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**Three Gladstone teachers honored**

The Gladstone school district celebrated the launch of the new school year by celebrating the accomplishments of three outstanding teachers, who were recognized with this year's Thank a Teacher awards.

Retired principal Dick Baker established the award in 2005. Each teacher receives a cash award in recognition of their excellence as instructors, their contribution to school success, and their leadership. 2014 winners included:

- **Molly Wilson:** A collaborative third grade teacher at John Wetten Elementary, Molly is known for creative and engaging lessons, such as tracking the incubation and hatching of duck eggs. She spends countless hours after school and on weekends supporting school wide curriculum and technology projects.
- **Patti Bisenius:** A sixth grade teacher and Outdoor School Coordinator at Kraxberger Middle School, she arrives early to work with struggling students, and spends her free time attending professional conferences to learn new teaching strategies. She devotes countless hours to planning the school's sixth grade Outdoor School program. She has been a district employee for 20 years.
- **Casey Webster:** A math teacher and baseball coach at Gladstone High School, he has been a regular staffer at Saturday Opportunity School, dedicated to giving students extra support to learn and understand math. He has high expectations of both students and athletes.

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**Gladstone High students take the ice bucket challenge**

Two student groups at Gladstone High School got involved in the popular Ice Bucket Challenge to support the fight against the disease ALS.

Now trending on social media, the challenge encourages people to make a donation to ALS research or to raise awareness about amyotrophic lateral sclerosis by posting a video of someone dousing them with a bucket of ice water on Facebook.

The Gladstone High School Robotics Team was the first to take the plunge, with four members and two mentors participating. The group challenged several competitor robotics teams to take the challenge.

The Gladstone High School Cheer Squad also completed the challenge, with 13 team members participating. The group challenged the Clackamas High dance team, Gladstone High varsity coaches, and the Clackamas High Varsity Cheer team.

Videos of both groups are available on the Gladstone Schools Facebook page.

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**Gladstone schools add K-8 Chinese program**

This year, Gladstone Schools will offer instruction in Chinese language and culture to students in grades K-8. The Confucius Classroom program is possible through partnership with the Confucius Institute at Portland State University and HanBan, China's national office for teaching Chinese language.

The Chinese government will provide a teacher fluent in both English and Mandarin, and she will stay with a local host family this year. Elementary and middle school students will study Mandarin, while exploring Chinese culture, art, literature, foods, and music.

"This is the next step in building a bridge to our new sister school, Middle School Number 89 in Xi'an, China," explained Superintendent Bob Stewart, who traveled to China last spring. "Gladstone's mission is Growing Great People, and part of that work is preparing children for a global workforce. We are proud that Gladstone is one of very few schools in the area to offer this program."

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**Gladstone Schools refinances bonds, saving taxpayers 5 percent**

The Gladstone School District recently refinanced the remaining bonds from the 2006 bond issue, totaling \$15.9 million dollars. The sale will save the taxpayers over 5 percent, a total of \$805,040.

Taxpayers will notice the savings beginning in the 2024 tax year, when they will see and savings of approximately 22 to 24 cents tax per thousand dollars of a home's assessed value.

The 2006 bond, approved by voters, funded creation of the Gladstone Center for Children and Families, renovations at John Wetten Elementary and Kraxberger Middle School, and a major remodel of Gladstone High, including the addition of a fine and applied arts wing.

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**Gladstone Outdoor School receives \$20,000**

Kraxberger Middle School in Gladstone has been awarded more than \$20,000 in grant funding for its sixth grade Outdoor School program. The school received \$10,000 from the Gray Family Foundation, and more than \$10,000 from Metro will provide sustainability curriculum.

The lessons, embedded in a weeklong science camp, teach students to reduce, reuse, and recycle, while minimizing their impact on the environment.

“Outdoor School has been a life-changing, coming-of-age tradition for our sixth graders for over 40 years,” said Principal Nancy Bailey. “Kids return with a new way of thinking about their role in protecting our planet.”

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**Golf tournament raises \$7,000 for Gladstone schools**

Golfers contributed \$7,000 to support Gladstone Schools at the annual golf tournament sponsored by the Gladstone Education Foundation (GEF).

“Our morning at Stone Creek Golf Club was a fun way to kick off the Gladstone Cultural Festival,” said GEF Executive Director Kathy Beykovsky. “We were pleased to see so many alumni and community members turn out to support our students.”

Funds raised will support classroom grants, staff development, after school activities, and family support programs in all four Gladstone schools.

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**Gladstone Public Library wins grant for school outreach**

Students at Gladstone’s John Wetten Elementary will learn about library programs, books, and resources thanks to a new Gladstone Public Library outreach program.

“Funded in part through a \$2,000 literacy grant from Target, the Elementary Reads program will expose first, second, and third grade students to high-interest paperback books,” explained librarian Arwen Ungar. “Lively book talks will engage students and generate excitement about new materials, and each classroom will receive collections of featured items to share.”

Each class will be visited several times.

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**Car club donates to Gladstone’s early childhood center**

A classic car club, Associated Fords of the Fifties, donated nearly \$1800 to the Gladstone Center for Children and Families (GCCF). Funds were raised this month during the club’s Classic Car Show during the Gladstone Cultural Festival.

“We are grateful for this generous contribution to help us get children ready for kindergarten and school success,” said GCCF Director Don Brown.

The GCCF is a hub of early childhood education programs and family services coordinated by Gladstone Schools. For more information, call 503.496.3939.

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**Gladstone Clothes Closet fills back-to-school needs**

Families who need school clothing for their growing children can find a selection of outfits at the Gladstone Community Clothes Closet. The facility provides free

clothing, jackets, and shoes plus new socks and underwear for youths from birth to 21.

Managed by the Gladstone Ministerial Association, the Clothes Closet is open every Thursday from 3 to 5 p.m. and on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon. To get there, go to the north side of the Gladstone High School campus in a portable accessible via the fire lane off Nelson Lane.

“We’ve been blessed with a mountain of clothing donations from our community,” said project coordinator LaRae Applebee. “The back-top-school rush has begun, and we are happy to help families find what they need.”

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**Family Stepping Stones offers free parent classes**

To help parents succeed at the most important job in the world, Family Stepping Stones offers several free parenting classes at the Gladstone Center for Children & Families.

**Incredible Infants** is a 10-week series for new moms and babies under 8 months. Each week covers new information about milestones in first-year development, how to care for and play with your infant, the importance of self care, sleep issues, and bonding. Space is limited for this series, so to register, call Chelsea Hamilton at 503.496.5764.

Three monthly drop-in classes at 18905 Portland Avenue provide information geared to the age of the child. Free dinner and childcare are always provided.

**Beautiful Babies** is for parents with children under 18 months. The group meets first Thursdays from September to May. Topics include child development, parenting styles, feeding, sleeping, and playing with your baby.

**Terrific Toddlers** is for parents with children 18 months to 3 years old. The group meets second Thursdays from September to May. Topics include toilet training, child safety, positive discipline strategies, learning through play, and ways to encourage language and social development.

**Growing Up** is for parents with children age three to six. The group meets third Thursdays from September to May. Topics include school readiness, healthy screen time, nutrition, love languages, and positive sibling and peer relationships.

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