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Physics class tries indoor skydiving

Gladstone High School’s Physics class recently went on a field trip to iFLY Indoor Skydiving in Tigard. Students were able to participate in a lab setting lead by the iFLY STEM educator on the science and engineering involved in making the wind tunnel.

Students then learned how to calculate their terminal velocity by taking measurements to determine their drag force, received training on how to take a flight in the tunnel, and got to experience a simulated skydiving experience. With the assistance of the instructor, they were able to “fly” at terminal velocity to check their work and participate in a high fly in the tunnel.

Photo: Gladstone High junior Chloe Ouchida experiences sky diving in a wind tunnel at iFLY with help from an instructor.

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Donation supports middle school robotics teams

Two robotics teams at Gladstone’s Kraxberger Middle School will benefit from a \$1,500 donation from the International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers. The teams will use the funds to purchase a second 3-D printer, used to manufacture robot parts.

The Kraxberger teams are coming off a busy competition season, with Team 8188 winning the Connect Award and Team 8132 winning the Rockwell Collins Innovate Award in their first competition. Both teams advanced to the Superqualifier round, with Team 8132 qualifying for the state competition.

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Pancake Breakfast to precede Gladstone Egg Hunt

The Gladstone/Oak Grove Rotary plans a pancake breakfast as a lead-up to the City of Gladstone’s annual Easter Egg Hunt. The event will take place from 8 to 11 a.m. on Saturday, March 26, at Gladstone High School [18800 Portland Avenue]. The egg hunt begins promptly at 11 a.m. on the football field across the street.

The breakfast is \$5 for adults, \$4 for children & seniors, or \$15 per family, including pancakes, ham, and coffee. Raffle prizes will be offered. All proceeds will provide college scholarships to graduates of Gladstone & Rex Putnam High Schools, and a student at Clackamas Community College.

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Preschool workshops to connect parents with educators

On April 23, the Gladstone Center for Children & Families will host a free, half-day conference for preschool parents and early childhood professionals. Learn about brain development & how to choose a preschool, and find support programs for families!

For information, contact Christina Alquisira at 503.496.3939. Free childcare provided. The event runs from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Online registration is available at www.surveymonkey.com/r/ReadySetLearn

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Spring recreation guide offers classes for all ages

Dozens of affordable recreation classes are offered by Gladstone’s community education program this spring and summer, an opportunity to make new friends and learn new skills.

Youth classes include martial arts, guitar & ukulele, dance, and driver education. Families planning ahead for summer can sign up for a children’s drama day camp or sports day camp.

Adult classes provide the opportunity to learn Spanish, cooking, garden art, or mah jong, as well as country line dance, investing, or aerobics.

To register on-line, visit www.gladstone.k12.or.us and click on Learning for Life.

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Gladstone preschool wins innovation grant

A county grant of nearly \$53,000 will allow the Gladstone Teaching Preschool to continue pioneering work providing inquiry-based, year-round preschool to low income and special needs children.

“Our school is a demonstration site for inquiry-based education,” said founding partner Catherine Willmott. “Students take an active role in shaping their own learning through storytelling, problem solving, conflict resolution, designing play environments, and collaborating with peers on long-term projects.”

Free to students, the preschool serves 20 children, a balance of students referred for special education needs and those drawn from the Head Start waiting list.

The Gladstone Teaching Preschool was created in 2014 through an innovative partnership between the Portland Children’s Museum, the Clackamas Education Service District, Gladstone Schools, and the non-profit Teaching Preschool Partners.

Located at the Gladstone Center for Children and Families, the school is surrounded by social service agencies, providing on-site services from counseling and health care to parenting support and nutrition.

Because only 41 percent of Oregon children attend preschool, project partners are hopeful that the state will soon find ways to support universal preschool to increase school readiness.