

## **Gladstone teacher receives boxes of school supplies thanks to actress Kristen Bell**

As celebrities use their influence to support public education, Gladstone High School teacher Emmett Pearson was among those selected by actress Kristen Bell to benefit from a school supply drive for her language arts, drama, and film studies students.

The *#10featuredteachers* campaign on Instagram encourages fans to donate school supplies to public school students. In a post last week on the Instagram social media app, Bell asked teachers to message her with a picture of themselves, their story and an Amazon wish list for students to share with her followers.

“I think this is such an incredible way to get kids what they need and deserve and help the teachers that are fighting for everyone’s education,” Bell said in an Instagram video.

Last Friday, 130 packages were delivered to Gladstone High, including multiple class sets of novels, books for film studies and drama classes, Chromebook computers, composition books, I-pads, wireless microphones, pencils, pens, highlighters, backpacks, paper, and more.

“Oh, my goodness – what a week!” said Pearson. “I am absolutely overwhelmed by the generosity of strangers across the world who support kids! Just this weekend, I sent almost 300 thank-you messages.”

“I think my favorite part is that because of the generosity of so many people, I will be able to pay it forward throughout Gladstone High School for years to come,” she said. “Access to more digital equipment and Chromebooks in my classroom means I get to develop more integrated lesson plans for English 1 and 2, Creative Writing and Film Studies, while also sharing that equipment with others in the building.”

Kristen Bell has also supported teachers in Maine, Massachusetts, Nebraska, Maryland, and Texas.

**PHOTO: After Gladstone High teacher Emmett Pearson was chosen by Actress Kristen Bell to receive free school supplies for students, more than 130 packages arrived from across the nation.**

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## **After school programs build success at Kraxberger**

Knowing that clubs and activities help students connect with their school, parents and staff at Kraxberger Middle School are expanding the afterschool programs by adding an array of new activities.

“Clubs and activities in the early teen years bring students some important assets they need to thrive,” said Principal Len Reed. “Every teen needs an adult mentor, a positive peer group, and the opportunity to build skills as they pursue a personal passion.”

New clubs in the fall session will include Art Club, Knitting, Magic Monday, and Recreational Volleyball. Four additional four to six week sessions will offer different clubs in rotation, from cooking and running to Battle of the Books and drama.

The school also has some established clubs that will continue, from Electronics Recycling and two competitive robotics teams to the KAOS after school program, which offers a variety of activities throughout the year.

“We know kids who get involved in afterschool activities have improved attendance and are more likely to succeed academically,” said Vice Principal Jeff Waters. “Our hope is that every Kraxberger student will find a place to belong and meet new friends who share their interests.”

**PHOTO: Omar Cham and Eric Hanson found Kraxberger's Gearheads Robotics Club a good way to connect with a positive peer group while learning technology skills like computer programming.**

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**Students seek Gladstone seniors who need help with yard work**

For the sixth straight year, 150 athletes and student leaders from Gladstone High School are planning Gladstone Gives Back, a community service event to thank the neighbors who support Gladstone schools and sports programs. The event will take place on Saturday, October 20 from 10 a.m. to noon.

Gladstone senior citizens and homebound neighbors are invited to contact event organizers if they need help with outside chores like leaf raking, weeding, lawn mowing, firewood stacking, or fence painting. For assistance, call Lynnda Prom at 503.655.2544, ext. 414 or email proml@gladstone.k12.or.us.

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**Author visits John Wetten Elementary**

In September, students at John Wetten Elementary had the opportunity to spend time with children's advocate and award-winning author Trudy Ludwig.

Ludwig has been featured on ABC's "Good Morning America," PBS's nationally syndicated show, "Keeping Kids Healthy," Wall Street Journal, Huffington Post, Reading Rainbow, the National Crime Prevention Council's Circle of Respect program, and has served as an expert panel member on Sesame Workshop's video series addressing bullying.

She is the author of *My Secret Bully*, *Just Kidding, Sorry!*, *Trouble Talk*, *Too Perfect*, *Confessions of a Former Bully*, *Better Than You*, *The Invisible Boy*, *Gifts from the Enemy* and *Quiet Please, Owen McPhee!* Her books have received national praise for helping children connect and engage with their peers in kind, caring ways.

In each of her three student assemblies, Trudy read one of her books to the audience and discussed the story and the characters' roles. Through engaging, age-appropriate activities and role-play with the author, the students learned important life skills related to making healthy friendship choices.

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**GCCF students enjoy fresh garden produce**

Preschool and kindergarten students at the Gladstone Center for Children and Families [GCCF] have garden fresh celery and tomatoes for lunch, thanks to the efforts of Easter Seals volunteer Susie Chapman.

Chapman has kept the school garden growing at GCCF since April, taking care of planting, weeding, and watering. The garden provided produce for the free summer lunch program and now the school lunch program. Any extra produce was shared with families.

"The children love eating what they see growing," said head cook Lynn Aleksich. "The celery is amazing, the cherry tomatoes on every lunch tray a sight to see for sure. The variety that has been growing is wonderful for the students to try new foods."

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