



# Gladstone Schools Employee Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 7 • February 16, 2016

## Celebrations!

### Wetten launches after school clubs

John Wetten has launched several volunteer-run after school clubs for students. Children will have the opportunity to explore Chinese culture, wood working, crochet, debate, art, and science.

"The great thing is that each club consists of no more than 15 students," said Volunteer Coordinator Theresa Schmidt. "It's a special way to provide more one on one time to students."

### Kraxberger kids try Google Expeditions

Kraxberger students had the chance to dive through the Great Barrier Reef and hike through an Amazon jungle without ever leaving their school gym.

The school was one of two dozen Oregon schools to try the new Google Expeditions Pioneer Program.

View-Master devices turn smartphones into virtual reality headsets, so students can immerse themselves in a series of locations.

"Google Expeditions bring classroom lessons to life," said science teacher Celeste Pellicci. "They loved it!"

## Graduation rate up 5%

In 2015, Gladstone High School surpassed the state graduation rate by 12.8 percent, with nearly 87% of students graduating in four years. The school's graduation rate was 5 percent higher than the previous year.

Gladstone schools have a strong success rate with Latino/Hispanic students, with more than 87 percent graduating on time. That tops the state average by nearly 20 percent.

Students in poverty also do better in Gladstone, with over 81 percent graduating on time, 15 percent above the state average.

"Each struggling student has unique issues, from depression or poverty to learning disabilities," said Vice Principal Patti Alexander.

To raise the graduation rate, each school is strategically focused on more than academics. Kindergarten classes work on social-emotional skills. Elementary students learn self-regulation. Middle school students learn organization and collaboration. High school staff run clubs to connect students with mentors and peers.

"We are giving students strategies to combat stress, build determination, and focus persistently on striving toward a goal," said Bailey. "All these skills are foundations for graduation success."

## District honored for expanding college access

The Gladstone School District is one of 130 districts nationally honored by the College Board for expanding access to higher education for low income students and students of color.

The district demonstrated growth in the number of disadvantaged students participating in AP courses, demonstrating college readiness on the SAT, and scoring well on AP exams.

"Each of our schools can be proud of this, because each contributed significantly to this progress," said Superintendent Bob Stewart.

## Calendar

School Board @ 6:30 p.m.

March 9

Report Card Day

March 11

### GCCF pilots home visits, adds spring conferences

Kindergarten teachers will use Title 1 funds to add evening spring conferences to boost family involvement.

In addition, teachers will pilot home visits for select families in March.

"Building the home/school connection will give families more strategies to support their child's learning," said Early Learning Director Christina Alquisira.

### Video to showcase GHS community service class

Special Education students from Gladstone High School will be featured in a short video produced by Clackamas County Cable Access.

The video shows the students working to prepare food packages for the district's Backpack Buddies program. The project helps them build job skills like teamwork, quality control, and taking inventory.

A student was interviewed, along with teacher Linda Fletcher and Instructional Assistant Teresa Watts.

# School Board News & other news

From the February 10 Board meeting:

Board Members present :  
Sharon Soliday, Chair  
Nicole Couzens, Vice Chair  
Carlos Castañeda  
Rod Cole  
Kristin Eaton  
Jay Schmidt  
Bruce Wadsworth

The Board:

- Discussed Kraxberger's AVID college readiness system.
- Discussed the Audit/Management Reports.
- Discussed family engagement.
- Approved a Swim Team trip to LaGrande.
- Approved a Wrestling Team trip to Prineville.
- Approved a GHS Robotics trip to Philomath.
- Appointed regular and alternate Budget Committee Members.
- Approved policy changes on suspension, expulsion, prescription medication, public conduct on district property, and public complaints
- Heard about happenings at Gladstone High from student representative \_\_\_\_\_.
- Heard school and program updates from district administrators.
- Discussed the District Financial Report.
- Discussed the annual Pest Management Report.



**86% of the staff at John Wetten participated in January Wellness activities, including this group that did the Worst Day of the Year Run & Walk.**

## Open Enrollment in Gladstone for 2016-17

The Gladstone District will admit students from outside its borders for the 2016-17 school year, with spots for Open Enrollment students from kindergarten through grade 10.

Applications, due April 1, are available at <http://gladstone.k12.or.us/>. For information, call Natalie Weninger at 503.496.3935.



**Every student at Kraxberger had the chance to try Google Excursions, a virtual reality experience.**

## Education Foundation Auction to raise funds for Gladstone Schools

On February 20, the Gladstone Education Foundation plans a beach themed dinner and auction to raise funds for Gladstone schools.

The event, at the Clackamas County Fairgrounds, includes an auction and a luau. All proceeds benefit Gladstone schools and youth programs.

"We hope our staff, parent groups, and coaches will contribute auction items, from student crafts and gift baskets to unique opportunities like Principal for a Day, or a reserved parking spot," said event coordinator Tammy Tracy.

Tickets are \$40 each or \$320 for a table of 8. For information, contact Tammy Tracy at 503.655.2777.