



Gladstone Schools Employee Newsletter

Volume 5, Issue 9 • June 13, 2018

Celebrations!

Safeway donates to Kindergarten

The Safeway Foundation contributed \$1,375 to the Gladstone Center for Children and Families to support the Little Leopards Camp, a summer program that prepares at-risk children to start kindergarten.

“Most of the children served by the program did not have the opportunity to attend preschool, so this gives them the opportunity to prepare for school both academically and socially,” said Early Learning Director Jere Applebee. “The program also provides classes for parents to show them how to support their child’s learning at home.”

GHS baseball team wins 4A State Championship

For the first time in school history, Gladstone High School’s Baseball Team won the State Championship with a 3 to 2 victory over La Grande.

“We have been preaching to this team all year that we were going to make it here and win it all,” said Coach Casey Webster. “This is unreal, and couldn’t have happened to a greater group of guys.”

Matt Lehrbach scored one run, Damian Alvarado scored two.

Valendictorians and Salutatorians honored

Top scholars in Gladstone High’s class of 2018 were recognized last week at the June School Board meeting.

All three valedictorians will pursue science careers. Andrew Gehrke plans to study Computer Engineering at Oregon Sate. Yalin Li , the first in her family to attend college, will study Natural Sciences with a focus on biology at the University of Oregon. Lydia Rivers will study Chemical Engineering at Northwestern University.

Both salutatorians will attend Oregon State University. Kyle Anderson will study Civil Engineering, and Cameron Cronin will study Bioengineering, in pursuit of a medical career.

Gladstone Food Pantry will close June 16

After serving hundreds of families since 2014, the Gladstone Food Pantry will end operations this summer. June 16 will be the last day customers can get free food at the site.

Run by 55 volunteers and two student groups, the pantry behind Gladstone High provided 2000 pounds of free produce, meat, canned goods, frozen foods, eggs, and milk each week.

Project partners included the Oregon Food Bank, Bob’s Red Mill, Dave’s Killer Bread, and grant funders Clackamas County and the Gladstone Education Foundation.

“We started the pantry because reliable access to food stabilizes struggling families and helps our students learn better,” said program leader Lennie Bjornsen. “However, as schools again face funding cuts, the sad reality is that we can no longer afford this program.”

The district hopes that by next winter it will find a funding partner so the pantry can reopen.

Calendar

June 14 -- Last student day
Half day for all students
Graduation at 7 p.m.

June 15 -- Last staff day
GHS .5 compensatory day
Report Card day

Kraxberger 8th grade ready for GHS

Kraxberger eighth graders will celebrate advancement to Gladstone High School with three special events this week.

On June 13, an Oaks Park trip is an opportunity for the class to have some fun before their formal Recognition Ceremony and the 8th grade party that evening.

“We’re so proud of them, and can’t wait to see their successes at Gladstone High,” said Principal Len Reed.

Wetten students enjoy luau lunch

The Luau Lunch is a spirit day elementary students look forward to every June.

“Our cooks prepare a special Hawaiian-themed meal, and children are encouraged to dress in their favorite island attire,” said Secretary Linda Alberico.

“Students invite family and friends and enjoy their lunch out in the courtyard,” she added. “It’s fun!”

School Board update & other news

From the June 6 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:

- Held a budget hearing.
- Honored the mental health team from Clackamas County Health Clinics for their new partnership to provide quick access to mental health services to students from Gladstone High.
- Recognized the Valedictorians and Salutatorians from Gladstone High's Class of 2018.
- Discussed season highlights with students from the golf team, the ultimate frisbee team, and the state champion baseball team.
- Viewed an end-of-the-year video made by students at Gladstone High and heard an update about school happenings.
- Approved a Young Life trip.
- Celebrated Board Chair Sharon Soliday's retirement from the Board.
- Heard an update on the Clackamas Community College bond projects from CCC Board member Dave Hunt.
- Adopted the 2018-19 budget, made appropriations, imposed the tax, and categorized the tax for 2018-19.
- Appointed a clerk and deputy clerks, appointed the Superintendent as Custodian of Funds, authorized facsimile of signature, and set the borrowing limit.
- Appointed the budget officer for the District.
- Appointed the investor of funds.
- Approved petty cash and change funds.
- Designated the Clackamas Review the newspaper of record.
- Approved an increase to student lunch prices.
- Approved the adoption of health curriculum and textbooks.
- Approved a request for resignation/release from contract.
- Approved the hiring of new certified staff for the 2018-19 school year.
- Approved a change to the 2018-19 school calendar that adds a professional development day and reduces one student contact day. The change was made due to a Memorandum of Understanding with the Gladstone Teachers Association.
- Approved GCCF and John Wetten student handbook revisions for the 2018-19 school year.
- Heard updates from district administrative staff.
- Discussed the monthly financial report.
- Received a personnel update.
- Discussed Board participation in the 8th grade Recognition ceremony and GHS graduation.

County mental health team honored

The School Board honored the mental health services team from Clackamas County for their recent work partnering with Gladstone High School counselors to help students get the mental health services they need at county health clinics, including the one at the GCCF.

"We can now make same-day referrals for students so we can meet their needs right away," said Director of Student and Family Supports Lennie Bjornsen.

Gladstone teacher transforms Spanish class using technology

How is classroom learning changing with more computers in schools? Gladstone High Spanish teacher Brad Kuntz is a frontrunner in trying new strategies. This fall he created a student-centered classroom program that includes a flipped classroom instructional model, student choice, self-pacing, and gamification.

First, Kuntz created a series of on-line video lessons and activities that students can work through independently on Chromebook computers.

"The flipped classroom model changes the teacher's role from the sage on the stage to the guide on the side," said Kuntz. "Delivering more content electronically freed me up to circulate through the classroom to work one-on-one with students who need help."

Each unit offers several levels of difficulty, allowing students to challenge themselves and build skills at their own pace. Advanced students could move through coursework by starting at a higher level, and students who need more time to master a concept can get more practice before moving on.

Kuntz knew a game-like instructional model would engage students through competition, encouraging them to challenge themselves and stay on task. He designed his course around the theme of a trip through Ecuador, with each language lesson focused on a different location.

Cultural topics related to each location were embedded in the curriculum with maps, photos, and videos. The more challenging the lesson or test, the more miles a student earns, allowing them to "level up" from sightseer or tourist to backpacker or trailblazer as they move through the journey.

The benefits of this instructional model include more time for one-on-one student/teacher interactions, the opportunity for advanced or academically-challenged students to move at their own pace, and increased student engagement through student choice and a competitive aspect.

"Most students — over 84 percent — were really happy with the program, and 75 percent did better on tests using this instructional model," said Kuntz. "I really had students engaged because it was new, exciting, and different."