

NR 071714

Gladstone schools get top rating for return on investment

A national study by the Center for American Progress ranked Gladstone Schools among the nation's best in return on investment for efficient use of tax dollars to achieve learning success with students.

The study assessed the educational productivity of more than 7,000 school districts by measuring the achievement that a school district produces relative to its spending while controlling for factors outside a district's control, such as the cost of living and the number of students living in poverty.

Gladstone schools were commended for strong performance reading at all levels, and excellence in middle school and high school math.

"Oregon's budget downturn from 2008 to 2013 was a challenging time for all Oregon schools," said Superintendent Bob Stewart. "Despite that, we succeeded in maintaining elementary music, P.E., and technology classes. We also added full day kindergarten, a Saturday School program, robotics, and more Advanced Placement and college credit classes. All these programs boosted academic success for Gladstone students."

"Despite the economic downturn, Gladstone schools have continued to make substantial progress in student learning," said Superintendent Bob Stewart. "Adding full-day kindergarten, Saturday School, and more college credit classes have increased our graduation rate by 15% in the past four years, while also raising student achievement. I am very proud of what our team has accomplished."

The CAP report on Gladstone Schools is available online:

<http://interactives.americanprogress.org/projects/edu-roi/2014/index.php?leaid=4105610&state=OR#details>

Gladstone center offers special events for adults and kids

Living up to its reputation as a community center, the Gladstone Center for Children and Families (GCCF) plans a number of fitness, fun, and learning opportunities for adults and children. The center is located at 18905 Portland Avenue in Gladstone. All events are free.

Career workshops: Want to increase your income and advance your career? Need a job? Come to a series of 4 career workshops sponsored by Clackamas County, and learn innovative techniques to find employers, develop a resume, improve networking, interview better, and improve your job search. Classes run from 2-5 p.m. on Fridays, August 4, 11, 18, and 25. Reservations are required: call 503.594.3091.

Free lunch for kids: Gladstone Schools is sponsoring a free summer lunch program for kids age 1 to 18, open Mondays to Fridays through August 1. Hot lunch is available from 11 a.m. to noon. All youths are welcome to drop in.

Preschool science & story time: Gladstone Public Library offers science learning and fun for preschoolers on Mondays from 10:30 to 11 a.m. through July 28. Stay for free lunch from 11 a.m. to noon.

Family yoga classes: From 12:15 to 1 p.m. on Wednesdays in July, Family Stepping Stones offers families with children age 2 to 10 the chance to play, laugh, and explore yoga together. For more information and to RSVP, call 503.382.7920. No prior yoga experience is necessary, and beginners are welcome. Come early for free lunch from 11 a.m. to noon.

Summer playgroup: Parents with children from birth to age 5 are invited to a free summer playgroup in Gladstone. Join us for fun in our shady covered playground, complete with trike roadways, a play structure, and more. Please, no more than 3 children per adult, and no children over 5. Playgroup will meet Thursdays from noon to 1:15 p.m. Come early for free lunch from 11 a.m. to noon.

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Celebration of life planned for Wayne Flaming, first Kraxberger principal

Retired Gladstone administrator Wayne M. Flaming passed away July 12, 2014 at age 85. A Celebration of Life will be held Sun. Aug 3, 2014 at 1:30 p.m. at New Heights Church, 7913 NE 58th Ave, Vancouver, WA 98665.

In 1966, Flaming became the Vice Principal at Gladstone Elementary. He was privileged to be the first principal of Kraxberger Middle School, where he worked until he retired in 1988. After his retirement they moved to Vancouver, WA to be closer to their daughters & grandchildren.

Flaming is survived by his wife Evelyn Flaming; his two daughters Patti Bryant & Jill Kelly; 12 grandchildren, and one great-grandson.