



Gladstone Schools Employee Newsletter

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Celebrations

Carlos Castaneda joins School Board

This summer, Carlos Castañeda was sworn in as the newest member of the Gladstone School Board after being elected in May. A resident of Gladstone for nearly two decades, Castañeda was born in Columbia.

He and his wife Alexandra are the parents of two Gladstone students, Natasha (14) and Lisette (12). They own Print Kolor, a local print shop.

"I am excited about joining the School Board because I am a leader with the heart of a servant," said Castañeda. "I respect everybody."

Kraxberger teachers blog from Egypt

When Kraxberger teachers Lori Chambers, Amy Otto, and Laura Fuller had an opportunity to travel to Egypt this summer, they found a way to bring their students along, setting up a travel blog to share their adventures.

Before school was out, the social studies department encouraged students to follow their travels and post questions on the blog, <http://ottoegypt.blogspot.com/>.

"Our goal with the blog was to get our students excited about learning during the summer months," said Otto.

Churches volunteer to spruce up schools

August 16, in lieu of attending church, Gladstone's faith community turned out in force to work at all four Gladstone schools, spiffing up the school grounds to prepare for the arrival of students.

Some 175 volunteers helped in the Clothes Closet, pulled weeds, spread bark mulch, and did painting projects.

"Seeing how many folks turned out to help our schools is visible proof of how much this community values Gladstone kids," said project coordinator Ted Yates. "We are super grateful for their help!"

Participants in the event included Saint Stephen's Lutheran Church, Gospel Fellowship Community Church, Gladstone First Baptist, Gladstone Church of the Nazarene, and Gladstone Christian Church.

Oregon Food Bank partners with Gladstone Food Pantry

The Gladstone Food Pantry at Gladstone High School is the 25th school-based food pantry to partner with the Oregon Food Bank.

The partnership will bring weekly deliveries of food to Gladstone at no cost to the school district. This will enable the Food Pantry to provide a broad range of foods beyond canned goods, including meats, produce, frozen items, and dairy products. "Expanding the food pantry allows us to provide better nutrition to kids so they can focus on learning instead of hunger," said Gladstone High Principal Natalie Osburn.

The food pantry is open to any family in need on Thursdays from 3 to 7 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon. It is located near the greenhouse behind Gladstone High School off Nelson Lane.

Calendar

First Day of School

September 8

School Board Meeting

September 9 at 6:30 p.m.

GHS wins two grants

Gladstone High's robotics club was awarded \$2,500 from the Oregon Department of Education in support of their FIRST Robotics program.

"Getting the grant has inspired us to aim high for this year's competitions," said club mentor Angie McNaughton. "We are so grateful for this support."

Dave's Killer Bread provided \$2,000 for Saturday Opportunity School at Gladstone High. The program provides 3 hours of teacher help, access to computers, and a quiet place to study on Saturdays.

Schools provide free lunches

This summer Gladstone Schools provided nearly 5,100 free meals at Kraxberger and the Gladstone Center for Children & Families.

With one in five Oregon kids living in poverty, the federally funded summer program provides stability during a season when no school meal programs are provided.

To draw students, District partners provided a drop-in robotics program, activities for middle schoolers, and programs presented by Gladstone Public Library.

School Board News & other news

From August 12 Board meeting:

Board Members present :
Sharon Soliday, Chair
Nicole Couzens, Vice Chair
Carlos Castaneda
Rod Cole
Kristin Eaton
Jay Schmidt
Bruce Wadsworth

The Board:

- Discussed the annual restraint and seclusion report.
- Approved alternative education programs.
- Approved a revision to the 2015-16 school calendar, making October 9 a non-contract day, June 15 the last day for students & graduation day, and June 16 the last day for staff.
- Approved personnel actions.
- Approved the HB4007 Inter-district transfer process for admission of non-resident students.
- Approved the extension of the 2015-16 food products and non-food supplies Request for Proposal.
- Heard reports from district administrators.
- Discussed the district's monthly financial report.
- Discussed the upcoming opportunity to meet with new staff.
- Discussed Board member attendance at the Gladstone Business Owners meetings this year.



The Kraxberger Social Studies department prepared to teach students about Egypt by gaining some first hand experience traveling there this summer.

Two grant opportunities provide added funds for classrooms, programs

Dreaming of a new project for your students this fall? Thanks to two in-district grant opportunities, district staff have the chance to turn their dreams into reality!

District Technology Grants:

This year, the District Technology Committee will offer a total of \$50,000 in technology grants, with the goal of expanding the use of classroom technology.

"Our goal is to fund equipment, classroom projects, and staff training on ways to use technology to increase students' higher-level thinking," said coordinator Lennie Bjornsen. "Whether teachers are early adopters or technology novices, we encourage teachers from each building to apply."

Grant proposals, available at www.surveymonkey.com/r/TechGrants2015, are due September 30. Grant awards will be made in November. Four to eight grants totaling \$50,000 will be awarded. Please send any questions to Lennie Bjornsen at bjornsenl@gladstone.k12.or.us.

Gladstone Education Foundation Grants:

This year, the Gladstone Education Foundation is changing its grant giving process. There will be two opportunities to apply this year -- one in the fall, and one in the spring. A total of \$20,000 will be awarded this year.

Grants are open to both Gladstone District educators and community organizations supporting Gladstone youths.

Fall grant applications are due October 31, with winners announced in November. Printable applications and guidelines are available on-line at <http://bit.ly/1U5sZLW>. Or apply on-line at www.surveymonkey.com/r/GEFgrants.

Grant projects could include:

- innovative classroom projects
- technology
- supports to families
- afterschool clubs and activities
- professional development
- academic support
- health & well-being
- athletics
- community building

Two categories of grants will be offered: grants under \$1,000, and grants over \$1,000. Spring grants will be due March 31. Please send questions regarding GEF grants to Terry Marsh at terry@foxerosion.com.