



# Gladstone Schools Employee Newsletter

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## Celebrations!

### Rotary donates dictionaries at JWE

Continuing a long tradition, the Gladstone/Oak Lodge Rotary Club presented each third grader at John Wetten Elementary with a personal dictionary.

Students immediately began exploring the book, excited to discover it included not only unusual words, but also information about the planets, the states, and the Declaration of Independence.

"I hope these students have as much fun discovering new words in their dictionaries as I did when I immigrated from Holland at age six," said Rotarian Baldwin Van der Bijl.

### Kraxberger team drills down on absenteeism

Chronic absenteeism is a problem Kraxberger Middle School is addressing head on. A team of school staff is part of a county wide project funded by Kaiser to identify and address the root causes so school attendance improves.

"From peer and parenting issues to mental health challenges or a lack of connections in school, students face a wide range of barriers that keep them out of school," said Principal Len Reed.

The school is building a range of supports for students, from after school programs and consistent staff response to absences to lessons on why attendance matters.

### Kraxberger saves energy with free HVAC installation

Middle schoolers will benefit from more consistent heating and ventilation thanks to a newly installed HVAC system acquired at a bargain price via a study by the Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance. The project is funded by the Energy Trust of Oregon and Northwest Natural.

The \$100,000 system, installed at no cost to the Gladstone School District, was provided free because the district is participating in a study of energy savings. The new system is estimated to be 96 percent efficient, a big improvement on the older system, which was only 76 percent efficient.

"This not only provides better climate control within our school, but it will also save taxpayers money," said Facilities Manager Ryan Johnson. "What a substantial gift to our school."

### Gladstone Food Pantry secures funding

After closing for two months due to school district funding cuts, the Gladstone Food Pantry reopened in August under the temporary leadership of volunteers Ruthann Aurentz and Alex Van Pelt.

Now, thanks to grants and donations, the pantry has the funds it needs to hire a part time manager for the 70-volunteer operation beginning this winter in partnership with Northwest Family Services.

Funds include a \$15,000 grant from Clackamas County, a \$5,000 grant from Bob's Red Mill Natural Foods, and over a dozen substantial contributions from local businesses and individuals.

In the 2017-18 school year, the pantry served 7,325 individuals from 2,189 households. Of those served, 85 percent are children and their families or caregivers, and 66 percent are from neighborhoods in or around Gladstone.

The pantry is located on the north side of the Gladstone High campus off Nelson Lane. Hours are Thursdays from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon.

## Calendar

### December 3

No school -- Report Card Day

### December 24 to January 4

No school — Winter Break

### GHS students re-enact Constitutional history

At Gladstone High, advanced placement History students reenacted the Constitutional Convention, held in Philadelphia in 1787.

"There was spirited debate among the common citizens, Federalists, and Anti-Federalists as they argued over how the U.S. government should be set up for our young nation," said teacher Matt Misley.

"Students researched the different viewpoints and had to advocate for their side."

### GCCF hosts dental van

The Gladstone Center for Children and Families [GCCF] hosted a visit from the Tooth Taxi, a mobile dental van that serves children across the state.

Dental van staff provided free dental screenings to every student at John Wetten Elementary and the GCCF. Dentists provided additional services to 38 Gladstone students, including cleanings, sealants, fillings, crowns, and extractions.

The care provided is valued at over \$55,000. The Arrow Dental van was also on site providing free care to adults.

# School Board update & other news

From the November 14 Board meeting:

## **Board Members:**

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

## **The Board:**

- Presented the Growing Great People Award to First Student for outstanding transportation service for students and providing free transportation to the dental van.
- Discussed Board Room art work created by students from John Wetten.
- Heard about happenings at Gladstone High from student representative Natasha Engeldinger.
- Learned about the college and career programs at Gladstone High School.
- Approved the girls varsity basketball trip to Astoria.
- Approved the varsity baseball trip to Anaheim to participate in a tournament.
- Approved a boys varsity basketball trip to compete in a tournament in Sisters.
- Approved surplus of a district backhoe.
- Approved the release from contract of a licensed staff member.
- Approved the hiring of licensed staff.
- Approved candidates for the OSBA election.
- Approved OSBA Resolution 1.
- Approved the Budget Committee calendar.
- Appointed regular and alternate Budget Committee members.
- Heard updates from members of the administrative team.
- Discussed the monthly financial report.
- Discussed the fall enrollment report.

## **Walker Tracker promotes exercise**

This fall, 79 employees across the district are participating in the Walker Tracker challenge, with the goal of motivating staff to log 7,000 steps per day, a total of 2,842 miles during the 40-day event.

Chris Rich has doubled the pacer, and is in the lead. Frances Severson, Katherine Czernik, Jo Strong and Elizabeth Watkins are also ahead of the pacer. Kraxberger's staff is in the lead, with 147,580 steps, and JWE is close behind at 146,783 steps.



## **GHS celebrates veterans**

Gladstone High welcomed veterans and current military personnel from across the region to their annual Veteran's Celebration.

All branches of the military were represented, along with survivors of World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Gulf Conflict, and recent conflicts. The featured speaker at the event was Air Force veteran Kari Tadder, who spoke of leaving her husband and children when deployed to Afghanistan. Tadder is the assistant cheer coach at Gladstone High School.

"This was an opportunity to honor and celebrate these men and women for their service to our nation," said Principal Kevin Taylor. "One family that attended had veterans from 3 generations."

## **Rotary donates to GCCF**

The Gladstone/Oak Lodge Rotary Club donated \$1,000 to the kindergarten at the Gladstone Center for Children and Families. The funds will provide class sets of books each month to help children learn to read.

The Rotary club runs the Gladstone Community Festival, supports literacy and scholarships, promotes peace, and does community service projects from road cleanups and holiday giving to food pantry donations.