



Gladstone Schools Employee Newsletter

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Celebrations!

GHS Key Club holds blood drive

The Key Club at GHS held an October blood drive for the American Red Cross. For many students, it was their first opportunity to donate blood.

The event resulted in 61 registered donors and a total donation of 56 units of blood.

"We are truly grateful to the volunteers and most especially the blood donors who participated in the drive," said Red Cross manager Joyce Tkel. "Up to 168 patients may receive the gift of life as each donation may help up to 3 people."

Author visits John Wetten students

In September, students at John Wetten Elementary had the opportunity to spend time with children's advocate and award-winning author Trudy Ludwig.

Ludwig's books have received national praise for helping children connect and engage with their peers in kind, caring ways.

In each of her three student assemblies, Trudy read one of her books to the audience and discussed the story and the characters' roles.

Through engaging, age-appropriate activities and role-play with the author, the students learned important life skills related to making healthy friendship choices.

Kraxberger wellness center combats stress

To counteract teen stress, anxiety, and depression, Kraxberger Middle School created a new Student Wellness Center where students learn strategies to calm themselves and check in with a trusted adult.

Students access the center by booking a 15-minute appointment in advance, teaching them to anticipate when stress will hit.

The Wellness Center was developed with Trillium Family Service, offering four different options.

The Tactile Wellness Lab is a dimly lit room with a sand tray where students create their own imaginative, nonverbal story line. The Quiet Wellness Lab is a dark space where students can control the levels of stimuli they are exposed to.

The Thinking Wellness Lab is a cozy nook where students can study or meditate in a quiet space using noise-cancelling headphones. Other students prefer the Workout Wellness Lab, a space to burn excess energy and release aggression by using free weights, resistance bands, or a punching bag.

Packages arrive for GHS students

Gladstone High teacher Emmett Pearson was among those selected by actress Kristen Bell to benefit from a school supply drive for her language arts, drama, and film studies students.

In an Instagram post, Bell asked teachers to message her with their story and an Amazon wish list for students to share with her followers. She selected 10 teachers to help in states across the nation.

After Pearson was selected, more than 130 packages arrived at GHS, including many class sets of novels, books for film studies and drama classes, Chromebook computers, composition books, ipads, wireless microphones, water bottles, and backpacks.

"Oh, my goodness – what a week!" said Pearson. "I am overwhelmed by the generosity of strangers across the world who support our kids! I've already written 300 thank you notes to the people who donated!"

Calendar

October 23 -- GCCF, JWE, WLK
Evening Conferences

October 25 -- All schools
Evening Conferences

October 26 -- All schools
Conferences -- no school

GCCF students enjoy fresh garden produce

Preschool and kindergarten students at the GCCF have garden fresh celery and tomatoes for lunch, thanks to the efforts of Easter Seals volunteer Susie Chapman.

The garden provided produce for the free summer lunch program and now the school lunch program. Any extra produce is shared with families.

"The children love eating what they see growing," said head cook Lynn Aleksich.

Kraxberger launches new after school clubs

Parents and staff at Kraxberger Middle School are expanding after school programs to help students connect with adult mentors and a place to belong.

New clubs this fall include Art Club, Knitting, Magic Monday, and Recreational Volleyball. Future sessions will offer more new options, from cooking and running to Battle of the Books and drama.

The KAOS, Robotics and e-recycling clubs will continue.

School Board update & other news

From the October 10 Board meeting:

Board Members:

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

The Board:

- Presented a Growing Great People Award to Nathan Buck of Start Making A Reader Today [SMART], which provides a reading program to students at the Gladstone Center for Children & Families and John Wetten Elementary.
- Welcomed foreign exchange students.
- Heard a presentation on the Drama Club/Language Arts trip to the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland.
- Discussed the GCCF student art work on display in the Board Room.
- Approved a Drama Club/Language Arts field trip to Ashland.
- Approved the Associated Student Body trip to their Fall Conference.
- Approved funding for the Food Pantry.
- Approved requests for Resignation/Release from Contracts.
- Approved the hiring of licensed employees.
- Approved regular and alternate Budget Committee members.
- Heard comments from members of the public.
- Received briefings from district administrators.
- Discussed the monthly financial report.
- Discussed plans for a joint meeting of the School Board and Gladstone City Council on November 1.
- Discussed OSBA's 2018 annual convention.

Districts hold candidates' forum on education issues

An October 3 candidates' forum hosted by 10 school districts in Clackamas County addressed hot topics in education. Twenty-one state legislative candidates participated.

The event included presentations by a parent, a high school student, and several educators on the region's most pressing education challenges: the need for stable and adequate school funding; the increasing need for mental health resources for students; bullying; and Oregon's looming teacher shortage.

A video of the event is available at <http://bit.ly/ClackEdForum>.



Give It Back Day continues community service tradition at Gladstone High

The GHS Key Club organized the school's 6th annual Give It Back day. More than 100 student leaders, athletes, and staff members helped elderly or disabled neighbors at 22 sites across the community with lawn mowing, leaf raking, and other outdoor chores. Students also helped lay bark mulch on trails at the Gladstone Nature Park.

"This event provides students the opportunity to thank the community for their support of our schools and athletic teams," said event organizer Lynnda Prom. "Public service is the Gladstone way."

Employees recognized for length of service

The Gladstone District recognized many employees for their long-term service to the district, presenting each with a gift.

20 Years

Julie Fox
Tobin Nelson
Peggy Powell

15 Years

Amy Voelker
Denise Durkee
Laura Vierra

10 Years

Teresa Watts
Jeremy Clark
Tressa Aplanalp
Janetta Hale

5 Years

Vicki Baker
Sharon Wadsworth
Leslie Robinette
Ashley Aldridge
Ryan Browning
Kaitlin Gillies
Kelly Jacobs
Macie Schaeffer
Matt Misely
Daniel Myers
Jessica Oransky
Christine Ong
Lauren Thompson