

Gladstone Education Foundation awards \$21,500 in grants

This fall, the Gladstone Education Foundation [GEF] invested more than \$21,500 in education projects across the district, from sports equipment and microscopes to robots and dyslexia supports.

Inspired by watching a TED talk in class, students in Kraxberger Middle School’s AVID college preparedness program wrote a proposal with the goal of attending a TEDx event.

“The students spent a few days working diligently to complete their grant proposal, and several came to present it to the GEF grant review panel,” said teacher Audrey Delgado. “They were awarded the grant, and will be attending a TEDx event this January at Linfield College. After attending, they hope to put on a TEDx event here at Kraxberger in the spring.”

Fall grants awarded include:

School	Amount	Project
Gladstone Center for Children & Families	\$3,750	White boards for kindergarten classes
John Wetten Elementary	\$920	Materials to teach students with dyslexia
John Wetten Elementary	\$2,490	Writing instruction materials
John Wetten Elementary	\$1,500	Library restoration
John Wetten Elementary	\$1,632	Sphero robots to teach coding & engineering design
Kraxberger Middle School	\$706	AVID field trip to TEDx Event
Gladstone High	\$3,675	Microscopes
Gladstone High	\$900	Softball pitching machine
Gladstone High	\$945	Band clinic with CCC musicians
Gladstone High	\$5,000	Weight room training equipment

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Kraxberger art students inspired by field trip

The eighth Grade Advanced Art class from Kraxberger Middle School visited the Portland Art Museum on November 16 for a docent-guided tour. The focus of the tour was “identity” and students viewed several artworks, including a painting and sculpture by Kehinde Wiley, the artist who painted then-President Obama’s official portrait.

“After the art museum, we walked in and out of several Portland art galleries, viewing the works of contemporary artists,” said art teacher Audrey Delgado. “We ended the day with a tour at Lan Su Chinese Gardens, where they had a display of more than 75 chrysanthemum varieties and as well as the Ninth Moon Floral Design Showcase. We learned a bit about the garden’s history, design, and artworks.”

PHOTO: Advanced art students from Kraxberger Middle School had the opportunity to explore Lan Su Chinese Garden during a recent field trip.

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Middle school club brightens days for seniors

Students from Kraxberger Middle School’s new Community Outreach Club are on a mission to brighten the lives of seniors at the Somerset Lodge. Led by teacher Audrey Delgado, they have begun making weekly visits to the retirement community, within walking distance of their school

“It was so awesome to see our kiddos interact with our new friends at Somerset Lodge,” said volunteer Allison Maddox. “Our students greeted the elders with handshakes and hugs and cheered each other on in a fun game of ‘baseball.’ Our hour with them almost didn’t seem long enough because everyone was having such a great time. I know that the Somerset Sluggers won’t forget the time they beat a bunch of middle schoolers 18 to 2. We can’t wait to see them again!”

PHOTO: Kraxberger students planned an indoor “baseball” game with residents of the Somerset Lodge retirement community.

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Gladstone Food Pantry wins country grant

Clackamas County awarded a three-year, \$60,000 grant to the Gladstone Food Pantry, part of the Blueprint for a Healthy Clackamas County program.

The pantry, a partner with the Oregon Food Bank, serves more than 7,000 visitors a year, providing free groceries to families in need. Over 70 volunteers and partners including Bob’s Red Mill Natural Foods, Grocery Outlet, and Dave’s Killer Bread contribute to the effort.

“These funds will enable us to provide information and referral for a variety of social service needs,” said Lennie Bjornsen, Director of Student and Family Supports for Gladstone Schools. “Through visiting service providers, we plan to provide nutrition information, cooking demonstrations, gardening instruction, and other skill-building opportunities for low-income families. We will also train our volunteers in trauma-informed practices and work to create a calming environment at the pantry, where the relationships we build with customers are as important as the food we provide.”

The pantry is located on the north side of the Gladstone High School campus off Nelson Lane. It is open Thursdays from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon. All are welcome.