

NR 101415

History & art students team up to study Great Depression

To gain a deeper understanding of the impact of the Great Depression, art students and history students at Gladstone High are teaming up on a unique project.

Teacher Matt Miskey's history students are using narrative writings to create blackout poems depicting the stories, experiences, and emotions of real people from the Depression era.

Next, students from Chris Rich's art classes will illustrate each poem with a work of art. The poems and artwork will be on display in the school gallery later this fall.

Students raise funds to help baby awaiting heart transplant

Gladstone High teacher Brendan Thwing's son Steele was born in June with a congenital heart failure disease, Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome. This month the family traveled to Stanford University, where the baby has been approved for a heart transplant.

Thwing teaches graphic design, and his students have won many awards at regional skills competitions. When the students learned about the baby's need for a heart transplant, they wanted to help.

As part of this week's Homecoming activities, student leaders planned a fundraiser and t-shirt sale to raise funds for the family. Over \$2,000 has been raised so far, and if students reach their goal of \$3,000, three of the school's teachers will shave off their beards.

To help the Thwing family with medical and other expenses, community members are invited to contribute here: https://www.giveforward.com/fundraiser/sr5b/steele-s-fight-for-life?utm_source=facebook

Students rewarded for perfect attendance

Perfect attendance was celebrated at John Wetten Elementary School, with at least six students per class rewarded with three tickets to a Portland Winterhawks game.

In all, 600 free hockey tickets were awarded as part of the school's Positive Behavior Support program.

"The kids were really excited to see their school up on the big screen during the game!" said teacher Kaitlyn Gillies.

Grant family supports kindergarten readiness

Byron and Cynthia Grant have pledged a significant investment in early childhood education, to continue a kindergarten readiness program at the Gladstone Center for Children and Families.

The summer program will help children who lack preschool experience learn classroom routines, social skills, listening skills, and pre-reading skills, while also providing parents with strategies to help children learn at home.

“Only 41 percent of Oregon children attend preschool, so too many miss the opportunity to build the social and academic skills needed to succeed in modern kindergarten,” explained Lennie Bjornsen, Director of Student and Family Supports. “Providing this opportunity before children start school will help us level the playing field for disadvantaged students.”