

Gladstone Education Foundation seeks rummage sale donations

In preparation for a spring rummage sale fundraiser, the Gladstone Education Foundation (GEF) is seeking donations of clean, gently used items. All proceeds from the event will benefit programs for children and youths in Gladstone.

To make a donation, call Kathy at 971-227-2655 or Corinne at 503-722-2284 to arrange to drop off your items or to have them picked up.

“We hope folks who are cleaning out their garage or closets will take advantage of this opportunity to help kids get the education and support they need,” said GEF Board Member Kathy Beykovski. “It’s so easy, and it will make a real difference to children.”

Donations could include household items, furniture, tools, home décor, books, clothing, bicycles, sports equipment, toys, CDs, games, antiques, quilts, small appliances, jewelry, or other useful items. However, televisions and computers will not be accepted.

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Gladstone Lunch Buddies program seeks volunteer mentors

The Gladstone School District is seeking volunteers for the Lunch Buddy program, which pairs at-risk elementary students with an adult mentor. The mentor spends 1 hour each week sharing lunch and recess activities with their lunch buddy. To apply, call Volunteer Coordinator Angela Johnson at 503-656-6564.

Students who meet regularly with adult mentors are:

- 80% more likely to graduate
- 58% more likely to earn higher grades
- 52% less likely to skip school
- 46% less likely to try drugs
- 27% less likely to use alcohol

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Gladstone Schools to seek community input on use of added funds

This week the Oregon Legislature approved a package of five bills to raise revenue, lower public pension costs, and make the State the regulator of agriculture seeds. As a result of this bipartisan effort, Oregon’s K-12 schools will receive \$100 million in additional funding.

The added funds amount to just over a one percent increase in school funding statewide. This boosts state school funding from \$6.55 billion to \$6.65 billion this biennium (2013-15), setting an important baseline as the State plans school funding for 2015-17.

School districts will receive all of the added funds in the 2014-15 school year. For our district, this will be approximately \$350,000. Because the Legislature did not place requirements on how districts can use this money, the Gladstone District has the opportunity to address some pressing needs, such as staffing, technology, or textbooks.

This winter, as the district plans its 2014-15 budget, Superintendent Bob Stewart will ask for input from parents, teachers, support staff and administrators on the greatest areas of need. We are committed to carefully assess the needs of our students to ensure the most strategic use of the funds.

“We are very grateful for the opportunity to take another positive step,” said Stewart. “As you know, the added funds will not make us whole, but it is another step in the right direction.”