

School employees honored with cash awards

The Gladstone School District celebrated the start of the school year by celebrating the accomplishments of outstanding teachers and staff through two cash award programs.

The Thank a Teacher Award is a \$250 cash prize in recognition of school leadership, contributions to school success, and excellence in instruction. These awards are funded by an endowment created by retired principal Dick Baker in 2005.

Thank a Teacher winners:

- **Shannon Bohrer** has taught at John Wetten Elementary for 28 of her 30 years in education. She is a master teacher, focused on grades K-4. Over the years she helped plan the Gladstone Center for Children & Families, mentored new teachers, and served on the Response to Intervention team. She received National Board Certification in 2007.

- **Celeste Pellicci**, a current health teacher and former science teacher, she has worked at Kraxberger Middle School for 12 years. Currently she serves as President of the Gladstone Teachers Association. She is part of this year's Emerge Oregon class, which trains women to run for elected office.

- **Rebecca Chitkowski**, a physics and chemistry teacher, includes an indoor skydiving trip as part of her science curriculum. She has taught at Gladstone High for 13 years, serving on the Academic Advisory Council and as a mentor to new teachers. She holds master's degrees in entomology and teacher leadership. Last year she wrote a grant to improve new teacher training across the district. This year she doubled enrollment in AP Chemistry.

The Making a Difference Award provides a \$250 cash prize to classified employees who make a positive impact on students, colleagues, their school, and the community. An anonymous donor funded this new award.

Making a Difference winners:

- **Nancy West** runs the library at John Wetten Elementary. In her 17 years in Gladstone Schools, she has worked as a special education assistant, a secretary, and supported English Learners and low-income students. Helping students find the right book is her passion, and she is very proud of the school book fairs she organizes twice a year.

- **Peggy Powell** has worked as a special education instructional assistant and recess supervisor for 20 years in Gladstone Schools. Currently she works at Kraxberger Middle School, where she enjoys finding ways to create more social spaces in the

school, and watching “goofy, cool, snarky, scared, and confused” adolescents evolve from “darling sixth graders into independent, confident eighth graders.”

- **Ellen Peck**, head secretary at Gladstone High School, is a 20-year employee of the Gladstone District. She began her career as a library assistant, and ran the attendance office before taking on her current role. She loves working with teens and staff. One of her proudest accomplishments was raising \$25,000 and volunteer labor to build the red and blue playground at John Wetten Elementary.

PHOTO: Nancy West, Ellen Peck, Peggy Powell, Shannon Bohrer, Rebecca Chitkowski, and Celeste Pellicci received cash awards at Gladstone Schools’ all-employee event to kick off the new school year.

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Businesses gather schools supplies for Gladstone kids

Happyrock Coffee Roasters and Gladstone Baskin Robbins wanted to make sure every student had the right tools to start the new school year. Both businesses held school supply drives in August.

“I was blown away by the mountain of donations for Gladstone kids,” said Communications Coordinator Leslie Robinette. “From pencils and calculators to notebooks and backpacks, this is a wonderful gift to our students.”

PHOTO: Baskin Robbins employee Kennedy Roby shows off some of the school supplies donated by customers.

PHOTO: Lisa Halcom, owner of Happyrock Coffee Roasters, helps pack up donated school supplies.

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