



Gladstone Schools Employee Newsletter

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Celebrations!

Sixth graders shine at Science Fair

How well can rats smell? Which foods do cats prefer? Which soft drink is the most explosive when shaken? Sixth grade scientists at Kraxberger Middle School did research to find out.

Students displayed their research projects at a science fair on December 5, explaining their research process and results to those touring the exhibit.

"For some students, this was their first independent scientific research," said teacher Jill Cone. "They learned how to make a hypothesis, collect and analyze data, and determine whether their hypothesis was correct. Because they chose their own topics, they were very excited about the process."

GCCF wins grant for Thursday programs

Holman Automotive awarded a \$1,500 book sponsorship grant to the Gladstone Center for Children & Families [GCCF]. The funds will support the GCCF's Thursday fun and learning program.

The Thursday events, open to families with children six and under, are designed to help children prepare for school. The rotation includes Story Hour, Activity Hour, STEAM Hour, and Science Hour. Each child attending receives a free book.

The free event runs from 4:15 to 5 p.m. each Thursday when school is in session.

Adopt-a-family serves 115 Gladstone families

Gladstone Schools joined a city-wide effort to bring holiday cheer to low-income families across the community.

John Wetten Elementary did a canned food drive at their winter sing-a-long. Both Kraxberger Middle School and Gladstone High students did major food drives as well.

The Gladstone High Student Senate helped organize the effort, sorting food, toy, blanket, and gift card donations appropriate for each family. Then they helped load everything into the vehicles of delivery volunteers.

"It was rewarding knowing we helped so many families, including 226 kids," said one student.

Partners in the effort included the Gladstone Fire Department, Kiwanis, and Rotary.

Weather closures announced in many ways

Winter weather can be unpredictable, so the Gladstone District has many ways to make staff aware of a late-start or school closure due to extreme weather. Usually the district announces schedule changes by 6 a.m. Here's how:

- 1) Radio & TV:** Any last minute changes in the school schedule will be posted on the websites of Portland area news media.
- 2) Facebook:** "Like" us at <https://www.facebook.com/GladstoneSchoolDistrict>
- 3) School websites:** Check the district website at <http://gladstone.k12.or.us/>, or visit your school website.
- 4) Flash Alerts:** Receive an email as soon as the Superintendent posts a change in the school schedule. Sign up at <http://gladstone.k12.or.us/calendars/school-closures/>.
- 6) News Blast email:** Sign up for the emailed Weekly News Blast, go to <http://ow.ly/KoAF30gXckU>

Calendar

January 15

No School -- Non-Contract Day

January 29

Progress Report/PD day

Car dealers help Wetten students

Wetten students will benefit from two grants awarded by local car dealers. Town and Country Honda, presented a check for \$1,000 from Northwest Honda Dealers, and then matched it with a \$1,000 grant from the local dealership.

"As a school working to meet the diverse needs of students, this will help us provide supplies, program support, and equipment," said Principal Wendy Wilson.

GHS music programs spread holiday cheer

Gladstone High's music groups had many performances in December.

The choir performed at The Grotto and also did a school concert with choirs from Kraxberger Middle School.

The bands held a school concert. Then the jazz band did community performances at the Blount International office and the Somerset Retirement Center.

"Performance is the best learning experience for musicians," said Band director Seth Arnold.

School Board update & other news

From the December 13 Board meeting:

Board Members :

Sharon Soliday, Chair
Kristin Eaton, Vice Chair
Nicole Vera-Vera Couzens
Tracey Grant
Greg Lind
Jay Schmidt [absent]
Steve Stewart [absent]

The Board:

- Approved the District Equity Stance.
- Honored Gladstone Teaching Preschool with the Growing Great People Award.
- Met three 5th graders who served as John Wetten's Principal for the Day.
- Received a \$1,000 donation from Kraxberger Gearheads Robotics Club for the Kraxberger Rising campaign.
- Heard reports from the fall athletic teams: crosscountry, soccer, and football.
- Appreciated the Board Room art work provided by students at Kraxberger Middle School.
- Discussed the annual GCCF Performance Report.
- Approved the Gladstone High Spanish Department trip to Costa Rica, planned for spring break 2019.
- Approved Open Enrollment openings at each grade level for the 2018-19 school year.
- Heard an update on happenings at Gladstone High School from student representative Andrew Prom.
- Discussed the District Financial Report.
- Discussed staffing changes.
- Discussed a lengthy list of school policies.



Cooks at each school went all out to prepare the annual Holiday Lunch, serving turkey gravy with special salads, green bean casserole, and fancy desserts. This is the kitchen crew from Gladstone High School.



GCCF staff got in the holiday spirit during a kindergarten dress-up day.

Recreation classes are the perfect gift

Gladstone's community education program invites you to jump-start your New Year's resolution by choosing a winter recreation class.

Adult options range from Spanish, first aid and quilting to barbecue cooking, and country line dance. Youth options include sports, hip-hop, driver education, ukulele, and more.

Dozens of choices are available. To register on-line, visit <https://apm.activecommunities.com/gladstonesdcomm>. For more information, phone 503.650.2570.

Gladstone Teaching Preschool honored for partnership with School District

Gladstone's school board presented a Growing Great People Award to the Gladstone Teaching Preschool for their innovative approach to kindergarten preparation for low-income and special-needs children.

The preschool was formed through a unique partnership between the Opal School at the Portland Children's Museum and the Clackamas Education Service District. Tuition is funded by a foundation, Teaching Preschool Partners, serving children who would not otherwise have a preschool opportunity.

The school's focus is teaching habits of mind to optimize school success. Children learn to focus attention, communicate clearly, make connections, think creatively and strategically, and to collaborate with others.