



Gladstone Schools Employee Newsletter

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Celebrations!

GHS cheer finishes 4th at State

The cheer team from Gladstone High went to the state competition and finished 4th in the small co-ed division, excelling in jumps, tumbling, and stunts.

"This team stepped it up this year and entered an incredibly competitive division for the first time," said coach Shelby Tracy. "They went up against programs much bigger than ours -- programs they have looked up to the last four years. They fought for harder difficulty than we've ever had and they executed wonderfully on the mat. We could not be more proud!"

JWE holds day-long celebration of books

This year's Everybody Reads Day event at John Wetten Elementary was the biggest ever, with 40 volunteers on hand to read children their favorite stories.

Special visitors included Mayor Tammy Stempel, GHS football coach Wayne Harris, a Humane Society volunteer [with her dog], and former principal John Wetten, the school's namesake.

"This was the biggest volunteer turnout we've ever had, with three or four readers for every classroom" said Volunteer Coordinator Theresa Schmidt.

Kaiser grant supports attendance initiative

School districts in Clackamas County received a grant of \$150,000 from Kaiser Permanente to improve school attendance. The program will train staff to use trauma-informed practice to address chronic absenteeism by children impacted by adverse childhood experiences [ACEs].

The Clackamas Education Service District will create an absenteeism and ACE/trauma learning collaborative model to implement in Clackamas County schools.

Teams determined by each district will meet to receive professional development training in chronic absenteeism and trauma-informed strategies to improve student attendance, behavior and academic performance.

In final year of open enrollment, Gladstone invites out-of-district students to apply

This is the final year Oregon will allow public school choice via the Open Enrollment law.

The Gladstone School District will admit students from outside district borders for the 2018-19 school year, with spots for students in kindergarten to grade 10. Applications, due April 1, are available at <http://bit.ly/2tQFJVH>.

- Outstanding programs include:
- Kindergarten science, music, P.E., and art
 - Elementary technology, music, library, and P.E.
 - Culture of Care focus
 - Middle school AVID college readiness program
 - 5-day Outdoor School for all sixth graders
 - 36 college-level courses
 - 17 on-site career-technical classes

For more information, call Natalie Weninger at 503.496.3935.

Calendar

March 26 to 30
Spring Break

April 20
Professional Development Day

Kindergarten registration begins

Children who will start kindergarten next fall are invited to a March into Kindergarten event.

"Students in our full-day program benefit from technology-rich classrooms, strong academics, creative play, and specialist instruction in art, music, P.E., and science," said Principal Jere Applebee.

The event is scheduled for March 20 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the GCCF. The evening includes classroom tours, a school bus ride, and registration/Open Enrollment form pickup.

Kraxberger robotics goes to Regionals

Kraxberger Middle School Robotics Team 8132 qualified at state to attend the Super Regionals competition.

The group traveled to Spokane to compete against a field of 36 competitors from 12 western states.

"This was the biggest challenge we've faced," said mentor Shawn Price. "Our robot had some breakdowns we had to repair, and we re-programmed it at least three times. We didn't win, but we learned a lot. I'm super proud of my Gearheads, who acted with gracious professionalism throughout the competition."

School Board update & other news

From the March 14 Board meeting:

Board Members :

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

The Board:

- Presented the Growing Great People award to Chelsea Hamilton of Clackamas Parenting Together for her team's work providing parent classes at the Gladstone Center for Children & Families.
- Heard a presentation by band students from Kraxberger Middle School.
- Viewed a video made by GHS students on the first 100 days of school.
- Discussed the Board Room art work by students at John Wetten Elementary.
- Discussed the district's threat assessment protocols, developed in collaboration with County Juvenile and the Sheriff's Office.
- Discussed ongoing conversations with County Health, Trillium, Life Works Northwest, and Western Psychological to bring mental health services to Gladstone students. This could include sessions on a fee-for-service basis billed to student health insurance.
- Discussed the 3-5 year plan for the Kraxberger Rising initiative to improve school culture and provide student and parent support systems.
- Approved employee requests for retirement/release from contract.
- Approved a request for an unpaid leave of absence.
- Approved a request for a reduction in teaching assignment.
- Approved a school choice update for Open Enrollment.
- Approved an appointment to the Metro Policy Advisory Committee.
- Acknowledged the termination of contracts for temporary licensed employees.
- Approved contracts for probationary licensed employees.
- Approved initial two-year teacher contracts.
- Extended contracts for contracted teachers.
- Extended probationary administrator contracts.
- Approved the 2018-19 school calendar.
- Heard a report on happenings at Gladstone High from student representative Renee Baker.
- Heard updates from school administrators.
- Discussed the monthly financial report.
- Discussed the district's financial situation.
- Discussed the first reading of policy updates on license requirements, the expanded options program, annual expanded options program notification, volunteers, admission of resident students/establishing residency, student safety, reporting of suspected child abuse, child abuse investigations on district premises, directory information, public records, complaints, complaint procedures, appeals to the Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction, relations with law enforcement agencies, and investigations on district premises.
- Discussed the upcoming joint meeting between the School Board and City Council on April 25.

Clackamas Parenting Together honored for partnership with Gladstone District

Gladstone's school board presented a Growing Great People award to Chelsea Hamilton of Clackamas Parenting Together for the agency's work bringing parenting classes, support groups, play groups, and other resources to parents of children from birth to age 8.

The organization provides several parenting groups targeted to children's ages and stages, providing strategies for positive discipline, language development, nutrition, child safety, sibling rivalry, and learning through play.

Education Foundation accepting applications

The Gladstone Education Foundation is accepting applications for openings on their board of directors. Since 2000, the Foundation has raised more than \$1 million dollars in private funding to promote academic achievement and enhanced learning opportunities for Gladstone students, educators, and youth organizations.

"We are a motivated team of hands-on volunteers who collaborate on fundraisers and grant giving to help Gladstone students, staff and community members," said Executive Director Tammy Tracy. "We are looking to recruit some energetic and innovative folks with a commitment to schools to join us in moving the foundation forward."

More information about the Gladstone Education Foundation and applications for Board positions are available at www.gladstonefoundation.org. For more information, contact Tammy Tracy at tracyt@gladstone.k12.or.us or 503.650.2577. Applications are due no later than March 31, 2018.

Middle schoolers build maglev vehicles

Seventh grade science students at Kraxberger Middle School tried an innovative engineering project, constructing miniature maglev [magnetic levitation] vehicles that run along a metal track. The project was funded by a grant from the Gladstone Education Foundation.

Maglev is a system of train transportation that uses two sets of magnets. One set repels, pushing the train up off the track so it levitates. The other set of magnets moves the floating train quietly and smoothly at a high rate of speed made possible because there is no friction.

"Most students had never heard of maglev vehicles before we did this project," said teacher Todd Dauenhauer. "This really opened their eyes to the power of magnetism."