

NR 050416

Chinese language students win competitions

The new Mandarin language program at Gladstone High School made a big splash at a spring competition sponsored by the Confucius Classroom program at Portland State University.

The group performed a song they learned in class, "I'm sorry My Chinese is Not Good," with backup from two guitarists in the school band. A video of their performance is available here: <https://youtu.be/98YM3mQSOL0>

"We got first place in the talent show, and Gladstone student Robert Rodriguez got first place in the drawing competition," said teacher Hao Li. "The kids really enjoyed the contest!"

After a successful launch of the high school language program, next year Gladstone High will add a second year Chinese class, as well as a Chinese Culture Club after school.

Video showcases community service by special education students

The award-winning Backpack Buddies program serving Gladstone schools is featured in a video made by Clackamas County. To view the video, visit <http://bit.ly/26Upd1g>.

The video highlights the special education students from Gladstone High School who sort, package, and inventory the donated food each week. The teens participate as part of their Community Service class, learning job skills like teamwork, planning, organization, and problem-solving.

"Each of my students has different abilities. I try to focus on that, not their disabilities," said teacher Linda Fletcher. "Maybe a student can't speak, but they can sort items or fill a food bag. It's important to develop their strengths."

To donate food to Gladstone's Backpack Buddies program call Leslie Robinette at 503.974.5077.

Bike Safety Rodeo to provide free helmets

Children can get a refresher course in bicycle safety and a free bike helmet at a bike rodeo this weekend in Gladstone.

The event will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 14 at the Gladstone Center for Children & Families, 18905 Portland Avenue. Children who bring their bike and complete the bike skills safety course can choose a new helmet.

The Gladstone High School Key Club, the Gladstone Police Department, and the Gladstone/Oak Grove Kiwanis Club are sponsoring the event.