

## **New volunteer coordinator seeks adult mentors for Gladstone Schools**

Gladstone Schools' new volunteer coordinator Theresa Schmidt is on a mission. She is recruiting adult mentors to work with children one-on-one or in small groups.

"We have a number of mentor programs that dramatically increase the odds of student success," said Schmidt. "We want every child to have a positive adult role model in their life, so we hope our community will step up to volunteer."

### Mentorship opportunities include:

- **Lunch Buddies:** Volunteers are paired with a student at John Wetten Elementary, and meet to share lunch and recess weekly or twice a month throughout the school year.
- **Elementary Club Leaders:** Starting in January, volunteers are needed to lead an afterschool club at John Wetten Elementary one hour per week from 2:20 to 3:30 p.m. Whether your passion is knitting, robotics, cooking, basketball, chess, or crafts, the school invites you to share it with a small group of students eager to learn.

To find out more about these and other programs, call Theresa Schmidt at **(503)656-6564 ext.265** or email [schmidtt@gladstone.k12.or.us](mailto:schmidtt@gladstone.k12.or.us).

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## **Laptop use boosts writing skills, engagement**

Middle school can be a rambunctious place, but stepping into an 8<sup>th</sup> grade language arts class in Gladstone, the silence is astounding. The only sound is the tapping of keyboards, as 28 students take notes on sensory details in Sandra Cisneros' essay "Eleven."

This fall, Kraxberger Middle School began using classroom sets of Chromebook computers. According to teacher Erinn Emmons, having a laptop on every desk makes a big difference.

"When they use computers, my students are one hundred percent engaged, and much more motivated to write and edit than they were before," she said. "This also opens new doors for teacher interaction in real time. If I log on to view student work on a Saturday night, and a student is home working on a writing assignment, I can comment on their work or answer questions while they are writing."

Emmons admits teachers are still learning the best ways to use technology in the classroom, such as sharing documents for group projects.

"The kids are more tech savvy than the teachers are," she said. "Because students like to share tips on technology use with staff and their peers, we can move forward together. With the challenging new Smarter Balanced state tests coming, this classroom technology couldn't have come at a better time."

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## **Gladiators to play Saturday in semifinal game**

The Gladiators will be playing in the semifinals of the state 4A football championship at 11 a.m. this Saturday, November 22 at the Hillsboro Stadium: 4450 NW 229th. Admission is \$5 for students and \$8 for adults. Parking is \$4.

The Rooter Bus (for students only) will depart GHS at 9:45 a.m. To ride the bus, students must have reserved their spot by paying \$10 by lunchtime today.

Because of the game, this week Saturday School will start early, at 8 a.m. Those who check in by 8 and work diligently until 9:30 a.m. will receive a voucher for a \$5 rebate on their Rooter Bus/Admission ticket. This is a great way to prepare students for their final exams on Monday and Tuesday.

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**Donations support middle school robotics team**

The Kraxberger Gearheads is a club that teaches Gladstone middle schoolers a lot more than robotics. It also teaches them what mentor Shawn Price calls “gracious professionalism,” the marketing and presentation skills needed to garner funding support.

The club’s persistent efforts this fall have paid off, with three recent donations. The Gladstone-Oak Grove Rotary club contributed \$400 for a new Chromebook computer. Northwest Natural contributed \$250 toward the team’s operating and equipment needs. But what students are most excited about is their new 3-D printer, awarded to the club after an award-winning essay was submitted by 7<sup>th</sup> grader Eric Hanson.

“The 3-D printer will be a helpful tool to make parts for our robots that fit perfectly,” explained Hanson. The club hopes to raise enough money to purchase four more Chromebooks. To make a donation to the club, email Shawn Price at [shawn.price@gladstonerobotics.com](mailto:shawn.price@gladstonerobotics.com).

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**Booster Club tree sale to benefit Gladstone athletes**

Need to simplify your holiday season? Choose your Christmas tree at the Gladstone Boosters tree sale, and proceeds will benefit sports programs at Gladstone High.

The sale runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, December 6, in the parking lot at Gladstone High, 18800 Portland Avenue. Choose from Douglas fir, Grand fir, Nobles, or wreaths. Local delivery is available.

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**Family Zumba night to support GHS grad party**

Looking for a fun family workout to support a good cause? Don’t miss Zumba night, a dance aerobic fundraiser for the Gladstone High School graduation night party. The event is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Wednesday, December 3. All ages are welcome. Admission is a \$5 per person donation.

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**Sock & underwear drive to meet critical need**

The Gladstone Ministerial Association seeks donations of new packages of socks and underwear to replenish the Community Clothes Closet, which serves girls and boys from birth to 21.

“Recently a Gladstone family lost their home in a fire, leaving a 10-year-old child without any clothing. Thankfully, the Gladstone Community Clothes Closet was available to help,” said coordinator LaRae Applebee.

Donations can be delivered to Gladstone High School during school hours. To visit the Clothes Closet, on the north side of the school campus, enter by the fire lane off Nelson Street and look for the portables. Hours of operation are Thursdays from 3 to 5 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon.

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**Gladettes triumph at competition**

The Gladstone High School dance team had a strong showing at last weekend's dance competition at Clackamas High. They took first place in the Jazz and Kick competitions, and third place in both Hip Hop and Contemporary.