

NR 061417

History student tries indigenous ceramics technique

Emily Hunt, a senior at Gladstone High School wanted to try something special for her final project in AP U.S. History. She decided to create and fire ceramic pots using techniques from 15th and 16th century indigenous tribes from the American southwest.

“I’ve been doing a lot of ceramics in an art class this year, and I wanted to find a way to include that in my history project,” said Hunt. “I decided to hand make the pots and attempt to fire them in an indigenous way.”

What made the project challenging was that Hunt had less than three weeks to complete the project, including construction of a wood-fire outdoor kiln.

“I made three pots, and two of them exploded in firing,” said Hunt. “But experiencing failure was actually a good thing. There was no way to learn and replicate centuries of knowledge and tradition in a three-week project. If I had succeeded perfectly, it actually would have been disappointing.”

She added, “I knew my teacher Mr. Mисley wanted us to take a risk and pursue something out of the ordinary. This assignment was more about what I learned than about making perfect pots.”

While ceramics is more a hobby than an academic interest for Hunt, this project did inspire her to find ways to connect with contemporary Native American potters and watch them work.

I learned a lot about Native American culture through this project,” said Hunt. “In the Native American ceramics world today, pots fired in electric kilns are considered ‘dead pots’ but those fired in outdoor wood-fired kilns are considered to be alive.”

Hunt, the valedictorian of Gladstone’s class of 2017, plans to attend the Robert D. Clark Honors College at the University of Oregon to pursue a degree in International Studies.

PHOTOS: Gladstone High history student Emily Hunt experimented with wood fired ceramics techniques from 15th and 16th century indigenous tribes.

.....
Kraxberger Middle School names new Assistant Principal

The Gladstone School district has hired Jeffrey Waters as the new Assistant Principal of Kraxberger Middle School. Waters is currently a school climate coach at Boise-Eliot/Humboldt, a K-8 school in Portland.

"Jeff's experience with middle-level students coupled with his deep work to understand and empower families and communities make him a perfect match for Kraxberger," said Superintendent Bob Stewart. "I am thrilled to welcome Jeff Waters to Gladstone."

Waters began his career in Portland Public Schools, where he served as a language arts, social studies, and science teacher. He has also served as a substitute school administrator. He brings the Gladstone team unique experience as a school climate coach, as well as skill in middle school education and restorative justice practices.

"Jeff has a strong practice of improving school climate through empowering student voice and effective use of data," said Kraxberger Principal Len Reed. "He is capable of designing, teaching, and implementing systems school wide."

Waters replaces Lori Buchanan, who will become the Assistant Principal at John Wetten Elementary next fall.

PHOTO: Jeff Waters will bring experience in building a positive school culture to Kraxberger Middle School, where he will serve as Assistant Principal.

.....

Gladstone offers free summer lunch at two sites

Gladstone Schools will offer free hot lunches at two sites this summer. The Federally funded drop-in program is open to any youth from age 1 to 18. It runs Mondays through Fridays from June 19 to August 4.

"In Oregon, one in five children is impacted by food insecurity," said head cook Lynn Aleksich. "We know children learn and grow better when they get good nutrition. This program helps stabilize struggling families and ensure student success."

The Gladstone Center for Children & Families [GCCF] will provide lunch from 11 a.m. to noon. Each Tuesday, free crafts and games will be provided on-site. The GCCF is located at 18905 Portland Avenue in Gladstone.

Kraxberger Middle School will provide lunch from 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Summer activities at this site include the Summer KAOS enrichment program and the Gearheads Robotics camp, both for students entering grades 6 to 8. Kraxberger Middle School is located at 17777 Webster Road in Gladstone.

To find a summer meal site near you, visit www.summerfoodoregon.org or phone 211.

This program is open to all people age 1 to 18. The USDA and Gladstone Schools do not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, income, or political beliefs.

.....

Free cooking demo features summer salad

The Gladstone Food Pantry invites community members to a cooking demonstration featuring a new twist on a classic American summer salad. Participants will receive a copy of the recipe, a free taste, and all the ingredients needed to cook the dish at home.

“This salad is cool and refreshing on a hot day,” said guest chef Pam Curtis. “It’s comforting, protein-rich, and easy to put together quickly with pantry ingredients. Participants will learn ways to vary this recipe to include different types of beans to suit their personal preference or what they have in the garden.”

The event will take place Saturday, June 17, from 10 a.m. to noon. The pantry is located on the north side of the Gladstone High School Campus off Nelson Lane.

The Gladstone Food Pantry provides an array of free foods to families in need. All are welcome Thursdays from 3 to 5:30 p.m. or Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon.

.....

PHOTO: English and Drama students from Gladstone High traveled to Ashland, where they attended three plays at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, took a back stage tour of the theater complex, and also explored the campus of Southern Oregon University.