

Gladstone High students turn out for day of service

Despite persistent rain, 132 students and staff from Gladstone High turned out October 19 to help with the school's seventh Give-It-Back Day. The annual service project is how students show gratitude for community support of Gladstone schools and sports teams.

Participants included school athletes, plus student leaders from the Key Club, Student Senate, and National Honor Society. In small groups, they fanned out to 30 different sites to tackle yard work for elderly neighbors and help with park improvement projects.

"The folks we helped were excited to have the students drop by," said event organizer Lynnda Prom. "This event is as much about getting to know our elderly neighbors as it is about helping them with outdoor chores."

PHOTO: Freshmen Jonas and Noah Porter spread bark mulch on paths at the Gladstone Nature Park, part of Gladstone High School's annual day of community service.

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New programs blossom at Gladstone High

To keep pace with evolving student needs, Gladstone High added two new programs last year, both housed in the school's bright, spacious library.

The College & Career Program, led by counselor Alison Howell, provides a wealth of resources to students exploring career paths and college options.

The center hosts visits by college recruiters, college financial aid workshops, and university tours, a college fair, and support for college and scholarship applications. In addition, students can learn about career pathways in the trades, get help writing their resume, or learn about the soft skills employers are looking for.

The Student Center is another recent addition, providing online learning opportunities, including credit recovery and unique elective options. Teacher Ashley Browning runs the program. "This is one way we've increased our graduation rate."

"Whether students come to get back on track for graduation or find a quiet place to take a make-up test, the center provides a needed alternative to traditional classrooms," said Browning.

The school library continues to operate alongside the new programs, giving students the opportunity to check out books or find a quiet corner to study.

"The library's at the heart of our school, and it's exciting to see it transformed into a hub of productivity," said Vice Principal Patti Alexander. "The goal is helping more students graduate, and helping them execute a plan for life after graduation."

PHOTO: A student takes a makeup exam at Gladstone High's Student Center.

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Gladstone High hosts regional robotics fair

For the 10th straight year, Gladstone High School hosted the region’s largest robotics fair, drawing over 400 teens and coaches from across the Northwest.

The day-long event on October 19 gave coaches, mentors, and students a chance to come together to teach and take classes from wiring techniques, grant writing, and welding to mechanics, 3D printing, and Java programming.

“These skill development classes are an excellent resource for strengthening teams,” said Gladstone robotics coach Steve Stewart. “We’ve got three competitive robotics teams in Gladstone, and we are proud to host this event that draws students from across the state.”

PHOTO: Robotics enthusiasts select electronics components at Gladstone’s 10th annual FIRST Fair, which provides workshops to high school teams from across Oregon.

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Gladstone High to honor Veterans

Veterans and active-duty military personnel are invited to a special event honoring Veterans at Gladstone High School. They are welcome to bring guests.

The event will take place on Friday, November 8, starting at 10:15 a.m. with a reception in the cafeteria. Veterans and their families will be treated to a featured speaker and performances by the band and choir in a full school assembly.

To reserve your seats, call Leslie Robinette at 503.974.5077 or email info@gladstone.k12.or.us.

PHOTO: The Gladstone High school band and choir will perform at a special event honoring veterans.

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Volunteers needed to read with kids

Oregon’s national award-winning program SMART is seeking volunteers to spend an hour each week reading one-on-one with Gladstone children. The program helps children from age 4 to 8 develop a love of reading and a connection with an adult mentor. Each child participating gets a free book each month.

“The kids are full of energy, and reading with them is something I look forward to every week,” said Chuck Orwig, a volunteer from the Gladstone/Oak Lodge Rotary Club. “I hope others will get involved in SMART to share their love of books. It’s fun, and it makes a real difference in student success.”

To volunteer at John Wetten Elementary or the Gladstone Center for Children & Families,

phone 971.634.1628 or sign up at www.SMARTreading.org.

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Dental van provides free treatment for students

The Tooth Taxi dental van will provide free screenings, cleanings, and dental treatments for youths 18 and under at the Gladstone Center for Children and Families, 18905 Portland Avenue.

To book an appointment October 28-31, call 503.329.8877.

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Free vaccine clinic planned

A free vaccine clinic will take place from 2:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 6. Attendees can get shots for measles/mumps/rubella, hepatitis A, and the flu. The event will happen in the Northwest corner of the Clackamas Town Center parking lot in a tent on the corner of 82nd Avenue and Monterey. All are welcome while supplies last.

Sponsors of the event include Clackamas County, Clackamas Fire District #1, Providence Milwaukie Hospital, Clackamas Community College, North Clackamas Schools, Walla Walla University, and Clackamas Rotary.