



Gladstone Schools Employee Newsletter

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Celebrations!

Inspiring messages greet Kraxberger kids

The first day of middle school felt a bit less intimidating thanks to the chalk art messages from community leaders that greeted students on the front walkway.

"Welcome Bulldogs" in bold letters was accompanied by a hand-drawn picture of the school mascot.

Inspiring, colorful quotations ranged from Joan of Arc and Dr. Seuss to Ben Morrow and a Turkish proverb.

"This was truly the best way for my son to be greeted for his first year Kraxberger," said parent Jennifer Wells. "He was so happy to see the older kids helping out and all the great chalk work!"

Churches spiff up schools for students

Gladstone schools are ready for students thanks to a volunteer team from five Gladstone churches.

On August 20, nearly 100 people participated in the annual Church Out Day. They dove into projects on four school campuses, painting, pulling weeds, rejuvenating playgrounds, and organizing the Clothes Closet for the back-to-school rush.

Volunteers came from Gladstone First Baptist, St. Stephen Lutheran, Gladstone Christian, Gospel Fellowship Community Church, and Tri-City Baptist Temple.



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Education Foundation plans October auction

The Gladstone Education Foundation plans a Fast Forward Dinner & Auction to raise funds for schools and youth programs in the community.

The event will take place at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, October 21 at The World of Speed motorcar museum in Wilsonville. Attendees will have the chance to bid on silent and oral auction items, drive race car simulators, explore the museum, and enjoy dinner from Slick's Big Time Barbecue.

"We welcome donations of gift baskets, use of vacation homes, works of art, and other items," said event coordinator Tammy Tracy. "We also invite staff to attend this fun event to support our schools."

To order tickets [\$50 each], donate auction items, or become a sponsor, contact Tammy at tracyt@gladstone.k12.or.us or call 503.655.2777.

Gladstone scores jump in JWE literacy, 6th grade math

In the past two years, students at John Wetten have made tremendous gains in English Language Arts. State test scores from last spring showed fifth graders beat the state average by 5.3 percent, fourth graders by 11.4 percent, and third graders by 13.3 percent.

Wetten has become a model school for Response to Intervention, a strategy for early identification and support of students with learning or behavior needs.

The school's Culture of Care approach trains staff to use calming strategies that make classrooms a productive learning environment. The trauma-informed approach has payoffs not just in improved health and reduced stress, but also in academic achievement.

Gladstone's sixth grade math students also exceeded the state average, with scores up over 12 percent from the previous year.

"Our team has done outstanding work to make progress in these areas," said Patterson. "We intend to keep the momentum going."

Calendar

October 13

Non-contract day, all schools

October 16

Progress Report Day

Businesses donate school supplies

Happyrock Coffee Roasters and Gladstone Baskin Robbins wanted to make sure every student had the right tools to start the new school year. Both businesses held school supply drives in August.

"I was blown away by the mountain of donations for Gladstone kids," said Communications Coordinator Leslie Robinette.

Students who need supplies can get them from their school counselor.

Rotary installs Pillar of Peace at Wetten

John Wetten got a special gift from Gladstone/Oak Lodge Rotary this month: a Pillar of Peace.

The colorful art pole, designed by Audrey Delgado's art students from Kraxberger Middle School, stands as a visible reminder of the importance of peace, kindness, and community.

It joins three others also sponsored by Rotary, at GCCF Max Patterson Park, and the Gladstone Senior Center.

Additional pillars will be added at Gladstone High School, Kraxberger Middle School, and Cross Park.

School Board News & other news

From the September 13 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:

- Discussed an update on homeless students.
- Approved hiring of licensed staff.
- Approved the high school coaching handbook.
- Approved Board policy on legal names of students.
- Heard reports on the opening of the new school year from district administrators.
- Discussed the monthly Financial Report.
- Discussed the appointment of regular and alternate Budget Committee members.
- Discussed the Enrollment Report.
- Discussed policy updates on Staff/Student Parent Relations, Whistle blowers, Family Medical Leave, Animals in District Facilities, Admissions, & Homeless Students.
- Discussed Administrative Regulations on Sexual Harassment, FMLA, OFLA, Requests for Family and Medical Leave, Certification of Health Care Provider, Military Family Leave, FMLA/OFLA Eligibility Notice to Employees, FMLA/OLFA Designation Letters & Designation Notices, Fitness-for-Duty Certification, Hiring Procedures, Animals in District Facilities, and Homeless Students.
- Discussed OSBA elections, the OSBA fall regional dinner meeting, OSBA's 2017 annual convention, and NSBA's 2018 convention.



Nancy West, Ellen Peck, Peggy Powell, Shannon Bohrer, Rebecca Chitkowski, and Celeste Pellicci received cash awards at Gladstone Schools' all-employee event to kick off the new school year.

School employees win awards

The Gladstone School District celebrated the start of the school year by celebrating the accomplishments of outstanding teachers and staff through two cash award programs.

The Thank a Teacher Award is a \$250 cash prize in recognition of school leadership, contributions to school success, and excellence in instruction. Winners include:

- **Shannon Bohrer** has taught at John Wetten Elementary for 28 of her 30 years in education. She is a master teacher, focused on grades K-4. Over the years she helped plan the Gladstone Center for Children & Families, mentored new teachers, and served on the Response to Intervention team. She received National Board Certification in 2007.
- **Celeste Pellicci**, a current health teacher and former science teacher, she has worked at Kraxberger Middle School for 12 years. She has served as President of the Gladstone Teachers Association. She is part of this year's Emerge Oregon class, which trains women to run for elected office.
- **Rebecca Chitkowski**, a physics and chemistry teacher, includes an indoor skydiving trip as part of her science curriculum. She has taught at Gladstone High for 13 years, serving on the Academic Advisory Council and as a mentor to new teachers. She holds master's degrees in entomology and teacher leadership. Last year she wrote a grant to improve new teacher training across the district. This year she doubled enrollment in AP Chemistry.

The Making a Difference Award provides a \$250 cash prize to classified employees who make a positive impact on students, colleagues, their school, and the community. An anonymous donor funded this new award. Winners include:

- **Nancy West** runs the library at John Wetten Elementary. In her 17 years in Gladstone Schools, she has worked as a special education assistant, a secretary, and supported English Learners and low-income students. Helping students find the right book is her passion, and she is very proud of the school book fairs she organizes twice a year.
- **Peggy Powell** has worked as a special education instructional assistant and recess supervisor for 20 years in Gladstone Schools. Currently she works at Kraxberger, where she enjoys finding ways to create more social spaces in the school, and watching "goofy, cool, snarky, scared, and confused" adolescents evolve from "darling sixth graders into independent, confident eighth graders."

- **Ellen Peck**, head secretary at Gladstone High School, is a 20-year employee of the Gladstone District. She began her career as a library assistant, and ran the attendance office before taking on her current role. She loves working with teens and staff. One of her proudest accomplishments was raising \$25,000 and volunteer labor to build the red and blue playground at John Wetten.