



# Gladstone Schools Employee Newsletter

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## Celebrations!

### GCCF launches free parent classes

Clackamas Parenting Together funds GCCF free monthly parenting classes from 6 to 8 p.m. To register, call Chelsea Hamilton at 503.367.9116 .

### Beautiful Babies: 1st Thursdays

Child development and milestones, parenting styles, self-care, sleep, feeding, and playing with your baby.

### Terrific Toddlers: 2nd Thursdays

Toilet training, child safety, positive discipline, learning through play, and encouraging language and social development.

### Growing Up: 3rd Thursdays

School readiness and adjustments, healthy screen time, nutrition, love languages, and positive sibling relationships.

### GHS team hosts robotics camp

Teens and mentors from the GHS robotics team hosted a summer robotics camp for students from Kraxberger.

Funded by the Gladstone Education Foundation, the project was aimed at increasing the diversity of students involved in robotics.

"Students learned fabrication, tool use, planning, design, computer programming, teamwork, and problem-solving," said mentor Steve Stewart. "I have no doubt this will spur their interest in joining our robotics teams."

## District boosts safety and security programs

After testing secure entry systems at every school last spring, the Gladstone School District will continue using the buzz-in entry systems during school hours this fall.

"Students quickly adapted to the new entry procedure, and parents have told us how much they appreciate the added security," said Director of Operations Samantha Nelson.

Last winter, the district trained a threat assessment team that quickly provides in-depth evaluation of individuals who make or pose threats in close collaboration with the Gladstone Police, the Sheriff's Office, the Department of Human Services, and the County Juvenile Department.

Given the recent rise in youth depression and anxiety, the district also built partnerships with several mental health providers, including Trillium Family Services, Western Psychological, and the Gladstone Health Clinic.

"From Run Hide Fight training to our School Resource Officer, we are better prepared to detect threats and prevent school violence than ever before," said Superintendent Bob Stewart.

## 150 volunteers spruce up schools

Gladstone schools were ready for students thanks to an effort by 150 volunteers from six churches. The effort was part of the group's annual Servant Sunday event.

Volunteers did outside painting, planted shrubs, pruned trees, pulled weeds, spread fresh bark mulch, and organized the Clothes Closet.

Volunteers came from St. Stephen, Gladstone First Baptist, Gladstone Christian, Gladstone Church of the Nazarene, The Source Church, and Gospel Fellowship Community Church.

## Calendar

**October 12 -- No School**  
Non-Contract Day

**October 15 -- No School**  
Progress reports, Professional Development

## Kraxberger Gearheads give back to school

The Kraxberger Gearheads e-recycling team raises funds for the school's two robotics teams by taking apart old electronics and recycling them.

The venture has raised more than enough funds for the robotics program, so the club is now providing funds to other programs at their school.

Their most recent gift was a \$500 contribution to the school's P.E. department to buy new sports equipment. A \$1,000 donation went to the school's Kraxberger Rising project.

## SMART program expands to Wetten

After serving kindergarten and preschool students for the past few years, this fall the Gladstone program is expanding to serve grades 1 and 2 at John Wetten Elementary.

"SMART provides a fun, child-guided experience that builds reading skills, self-confidence, and a love of reading," said program coordinator Nathan Buck.

Each child participating will receive several new books and two adult mentors.

# School Board update & other news

From the September 12 Board meeting:

## **Board Members:**

Kristin Eaton, Chair  
Jay Schmidt, Vice Chair  
Nicole Vera-Vera Couzens [absent]  
Tracey Grant  
Greg Lind  
Stacie Moncrief  
Steve Stewart [absent]

## **The Board:**

- Held a meet and greet with new teachers.
- Met Fei Song, the new Confucius Classroom teacher.
- Heard about happenings at Gladstone High School from student representative Alex Liu.
- Heard an update on student homelessness.
- Approved requests for resignation/release from contract.
- Approved the recall of licensed staff.
- Approved the hiring of licensed staff.
- Approved the personnel handbook.
- Heard briefings about the first week of school from the administrative team.
- Discussed the monthly financial report.
- Discussed the enrollment report.
- Appointed regular and alternate budget committee members.
- Discussed the upcoming joint meeting of the City Council and School Board on November 1.
- Discussed OSBA elections, the OSBA fall regional dinner meeting, OSBA's 2018 annual convention, and the NSBA 2019 annual convention.

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## **Golf tournament raises funds for Gladstone kids**

This summer, the Gladstone Education Foundation [GEF] raised more than \$12,000 at their annual golf tournament to support education and youth programs in Gladstone. The event was held July 11 at Stone Creek Golf Course.

Proceeds from the event will be used to grants to schools, classrooms and organizations that support Gladstone youths. To contribute to the GEF, contact Executive Director Tammy Tracy at 503.655.2777.

## **Employees honored for excellence**

The district launched the new school year by celebrating the accomplishments of outstanding teachers and staff through two award programs.

The Thank a Teacher Award is a \$250 cash prize recognizing excellence in instruction, school leadership, and contributions to school success. Awards were presented to:

**Kaitlin Gillies**, a fourth grade teacher at John Wetten, makes instruction engaging and effective. The relationships she creates with students, families and peers is a model for the entire school. She serves as leader of the PBIS, a bargaining representative, and a PLC leader.

**Kris Schuberg** is a master English teacher at Gladstone High, where she is an advocate for all students. She excels at teaching writing and giving freshmen the skills to succeed in high school. She recently served as a founder of the district's new teacher mentor program and is now co-president of the Gladstone Teaching Association. Her integrity and passion make her a role model to her colleagues.

**Mara Asmus** is a learning specialist at Kraxberger, where she charms her way into the hearts of challenging students. She is a constant support to her colleagues and the families they serve. This summer she left her mark on the school's new Student Wellness Center by creating colorful murals inspired by her students.

The Making a Difference Award is a \$250 cash prize to classified employees who make a positive impact on students, colleagues, and the community. Awards were presented to:

**Linda Daniels** has been a cook at John Wetten since 2000. She exemplifies hard work and commitment to her job and coworkers. Students count on her kind words and gentle approach. She also served as a Food Pantry volunteer.

**Jo Strong** has served as a technology specialist since 2002. She is timely and effective, paying attention to detail. Her work benefits students and teachers, staff and families. Her collaborative spirit makes work fun and she's always willing to find solutions to tech problems big and small.

**Tressa Aplanap** is the head custodian at Kraxberger. A 20-year district employee, she excels at caring for the school building. Kids connect with her, love her, and confide in her. She builds strong relationships with everyone around her but still holds students accountable. She steps up for adults and students alike.