



# Gladstone Schools Employee Newsletter

Volume 4, Issue 7 • April 18, 2017

## Celebrations!

### JWE students flock to piano concert

All 750 students from John Wetten took a field trip to the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall for a concert featuring 10 grand pianos.

The Oregon Symphony's Ten Grants for Kids concert was funded by the Snowman Foundation. It provides the opportunity for students to experience classical and modern music in a variety of styles.

### Kraxberger Challenge Day combats bullying

To build empathy and connections and reduce bullying, seventh graders at Kraxberger participated in a day-long event called Challenge Day.

Professional facilitators took the group through activities, discussions, and sharing experiences, similarities, and differences.

The event was funded by grants from the Gladstone Education Foundation and Gladstone/Oak Grove Rotary. Parents and community members volunteered as group facilitators.

## District hires new leaders for GCCF, Kraxberger

Len Reed is the new Principal of Kraxberger Middle School. Reed, who lives in Oak Grove, is currently a Planning Principal for Portland Public Schools. She replaces interim principal John Olson.

An educator for 17 years, Reed served as principal of Jason Lee, a K-8 school in the Portland Public School District. Her experience includes increasing student achievement, boosting parent involvement, reducing bullying, and work with AVID programs.

Jere Applebee is the new Director of Early Learning at the GCCF. He currently serves as Vice Principal at John Wetten. He replaces interim GCCF leader Carol Kemhus.

Applebee is a GHS alumni who has worked in education for 34 years, 15 of them in Gladstone. He has been instrumental in building partnerships with local businesses.

## Run to support scholarship fund for GHS grads

This spring, a fun run is planned to raise scholarship funds for a 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://hawksrun.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://hawksrun.racedirector.com/donate>.

## Calendar

**Progress Report Day**  
May 5 [no students]

**School Board Meeting**  
May 10 @ 6:30 p.m.

## Reptiles invade kindergarten

Kindergarten students got the opportunity to touch and hold snakes, turtles, alligators, and lizards at a science presentation by the Reptile Man.

Students learned the difference between turtles and tortoises, how to escape a charging alligator, and what different types of snakes like to eat.

A video about the experience is on the District Youtube channel: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=VG5yIplzeOso](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VG5yIplzeOso)

## GHS cheer takes first in state, second at nationals

Gladstone's competitive Cheer team has grown from a start-up team to national recognition in just four years.

The team's strong skills in tumbling, lifts, and synchronization earned them first in State and second at Nationals when they competed spring break in Anaheim, California.

# School Board News & other news

## From the April 12 Board meeting:

Board Members :

Sharon Soliday, Chair

Nicole Vera-Vera Couzens, Vice Chair

Rod Cole

Kristin Eaton

Jay Schmidt

Bruce Wadsworth

The Board:

- Recognized Gladstone High students involved in Cheer, Dance, Basketball, Wrestling, Swim Team, Drama, Robotics, and the Peru Trip.
- Admired the display of student work from Kraxberger Middle School.
- Discussed the Special Education report card.
- Discussed the science textbook adoption.
- Approved the inter-district transfer process for non-resident students.
- Approved the hiring of administrative and licensed staff.
- Heard a report on happenings at Gladstone High from student representative Renee Baker.
- Discussed the district financial report.
- Discussed a policy update on licensed staff development. Discussed deleting policies on the hearings procedure and appeals process for child nutrition programs, veteran's preference in hiring, the staff complaint form, the sexual harassment complaint form, the student complaint form, and the public complaint form.
- Declared School Board position 3 open.
- Discussed Staff Appreciation Week.

## **Wellness program walks staff through 7 Wonders of Oregon**

This month's employee wellness challenge urges high school and district office staff to traverse 216,000 steps between April 5 and May 1. An app called Walker Tracker is used to track each person's accomplishment.

Of the 32 employees participating, the man to beat is Brian Johnson. As of press time, he was outpacing his closest competitor by 50,000 steps!

If staff from GCCF, Kraxberger, and John Wetten are interested in competing in the next challenge, they should contact their building wellness committee.

## **Gladstone food pantry receives top rating**

The Gladstone Food Pantry received a rating of "Excellent" from the Oregon Food Bank this month. The facility operates as one of 36 school-based food pantries across the state.

Located in a portable classroom on the north side of the Gladstone High School campus, the pantry provides free food to any person in need. The volunteer-run facility is open twice a week: Thursdays from 3 to 5:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon.

"Thanks to a grant from Clackamas County, we offer free cooking demonstrations on the third Saturday of each month," said Pantry Foods Coordinator Leslie Robinette. "Led by professional nutritionist Stephanie Kurzenhauser, these events showcase creative ways to use foods available in our pantry."

To volunteer during the school year or this summer, contact Theresa Schmidt at [schmidtt@gladstone.k12.or.us](mailto:schmidtt@gladstone.k12.or.us). To donate, call Leslie Robinette at [robinettel@gladstone.k12](mailto:robinettel@gladstone.k12).

## **March Madness attendance competition yields results at John Wetten**

In their quest to boost school attendance at John Wetten Elementary, Vice Principal Jere Applebeen tried a new approach: a March Madness Attendance Competition.

"The tournament started in March," said Applebee. "At the end of each month, the grade level with the lowest percentage of absences and tardies will be the winner. The contest continues until we crown a grade level champion at the end of May."

March winners were 2nd grade with 95.98 percent attending, 1st grade, with 95.85 percent attending, and 3rd grade with 94.84 percent attending.

April matchups include:

1st grade vs. 2nd grade  
3rd grade vs 5th grade  
4th grade vs. GCCF [kindergarten]

"Students are very enthusiastic about the competition," said Applebee. "Attendance is definitely rising!"