



Gladstone Schools Employee Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 1 • August 20, 2014

Celebrations

Grant brings library outreach to John Wetten

Students at Gladstone's John Wetten Elementary will learn about library programs, books, and resources thanks to a new Gladstone Public Library outreach program.

"Funded with a \$2,000 literacy grant from Target, the Elementary Reads program will expose first, second, and third grade students to high-interest paperback books," explained librarian Arwen Ungar.

"Lively book talks will engage students and generate excitement about new materials, and each classroom will receive collections of featured items to share," she added.

GHS, Kraxberger win grants for robotics teams

Gladstone High's robotics team is the recipient of a \$3,000 grant from the Oregon Department of Education.

The two robotics teams at Kraxberger Middle School were awarded a \$2,500 grant from the Gladstone Education Foundation. The funds will allow both schools to compete in regional events during the coming school year.

Both teams encourage students to learn computer programming, computer-aided design, teamwork, and mechanical engineering.

K-8 Chinese language program to start

This year, Gladstone Schools will offer instruction in Chinese language and culture to students in grades K-8. The Confucius Classroom program is funded by the Confucius Institute at Portland State University and HanBan, China's national office for teaching Chinese language.

Gladstone's teacher from China will work with kindergarten, elementary, and middle school students, teaching Mandarin language as well as Chinese music, art, food, history, and literature.

The Confucius Classroom program is the next step in building a bridge to Gladstone's sister school, Middle School Number 89 in Xi'an, China, which Superintendent Bob Stewart visited last spring.

"Part of Growing Great People is preparing children for a global workforce and marketplace," said Superintendent Bob Stewart. "We are proud that Gladstone is one of very few schools in Portland area to offer this program."

School district refinances bond, saving taxpayers over \$800,000

The Gladstone School District recently refinanced the remaining bonds from the 2006 bond issue, totaling \$15.9 million dollars. The sale will save the taxpayers over 5 percent, a total of \$805,040.

Taxpayers will notice the savings beginning in the 2024 tax year, when they will see and savings of approximately 22 to 24 cents tax per thousand dollars of a home's assessed value.

The 2006 bond, approved by voters, funded creation of the Gladstone Center for Children and Families, renovations at John Wetten Elementary and Kraxberger Middle School, and a major remodel of Gladstone High, including the addition of a fine and applied arts wing.

Calendar

Holiday

September 1

Staff In-service

September 2

First day for grades K-9

September 3

First day for grades 10-12

September 4

School Board Meeting

@ 6:30 p.m. Sept. 10

Early Release begins

September 10

Kraxberger wins grants for Outdoor School

Kraxberger Middle School has been awarded more than \$20,000 from Metro and the Gray Family Foundation to provide sustainability curriculum at Outdoor School.

Through a week-long science camp, students learn to reduce, reuse, and recycle, while minimizing their impact on the environment.

"Outdoor School is a life-changing, coming-of-age tradition for students," said principal Nancy Bailey.

Classic car club donates to GCCF

A classic car club, Associated Fords of the Fifties, donated nearly \$1,800 to the Gladstone Center for Children and Families (GCCF). Funds were raised this month during the club's Classic Car Show during the Gladstone Cultural Festival.

The grant will provide supports for low-income children.

School Board News & Employee News

From the August 13 Board meeting

Board Members present :

Kristin Eaton, Chair -- absent
Sharon Soliday, Vice Chair -- absent
Rod Cole -- absent
Nicole Couzens
Susan Cronin
Jay Schmidt
Bruce Wadsworth

The Board:

- Discussed the annual restraint and seclusion report.
- Approved alternative education programs.
- Approved personnel actions.
- Received updates from the administrative team.
- Discussed the monthly financial report.
- Discussed the refinancing of the district's bond payments.
- Approved hiring of new employees.
- Approved changes to inter-district transfer openings.
- Approved employee agreements with licensed, classified, confidential and administrative employee groups.



Summer programs sponsored by Gladstone Public Library brought kids weeks of fun and learning, including a visit from the Reptile Man.

Nicole Couzens joins the School Board

At their July 9 meeting the Gladstone School Board unanimously voted to appoint Nicole Couzens to the Gladstone School Board until June 30, 2015, filling a vacancy left when long-serving board member Denise Browning resigned.

Couzens, a manager for Head Start, holds a master's degree in early childhood education. She has worked at the Gladstone Center for Children and Families, where she serves on a committee addressing kindergarten readiness and the needs of students from preschool to grade 3. Couzens is the mother of two young children.

Gladstone Education Foundation raises funds at golf tournament, garage sale

Golfers contributed \$7,000 to support Gladstone Schools at the annual golf tournament sponsored by the Gladstone Education Foundation (GEF).

"Our morning at Stone Creek Golf Club was a fun way to kick off the Gladstone Cultural Festival," said GEF Executive Director Kathy Beykovsky. "We were pleased to see so many alumni and community members turn out to support our students."

The GEF also raised \$2,500 for school programs at a garage sale fundraiser in June.

Funds raised will support classroom grants, staff development, after school activities, and family support programs in all four Gladstone schools.

Employee wellness program offers fun & fitness opportunities

Thanks to grant funding from the Oregon Education Association, Gladstone District employees can now enjoy wellness program offerings at three schools. Any employee can participate at any site. Contact each building's committee chairs for a schedule of available activities:

GCCF: Amy Marlia and Kristina Whitley

JWE: Greg Wendling & Nancy West

WLK: Kailey Sears and Debbie Gorton