

Kraxberger teaches kindness

Knowing the challenges of middle school are social as well as academic, the staff at Kraxberger Middle School is taking a proactive approach to focus students on kindness and ways to prevent bullying.

The school's Kindness Week Challenge encouraged students to write compliments about their classmates, posting them on bulletin boards throughout the school.

This week all sixth graders participated in an Above Between Below assembly. The educational theater program invites students to identify their personal values and explore ways to put them in practice both in person and online. The workshop allows students to build skills in conflict resolution, self-management, and empathy for those with different perspectives. It also includes social media topics such as identity, privacy, and how to contribute to a healthy online community.

"We want students to understand how their actions can have unintended consequences," said Principal Len Reed. "They need to be aware what happens when social media is used as a tool for gossip and public shaming. The goal is to encourage each student to take personal responsibility for their own power to harm or help others."

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Gladstone band students win regional honors

Gladstone high musicians Sadie Klaus [grade 12] and Jordyn Layton [grade 10] were accepted into the All Northwest Symphonic Band. They were chosen from more than 4,000 students from Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Washington, and Oregon.

This group of the best high school musicians from five states will have the opportunity to perform with Kenny G, Doc Severinson, Allen Vizzutti, and other master conductors and performers at the Hilton in Portland on February 16.

"They worked on their auditions for nearly a year," said band director Seth Arnold. "We are very proud of them!"

Braedon Akers, an eighth grader at Kraxberger Middle School, was chosen for the Oregon All State Honor Band. He will play tuba in a band composed of the best middle school students from across the state. He will perform at the 2019 Oregon Music Educator Conference in Portland.

PHOTO: Tuba player Braedon Akers was selected for the Oregon All State Honor Band.

PHOTO: Clarinetist Jordan Layton and trombone player Sadie Klaus qualified for the All Northwest Symphonic Band and will perform in February with the best high school musicians from five states.

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Gladstone groups join forces on holiday Adopt-a-Family effort

In what has become an annual tradition, several Gladstone groups will work together to make the holiday season brighter for over 100 struggling families, providing food boxes, toys for children, and gift cards for teens. Partners include the Gladstone Fire Department, Gladstone School District, Gladstone Kiwanis, and Gladstone/Oak Lodge Rotary.

Community members are invited to contribute to the effort by dropping off non-perishable food donations at the blue donation barrels located at the Gladstone Library, Gladstone Fire Department, and many Gladstone businesses.

Most needed foods include peanut butter and honey, tuna or canned chicken, pancake mix and syrup, canned beans, breakfast cereals, chili, soup, stew, canned fruits and vegetables, oatmeal, pasta, or rice. [No glass jars] Donations should be delivered by December 18.

Families in need of holiday assistance should sign up by December 7 with their Clackamas County social service provider, including WIC, SNAP, or housing assistance programs.

PHOTO: Last year's Gladstone Adopt-a-Family effort helped 120 families.

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Grant to fund book club at Kraxberger Middle School

A \$1,000 grant from First Book will provide sets of novels for a new book club at Kraxberger Middle School. The volunteer-led group will discuss award-winning young adult novels. Students who participate will get to keep the books for their personal collection.

The book club is one of many new options the school is offering throughout the year. The clubs have the goal of connecting students with a positive peer group and an adult mentor while they build new skills and explore personal passions.

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Ways to get Gladstone Schools snow day/school closure announcements:

Winter weather can be unpredictable, so we want to make you aware of the many ways you can get information when we announce a late-start or school closure due to extreme weather.

- 1) **Receive a text from Gladstone Schools:** To receive a text message about snow day schedule changes and other occasional school announcements, **opt in by texting Yes to 67587** from your cell phone.
- 2) **Receive an email and phone call from Gladstone Schools:** Our *School Messenger* information system will send you an email and a phone call when we announce a school closure or delay. To update your email address or phone number, call your school office.
- 3) **The District Facebook page:** "Like" us at <https://www.facebook.com/GladstoneSchoolDistrict>
- 4) **Gladstone Schools websites:** Check the Gladstone Schools website at <http://gladstone.k12.or.us/>, or visit your school website.
- 5) **Sign up for Flash Alerts:** Receive an email as soon as the Superintendent posts a change in the school schedule. Visit <http://gladstone.k12.or.us/calendars/school-closures/> and follow the directions to sign up.
- 6) **Radio & TV:** Any last minute changes in the school schedule will be announced by most Portland area news media. Often these are posted on news media websites rather than announced on the air.

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