

Gladstone teachers honored for excellence

At the district wide Welcome Back event, three Gladstone teachers were awarded the Thank-a-Teacher Award for outstanding service to their students, the school, and the district. Each won a \$250 cash prize.

Kevin Zerzan is a skilled veteran science teacher at Gladstone High School. This year he is part of a team designing a new freshman course to help students connect classwork with their plans, goals, and future career. A winner of the national Milken Educator Award, he now serves as co-president of the Gladstone Teaching Association. He also contributes as a mentor, an advisor, and on the GHS leadership team.

Kerry Jeffrey is an outstanding learning and evaluation specialist in the Special Services department. She is an exceptional teacher who sees the potential in each student, helping each one reach high expectations. Besides being an equity advocate, she excels at tracking and analyzing data and leads the evaluation team. She brings fun, positivity, and humor to the students she serves.

Emily Morse is a talented fourth grade teacher whose instruction is focused and intentional. She knows the importance of meeting her students' social and emotional needs, so she creates a kind and caring learning environment. She is skilled at understanding the different needs of each student, and always remains calm. At John Wetten Elementary, she leads the math team, the wellness team, and her professional learning community.

PHOTO: Gladstone teachers Emily Morse, Kerry Jeffrey, and Kevin Zerzan pose with Peggy Baker, whose husband Dick Baker, a retired principal, funded the Thank A Teacher award program.

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District honors outstanding employees

Three outstanding classified employees in the Gladstone District were honored with the Making A Difference Award. Each received \$250 in appreciation for their excellent work and exemplary customer service.

Lynn Aleksich, the district's Nutrition Services Coordinator, runs Gladstone's largest restaurants in four school cafeterias. Her role includes planning nutritious, balanced meals, using fresh, local produce through Farm-to-School program and Oregon Harvest for Schools. She also runs the free summer lunch program, which this year provided nearly 3,000 free meals to Gladstone children.

Ashley Morris is the evening custodian at John Wetten Elementary. In her three years with the Gladstone District, she has always stepped up to help and goes the extra mile. Besides being warm and personable, she is a skilled electrician and painter who keeps her school clean and safe for students. Her work exemplifies the school motto, "We can do hard things."

Debbie Poyser is an outstanding bookkeeper at Gladstone High School, responsible for tracking accounts, payments, and expenses. From invoices and purchase orders to student coin drives and game day money boxes, she is always helpful, kind, and positive despite a constant barrage of requests from teachers, coaches, parents, students, and district staff. Her work is appreciated both during the school day and at after school activities.

PHOTO: Lynn Aleksich, Ashley Morris, and Debbie Poyser won the Making A Difference Award and a \$250 cash gift provided by an anonymous donor.

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Gladstone School Board seeks applicants for appointment to Position 1

The Gladstone School Board is seeking applicants to fill Board Position 1 vacated by Nicole Vera-Vera Couzens, who left the role to take a teaching position at John Wetten Elementary.

Interested community members are invited to apply. Applications are available on the District website (www.gladstone.k12.or.us), with applications accepted through September 27. The Board will interview applicants on Monday, October 7, and they will likely appoint the new member on October 9.

The appointee will serve through June 30, 2021. The next school board election is May 19, 2021, and the appointee may choose whether to run for a four-year term.

Applicants must be a registered voter and resided in the Gladstone School District boundaries for a period of one year immediately preceding the appointment. Employees of Gladstone School District are not eligible to apply.

Those who wish to apply can send the completed application via email to weningern@gladstone.k12.or.us or by mail to:

Natalie Weninger, Board Secretary
Gladstone Schools
17789 Webster Road
Gladstone, OR 97027

For more information, call Natalie Weninger at 503.496.3935.

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GHS Robotics Team plans open house

The competitive robotics team at Gladstone High School invites students, parents, and community members to an open house this Saturday. The event provides an opportunity to learn more about the school's robotics program, ask questions, find out about joining the team, and see some 120 pound robots in action.

The event is Saturday, September 21 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Gladstone High School industrial arts building located behind the batting cages. Food and drinks will be provided, and all are welcome.

Gladstone High Robotics Team 3131 meets Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

PHOTO: Besides learning coding, fabrication, and electrical wiring, Gladstone High School robotics team also builds skills in planning, teamwork, fundraising, outreach, and oral presentations.

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Parents Night Out planned for September 28

The Gladstone High Key Club will host Parents Night Out, providing childcare and fun so parents can take a much-deserved break. The event is Saturday, September 28 from 5 to 9 p.m.

The cost is \$15 per child with a \$40 cap per family. Children will enjoy pizza, snacks, and fun activities. Children should be dropped off at the gymnasium [south] entrance at Gladstone High School, 18800 Portland Avenue.

Questions can be directed to teacher Lynnda Prom at

promL@gladstone.ki12.or.us or call 503-655-2544 ext. 411