

NR090414

Free parent course to start in October

Parents hoping to improve family communications, boost student motivation, and build effective discipline strategies will learn that and more at a free, 4-week parent course from Northwest Family Services. The class is intended for parents with children age four to 11.

Parent Power will be offered at John Wetten Elementary School from 6 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday nights, October 7, 14, 21, and 28. Free childcare will be provided. The school is located at 250 East Exeter Street in Gladstone.

To register, visit www.lastingrelationships.org or call 503.546.6377.

Recreation guide offers fall classes

Want to explore a new passion this fall? Whether your interest is dance, martial arts, genealogy, Spanish, investing, or driver education, you'll find affordable options for all ages in Gladstone's fall recreation guide.

Registration is underway for children, teens, and adults. To view the complete course schedule, visit www.gladstone.k12.or.us. Register by phone by calling 503.650.2570.

"Besides the opportunity to learn new skills, after school classes and sports give kids the chance to build confidence and make new friends," explained Lennie Bjornsen, student support director for Gladstone Schools. "We know from experience that when students have structured after school time with adult mentors, they have higher classroom achievement."

Gladstone Clothes Closet provides free clothes for school

Families who find buying school clothes is a strain on their budget can find free clothing for babies, children, and teens at the Gladstone Community Clothes Closet.

The Clothes Closet is open two days a week: Thursdays from 3 to 5 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon. It is located in a portable classroom on the north end of the Gladstone High School campus (18800 Portland Avenue), with easy access via a fire lane off Nelson Lane, the first street north of the school.

Clackamas County recently produced a video about the Clothes Closet, an award-winning project of five churches in the Gladstone Ministerial Association. The informational video can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IHbQP1sy6U&feature=youtu.be>.

Public invited to weigh in on scoring of new Common Core state tests

Expectations for student learning are changing. Oregon is one of more than 40 U.S. states that have adopted the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). This new, more rigorous set of standards in English language arts and mathematics replace Oregon's previous English language arts and math standards.

Students in grades 3–8 and high school will take the first state tests aligned to the Common Core this spring. The updated OAKS (Oregon Assessment of Knowledge and Skills) assessment to measure students' learning in math and English language arts will be provided by the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium.

As schools transition to this new testing system, all Oregonians have the opportunity to engage in setting achievement levels for the new Smarter Balanced assessments. Achievement levels are ranges of scores that indicate how students perform on tests. The [State of Oregon](#) and the [Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium](#) want to ensure Smarter Balanced achievement levels reflect challenging but fair expectations for all Oregon students. For this reason, educators, parents, and business leaders are being called on to recommend achievement levels after reviewing test questions from selected English and math tests.

The Oregon Department of Education has asked community members to consider adding their voices to this important project on behalf of Oregon's students. To participate visit www.smarterbalanced.org to learn more about the online panel. If you're interested in participating, register at www.smarterbalanced.org/onlinepanel by September 19, 2014.