



# Gladstone Schools Employee Newsletter

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## Celebrations

### Kraxberger launches new Robotics Club

Kraxberger is starting a robotics club for girls and boys in grades 6 to 8.

Under the guidance of 3 adult volunteer mentors, students will have hands-on opportunities to build, operate, and apply robotics. They will participate in regional competitions, part of the national FIRST program.

The group will meet in Room 1:

- Mondays, 3:15 to 5 p.m.
- Wednesdays, 2:40 to 5 p.m.

### Grants support Outdoor School, family resource coordinator

Thanks to a \$12,500 grant from the Gray Family Foundation, sixth graders at Gladstone's Kraxberger Middle School can look forward to a science-packed Outdoor School experience next spring.

Three grants were awarded to the Family Resource Coordinator program at Gladstone Center, providing a navigator to connect families with services and an emergency fund to provide for urgent needs.

Oregon Community Foundation contributed \$20,000 to the program, and both Clackamas County & the Schnitzer CARE Foundation contributed \$5,000.

## Feds visit GHS as part of Green Ribbon tour

In September, federal officials from the Department of Education, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Agriculture, and the Environmental Quality Council joined state leaders in a tour of Gladstone High and three other sustainable Green Ribbon schools in Oregon.

In 2012, these schools were recognized for creating safe, healthy, and sustainable school environments; nutrition and fitness programs; and environmental education, including STEM, civics, and green career pathways.

Other schools on the tour included Willamina Elementary, Catlin Gabel School, and Sunnyside Environmental School.

The tour spotlighted best practices in school building and grounds design, construction, operations and management. It also celebrated health initiatives and sustainability education.

Tour participants collected input on what officials might do to encourage innovation and improvement in these areas at the state, district and school levels.

"We are particularly interested in how school facilities can improve the health and performance of our nation's earliest and high poverty learners, and get students on track for the careers of the future," said Andrea Falken, national director of the Green Ribbon Schools program.

## "Grand Bargain" brings added funds to Oregon schools

As the result of a bipartisan package of bills approved by the Oregon Legislature, Oregon schools will receive \$100,000 in added funding.

The funds, which come to the district in the 2014-15 school year, could help Gladstone Schools address pressing needs such as staffing, technology, or textbooks. Gladstone will receive approximately \$350,000.

"This winter, I will ask for input from parents, teachers, classified staff, and administrators on our greatest areas of need," said Superintendent Bob Stewart. "We are committed to carefully assess the needs of our students to ensure the most strategic use of the funds."

"We are very grateful for the opportunity to take another positive step," he added.

## Calendar

**GHS parent conferences**  
October 17

**Parent Conferences**  
**@ GCCF, JWE & WLK**  
October 28 & 30, November 1

**Veteran's Day holiday**  
November 11

**School Board @ 6:30 p.m.**  
November 13



## Lunch Buddies seeks volunteer mentors

John Wetten Elementary is seeking volunteers for the Lunch Buddy program, which pairs at-risk students with an adult mentor. The mentor spends 1 hour each week sharing lunch and recess activities with their lunch buddy.

To apply, call Volunteer Coordinator Angela Johnson at 503-656-6564.

## GCCF offers free story hour

The GCCF will offer a free story hour for children six and under. This is a way for kids to build literacy skills through shared reading, play, and fun language activities.

Story time is on first and third Thursdays from 4:15 to 5 p.m. at the Gladstone Center, located at 18905 SE Portland Avenue in Gladstone.

# Board News & Employee News

## From the October 9 Board meeting

### **Board Members present :**

Kristin Eaton, Chair  
Sharon Soliday, Vice Chair  
Denise Browning  
Susan Cronin  
Jay Schmidt  
Bruce Wadsworth

### **The Board:**

- Met exchange students attending Gladstone High.
- Heard an update on the Synergy student information system. Some glitches are still being worked out, but the district hopes to provide parents with log-in information to check secondary grades in a few weeks.
- Heard a report on the academic and behavioral successes resulting from full-day kindergarten. The program has resulted in increases in early literacy skills, such as letter naming fluency and phonemic naming frequency.
- Heard a report on the PSAT/college & career day planned October 16 at Gladstone High.
- Heard an update on the LEED project. Gladstone has achieved the equivalent of the LEED Gold Standard but recommends not pursuing formal certification due to the costs involved.
- Approved a travel request for the Gladstone High ASB/Leadership group to attend a conference in Seaside. with the stipulation that a female chaperone accompany the group.
- Approved 1 Regular and 1 Alternate member to the Budget Committee.
- Discussed, revised, and approved 2013-14 district goals:
  - Academics
  - Implementation of the Teacher and Administrator Supervision and Evaluation Process
  - Special Education
  - Implementation of the Common Core state standards
  - Community Engagement & Family Involvement
- Approved the district's Achievement Compact.
- Approved reinstatement of Vice Principal positions at John Wetten and Kraxberger, replacing two TOSAs.
- Reinstated the John Wetten counselor position to full time, replacing the current half time position.
- Heard a briefing from Gladstone High student representative Trevor Browning.
- Heard a report on the district financial audit.
- Reviewed several policies discussed in September.
- Discussed the fee schedule for facility use.

## **Employee wellness program invites participants**

When we get involved in fitness activities, we relieve stress, improve health, and set a good example for students. More importantly, we have fun!

With these goals in mind, Gladstone Schools offers a wide array of activities that are open to all employees. All classes are at John Wetten Elementary from 3:45 to 4:45 p.m. Classes are cancelled on holidays, report card days, and inservice days. Each class runs through the week of December 16. Join us!

### **Monday:**

*The Why Club: Dealing with life and life stressors*  
Led by Bill West in JWE Room 33

### **Tuesday**

*Zumba: dancel/fitness*  
Led by Dana Olsen in the JWE gym

### *Walk/Run Club*

Led by Liz Watkins & Wendy Mudd in the JWE cafeteria

### **Wednesday**

*Group Fitness: resistance training*  
Led by Bill West in the JWE gym

### **Thursday**

*Sports Games*  
Led by Greg Wendling in the JWE gym

### *Walk/Run Club*

Led by Laura Vierra & Katie Kaufman in the JWE cafeteria

### **Friday**

*Celebrating your Participation in the JWE library*

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## **New system allows online meal payment**

MealTime Online is a new system families and employees can use to pay for school lunches online via a link on school websites. The system provides automatic reminders when the account balance is low so cafeteria patrons can add more funds to their account. Use of the new system by students and staff members increases lunch time efficiency, making lunch lines move faster.