



Gladstone Schools Employee Newsletter

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Celebrations!

Wetten students hold book battle

Fifty John Wetten 4th and 5th graders participated in the Oregon Battle of the Books [OBOB], this year. Library assistants Julie Kempster and Nancy West organized the event.

Several teams competed to answer questions about 10 books from the statewide list.

"Students were very excited about the competition," said Volunteer Coordinator Theresa Schmidt. "Children took the competition very seriously and were diligent about preparing."

Participants had T-shirts for the book battle provided by the Gladstone/Oak Lodge Rotary Club.

Kraxberger families flock to science night

Kraxberger Middle School's Mad Science Night gave students and families a chance to try some hands-on science experiments.

They launched trebuchets, drove robots, made non-Newtonian fluids, explored 3-D printing, and tested maglev vehicles.

"The event was coordinated by our science department and our AVID college-readiness program," said Principal Len Reed. "This was a fun opportunity for families to engage in learning together."

Education Foundation awards spring grants

The Gladstone Education Foundation [GEF] awarded more than \$10,000 in grant funds to support six projects in three schools.

"I'm pleased about the range of students who will benefit, and the variety of activities that can now be offered," said GEF Board Member Bill Stewart.

Funded projects include:

- JWE: After school STEAM Science Classes
- WLK: Chromebooks for Study Skills Course
- WLK: After School Mentor Program
- GHS: STEM Diversity Summer Program
- GHS: Shakespeare Performers Workshop
- GHS: Digital Classroom Library

Proposals for GEF's fall grant cycle will be due October 31. All employees are welcome to apply.

District announces school calendar for 2018-19

The Gladstone School Board approved the calendar for the 2018-19 school year. As in the past, school will begin after Labor Day. A copy of the calendar is available at www.gladstone.k12.or.us/2018-19-calendar/. Conference days are tentative and may change.

"By releasing the calendar well in advance of the next school year, our hope is that families can plan travel in ways that do not impact school attendance," said district spokesperson Leslie Robinette.

Key dates for 2018-19

- September 4 – First school day grades K - 6 and 9
- September 5 – First school day grades 7-8 and 10-12.
- November 12 – Veterans Day holiday
- November 21 to 23 – Thanksgiving Break
- December 24 to January 4 – Winter Break
- January 21 – Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday
- February 18 – Presidents Day holiday
- March 25 to 29 – Spring Break
- May 27 – Memorial Day holiday
- June 12 – Last day of school/Graduation

Calendar

April 20

Professional Development Day

April 25, 5:30 p.m., GHS Demo School Board/City Council meeting

April 30

Progress Reports/Equity Work

May 2 Budget Meeting

6:30 to 9:30 p.m., GHS Demo

GHS offers class on food history, culture

The Culture and History of Food is a new social studies course at Gladstone High this term.

"Food connects everyone on the planet, and it can help us understand the complex relationships, issues, and events that shape our world," said teacher Ryan Browning.

Each unit will teach hands-on culinary skills, with an emphasis on safe food preparation. Bob's Red Mill donated food ingredients for the class, including flours, oats, and bread mixes.

Kindergarten attends Seussical rehearsal

On April 11, GCCF students got a sneak preview of the spring play at Gladstone High, Seussical, the Musical, attending a dress rehearsal.

The whimsical play brings to life several popular children's books by Dr. Seuss, including Horton Hears a Who, Yertle the Turtle, and the Cat in the Hat.

"The play's themes of loyalty and caring teach good lessons," said GCCF Director Jere Applebee.

School Board update & other news

From the April 10 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 the Gladstone Ministerial Association.
- Heard presentations about winter sports and activities at Gladstone High.
- Had a presentation on the East Coast Trip.
- Discussed student work on display from Kraxberger Middle School.
- Discussed the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment.
- Discussed the Special Education Report Card.
- Approved a bid for replacement of the artificial turf at Gladstone High School. This will be funded by the accumulated fees charged to community groups who lease the field and also rent charged to the owner of the cell tower on the stadium property since the original field was installed in 2007--08. The amount saved may exceed the anticipated cost of the field, in which case any excess funds can be set aside for the next replacement cycle.
- Approved a request for resignation/release from contract.
- Approved requests for retirement/release from contract.
- Approved the election of licensed staff members.
- Approved the inter-district transfer process for non-resident students.
- Approved a reduction in staff FTE.
- Approved final recommendations for budget reductions.
- Learned of happenings at Gladstone High from student representative Kelley Grant.
- Heard updates from administrative staff.
- Discussed policy updates and changes regarding license requirements, the expanded options program, expanded options program notification, volunteers, admission of resident students/establishing residency, student safety, reporting suspected abuse of a child abuse investigations conducted on district premises, directory information, public records, public complaints, the public complaints procedure, appeals to the Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction, relations with law enforcement agencies, and investigations on district premises. They discussed deletion of old policies regarding child abuse investigations on school property, compliance with standards, public appeals and complaints about standards violations, and appeals to the State Superintendent for alleged standards violations.
- Discussed the upcoming joint School Board/City Council meeting on April 25 at 5:30 p.m. at the School District Office.
- Discussed the July School Board meeting.
- Discussed Staff Appreciation Week.
- Discussed the OSBA Summer Board Conference.

Gladstone Ministerial Association honored for partnership with schools

Gladstone's school board presented a Growing Great People Award to the Gladstone Ministerial Association, a group of several Gladstone churches who meet twice a year with school district administrators.

Projects led by the group include running the Gladstone Kids Clothes Closet, supplying food for Gladstone Schools' Backpack Buddies program, and sprucing up school grounds for the start of each school year.

Gladstone High renews accreditation

Gladstone High school has renewed its educational accreditation with the Northwest Accreditation Commission. The quality assurance evaluation, completed every five years, is done to ensure that state standards are met and that programs are in place to meet a spectrum of student needs.

Educators who reviewed Gladstone High commended the school for its strong mentorship program for new teachers, the quality of the school improvement plan, and the focused use of financial resources to meet goals.

"The review committee was impressed by our students' kindness, and our positive school climate that emphasizes inclusion and encourages participation," said Principal Kevin Taylor. "They could not stop talking about how polite our kids are."

One improvement suggested by the review committee was finding more ways to support students' mental health needs. This work is already underway via a new partnership between school counselors and Clackamas County Health Clinics.

The Clackamas Bookshelf gives a free book to every Gladstone student

A Gladstone non-profit The Clackamas Bookshelf has given a free book to each student in Gladstone Schools this year.

Book giveaways happened at Gladstone High and Kraxberger Middle School in early April, with students offered a variety of titles, from *The Lord of the Rings* to *Maus* and *A Wrinkle in Time*.

John Wetten students received free books on Everybody Reads Day in March. Students at the Gladstone Center for Children & Families get free books delivered each month.

"We're grateful to the Gladstone Education Foundation for funding this project," said Executive Director Katy Preston. "The more books a child has at home, the better their academic success."