



# Gladstone Schools Employee Newsletter

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## Celebrations

### GHS beats state average on ACT

Gladstone High students taking the ACT college admissions test continued a five-year trend by beating both state and national averages for English, math, reading, and science scores.

Results show that 65% of the students who took the exam were ready for college level math and English before graduating from high school.

“College readiness is a long journey that begins in elementary school,” explained GHS Principal Natalie Osburn. “We can all share in this success.”

### Clackamas Bookshelf hits milestone

A year ago, the Clackamas Bookshelf launched with the dream of ensuring that every child in Clackamas County has books to call their own. This week, the non-profit housed at Kraxberger Middle School celebrated giving away their 10,000th book.

The group’s monthly book sales support the effort. Held second Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. behind Kraxberger, the sale offers hundreds of books for 50 cents each.

To donate books or to volunteer with the project, visit the website at [www.theclackamasbookshelf.org/](http://www.theclackamasbookshelf.org/).

## Three Gladstone teachers honored

The Gladstone School District celebrated the start of the school year by recognizing the accomplishments of outstanding teachers. Started by retired principal Dick Baker in 2005, the Thank a Teacher award is a cash prize in recognition of school leadership, contribution to school success, and excellence in instruction. Three teachers were honored this fall:



• Linda Fletcher, a learning specialist at Gladstone High School, is known for her compassion and guidance in working with students who have special needs.

She is a mentor, a coach, and a leader to both students and to her fellow teachers.



• Tracy Skowhede, a 7th and 8th grade math teacher at Kraxberger Middle School, is known for being the first to offer help any student or staff member who

needs a hand. Before school, he is always there for students who need extra help. After school, he connects with students by coaching every sport the school offers.



• Tia Bellm, a learning specialist at John Wetten Elementary, is skilled at adjusting curriculum for the unique needs of each student. She creates an invit-

ing, inclusive learning environment that makes students feel empowered and supported.

## Calendar

**No School/non-contract day**

October 9

**School Board Meeting**

October 14 at 6:30 p.m.

## Schools recruit volunteers

As the new school year begins, Gladstone Schools is recruiting volunteers to help during and after school hours.

For a volunteer application, email [schmidtt@gladstone.k12.or.us](mailto:schmidtt@gladstone.k12.or.us) or phone Theresa Schmidt at 503.656.6564. Needs include:

### Food Pantry Volunteers:

Help feed struggling families by staffing the Gladstone Food Pantry for a two-hour shift each month. Volunteers work in teams of two or three. Shifts are Thursdays from 3 to 5 p.m., Thursdays from 5 to 7 p.m., or Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon.

### Lunch Buddy Mentors:

Spend an hour a week [or every other week] sharing lunch and recess with a student at John Wetten Elementary. Research shows that students with adult mentors are more likely to succeed in school and less likely to use drugs.

**SMART Readers:** Share your love of books! Spend two hours each week reading with children in a Head Start classroom at the Gladstone Center for Children & Families.



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# School Board News & other news

## From September 9 Board meeting:

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

### The Board:

- Heard a report on homeless students in the district.
- Approved the audit engagement letter.
- Approved an employee request for unpaid leave.
- Approved the hiring of licensed staff.
- Heard reports from principals and other district administrators about the opening of the new school year.
- Discussed the monthly financial report.
- Discussed the need to appoint regular and alternate Budget Committee members.
- Discussed revisions to the Personnel Handbook.
- Discussed OSBA elections, OSBA's fall regional dinner meeting, and OSBA's 2015 and 2016 annual conventions.

## **Length of Service Awards:**

**30 Years:** Ted Yates

**25 Years:** Shannon Bohrer, Tammy Tracy, & Wesley Cox

**20 Years:** Jim McDonald & Mary Ann Rybel

**15 Years:** Jere Applebee, Ginger Green, Amber Hill, Shaun Southmayd, Linda Daniels, & Bill Jacques

**10 Years:** Jill Cone, Alicia Hess, Celeste Pellicci, Elizabeth Watkins, Debra Wilkin, Dee Ann Belozzer, & Jo Strong

**5 Years:** Tia Bellm, Kailey Sears, Tauna Tattam, Wendy Wilson, Brenden Thwing, & James Dallas

## **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](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TechGrants2015), are due October 5 at noon. 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](mailto: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](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GEFgrants).

Grant projects could include:

- innovative classroom projects
- technology
- supports to families
- after school 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](mailto:terry@foxerosion.com).