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Volunteers needed to help kindergarteners

Start Making A Reader Today [SMART] has a simple goal: giving children one-on-one reading support and free books. This year, the nationally recognized program will expand to include kindergarten students in Gladstone. Adult volunteers are needed 1 hour per week from October 10 to mid-May.

“Reading with a child is a delight for kids and volunteers alike,” said SMART Program Manager Nathan Buck. “Best of all, it makes a tremendous difference for at-risk students, boosting school readiness while allowing them to bond with an adult mentor.”

Volunteer shifts are available Tuesdays or Thursdays from 1:45 to 2:45 p.m. at the Gladstone Center for Children & Families, 18905 Portland Avenue. Volunteer applications are available on the SMART website at www.getsmartoregon.org/get-involved/volunteer/. For more information, call Nathan Buck at 971.634.1607.

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Car wash to support Gladstone band

The Gladstone High School band plans a Candy Car Wash to raise funds for a trip to Disneyland, new uniforms, and new instruments.

The event will take place on Wednesday, August 31 from noon to 4 p.m. at the Gladstone Baskin Robbins, 19510 McLoughlin Blvd. Each customer will receive a free piece of candy.

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Middle school robotics team wins grant

The Kraxberger Gearheads robotics team won a \$1440 grant from Daimler Trucks North America. The funds will support the Gladstone middle school’s two teams in regional competitions.

“Our program teaches kids tech skills from welding and 3-D printing to computer programming and electrical wiring,” said mentor Shawn Price. “Along the way, they also learn teamwork, community service, marketing, fundraising, and technology recycling.”

For more information about the club, email shawn.price@gladstonerobotics.com.

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Golf event raises funds for Gladstone kids

Nearly \$10,000 was raised through the Gladstone Education Foundation’s annual summer golf tournament at the Stone Creek Golf Course. Funds raised will support grants to Gladstone school and youth programs from athletics and family support services to classroom innovation.

“We are so grateful to our event sponsors, prize donors, and the 25 teams who turned out for this fun event,” said Terry Marsh, GEF president. “We are already looking forward to

next year!"

To contribute to the GEF, call Executive Director Tammy Tracy at 503. 655.2777.

Grant supports Gladstone outdoor school

For 37 years, Gladstone sixth graders have attended Outdoor School, a coming-of-age experience that for many is their first camp experience. Now, thanks to an \$18,000 grant from the Gray Family Foundation, that tradition will continue.

Students from Kraxberger Middle School attend a week of outdoor school at the Twin Rocks Friends Camp in Rockaway, Oregon. There they learn about lake, beach, and forest ecosystems, and the importance of sustainability.

"Of course, it isn't just environmental science," explains teacher Patti Bisenius. "We also work in art, Oregon history, skits, and camp songs. Most Gladstone graduates remember it as one of the highlights of their school years."

Food Pantry, Clothes Closet resume regular hours

Families who need food or back-to-school clothing are invited to visit Gladstone's Kids Clothes Closet and Food Pantry, located on the north side of the Gladstone High campus off Nelson Lane.

Summer hours for the Clothes Closet are 10 a.m. to noon on Saturdays [except September 3]. Starting September 1, the facility is also open Thursdays from 3 to 5 p.m. The clothes closet, run by the Gladstone Ministerial Association, provides youth sizes from birth to 21.

Summer hours for the Gladstone Food Pantry are Thursdays from 3 to 5:30. Starting September 10, the facility will also be open Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon. The volunteer-run facility is a partner with the Oregon Food Bank.

Gladstone/Oak Grove Rotary supports local kids

After wrapping up its fourth Gladstone Community Festival, the Gladstone/Oak Grove Rotary has more projects planned this fall in support of Gladstone youths.

The group will match \$2,000 in grant funds from the Rotary Foundation to provide free dictionaries to all Gladstone third graders, help a community effort to provide holiday baskets for families in need, and purchase clothing items for the Gladstone Kids Clothes Closet.

"Rotary is known world wide for work to support literacy, alleviate poverty, and support communities," said club member Baldwin van der Bijl. "Our local club is proud to be part of that mission."