



Gladstone Schools Employee Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 2 • September 23, 2014

Celebrations

Gladstone High kids take the Ice Bucket Challenge

Two student groups at Gladstone High School got involved in the popular Ice Bucket Challenge to support the fight against the disease ALS.

The Gladstone High School Robotics Team was the first to take the plunge, with four members and two mentors participating. The group challenged several competitor robotics teams to take the challenge.

The Gladstone High School Cheer Squad also completed the challenge, with 13 team members participating. The group donated \$50 to fight ALS.

Videos of both teams are available on the Gladstone Schools Facebook page.

Luau to raise funds for Kraxberger Outdoor School

High Rocks Restaurant plans a Hawaiian luau to raise funds to support the Outdoor School program for sixth graders at Kraxberger.

The event is scheduled at 915 E. Arlington Street on Tuesday, September 23 at 6 p.m. Dinner is \$10 for adults and \$5 for kids 12 and under. A full 100% of proceeds go to support Outdoor School.

The meal will include roasted pig, fruit, salads, bread, and desserts.

Schools make gains in reading, writing, math

After using some new instructional approaches, Gladstone teachers saw gains in a number of areas during the last round of state OAKS testing.

At John Wetten Elementary, third grade reading scores jumped 15.2 percent, climbing above the state average. Reading scores also rose 4.6 percent for 7th graders and 3.5 percent for 11th graders, who beat the state average.

At Kraxberger Middle School, students made big gains in math as students adjusted to new Common Core curriculum. Sixth graders were 7 percent above the state average. Seventh graders improved by 3.3 percent, with average scores 14 percent above the state average. Eighth grade student achievement climbed 5.5 percent, 4.5 percent above the state average.

Gladstone High students exceeded the state average across the board, in math, reading, science, and writing. The biggest gains were made in writing, where scores jumped 6.2 percent.

Three teachers honored

Gladstone Schools honored three teachers in August, presenting them with the Thank a Teacher Award. Winners of the cash awards included:

- **Molly Wilson:** A collaborative fourth grade teacher at John Wetten, Molly is known for creative and engaging lessons and countless hours supporting school wide curriculum and technology projects.
- **Patti Bisenius:** A sixth grade teacher and Outdoor School Coordinator at Kraxberger, she devotes countless hours to planning the school's sixth grade Outdoor School program.
- **Casey Webster:** A math teacher and baseball coach at GHS, he has been a regular staffer at Saturday Opportunity School, dedicated to giving students extra support to learn and understand math.

Calendar

School Board Meeting
@ 6:30 p.m. October 8

Non-contract Day
October 10

Wetten to launch Parent Power class

John Wetten will offer a Parent Power class in October, to help parents boost student motivation and learn effective discipline strategies.

The 4-night class will be 6 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday nights, October 7, 14, 21, and 28. Free childcare will be provided.

To register, visit www.lastingrelationships.org or call 503.546.6377.

GCCF offers drop-in parent workshops

Three monthly drop-in classes at the GCCF provide information geared to the age of the child. Free dinner and childcare are always provided.

- **Beautiful Babies** is for parents with children under 18 months. The group meets first Thursdays from September to May.
- **Terrific Toddlers** is for parents with children 18 months to 3 years old. The group meets second Thursdays from September to May.
- **Growing Up** is for parents with children age three to six. The group meets third Thursdays from September to May.

School Board News & Employee News

From the September 10 Board meeting

Board Members present :

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

The Board:

- Heard a presentation on Clackamas Community College's initiative to take the college into its 50th year of service and beyond.
- Discussed the district's report on Homeless Students. At the end of the last school year, 54 Gladstone students were homeless.
- Approved the plan for the annual district audit.
- Approved the charge for the district Technology Planning Team.
- Approved the hiring of two probationary teachers.
- Heard an update on happenings at Gladstone High from student representative Lauren Hill.
- Heard updates from district Administrative Staff and Principals about the start of the new school year.
- Reviewed the district's monthly financial report.
- Discussed enrollment for the first week of school.
- Discussed the appointment of regular and alternate members for the district budget committee.
- Discussed policy updates regarding Sexual Harassment, Academic Achievement, Personal Electronic Devices and Social Media, Use of Restraint and Seclusion, and Personnel Handbook.
- Discussed upcoming OSBA events.
- Discussed the schedule for Board member attendance at the Gladstone Business Owners meetings.

Weigh in on Smarter Balanced scoring

Educators, parents, and community members are being called on to recommend achievement levels on the new Smarter Balanced state assessments after reviewing test questions from selected English and math tests.

To participate visit www.smarterbalanced.org to learn more about the online panel. If you're interested in participating, register at www.smarterbalanced.org/onlinepanel by September 26, 2014.

Length of Service Honorees

30 Years

Patti Cox
Sharon Withers

25 Years

John Mantalas
Sue Surratt

20 Years

Patti Bisenius
Debbie Gorton

15 Years

Lori Chambers
Lorelle Green
Ryan Johnson
David Kays
Trey Mott
Frances Severson
Susan Stobie
Tracy Stoughton
Nancy West
Karen Zerzan
Kevin Zerzan

10 Years

Patti Alexander
Kassy Babeckos
Heather Bigbee
Becky Chitkowski
Diane Delvers
Denise Durkee
Laura Fuller
Marilyn Furamasu
Carol Hess
David Hill
Jamie Jenson
Brad Kuntz
Amy Otto
Tenna Reed
Rebecca Waverly
Greg Wendling

5 Years

Tressa Aplanalp
Linda Fletcher
Janetta Hale
Rob Hill
Katie Kaufman
Emily Smith
Teresa Watts

Board seeks applicants for Technology Planning Committee

The School Board is seeking a variety of district employees, parents, and community members to serve on the Technology Planning Committee. They want to include people from a variety technology experience levels, from novice to expert.

If you know parents or community members who are interested in participating, have them contact Lenie Bjornsen at bjornsenl@gladstone.k12.or.us.

Applications are due September 26. To apply, visit www.surveymonkey.com/s/GSDTeam. Teachers selected for the committee will be paid curriculum rate, and classified staff selected will be paid their hourly rate, including overtime when appropriate.