
Gladstone School District names new Director of Finance & Operations

Samantha Nelson will be the new Director of Finance & Operations for the Gladstone School District. She replaces Don Staehely, who is retiring in June.

Nelson has been the City Administrator for Fairview, Oregon since 2012. Prior to that, she served as the city's Finance Director for four years. Her professional experience includes service as Finance Director for the City of Independence.

She holds a Masters of Business Administration from Willamette University and a B.A. in English from Western Oregon University. She is a member of the Oregon City/County Management Association, the Oregon Municipal Finance Officers' Association, and the Government Finance Officers' Association.

"I've always valued education, so I'm excited about this opportunity to support teachers and students," said Nelson. "The Gladstone School District has an incredible reputation as an innovator, and I am looking forward to being part of the team."

A resident of Sandy, she and her husband David have six children.

Gladstone superintendent presents State of the Schools

At the North Clackamas Chamber of Commerce's annual State of the Schools event, Superintendent Bob Stewart made a presentation about the school district's efforts to support students impacted by Adverse Childhood Experiences [ACEs].

With the goal of improving both education and health outcomes for trauma-impacted students, John Wetten Elementary and Kraxberger Middle School are partnering with CareOregon to build a Culture of Care in schools to help children cope with their fight/flight/freeze responses to stress.

The schools build consistent routines and support positive behavior in a culture of belonging and empathy. Their discipline approach is "first connect, then correct."

At-risk students received interventions appropriate to their needs, from small support groups and lessons on self-regulation to family therapy, pediatric interventions, and behavior support plans.

Gladstone's work is based on a 1995 study by Kaiser Permanente, revealing the link between childhood trauma and lifetime health issues. Incidents such as parent divorce or separation, domestic violence, mental health issues in the home, or parental neglect increase the odds that an individual will experience depression,

addiction, job problems, or illness. About 26% of Oregonians have experienced three or more of the 10 ACE impacts studied.

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Congressman visits Gladstone High

Oregon Congressman Kurt Schrader visited students at Gladstone High this week. He met with AP U.S. History students and a group planning a two-week trip to the East Coast next spring.

Students asked the Congressman about a typical day in Congress, about the diversity of Congressional views on global warming, and about how he divides his time between Oregon and the nation's capital.

Schrader invited the students to visit his office when they visit Washington, D.C. next spring.

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Gladstone Community Festival adds new events

Founded as the Chautauqua Festival in 1894, the Gladstone Community Festival continues to grow and change. What remains the same is the event's focus on building community through entertainment and fun activities.

Scheduled from July 31 to August 2, this year's festival includes several new events, from family kickball and dodge ball tournaments and a dance to an all-ages slip-n-slide, and a carnival game fairway with the inevitable dunk tank. Culinary artists will compete in a chili cook-off and a pie-baking contest.

"Of course, the festival's classic events will continue," said event organizer Jal Duncan. "There's a parade, a car show, bingo, live music, food and vendor booths, and a movie in the park."

Several independent events add to the festival fun, including the SHOC run to fight ovarian cancer, the Gladstone Education Foundation golf tournament, the Gladstone Library Foundation book sale, and an all-class reunion for Gladstone High alumni.

The Gladstone Community Festival is organized by the Gladstone/Oak Grove Rotary Club. Community members are invited to visit the event's new website at <http://www.gladstonecommunityfestival.org/>. Information is provided on how to sponsor or volunteer for the event, reserve a vendor space, sign up a team for kickball or dodge ball, join the parade, nominate a parade Grand Marshall, or enter the car show.