

**Gladstone School District hosts Chinese educator**

This week, Gladstone Schools hosted a visit from Chinese educator Gaoyuan Lu, the principal of a secondary school with 2,600 students in grades 7 to 12. Mr. Lu is from Xi’an City in the Shaanxi Province in central China.

His visit is part of an educational exchange program, with participants first traveling to Boston for a weeklong orientation on American education before dispersing to visit school districts in Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, and Oregon.

During his stay, Lu had the opportunity to visit early childhood programs at the Gladstone Center for Children & Families, as well as John Wetten Elementary, Kraxberger Middle School, and Gladstone High School.

Other highlights included a joint meeting with the Gladstone School Board and City Council, and lunch with the Gladstone-Oak Grove Rotary Club. He also journeyed to Salem to visit the State Capital and meet with education leaders from the Oregon Department of Education.

Lu was especially interested in American systems for evaluating teachers, principals, and students. He said that one of the biggest differences between American and Chinese schools is that Chinese students are under a lot of pressure, but American students seem more relaxed. He expressed gratitude for the gracious welcome from the people of Gladstone, and enjoyed Oregon’s trees.

In March, Gladstone Superintendent will travel to Principal Lu’s school to learn about the Chinese education system.

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**Gladstone High School to stage *Shakespeare!***

Drama students at Gladstone High will stage a mashup of William Shakespeare’s well-known histories, tragedies, and comedies entitled *Shakespeare!*

Performances are scheduled at 7 p.m. on December 6 and 7 in the Gladstone High School auditorium at 18800 Portland Avenue in Gladstone. Admission is \$5 at the door. The play is appropriate for those ages 12 and up.

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**Gladstone high launches holiday food and toy drive**

Students at Gladstone High will learn the importance of community service by helping with the school’s annual food drive to help struggling families.

From December 3 to 12, students will collect canned food and toys to help families in

their community during the holiday season.

Donations of high-protein, nutritious foods are especially needed, including peanut butter, tuna, stew, ravioli, chili, canned chicken beans, instant rice, breakfast cereals, oatmeal, and hearty soups. Donations can be dropped off during school hours at 18800 Portland Avenue in Gladstone.

“Knowing that 45 Gladstone students are struggling with homelessness, we are working extra hard to help,” said Gladstone High principal Natalie Osburn. “I am so proud of the generosity and work ethic of our students and staff, who give with all their hearts.”

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**Gladstone Center for Children & Families seeks volunteers to help kids**

Head Start, Family Stepping Stones, and kindergarten classes at the Gladstone Center for Children and Families need volunteers who can give an hour or two a week.

Volunteers can mentor small groups, supervise playtime, guide art projects, supervise learning zones, and help children build reading skills. To get involved, call Volunteer Coordinator Susan Trone at @ 503-496-3939, ext. 306.

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**Gladstone Center offers free books at Story Hour**

Come to Story Hour at the Gladstone Center for Children and Families (GCCF) from 4:15 to 5 p.m. on Thursday, December 5. The event helps children build early reading skills through shared reading play, and fun language activities. The theme for this gathering will be The Snowman. Children five and under will receive a free book. The Center is located at 18905 Portland Avenue in Gladstone. All are welcome.

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**Gladstone Schools approves 395 spots for open enrollment**

Gladstone Schools opened its doors wide to students from outside district borders, announcing 395 openings for students from kindergarten through grade 10 for the 2014-15 academic year. Applications are available in mid-January and are due April 1, 2014. Only students living in Clackamas County may apply.

“As a small, close-knit community, Gladstone offers an innovative, caring education experience,” explained Superintendent Bob Stewart. “We work to serve the whole child, supporting health, family, and socio-emotional needs while providing a robust academic program. Our small size means we can take the time to know each student as an individual.”

**Gladstone’s kindergarten** will open 45 spots in the free, full-day program at the Gladstone Center for Children & Families. The longer day provides an enriched kindergarten experience, including time for music, art, technology learning, and physical education. A full-service health clinic is on site.

**John Wetten Elementary** will open 150 spots, 30 each in grades 1 to 5. The school offers technology education and is a front-runner in teaching common core mathematics. The school offers enrichment options from leadership and choir to golf, basketball, and Lego clubs, plus classes in arts and cooking. A

volunteer force of more than 300 supports the school.

**Kraxberger Middle School** will open 120 spots, 40 each in grades 6 to 8. The school offers students academic experiences in technology, Spanish, art, and band. After school programs include choir, robotics, tutoring, track, and intramural volleyball. All students take a Power Time class that reinforces study skills, community building, equity, and problem solving.

Gladstone High School will open 80 spots in grades 9 and 10. The small, college preparatory high school is known for its technology programs. The recently remodeled school offers 17 Advanced Placement and college credit courses, 14 career-technical courses, and fine arts. In addition, GHS boasts 17 athletic teams, with 44 percent of students participating. Other activities include an electric vehicle club, a competitive robotics team, an art-literary magazine, service clubs, and leadership. A national Green Ribbon award winner, Gladstone High emphasizes sustainability both in operations and curriculum. After school tutoring and Saturday School provide free academic support.

The Gladstone School District will accept Open Enrollment applications for 2014-15 until April 1 from students residing within Clackamas County. If more students apply than there are openings available, the district will conduct a lottery for the spots.

Families interested in information and a tour can contact the district at 503-496-3935. More information is available at the district website at <http://gladstone.k12.or.us/>.

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**Gladstone early childhood center welcomes Oregon education chief**

On November 13, Gladstone Schools welcomed Oregon Education Czar Nancy Golden & Early Learning System Director Jada Rupley for a tour of the Gladstone Center for Children & Families.

The leaders met with Superintendent Bob Stewart & GCCF partners to discuss early childhood education and support programs, part of the Governor's plan to connect learning programs from birth to college.

PHOTO CAPTION: Gladstone Superintendent Bob Stewart gives Oregon education chief Nancy Golden a tour of programs and classrooms at the Gladstone Center for Children & Families. The early childhood center houses kindergarten and Head Start programs, along with a health clinic, a relief nursery, and social service programs.