
Gladstone schools boost safety and security programs

After testing new secure entry systems at every school last spring, the Gladstone School district will continue using the buzz-in entry systems during school hours this fall.

When school visitors arrive at the locked school entry, they push the buzzer to speak with staff, who can see them on a computer monitor. Approved visitors are buzzed in to get a visitor badge in the front office.

“We ran a three week test of the system to see how it would work for us,” said Operations Director Samantha Nelson. “Students quickly adapted to the new entry procedure, and parents have told us how much they appreciate the added security this provides.”

The district recently implemented several other safety and security initiatives to protect students and staff.

Last winter, the district trained a threat assessment team that quickly provides in-depth evaluation of individuals who make or pose threats in close collaboration with the Gladstone Police Department, the Clackamas County Sheriff’s Office, the Department of Human Services, and the County Juvenile Department.

Given the recent rise in youth depression and anxiety, the district also built partnerships with several mental health providers, including Trillium Family Services, Western Psychological, and the Gladstone Health Clinic. The partners provide a streamlined referral processes and quick access to intake appointments when a student is in crisis.

“The increasing frequency of violent acts across our nation caused us to expand the systems we use to keep students safe in school,” said Superintendent Bob Stewart. “From Run Hide Fight training to our School Resource Officer, we are better prepared to detect threats and prevent school violence than ever before.”

More information about Gladstone Schools’ safety and security efforts is available at www.gladstone.k12.or.us.

PHOTO: Gladstone Schools tested a buzz-in entry system using video monitors last spring and will continue using the entry security systems this fall.

SMART program expands to John Wetten Elementary

Start Making A Reader Today [SMART] is a nationally-recognized reading program that pairs children in kindergarten through third grade with adult mentors who share the joy of reading one-on-one for an hour each week. After serving kindergarten and preschool students for the past few years, this fall the Gladstone program is expanding to serve grades 1 to 3 at John Wetten Elementary.

“SMART provides a fun, child-guided experience that builds reading skills, self-confidence, and a love of reading, said program coordinator Nathan Buck. “Children in the program receive 14 new books throughout the school year to keep and read with their families.”

The new program will run Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 to 11 a.m. and 20 volunteers are needed. To volunteer at John Wetten Elementary as a reader or site coordinator, call Nathan Buck at 971.634.1607 or [apply here: https://www.getsmartoregon.org/our-community/volunteers/](https://www.getsmartoregon.org/our-community/volunteers/)

Gladstone launches monthly parenting classes

Help is available to parents of children six and under thanks to a series of monthly parenting classes at the Gladstone Center for Children & Families [GCCF]. All classes are free, with free dinner and childcare provided. Each class runs once a month from 6 to 8 p.m. September through June at 18905 Portland Avenue. To register, call Chelsea Hamilton at 503.367.9116 or email ClackamasParenting@gmail.com. Courses include:

Beautiful Babies: Meets every first Thursday This class is for moms & dads who are expecting or have children under 18 months old. Topics include child development and milestones, parenting styles, self-care, sleep, feeding, and playing with your baby.

Terrific Toddlers: Meets every second Thursday This class is for parents with children 18 months to 3 years old. Topics include toilet training, child safety, positive discipline, learning through play, and encouraging language and social development.

Growing Up: Meets every 3rd Thursday This class is for parents with children age 3 to 6. Topics include school readiness and adjustments, healthy screen time, nutrition, love languages, and positive sibling relationships.