



# Gladstone Schools Employee Newsletter

Volume 6, Issue 5 • February 21, 2019

## Celebrations!

### GCCF wins grant for kindergarten camp

Thanks to a \$25,000 grant from the John & Ginger Niemeyer Foundation the GCCF can continue the Little Leopards Camp.

The kindergarten readiness program serves children who did not attend preschool and students who need extra preparation before the start of their kindergarten year.

The program provides the opportunity for children to learn school routines and expectations. The program also helps parents learn ways to support their children's education.

### GHS engineering program takes off

Career-technical learning opportunities at Gladstone High School continue to expand with the addition of a new engineering program.

The program includes classes in engineering technology, robotics, and renewable energy to prepare students for careers in the trades and university engineering programs.

Classes teach students hands-on skills in manufacturing processes, fabrication, electrical systems, robotics, pneumatics, and hydraulics. Students apply their skills to construct a hovercraft and a can crusher. systems, with each taking a different role on the team.

## Gladstone graduation rate hits historic high

Gladstone's class of 2018 had a district graduation rate of over 88 percent, up nearly 3 percent from the previous year. The rate, a historic high, is more than 9 percent above the state average. In the past five years, the district raised the graduation rate over 9 percent.

"I have to give a lot of the credit to our teachers, who work so hard to personalize instruction. They really connect with their students and get to know them," said Principal Kevin Taylor.

Gladstone students with disabilities made a dramatic improvement, with over 83 percent graduating on time, up 7 percent from the previous year. These students surpassed the state average by over 22 percent.

Gladstone's Latino and Hispanic students had an on-time graduation rate of over 90 percent, surpassing the state average by nearly 17 percent. Their graduation rate in Gladstone increased by over 18 percent in the past five years.

Economically disadvantaged students in Gladstone improved 24 percent over the past five years, with more than 88 percent graduating on time.

## Education Foundation invites grant submissions

The Gladstone Education Foundation invites staff across the district to apply for grants to support school and youth programs. \$10,000 will be awarded this grant cycle.

There is no restriction on the number of grant applications or the dollar amount that can be requested. However, applicants are reminded that GEF's funding philosophy encourages equity in giving between schools and community groups.

Applications are due by 3 p.m. on February 28. Grant application forms are available on the GEF website: [www.gladstonefoundation.org](http://www.gladstonefoundation.org). Please email questions and proposals to GEF Executive Director Tammy Tracy at [tracyt@gladstone.k12.or.us](mailto:tracyt@gladstone.k12.or.us).

## Calendar

**No School --Report Card Day**  
March 11

**Spring Break**  
March 25 to 29

## Robotics teams shine at Kraxberger

The Kraxberger Gearheads robotics club had a strong showing at a regional competition in January

Team 8188 had two wins. They captured the first place Inspire Award for their robot's strong performance and the quality of their engineer book.

Team 8132 had four wins and won a spot at Super Qualifiers. They took first place for the Think Award for their creative thinking, second place for the Alliance Award, and third place for the Connect Award.

## Wetten center calms student stress

This fall, Wetten opened a new Student Learning Center where children can work to build skills in self-regulation and self-calming.

The dimly lit room is an oasis of calmness, offering students a choice of seven stations from tactile therapy and painting to a light table, a reading corner, and an aquarium.

"Children are learning how to transfer the skills they learn to the classroom," said teacher Erika Nelson. "Students have been more regulated, and that helps the whole class learn better."

# School Board update & other news

From the February 13 Board meeting:

## **Board Members:**

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

## **The Board:**

- Honored Sue Elder and Debbie Steadman of Head Start with the Growing Great People Award for their years of service to the GCCF.
- Approved a resolution on the need for adequate and stable school funding statewide.
- Discussed kindergarten artwork and the funny things kindergarten students say.
- Heard about happenings at Gladstone High from student representative Matt Lehrbach.
- Discussed the annual independent audit of district finances.
- Discussed the annual integrated pest management report.
- Discussed the GCCF annual report.
- Approved the GHS softball teams spring break trip to Sisters for a tournament.
- Approved the 2020 GHS East Coast Trip
- Approved the PACE Declaration of Trust agreement regarding self-insurance.
- Approved a request for resignation/release of contract.
- Heard reports from each principal and administrator.
- Discussed the monthly financial report.
- Received a briefing on recent hires.
- Discussed the legislative update.
- Discussed the May School Board election.

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## **GTA wins equity training grant**

The Gladstone Teacher Association [GTA] helped secure a \$4,400 grant from the Oregon Education Association [OEA] to help fund racial equity training for new staff in the Gladstone School District.

“This grant will provide in-depth racial equity training for ten new employees,” said GTA communications director Siri Carlson. “I’m passionate about taking a deeper look into how we can create school environments and curriculum that best serve all our students. This grant will help continue to move our district in the right direction.”

## **Gladstone opens doors to out-of-district transfers**

The Gladstone School District will welcome transfer students for the 2019-20 school year, and invites families outside the district to apply beginning February 1.

Spots are available for 255 students in grades K-12, including 50 openings in kindergarten. Admission is on a first-come, first-served basis. Once admitted, students can remain in the district through graduation.

“Families appreciate our small school community because this gives teachers a better opportunity to build a personal connection with each student,” said Superintendent Bob Stewart.

“From career technical programs to college credit courses, Gladstone High offers choice and opportunity comparable to much larger schools, and our graduation rate is among the best in the state,” he added.

Elementary education includes weekly physical education, technology, music, and library, all taught by specialists. Kraxberger Middle School’s AVID program helps build academic and leadership skills for long-term success.

To apply or find out more, contact Natalie Weninger at 503-496-3935 or email [weningern@gladstone.k12.or.us](mailto:weningern@gladstone.k12.or.us).

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## **Growing Great People Dinner & Auction to support Gladstone schools**

The Gladstone Education Foundation [GEF] plans the Growing Great People Dinner & Auction to raise funds for education and youth programs across Gladstone.

“We hope our community will turn out in force to have some fun and show kids how much we care,” said GEF President Terry Marsh. Last year GEF donated over \$30,000 in local grants.

The event starts at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 6 at the World of Speed Motorsports Museum, 27490 SW 95th Avenue in Wilsonville. Two Girls Catering and Barbecue will provide dinner. The cost is \$75 per person or \$600 for a table of 8. Table sponsorship is \$700.

To donate items or purchase tickets, contact Executive Director Tammy Tracy at [tracyt@gladstone.k12.or.us](mailto:tracyt@gladstone.k12.or.us).