will take place on Tuesday, May 3, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the gym at Gladstone High School, 18800 Portland Avenue. To schedule an appointment, contact Katy at

503.975.7112.

“Our winter blood drive brought in 61 units, and each pint of blood can save up to three lives,” said club sponsor Lynnda Prom. “We hope students and community members will step up to help us provide even more donations at this event.”

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Gladstone students oppose bullying with Day of Silence

To fight name calling, bullying, and discrimination, more than 200 students at Kraxberger Middle School participated in the Day of Silence, a national event to show support of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender youths.

“Some kids participated by staying silent, and others wore stickers in support of the cause,” said teacher Celeste Pellicci. “The school’s GSA club organized the whole thing. They were amazing about making posters, signing people up at lunch, and putting together badges.”