

Gladstone High to stage Alice in Wonderland

Drama students at Gladstone High School will stage Lewis Carroll’s classic children’s tale Alice in Wonderland. Viewers of all ages will be delighted to follow Alice’s magical adventures down the rabbit hole, where she encounters the Mad Hatter, the Queen of Hearts, the Caterpillar, the Cheshire Cat, and other characters.

Performances are scheduled at 7 p.m. on November 14 and 15 in the Gladstone High School auditorium, 18800 Portland Avenue. Tickets are \$5 at the door.

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Cast from Dream Girls visits John Wetten choir; 5 students named to all-state choir

Cast members from the musical Dream Girls visited choir students at John Wetten Elementary this week. In town for performances at Portland Center Stage, the cast is based in New York City, where several have performed on Broadway.

“The cast members sang for us, our choir sang for them, and then we all sang together,” said music teacher Kelly Jacobs. Students were able to ask questions and learn about what it's like to be a professional actor and singer.”

Five of the Gladstone students have been accepted to the Oregon All State Elementary Choir. In January, Gabrielle Smantel, Hayleeann Scollard, Monelle Lumapas, Taylor Kolibaba, and Avery Williams will travel to Eugene to sing with other students from across the state.

“It is a great honor to be in the All State Choir,” said Jacobs. “These students will spend two days singing and challenging themselves both musically and personally. We are very proud to have them represent Gladstone.”

Photo Caption: Cast members from the musical Dream Girls met with the John Wetten Elementary Choir to inspire Gladstone students considering a performing arts career.

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Gladstone plans story hour with free book giveaway

Children five and under will share books, learning activities, and fun at a free Story Hour sponsored by the Gladstone Center for Children and Families. This month’s theme is giving and thankfulness.

The event is at 4:15 p.m. on Thursday, November 6 at 18905 Portland Avenue in Gladstone. Each child attending will receive a free book, thanks to a grant by the Gladstone/Oak Grove Rotary.

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The Clackamas Bookshelf donates books to Gladstone kids

This week, preschoolers and kindergarten students at the Gladstone Center for Children and Families (GCCF) got a surprise after school: free books!

The Clackamas Bookshelf, a new non-profit, was on hand, distributing 370 donated children’s books. A few weeks ago, the group also donated 64 board books to the GCCF’s Healthy Families program, which sends home visitors to at-risk families with new babies.

“We want to make sure that all children in Clackamas County have books to call their own,” explained program leader Katy Preston. “Books are a great equalizer. Access to books in the home directly predicts

reading achievement and educational success, regardless of household income and parental education.”

To donate to or volunteer with The Clackamas Bookshelf, visit <http://www.theclackamasbookshelf.org/>.

Photo caption: A family at the Gladstone Center for Children and Families reads the free book they received from the Clackamas Bookshelf.

Photo caption: Healthy Families staffer Beth Kersens is excited to deliver 64 board books donated by The Clackamas Bookshelf to families with newborns served by the Gladstone Center for Children and Families.

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Gladstone Clothes Closet launches sock & underwear drive

As the weather turns colder, more families are seeking free clothing from the Gladstone Community Clothes Closet, which serves youths from birth to 21. As a result, the supply of new underwear and socks has been completely depleted.

“We’ve helped a number of kids in tough situations,” said Gladstone Schools spokesperson Leslie Robinette. “A few students are homeless, and others have recently been placed in foster care, bringing with them nothing but the clothes on their backs. We desperately need underwear and socks to provide for their most basic needs.”

Donations of new socks and underwear can be delivered to Gladstone High School, 18800 Portland Avenue, from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays. For more information, call LaRae Applebee at 503.758.4411.

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John Wetten jog-a-thon raises over \$29,000

Rather than a continual series of fundraisers, John Wetten Elementary School has just one fundraiser each year – the school jog-a-thon. This year’s event netted over \$29,000 for the school’s 850 students.

“The jog-a-thon is a fun event that encourages physical fitness,” said Principal Wendy Wilson. “We are proud of our students and excited that this year our school raised \$6,000 more than last year, enabling us to invest more in school programs that boost student success.”

Sponsors included Chariot Limousine, Flying Pie Pizza, Burgerville, Baskin Robbins, J.J. Jump, and the North Clackamas Aquatic Park. Many volunteers helped with the event.