



Gladstone Schools Employee Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 11 • June 9, 2015

Celebrations

Kraxberger student describes Civil War reenactments

One of the best ways to understand history is to live it. Kraxberger student Maya Alley has done so many times, participating in Civil War reenactments.

She shared her experience with classmates, bringing along several Civil War costumes.



GCCF educates early childhood professionals

A free workshop provided strategies and resources to help early childhood professionals prepare children for modern kindergarten.

Gladstone Schools, Oregon City Schools, and Northwest Family Services sponsored the event.

"Many parents rely on friends, family childcare providers, and preschools to help children get ready for kindergarten," said Lennie Bjornsen, Gladstone's Director of Student & Family Supports. "We want to share strategies to help children build school ready skills."

Scholarships flow to GHS graduates

The 174 graduates in Gladstone High's Class of 2015 have a lot to be proud of. Collectively they earned over \$745,600 in college scholarships.

Graduates plan to continue their educations at colleges and universities across the nation, from the College of the Atlantic in Maine, and Marymount Manhattan University in New York, to Montana State, Ohio Northern University, and Adams State University in Colorado.

Most will attend schools closer to home, including PSU, OSU, OIT, Western Oregon University, the University of Oregon, George Fox, and Clackamas Community College.

Some class members will pursue futures in the U.S. Marines, the Army, and the Navy.

"This proud moment is not just the accomplishment of our high school staff," said Superintendent Bob Stewart. "Every person on the Gladstone Team has worked over the years to help our graduates reach this milestone."

District names new Director of Finance & Operations

Samantha Nelson will be the new Director of Finance & Operations for the Gladstone School District. She replaces Don Staehely, who is retiring in June.

Nelson has been the City Administrator for Fairview since 2012. Prior to that, she served as the city's Finance Director for four years. Her experience includes service as Finance Director for the City of Independence.

She holds a Masters of Business Administration from Willamette University and a B.A. in English from Western Oregon University. She is a member of the Oregon City/County Management Association, the Oregon Municipal Finance Officers' Association, and the Government Finance Officers' Association.

"I've always valued education, so I'm excited about this opportunity to support teachers and students," said Nelson. "The Gladstone School District has an incredible reputation as an innovator, and I am looking forward to being part of the team."

Calendar

Graduation: June 11

Report Card Day: June 12

GHS earns 2015 Bronze award

Gladstone High School was honored with a 2015 Bronze Award from U.S. News & World Report.

The award recognizes achievement well above expectations for a student body where 41% are economically disadvantaged and 25% are disadvantaged minorities.

GHS has a strong record of success. The school's graduation rate is 15% over the state average, with 95% of Latino students and 86% of low-income students graduating on time.

JWE hosts potluck for English Learner families

An annual potluck party celebrated the hard work of students, staff, and parents who participated in English language learning programs throughout the school year.

Families and staff shared their favorite foods, and students from all four Gladstone Schools had the opportunity to choose free books provided by the Gladstone Library Foundation and the Clackamas Bookshelf.

School Board News & other news

From the June 3 Board meeting:

Board Members present :

Kristin Eaton, Chair

Sharon Soliday, Vice Chair

Rod Cole

Nicole Couzens

Susan Cronin

Jay Schmidt

Bruce Wadsworth

The Board:

- Thanked Chinese teacher Miao Fan for her service this year.
- Met new administrators Christina Alquisira {GCCF Director}, and Becky Lukens [WLK Principal], as well as new Board/Superintendent's Secretary Natalie Weninger.
- Met new Board member Carlos Castaneda.
- Heard a presentation from GHS student Abby Bender on student visualization and reading comprehension.
- Heard a presentation from Assessment and Accountability Coordinator Petra Hoghova on the District's Continuous Improvement Plan.
- Adopted the District budget for 2015-16.
- Approved trips for the cheer team, the cross-country team, the dance team, the football team, the girls basketball team, and the girls soccer team.
- Approved policy updates for a mother-friendly workplace, staff complaints, student searches, non-prescription medication and prescription medication.
- Approved revisions to the student/athletic handbooks.
- Approved hiring several licensed employees.
- Approved hiring Samantha Nelson as the Director of Finance & Operations.
- Approved revisions to the Inter-District Transfer process.
- Heard updates from district administrators.
- Discussed the monthly financial report.
- Approved 2015-16 student lunch prices and activity

Wellness program to use feedback

Thanks to almost 60% of all staff who completed the Wellness Program survey last month. The feedback and ideas will be shared with the wellness committee in each of our five buildings. Wellness program leaders in each building utilize resources from the OEA - Choice Trust to plan and implement activities to support the wellness of all staff. The well-being of staff and administrators has a big impact on student learning and success. Please do join in and support the wellness activities in your school or office next fall!

Food Pantry wins county impact award

The Gladstone Food Pantry has been honored with a Youth Services Community Action Impact Award from Clackamas County.

The award recognizes work to provide food to struggling families with children through the Backpack Buddies program and the food pantry.

"We are lucky to have a team of Special Education students from Gladstone High to help us load the backpacks with food each week," said Principal Natalie Osburn. "While they help, they are learning job skills like how to inventory stock. We could not provide this service without them."

Gladstone Festival seeks Parade entries

If you've always wanted to start a marching lawn chair precision drill team, here's your chance! Event organizers are seeking creative parade entries for this year's Gladstone Community Festival.

The event runs July 31 to August 2, with the Parade set for 10 a.m. on August 1.

The event seeks bands, youth groups, athletic teams, dance teams, cheer squads, and costumed groups, as well as floats, clowns, stilt walkers, unicyclists, bagpipers, jugglers, and other performers. [Sports teams may need OSAA permission.]

To register for this year's event, visit the website at <http://www.gladstonecommunityfestival.org/>.

Remember, if you enter the parade, you're off the hook for the dunk tank!

Golf tournament to raise funds for Gladstone schools

Stone Creek Golf Course is the setting for the Gladstone Education Foundation's annual Golf Tournament. Last year's event raised \$7,000 for Gladstone Schools.

The tournament is scheduled for noon on Friday, July 31, with a shotgun start at 1:30 p.m. Registration is \$125 per single or \$450 per foursome, including range balls, green fees, golf cart, box lunch, barbecue, raffle prizes, and awards. The course is located at 14603 S. Stoneridge Drive in Oregon City.

Corporate sponsorships are available at \$1,000, \$750, and \$250. To register or to sponsor the event, call Tammy Tracy at 503.650.2777 or Terry Marsh at 503.789.7922.