

Gladstone scores jump in elementary reading, sixth grade math

In the past two years, students at John Wetten Elementary have made tremendous gains in English Language Arts. State test scores from last spring showed fifth graders beat the state average by 5.3 percent, fourth graders by 11.4 percent, and third graders by 13.3 percent.

Wetten has become a model school for Response to Intervention, a strategy for early identification and support of students with learning or behavior needs. After universal screening, struggling learners are provided with interventions at increasing levels of intensity to accelerate their rate of learning.

The school's Culture of Care approach trains staff to use calming strategies that make classrooms a productive learning environment. The trauma-informed approach has payoffs not just in improved health and reduced stress, but also in academic achievement.

"Classroom success begins with nurturing the whole child," said Assistant Superintendent Jeremiah Patterson. "With fewer distractions and with targeted supports in place, students can work to their highest potential. Our next goal is to expand these strategies to support our kindergarten and middle school students."

Gladstone's sixth grade math students also exceeded the state average, with scores up over 12 percent from the previous year.

"Our team has done outstanding work to make progress in these areas," said Patterson. "We intend to keep the momentum going."

Gladstone High robotics team tours Allied Systems

This summer, the Gladstone High School robotics team toured Allied Systems to learn about career opportunities in manufacturing and technology. Head engineer Joel Dille led the tour.

Based in Sherwood, the Oregon company designs and builds custom marine cranes for companies around the world including the US Navy and Coast Guard. They also manufacture Wagner logging machinery and Freeman harvesting equipment.

Photo: Touring the Allied Systems factory, Gladstone High School robotics team members learned about careers in manufacturing and technology. Pictured are Gabe Jones, Katherine Wilmot, Hanna Schwartz and Joel Dille.

SMART program seeks volunteers

Start Making A Reader Today [SMART] has a simple goal: giving children one-on-one reading

support and free books. The program serves both Head Start and kindergarten students in Gladstone. Adult volunteers are needed 1 hour per week from October through May. Site coordinators are also needed at various locations two to four hours per week.

“Reading with a child is good for your soul,” said SMART Program Manager Nathan Buck. “And best of all, it improves the student’s success in school.”

Volunteer shifts are available at the Gladstone Center for Children and Families, 18905 Portland Avenue. Apply online at www.getsmartoregon.org/getinvolved/volunteer/. For more information, call Nathan Buck at 971.634.1607.

Donation helps school weight lifting program

East Side Athletic Club’s recent donation of 46 lightweight bars will go a long way to expand the weight lifting program at Gladstone High School.

“This donation will allow us to expand our curriculum and serve more students,” said Health and Physical Education teacher Emily Smith. “The equipment will be used to teach form, and will also be used in aerobics for light weight/high repetition training.”