



Gladstone Schools Employee Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 7 • March 18, 2014

Celebrations

Kraxberger shines at first Robotics competition

The two robotics teams from Kraxberger were excited about their first robotics competition in February.

Team 8188 finished in 6th and Team 8132 finished 19th in a field of 28 competitors.

Members of the after-school club learn electronics, fabrication, and computer programming, as well as teamwork, planning, publicity, and design.

GCCF opens Learning Zones

Kindergarten students at the GCCF will have enrichment opportunities in science, music, dramatic play, and community awareness.

Each Learning Zone has 6 to 10 lessons on each topic, designed for a group of 5 to 6 children working with a trained volunteer.

“This opportunity lets kid experience small group learning, while also letting the classroom teacher work with a smaller group,” explains project coordinator Susan Trone. “This is one more way to meet individual student needs.”

Auction nets \$56,000 for Gladstone schools

The Gladstone Education Foundation auction raised net proceeds of \$56,000 to benefit students and programs in Gladstone Schools. The February 15th event was the group’s largest ever, with 300 community members attending.

\$20,000 of the total was raised in a ten-minute “paddle raise” in support of programs for disadvantaged families, including the new Clothes Closet and Food Pantry that supports the Backpack Buddies program serving all Gladstone schools.

“Our community has a big heart,” said GEF President Bill Kemnitzer. “We’re so grateful to all who assisted with, attended, or donated to this event.”

Grant continues Family Resource Coordinator serving children 9 and under

A \$30,000 grant from Family Care will extend the services of their Family Resource Coordinator through 2014. The Northwest Family Services program serving children 8 and under started a year ago, to build bridges between schools, health care, and social service agencies that serve struggling families with children 9 and under.

Navigator Ellyn Jeck helps families find the supports they need, and follows up with clients. To connect a family with the Family Resource Coordinator, contact Ellyn Jeck at 503-496-3945.

Clothes Closet to serve all students

The Gladstone Ministerial Association opened its new community clothes closet on February 20. The site will provide free clothing to youths from birth to age 18, serving students from all Gladstone schools.

Operating hours for the volunteer-run clothes closet are Thursdays from 3 to 5 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon. During these hours, visitors may come to select clothing or drop off donations.

Donations will also be accepted in the front office at Gladstone High during school hours.

The Clothes Closet is located in a modular on the north side of the Gladstone High Campus. For easy access, drive up Nelson Lane and turn in at the fire lane.

Calendar

School Board Meeting
@ 6:30 p.m. April 9

John Wetten celebrates Everybody Reads Day

Elementary students celebrated their love of books with a day-long Everybody Reads event on March 3.

The day included a number of celebrity guest readers, from Police Chief Jim Pryde and Gladstone Librarian Arwen Ungar to Timber Joey and players from the Portland Winter Hawks.

GHS students take honors in Skills Competition

Sixty-three GHS students competed in the Skills Competition at CCC. Top finishers included:

Graphic Design:

1st Place: Justice North

2nd Place: Emily Doll

Honorable Mention: Kaylee McCracken

Math 1 Team: First Place

Carli Brown

Madalynn Fowler

Matthew Prom

Spelling Bee: Second Place

Kristi Kuntz

Math 1 Warmup Winners:

Payton Becker

Brian Stewart

Abigail Bender

First and second place winners got 12-credit and 8-credit scholarships to CCC.

Board News & Employee News

From the March 12 Board meeting

Board Members present :

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

The Board:

- Enjoyed a performance by the 4th & 5th grade choir.
- Heard a presentation on the Kraxberger Gearheads robotics club.
- Heard a presentation on the Board Room artwork by John Wetten students.
- Approved policy EBBB on injury/illness reports, policy IKF on graduation requirements, policy JHCDA on administering injectible medicines to students, and policies JGAB and JGAB-AR on the use of restraint and seclusion.
- Approved the renewal of contracts for probationary licensed employees.
- Acknowledged the termination of teachers filling temporary positions.
- Extended contracts for contracted teachers for two years.
- Extended the contract for a contracted administrator.
- Approved the local service plan for the Clackamas Education Service District.
- Heard a report from student representative Kenzie Williams about GHS events, athletics, and KATU coverage of the Student Senate project.
- Heard reports from school and district administrators.
- Heard the monthly financial report.
- Heard a report on Section 504 Plans.
- Heard a report on the English Language Arts curriculum adoption. Finalist materials will be on display beginning April 1.
- Heard an update on the Division 22 Report.
- Discussed proposed policy revisions.
- Reviewed a letter of resignation from a retiring employee.

Parent survey comments

“Teachers and staff are wonderful – open and willing to work with children, and supportive of individual needs.”
— **GCCF parent**

“The staff – the entire staff -- really cares about kids. They take kids under their wings.”
— **John Wetten parent**

“Students feel safe. Staff, from cooks to administrators, create a safe environment for learning. That makes this a place where kids love to come to school.”
— **Kraxberger parent**

“I’m grateful for all the academic support: before school, after school, and at Saturday school.” — **GHS parent**

“I really appreciate all the communication with parents.”
— **John Wetten parent**

“Coming to Kraxberger was a highlight because there was after school help every day. My child struggles, so that’s been huge.” — **Kraxberger parent**

Community education program announces spring classes

Spring is coming, and so is the March launch of a variety of fun and affordable recreation classes for youths, seniors, and adults.

Opportunities for youths include Spring Break Soccer and Pole Vault camps, Driver Education, SAT Prep, Ballet, Hip Hop, Guitar, Ukulele, Ballet, Tumbling, Aikido, Tae Kwon Do, Skyhawks sports, and more. A \$75 Driver Education discount is available for students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch.

Adult classes include Cooking; Computer classes; Genealogy; Spanish; Aerobics; Country Dance; Zumba; Tai Chi; Yoga; Guitar; Ukulele; Oil Painting; Card Making; Quilting; Watercolor; Investing for the Future; Medic First Aid/CPR; Small Engine Repair; Wills, Trusts & Estate Planning; Birding; Spring Gardening, and more.

A complete list of program offerings is available at <http://gladstone.k12.or.us/images/Spring-2014.pdf>