



# Gladstone Schools Employee Newsletter

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## Celebrations!

### GCCF program provided free lunch, enrichment

GCCF hosted a free summer lunch program that served nearly 3000 meals this summer. Some meals were served at Kraxberger. The program was federally funded.

“On average, we fed 80 children a day,” said head cook Lynn Aleksich. “Good nutrition keeps kids healthy, active, and growing.”

The Gladstone Public library provided enrichment activities at the GCCF each Wednesday ranging from a reptile show and a puppet show to music performances and the OMSI science cirucs.

### GHS student leads blood drive

Gladstone High senior Denali Nelson organized a blood drive to keep hospital shelves stocked for medical emergencies.

The August 31 event at Gladstone Baskin Robbins offered “a pint for a pint,” with each blood donor receiving a pint of ice cream.

“Volunteer blood donors are needed to help save lives,” said Nelson. “During the summer months fewer blood donors are available, making this one of the most challenging times of the year to collect blood donations. The Red Cross is grateful to all volunteers willing to roll up their sleeve and help others.”



### District honors teachers

At the district wide Welcome Back, three teachers were awarded the Thank-a-Teacher Award for outstanding service to their students, the school, and the district. Each won a \$250 cash prize.

**Kevin Zerzan** is a skilled veteran science teacher at Gladstone High School. This year he is part of a team designing a new freshman course to help students connect class work with their plans, goals, and future career. A winner of the national Milken Educator Award, he now serves as co-president of the Gladstone Teaching Association. He also contributes as a mentor, an advisor, and on the GHS leadership team.

**Kerry Jeffrey** is an outstanding learning and evaluation specialist in the Special Services department. She is an exceptional teacher who sees the potential in each student, helping them reach high expectations. Besides being an equity advocate, she excels at tracking and analyzing data and leads the evaluation team. She brings fun, positivity, and humor to the students she serves.

**Emily Morse** is a talented fourth grade teacher whose instruction is focused and intentional. She knows the importance of meeting her students’ social and emotional needs, so she creates a kind and caring learning environment. She is skilled at understanding the different needs of each student, and always remains calm. At John Wetten Elementary, she leads the math team, the wellness team, and her professional learning community.

## Calendar

Progress Reports -- No School  
October 11

### Kraxberger leaders bring expertise

The District has chosen two administrators to lead Kraxberger Middle School.

Heather Bailey is the new Principal. She has been an educator for 22 years, serving as the Principal of Russell and Butler Creek Elementary Schools for the past seven years. She was a classroom teacher for 15 years before that. She holds a Master’s degree from Concordia University.

Charlie Mikulsky is the new Vice Principal. He has experience in administration, counseling, and teaching. Originally from Wisconsin, he comes from the Reynolds School District, where he served as counselor, dean of students, and assistant principal.

### Wetten/GCCF seek SMART volunteers

Start Making A Reader Today [SMART] is seeking site coordinators and other volunteers to serve preschool and elementary students once or twice a week.

SMART volunteers help children develop a love of reading by sharing books with adult mentors. The program runs October through May during school hours with a minimum volunteer commitment of one day per week.

To apply, visit [www.getsmartoregon.org/volunteer](http://www.getsmartoregon.org/volunteer)

# School Board update & other news

From the September 11 Board meeting:

## Board Members:

Kristin Eaton, Chair  
Jay Schmidt, Vice Chair  
Tracey Grant  
Greg Lind  
Stacie Moncrief  
Steve Stewart

## The Board:

- Discussed the Homeless Student report.
- Approved a vacant School Board position and a procedure for filling it.
- Approved the hiring of licensed staff.
- Approved the Personnel Handbook.
- Discussed the first week of school with principals.
- Discussed the monthly financial report.
- Discussed the enrollment report.
- Discussed the Continuous Improvement Plan [CIP]
- Discussed the Student Success Act [SSA]
- Discussed the joint City and School Board meeting on October 16.
- Discussed OSBA elections.
- Discussed the fall OSBA fall regional dinner meeting.
- Discussed OSBA's 2019 annual convention.
- Discussed NSBA's 2020 annual convention.

## GEF golf event raises funds for Gladstone schools

The Gladstone Education Foundation's annual golf tournament netted \$14,000 for Gladstone schools and youth programs. GEF will use the funds for fall and spring grants to schools and classrooms across Gladstone.



## District honors outstanding classified employees

Three outstanding classified employees were honored with the Making A Difference Award, Each received a \$250 check in appreciation for their excellent work and exemplary customer service.

Lynn Aleksich, the district's Nutrition Services Coordinator, runs Gladstone's largest restaurant in four school cafeterias. Her role includes planning nutritious, balanced meals, using fresh, local produce thanks to the Farm-to-School program and Oregon Harvest for Schools. She also runs the free summer lunch program, which this year provided nearly 3,000 free meals to Gladstone children.

Ashley Morris is the evening custodian at John Wetten Elementary. In her three years with the Gladstone District, she always steps up to help and goes the extra mile. Besides being warm and personable, she is a skilled electrician and painter who keeps her school clean and safe for students. Her work exemplifies the school motto, "We can do hard things."

Debbie Poyser is an outstanding bookkeeper at Gladstone High School, responsible for tracking accounts, payments, and expenses. From invoices and purchase orders to student coin drives and game day money boxes, she is helpful, kind, and positive as she serves a constant barrage of teachers, coaches, parents, students, and district staff. Her work is appreciated both during the school day and at for after school activities.



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