

**Sixth graders shine in Kraxberger science fair**

Gladstone sixth graders spent a few weeks this fall learning and practicing each step of the scientific method with a small lab in their science class. Next students spent two weeks designing their own experiment to demonstrate their knowledge of the steps and their ability to perform a lab using the scientific method.

Each student formulated a question and a hypothesis, designed an investigation, collected and presented their data, and analyzed and interpreted their results, On the last day of the term, each student presented their project to classmates, guests, and parents using posters or PowerPoint presentations.

Projects ranged from studies of which chewing gum flavor lasts the longest to whether the wing style of paper airplanes impacts flight length.

“This was the first time in years that classes participated in a science fair,” said sixth grade science teacher Debbie Gorton. “These young scientists were able to share their learning with others and celebrate their hard work. They were so proud of what they accomplished!”

**PHOTO: Kraxberger students Gisell Nijara and Alicia Wiles present their project to other sixth graders. They studied whether ice would melt faster in a dark room or a well-lit room.**

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**Gladstone adds social service navigator at Kraxberger Middle School**

For kids in struggling families, learning is hard until their family’s basic needs like housing, food, and health care are met. To support youths from birth to age 14, Gladstone Schools will continue to provide social service navigation to preschool and elementary families, while also expanding the program to serve students at Kraxberger Middle School.

The program is funded by a three-year, \$450,000 grant from Family Care Health Plans, with two Family Resource Coordinators provided by Northwest Family Services. The social workers are experts in navigating the complex web of public and non-profit services, making needed connections between schools and organizations to ensure that families get what they need.

“Sometimes resolving a small issue like a car repair can prevent a bigger issue like loss of a job,” explained Lennie Bjornsen, Director of Student and Family Supports. “We are excited to expand this successful program to support the needs of young adolescents, and we anticipate it will have a positive effect for middle schoolers.”

**PHOTO: Yina Arias works as a Family Resource Coordinator at the Gladstone Center for Children and Families. She works to connect struggling families with the social services they need.**

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**Santa gathers food donations for the Gladstone Food Pantry**

For seven years, Keith McDonley has made the holidays magical for children in the Milwaukie area. Each night Santa is in his front driveway to talk with kids and give them a small toy.

Visitors are welcome from now through December 24 from 5 to 7:30 p.m. at 8212 S.E. Clackamas Road.

Conley's front yard is decorated with thousands of twinkling lights and a snow machine adds to the fun. All who visit can enjoy the music, with free cocoa, cookies, and a candy cane. This year he will also give away over 200 Christmas trees donated by local growers.

"This year I am gathering food donations to benefit the Gladstone Food Pantry," said McDonley. "I am hoping to beat last year's record and bring in over 2,000 pounds of food!"

Students from the Gladstone High School Key Club are volunteering as Santa's helpers on several nights.

**PHOTO: Keith McDonley, the Milwaukie Santa, brings a load of holiday cheer to families who pass by his home on Clackamas Road.**

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**Volunteer nurses needed for spring Outdoor School**

Outdoor School has been a tradition for Gladstone sixth graders for 42 years. To ensure student safety, a nurse accompanies the students during their week at Twin Rock Friends Camp.

"We are looking for volunteer nurses to join us Monday through Friday on either the last week of April or the first week of May," said camp coordinator Jill Cone. Nurses who are interested can email the teacher at [conej@gladstone.k12.or.us](mailto:conej@gladstone.k12.or.us).