



# Gladstone Schools Employee Newsletter

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## Celebrations!

### Physics class tries indoor skydiving

Gladstone High's physics class recently went on a field trip to iFLY Indoor Skydiving in Tigard.

Students were able to participate in a lab setting led by the iFLY STEM educator on the science and engineering involved in making the wind tunnel.

Students then learned how to calculate their terminal velocity by taking measurements to determine their drag force, and experienced a simulated skydiving experience.

### Preschool workshops to connect parents with educators

The Gladstone Center for Children & Families is sponsoring Ready, Set, Learn! The free, half-day conference includes workshops on brain development and school readiness.

The event is planned for Saturday, April 23, from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the GCCF. To register, visit [www.surveymonkey.com/r/ReadySetLearn](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ReadySetLearn).

The conference will connect parents, family support programs, preschool providers, and early childhood experts.

## Auction raises \$44,000 for Gladstone schools

Over 250 people attended the Gladstone Education Foundation dinner & auction on February 20, raising funds for Gladstone schools and youth programs.

"We are grateful to our community for their generosity in donating auction items, and thankful to all who pitched in to make this a successful event," said Executive Director Tammy Tracy. "Together we raised \$44,000 including \$13,000 to support a new college and career readiness initiative that will help students at every level."

Some of the funds raised will provide funding for grants to classrooms, schools, and youth programs across the Gladstone community.

"Our theme this year was 'Let's Make Waves,' and the funds we raised will definitely do that," said GEF President Terry Marsh. "We are excited that we can help our schools through classroom grants and program support."

## GEF offers spring grants totaling at least \$4,000

The Gladstone Education Foundation invites district staff and community groups serving Gladstone youths to apply for spring grants by the March 31 deadline. Only those who did not apply in the fall are eligible to submit proposals this round.

"The GEF will award at least \$4,000 total this round," said Grant Committee Chair Leslie Robbinette. "Funding is available for innovative classroom projects, technology, family support programs, after school activities, athletics, academic support, and professional development."

Applications are available on the GEF website at <http://ow.ly/YrvPY>.

## Calendar

### Spring Break

March 21 to 25

School Board @ 6:30 p.m.

April 13

## Donation supports Kraxberger robotics

Two robotics teams at Gladstone's Kraxberger Middle School will benefit from a \$1,500 donation from the International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers. The funds will purchase a second 3-D printer, used to manufacture robot parts.

Kraxberger's teams are coming off a busy competition season, with Team 8188 winning the Connect Award and Team 8132 winning the Rockwell Collins Innovate Award in their first competition. Both teams advanced to the Superqualifier round, with Team 8132 qualifying for the state competition.

## Wetten celebrates Read Across America Day

John Wetten students celebrated their love of reading on February 29 with Read Across America Day. Staff and students were encouraged to dress up as their favorite book character.

The cafeteria served green eggs and ham for lunch, and guest readers such as Timber Joey and Officer Eric Graves visited classrooms to read their favorite children's books.

# School Board News & other news

## From the March 9 Board meeting:

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

### The Board:

- Saw a GHS video about the first 100 days of school.
- Heard about the physics class field trip to try indoor skydiving.
- Discussed art work from John Wetten Elementary.
- Discussed the math textbook adoption for secondary schools.
- Heard an update on the district's homeless students.
- Discussed the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment.
- Approved a Future Business Leaders Association trip for GHS students.
- Approved a trip for the GHS Varsity Baseball Team.
- Noted the termination of contracts for temporary licensed employees.
- Approved contracts for probationary licensed employees.
- Approved initial two year contract teacher contracts.
- Extended "contract" teacher contracts.
- Extended probationary administrator contracts.
- Extended initial three-year administrator contracts.
- Extended contract administrator contracts.
- Approved the 2016-17 calendar.
- Approved regular and alternate Budget Committee members.

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## **Pancake Breakfast to precede Gladstone Easter Egg Hunt**

The Gladstone/Oak Grove Rotary plans a pancake breakfast as a lead-up to the City of Gladstone's annual 11 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt. The event will take place from 8 to 11 a.m. on Saturday, March 26, at Gladstone High School.

The breakfast is \$5 for adults, \$4 for children & seniors, or \$15 per family, including pancakes, ham, and coffee. Raffle prizes will be offered. Proceeds will provide college scholarships to graduates of Gladstone & Rex Putnam High Schools, and a student at Clackamas Community College.

## **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.

## **County grant continues innovative Gladstone preschool**

A county grant of nearly \$53,000 will allow the Gladstone Teaching Preschool to continue pioneering work providing inquiry-based, year-round preschool to low income and special needs children.

"Our school is a demonstration site for inquiry-based education," said founding partner Catherine Willmott. "Students take an active role in shaping their own learning through storytelling, problem solving, conflict resolution, designing play environments, and collaborating with peers on long-term projects."

Free to students, the preschool serves 20 children, a balance of students referred for special education needs and children from the Head Start waiting list.

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## **Backpack Buddies program seeks food donations**

With a recent uptick in the number of families who need food, Gladstone's Backpack Buddies program needs donations of non-perishable foods. The program serves 70 families each week.

Donation needs include peanut butter, tuna, soups, macaroni & cheese, chili, pasta, and rice, as well as canned fruits, beans, and vegetables.

Donors can deliver to Gladstone High School [18800 Portland Avenue] weekdays from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. For information, call Leslie at 503.974.5077.