

**GCCF Kindergarten parent Dawn Bronson chooses a book for her child with the help of Katy Preston, leader of The Clackamas Bookshelf. This week the organization celebrated its first year of operations by giving away their 10,000<sup>th</sup> children's book.**

**Clackamas Bookshelf gives away 10,000<sup>th</sup> book**

A year ago, the Clackamas Bookshelf launched with the dream of ensuring that every child in Clackamas County has books to call their own. This week, the non-profit group celebrated a successful first year by giving away their 10,000<sup>th</sup> book.

“The research is clear,” explains founder Katy Preston. “When children have at least 20 books in their home, they are significantly more likely to achieve a higher level of education. The more books in the house, the greater the benefit.”

The Clackamas Bookshelf is working toward this goal by gathering donations of used books, cleaning them up, and giving them away to low-income youths in Clackamas County. Dozens of volunteers of all ages – students to seniors – support the effort.

“We’re grateful to have a steady stream of books flowing to kids in our community,” said Gladstone Schools spokeswoman Leslie Robinette. “From preschoolers to high schoolers, more kids are reading at home thanks to the Clackamas Bookshelf.”

Last year, the group focused efforts on the Gladstone and North Clackamas School Districts. This year, their operation will expand to also serve the Oregon City and Molalla School Districts. Within five years, they plan to serve children countywide.

One way to support the effort is to buy books at the group’s monthly book sales, held second Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in a portable classroom behind Gladstone’s Kraxberger Middle School, 17777 Webster Road. Hundreds of books are available for 50 cents each.

To donate books or to volunteer with the project, visit the website at <http://www.theclackamasbookshelf.org/>.

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**Gladstone students top state average on ACT**

Gladstone High students taking the ACT college admissions test continued a five-year trend by beating both state and national averages for English, math, reading, and science scores.

Results shows that 65% of the students who took the exam were ready for college level math and English before graduating from high school.

“The more higher level courses a student takes, the better they do on the test,” explained GHS Principal Natalie Osburn. “We are proud to offer Gladstone students an array of opportunities to earn college credit while in high school, including AP classes, CCC classes taught on our campus, and dual-credit courses. All of these give students a taste of college level academic

rigor.”

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### Three Gladstone teachers honored

The Gladstone School District celebrated the start of the school year by recognizing the accomplishments of outstanding teachers. Started by retired principal Dick Baker in 2005, the Thank a Teacher award is a cash prize in recognition of school leadership, contribution to school success, and excellence in instruction. Three teachers were honored this fall:

- **Linda Fletcher**, a learning specialist at Gladstone High School, is known for her compassion and guidance in working with students who have special needs. She is a mentor, a coach, and a leader to both students and to her fellow teachers.
- **Tracy Skowhede**, a 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade math teacher at Kraxberger Middle School, is known for being the first to offer help any student or staff member who needs a hand. Before school, he is always there for students who need extra help. After school, he connects with students by coaching every sport the school offers.
- **Tia Bellm**, a learning specialist at John Wetten Elementary, is skilled at adjusting curriculum for the unique needs of each student. She creates an inviting, inclusive learning environment that makes students feel empowered and supported.

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### Gladstone Schools seek volunteers

As the new school year begins, Gladstone Schools is recruiting volunteers to help during and after school hours.

“We are grateful for the partnership of over 1,100 volunteers, who help us meet the unique needs of each student throughout the school year,” said Volunteer Coordinator Theresa Schmidt. “Helping kids is not just good for the children—it’s also fun and rewarding for our volunteers.”

For a volunteer application, email [schmidtt@gladstone.k12.or.us](mailto:schmidtt@gladstone.k12.or.us) or phone Theresa Schmidt at 503.656.6564. Needs include:

**Food Pantry Volunteers:** Help feed struggling families by staffing the Gladstone Food Pantry for a two-hour shift each month. Volunteers work in teams of two or three. Shifts are Thursdays from 3 to 5 p.m., Thursdays from 5 to 7 p.m., or Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon.

**Lunch Buddy Mentors:** Spend an hour a week [or every other week] sharing lunch and recess with a student at John Wetten Elementary. Research shows that students with adult mentors are more likely to succeed in school and less likely to use drugs.

**SMART Readers:** Share your love of books! Spend two hours each week reading with children in a Head Start preschool classroom at the Gladstone Center for Children & Families.