

NR 120619

Shakespeare takes center stage at Gladstone High

Oregon Shakespeare Festival actors are at Gladstone High this week, presenting performances along with workshops on drama, language, and poetry. The 3-day residency with Armando McClain and Esther Williamson was part of a three-year partnership between the theater and the school designed to boost teen engagement in learning about language and literature.

"Having the Oregon Shakespeare Festival actors at Gladstone High School was such a treat. Both actors are amazingly talented professionals and they performed a seamless two-person play that almost the entire school got to enjoy," said English teacher Siri Carlson. "We are so excited that we will be able to continue this enriching partnership."

The duo helped theater students use acting skills to focus on language, demonstrating how punctuation impacts the meaning of dialog. Then, using text from A Midsummer Night's Dream, they demonstrated how different dialog rhythms and word choice reveal each character's state of mind.

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Wetten students win at attendance game

At John Wetten Elementary, school attendance has improved by 5% since September thanks to a new incentive program based on the game Monopoly. Absenteeism has dropped to 12%.

"Our amazing volunteer Scottie Shaner created a Monopoly Board in the cafeteria for our attendance competition, and fifth graders explained the game to each class," said Vice Principal Lori Buchanan. "Students love the competition between classes, and they encourage their friends to come to school. They are excited to win prizes like a class popcorn party for hitting attendance milestones."

The school provided parents with refrigerator magnets to track their child's attendance, and sends letters to families to keep them updated on attendance.

As an added incentive, counseling intern Heather Johnson has launched friendship groups for chronic absentees to help students connect with each other and ensure they feel welcome at school.

"Each missed school day leaves students farther behind their peers, as students develop gaps in foundational concepts they need to move forward," said Principal Wendy Wilson. "We're excited at the progress students have made, and hope to improve attendance even more in 2020."

PHOTO: Volunteer Scotti Shaynor created “Attendance-Opoly,” part of Wetten Elementary’s incentive-based attendance program this fall. The program has shown good results, boosting attendance rates by 5%.

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Key Club plans Parents Night Out

Gladstone High students and staff will host a night of fun for children, giving parents the opportunity for an evening out. The event for ages 4 to 11 is on December 14 from 5 to 9 p.m. Activities include a pizza dinner, movies, games, crafts, and dodge ball.

The cost is \$15 per child with a \$40 maximum per family. All funds raised benefit the Gladstone High School Key Club.

For information contact Lynnda Prom at proml@gladstone.k12.or.us or at 503-655-2544 ext. 414.