



Gladstone Schools Employee Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 5 • December 16, 2014

Celebrations

GHS opens new food pantry

To stabilize families so students can succeed in school, Gladstone High has opened a food pantry serving all Gladstone families.

To access the facility on the north side of the GHS campus, enter via Nelson Lane. Located in a portable adjacent to the Clothes Closet, the Food Pantry will be open the same hours:

- Thursdays: 3 to 5 p.m.
- Saturdays: 10 a.m. to noon

Both facilities will be closed during Winter Break, but in case of emergency, call LaRae Applebee at 503.758.4411.

Children's Books donated to kids at GCCF

Twice this fall, The Clackamas Bookshelf has surprised families at the Gladstone Center for Children & Families, providing free book giveaways before or after school.

"Every child should have books at home," said project leader Katy Preston. "This boosts the odds that children will have someone read to them, making them better readers."

To donate used children's books to the organization, email katy.preston10@gmail.com. Housed at Kraxberger, the organization also seeks volunteers to clean donated books.

\$100,000 expands Culture of Care

A grant of \$100,000 from CareOregon will enable John Wetten and Kraxberger to continue helping children coping with trauma. Both schools are developing a Culture of Care to counteract the health and psychological impacts of adversities such as domestic violence or drug use in the home.

Both schools will receive staff coaching in classroom strategies and add student support groups to build resiliency, attachment, and self-regulation.

"*First connect, then correct* is one strategy teachers are using, realizing student behavior is often a response to issues kids face at home," said Lennie Bjornsen, Director of Student & Family Supports.

Through this work, schools hope to see improved attendance and behavior, developing a model that can be used by other schools.

Volunteers needed for three mentor programs

Theresa Schmidt, the new district Volunteer Coordinator, is on a mission. She is looking for mentors to support three district programs.

"We want every child to have a positive adult role model in their life, so we hope our community will step up to make a difference in the New Year," she said.

Mentorship opportunities include:

- **Lunch Buddies:** Volunteers are paired with a student at John Wetten to share lunch and noon recess once a week or twice a month.
- **Elementary Club Leaders:** Starting in January, volunteers are needed to lead a student club 1 hour per week from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Create a club that fits your passion, from cooking, crafts, or basketball to chess, Lego robotics, or book group.
- **SMART Readers:** Starting in January, volunteers are needed to read with small groups of preschool children at the Gladstone Center for Children & Families. The volunteer commitment is two hours per week.

To volunteer, call Theresa Schmidt at 503.656.6564, ext. 265 or email schmidtt@gladstone.k12.or.us.

Calendar

Winter Break

No School Dec. 19 to Jan. 4

School Board Meeting

January 14 @ 6:30 p.m.

Kraxberger uses Chromebooks to engage writers

This fall, Kraxberger students began using class sets of Chromebook computers.

"When they use computers, my students are one hundred percent engaged," said 8th grade language arts teacher Erin Emmons. "They are much more motivated to write and edit than they were before."

The technology enables students to share documents for group projects, and gives teachers the opportunity to guide student work as it is being written.

JWE students hold mitten drive

Fifth graders Elizabeth Bailey and Aaliyah Madison led a school wide mitten, sock, and glove drive in December.

The effort supported the Fill A Stocking project, which provides over 3,000 gift-filled stockings for low-income individuals in Clackamas County.

"We are proud of students for stepping up to help others," said Principal Wendy Wilson.

School Board News

From the December 10 Board meeting

Board Members present :

Kristin Eaton, Chair
Sharon Soliday, Vice Chair
Rod Cole -- absent
Nicole Couzens
Susan Cronin
Jay Schmidt
Bruce Wadsworth

The Board:

- Heard from fall sports teams about their season.
- Discussed the audit/financial management report.
- Resolved to support The Promise of Oregon, a statewide advocacy campaign for K-12 funding.
- Approved an employee's request for retirement.
- Appointed an alternate member to the District Budget Committee.
- Received a briefing on events at Gladstone High from student representative Riley Webster.
- Received updates on schools and programs from District administrators.
- Reviewed the district's monthly financial report.
- Discussed the Governor's proposed budget for K-12 funding in the next biennium, developed according to law. Education advocates will be working with the Legislature to make certain K-12 funding will be adequate.
- Considered policy updates on integrated pest management, student transportation, the district wellness program, food services, electronic communications, non-prescription and prescription medications, and community use of district facilities.

Why do families transfer to Gladstone Schools?

"Gladstone has a great community, and the teachers genuinely want to help your child be successful."

"I like that SPED is proactive in working with parents."

"We love the district's view of walking alongside families in shared commitment to the student's education."

"We like that Gladstone's high school is smaller but offers the same or better opportunities as larger schools in other districts."

"The elementary school provides more opportunities for the kids."

"The staff and faculty seem more engaged. School spirit is very high. We love the academic support programs."



**Find us on
facebook**



In December, Gladstone's Varsity Football Team won the 4A State Championship.

This was Gladstone High's first state football title in 36 years.

PHOTO by John Lariviere of The Clackamas Review.