

Superintendent visits Chinese schools

Gladstone Superintendent Bob Stewart is spending two weeks visiting schools in China, part of an education exchange program between China and the U.S. In the first part of the exchange, last November, Principal Gaoyuan Lu of Xi'an, China, visited Gladstone Schools. The goal of the program is to increase cultural understanding between the two nations, and to develop on-going communication, friendship, and eventual student/faculty exchanges between the two schools.

Most of the trip was funded through a foundation in Massachusetts, with Mr. Stewart personally covering 30% of the cost. (No district funds were used for the trip.)

To follow Mr. Stewart's adventures in China, read his travel blog on the district web site:
<http://gladstone.k12.or.us/bobs-blog-musings-from-the-superintendent/>

Gladstone Schools invites community to review new elementary textbooks

The Gladstone School District is considering the adoption of new math instructional materials for grade 1 and kindergarten and new English language arts instructional materials for kindergarten through grade 5.

New books will help Gladstone elementary teachers implement the rigorous Common Core State Standards and prepare students for the new state exams that begin next year.

Parents and community members can view and comment on the textbooks being considered. The curriculum will be available in the Gladstone School District Office at 17789 Webster Road from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. from April 7 to April 26.

Public comments will be considered before a final adoption recommendation is made to the School Board at the May Board meeting. The new curriculum will be used in classrooms beginning with the 2014-15 school year.

Gladstone Schools honored at Children's Institute event

Thursday, at the Children's Institute's annual *Make It Your Business* lunch and award ceremony, Gladstone Superintendent Bob Stewart was honored as a front-runner among educators prioritizing early childhood education.

By establishing the Gladstone Center for Children & Families (GCCF), the Gladstone School District has led the way in providing early childhood education co-located with health care and social service wrap-around supports. Now in its 5th year, the Center houses the school district's six kindergarten classes, also serving Head Start preschool classes, and the new Gladstone Teaching Preschool, which opens next week.

Partners at the GCCF include Clackamas Education Service District, Healthy Families, Family Stepping Stones Relief Nursery, Child Care Resource & Referral, Clackamas Community College's Spanish GED classes, Early Head Start, Lifeworks Northwest, and Northwest Family Services.

"Our goal is that before kids walk through the door of kindergarten, we will know them. And not just know their name, but know something about their family," said Stewart. "We want to really have a relationship with these kids."

Gladstone High student accepted at Air Force Academy

Trevor Browning, a senior at Gladstone High School, has been accepted to the U.S. Air Force Academy.

Currently ranked 4th in his class, Browning is the student body president, and is on track to graduate with an honors diploma in June. Upon graduating, he will have participated in varsity football, basketball, and track all four years of high school. This year he was captain of both the football and basketball teams. A skilled pianist, he also dedicates time counseling freshmen and other teens at Gladstone High.

Gladstone school supporters seek donations for garage sale fundraiser

If spring cleaning led to the discovery that you have too much stuff, consider donating clean, gently-used household items, clothing, sports equipment, baby gear, books, furniture, office supplies, craft supplies, and collectibles to the Gladstone Education Foundation garage sale.

For item drop off or pick up, call Corinne at 503-722-2284 or Kathy at 971-227-2655. All donations are tax-deductible, and all proceeds will benefit students in Gladstone Schools. The garage sale will take place at Gladstone High School on June 12, 13, and 14.

Free parenting class offered in Gladstone

Unfortunately, kids don't come with instruction manuals. Parents hoping to improve family communication, boost student motivation, and build effective discipline strategies will learn that and more at a free 4-week parent course offered in May.

Sponsored by Gladstone Schools and Northwest Family Services, the Parent Power Class will be offered from 6 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday nights, May 6, 13, 20, and 27. Free childcare will be provided. The class location is John Wetten Elementary, 250 East Exeter Street in Gladstone. Parents from any school are welcome. To register, visit www.lastingrelationships.org or call 503-546-6377.

Podcasts with a few lessons from the class are available here: <http://gladstone.k12.or.us/podcasts-parent-tips/>

Gladstone kindergarten roundup registers students for fall

Do you know a child who will be 5 by September 1? To find out more about kindergarten registration at the Gladstone Center for Children & Families, Gladstone School District residents can contact Heidi Smith at 503-496-3939.

Kindergarten Preview & Orientation Night is scheduled for April 24 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. The event includes dessert, a tour of the school, a school bus ride, and a classroom visit.

Kindergarten Round up is scheduled for two dates:
May 6, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. or May 8 from 9 to 11 a.m.

The Gladstone Center for Children & Families is located at 18905 Portland Ave. in Gladstone. Students who attend this school will eventually attend grades 1 – 5 at John Wetten Elementary.

Gladstone Story Hour to celebrate Earth Day

The Gladstone Center for Children & Families will offer a free, story hour for children five and under. This is an opportunity for children to build literacy skills through shared reading, play, and fun language activities.

All children attending will receive a free book, donated by the Gladstone/Oak Grove Rotary Club.

Story Hour is on Thursday, April 17 from 4:15 to 5 p.m. at the Gladstone Center for Children & Families, located at 18905 Portland Avenue in Gladstone. This week's event will focus on Earth Day.

This year, Story Hour has provided up to 140 children each session with exposure to reading, free books, and learning activities that will prepare them for kindergarten. Thanks to a \$650 grant from First Book, free book giveaways will continue next fall at the bi-monthly events.

Gladstone dance team takes third at State

The Gladettes took home the 3rd place trophy at the OSAA state Dance & Drill Team Competition.

They competed against 17 teams in the small schools division. Gladstone finished just two tenths of a point behind the 2nd place team.

"It was a battle till the end and we are so proud of our dancers!" said coach Denise Harris.

The following team members received additional awards:

Erica Ward -- All State Team Member and Academic Scholarship Winner
Kenzie Williams -- All State Team Member
Ashley Hale -- 3rd Place Drill Down Winner
Nicole Hart -- 6th Place Drill Down Winner
Denise Harris -- Coach of the Year.

Earlier this year, the team took first in Hip Hop and third in Kick at the state category championships, competing against 5A and 6A teams for those honors.

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Gladstone hoopsters honored as basketball all-stars

Several basketball players from Gladstone High School were honored as All-Stars by the Tri-Valley Conference. Honored athletes include:

Defensive MVP Michaela Simac

Girls First Team: Junior guards Mikaela Simac and Molly Webster

Girls Second Team: Senior guard Fiona Burrell

Girls Honorable Mention: Senior guards Kendall Schumaker and Nichole Petersen, and junior guard Melisa Campos

Boys First Team: Junior guard Handsome Smith

Boys Second Team: Senior forward Ryun Gibson and Senior guard Trevor Browning

Boys Honorable Mention: Senior guards Austin Galvin and Ryan Fowler and junior forward Justice Fridell

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Free summer bowling opportunity for kids

The Kids Bowl Free Summer Bowling Program is available in our community and we thought that your family might enjoy this great deal. Each child receives 2 FREE Games of Bowling Every Day All Summer and last summer nearly 2,000,000 kids enjoyed this program.

The closest participating bowling alleys near Gladstone are Milwaukie Bowl and the Nicoli Grill & Sports Bar in Lake Oswego.

Here's How You Can Register:

1. Go to www.KidsBowlFree.com
2. Click on the State and then select the bowling center that you'd like to participate at.
3. Register your children to receive Free Bowling all summer long
4. Sign up the adults and/or older children for the optional Family Pass, which allows up to 4 adult family members including parents, grandparents, older siblings or an adult babysitter to join in the bowling fun.