



Gladstone Schools Employee Newsletter

Volume 4, Issue 6 • March 14, 2017

Celebrations!

Miss Oregon visits kindergarten

Kindergarten students at the Gladstone Center for Children & Families got a special treat, a visit from Miss Oregon, Alexis Mather.

The children were excited to hear her presentation on the importance of kindness and honesty.

Mather, an opera singer attending Portland State University, performed songs from the Disney hit Frozen.

Symphony brass players visit JWE

This week a brass quintet from the Oregon Symphony performed for students at John Wetten.

The musicians played several pieces and also took time to talk to the kids about how brass instruments work, and the history and special traits of the tuba, the slide trombone, the trumpet, and the French horn.

“Our hope is that this experience will lead more students to join the band in middle school,” said Vice Principal Jerry Applebee.

John Wetten showcases trauma-informed education

In the past four years, the staff at John Wetten has done pioneering work to build an education model to support students who experienced Adverse Childhood Experiences, or ACEs.

ACEs include physical, sexual, and emotional abuse; household substance abuse; adult mental illness; separated, divorced, or incarcerated parents; and domestic partner violence.

ACEs impact a child’s life-long physical and behavioral health. They also impact success in school due to stress responses, behavior, inability to focus, and poor attendance.

“When a child is in survival mode, their natural response is fight, flight, or freeze,” explained Principal Wendy Wilson. “It’s impossible for students to learn in that state.”

“Building a Culture of Care in classrooms involves teaching students how their brain works, and how to calm themselves down when they feel stress levels rising,” explained Wilson. “It means building calming and predictable classroom and school routines that make transitions easier not just for students with ACEs, but for all children.”

Teaching students how to build self-management and self-control is a key strategy, as is encouraging bonding between adult mentors and students.

Teachers and staff carefully monitor the emotions they project, and understand the impact of that on students. In addition, the school focuses school discipline in a new way: first connect, then correct.

Using empathy and listening, teachers tune into the reasons behind a child’s behavior and focus on that first, before moving to corrective action. Through all of these approaches, school becomes a benevolent sanctuary, a safe place for each child.

Gladstone’s Culture of Care is already paying dividends in reduced behavior problems, improved school attendance, and dramatic jumps in state test scores, including gains of 10 to 14 percent in English Language Arts and 8 to 14 percent in math.

Calendar

Spring Break
March 27 to 31

School Board Meeting
April 12 @ 6:30 p.m.

GHS student is top para-swimmer

Adin Williams, a sophomore at Gladstone High, took first in both the 50 and 100-yard State freestyle swim competition with other para-athletes. Williams won both races and achieved a personal best time in the 100, shaving 7.19 seconds off last year’s race.

Williams and his family were instrumental in lobbying the Oregon State Athletics and Activities Association [OSAA] for inclusion of disabled athletes in OSAA championship athletic contests for swimming and track and field. Williams competes in both.

Eighth graders visit state capital

Eighth grade social studies students visited Salem this month. They had the chance to tour the state capital and learn more about how state government works.

The trip was sponsored by State Senator Alan Olson.

School Board News & other news

From the March 8 Board meeting:

Board Members :

Sharon Soliday, Chair

Nicole Vera-Vera Couzens, Vice Chair

Carlos Castañeda [absent]

Rod Cole

Kristin Eaton

Jay Schmidt

Bruce Wadsworth

The Board:

- Viewed a Gladstone High video about the first 100 days of school.
 - Discussed the student work on display from JWE.
 - Discussed an update on homeless students.
 - Discussed the annual GCCF CEO meeting.
 - Discussed this year's Kindergarten Readiness Assessment.
 - Approved the 2018 East Coast Trip for GHS.
 - Approved the district's transportation provider.
 - Approved requests for employee resignations.
- Approved termination of contracts for temporary licensed employees. Approved contracts for probationary licensed employees. Approved initial two-year teacher contracts. Extended contracts for contract teachers. Extended probationary administrator contracts. Extended contract administrator contracts.
- Discussed the monthly financial report.
 - Discussed the Pest Management Report.
 - Discussed the Special Education child count.
 - Discussed the 2017-18 school calendar.

Education Foundation invites spring grant applications, due March 31

What innovative learning experience would you launch if you had an extra \$900, \$1,200 or \$1,500 for your students?

The Gladstone Education Foundation [GEF] is inviting applications for their Spring Grant Cycle, with project proposals due March 31 and funds awarded in mid-April. A total of \$5,000 will be awarded.

Staff who have not yet applied for a GEF grant this school year are encouraged you to apply. The application can be printed at <https://www.gladstonefoundation.org/grant-applications>.

Run to raise scholarship funds

This spring, a fun run is planned to raise scholarship funds for a passionate runner graduating from Gladstone High School. This is the 29th annual run to honor the memory of Gladstone School District employee Winterhawk Semler, a groundskeeper and courier who loved running. Semler died in a car crash in 1987.

The event, at Gladstone's Dick Baker Stadium, will take place at 8 a.m. on Saturday, June 3. The format is for student and adult teams of five, with each person running or walking for 30 minutes in succession, and the final person running for 40 minutes. In addition, a solo walk event is included, with individuals walking the full 2 hours and 40 minutes.

To register, visit the event website at <https://hawkstrun.racedirector.com/>. Registration costs \$200 per running team or \$50 per walker for those who register by May 23, with a \$25 discount for student teams. Those who don't participate but want to donate to the scholarship fund can do so at <https://hawkstrun.racedirector.com/donate>.

"Winterhawk left his mark on the campus at Kraxberger Middle School, where he designed, planned, and built a running trail around the school," said retired Kraxberger Principal Nancy Bailey. "Hawk lives on, too, in cross country and track participants from Gladstone High School. Since 1988, this event has provided \$26,400 in scholarships to 28 graduates of Gladstone High School."

Gladstone welcomes out-of-district applicants for fall 2017

The Gladstone School District will admit students from outside its borders in the 2017-18 school year. Spots are open in grades K-10.

District schools offer a small town school experience that provides for individual needs. Kindergarten offers art and science specialists. Elementary students get weekly music, P.E., technology, and library. Middle school has the AVID college readiness system. Gladstone High has a wide array of college level courses, career technical programs, and the arts.

To arrange for a tour, contact the school office. Applications, due April 1, are available at <http://gladstone.k12.or.us/>. For information, call Natalie Weninger at 503.496.3935.