



# Gladstone Schools Employee Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 7 • February 17, 2015

## Celebrations

### GHS students hold blood & clothing drives

Student leaders at GHS held blood and clothing drives this month, a way of giving back to the community.

Over 120 students stepped up to donate blood, contributing 86 units to the American Red Cross. The Key Club organized the event.

The clothing drive, part of Spirit Week, was a competition between the freshman, sophomore, junior, and senior classes. All clothing gathered was donated to the Community Clothes Closet that serves Gladstone students.

### GCCF plans Pizza/Bingo Night for families

Families are invited to the annual Pizza/Bingo night at the GCCF, the Center's only fundraiser.

Pizza dinner, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. is \$3 for adults, \$2 for children, and free to kids age two and under.

Bingo is \$1 per card, with unlimited games.

Raffle tickets are \$3 each or three for \$5.

The event emphasizes the importance of parents and children sharing family meals and games on a regular basis.

## Gladstone High tops state graduation rate

In 2014, Gladstone High School continued to surpass the state graduation rate by more than 9 percent, with over 81 percent of students graduating in 4 years.

More than 90 percent of the GHS class of 2013 completed high school, an adult diploma, or a GED within five years.

"We won't be satisfied until 100 percent of students are college or career ready when they leave high school," said Principal Natalie Osburn. "Over 90 percent of our class of 2013 met that goal. In four years, 81% of our class of 2014 met that goal. The rest need more time and support to clear the bar."

At GHS, 95 percent of Latino students, 92 percent of disadvantaged minority students, and 91 percent of economically disadvantaged students graduated within five years. For these demographics, the student success rate is 21 to 25 percent above the state average.

"We don't give up on any student," said Vice Principal Patti Alexander.

## Education Foundation supports Gladstone classrooms, kids

In 2014, the Gladstone Education Foundation (GEF) brought in over \$149,000 -- \$71 per student -- to support Gladstone's four schools.

The total includes \$71,000 from fundraisers, including an auction, a community garage sale, a breakfast, and a golf tournament. The group received over \$21,000 in direct contributions and more than \$57,000 in grants.

Over \$106,000 of the funds are being used to support classroom projects, athletic programs, afterschool clubs, a new kindergarten readiness summer program, Saturday Opportunity School, the Family Resource Coordinator, the Clothes Closet, and the Food Pantry.

To request grant funding from the GEF, contact Bill Kemnitzer at 503.522.2884. More information is available on the GEF website.

## Calendar

**School Board Meeting**  
March 11 @ 6:30 p.m.

**Report Card Day**  
march 13 -- no school

## Kraxberger robotics teams compete

Two robotics teams from Kraxberger competed at Oregon State University.

"Despite a few technical problems, both teams had a good showing," said mentor Shawn Price. "I am proud of their teamwork, problem-solving, and gracious professionalism."

Team 8132 has advanced to the Super Qualifiers round at the Evergreen Space Museum on February 21.

## JWE clubs connect kids to mentors

From speech, art, and choir to book club, cheer-leading, and science, John Wetten launched several free or low-cost afterschool activities.

"Having an adult mentor, a positive peer group, and skill building gives kids an advantage, especially between grades 4 and 12."

Volunteer Coordinator Theresa Schmidt said the school hopes to launch more clubs this spring.

# School Board News

## From the February 11 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:**

- Discussed the English Language Arts textbook adoption for secondary schools. Copies of the materials proposed for adoption will be on public view in the District Office from February 12 to 27.
- Discussed the structure of and schedule for Smarter Balanced testing.
- Approved a GHS swim team trip to Madras in February.
- Approved a GHS wrestling team trip to Tillamook in February.
- Approved policy revisions on pest management, student transportation, wellness, nutrition services, school meals, electronic communications, non-prescription medications, and prescription medications.
- Approved personnel actions.
- Discussed the monthly financial report.
- Discussed the annual pest management report.
- Discussed the kindergarten assessment.
- Filled a vacancy on the Budget Committee.
- Discussed the OSBA/COSA Legislative Day on Feb. 23.

## **Open Enrollment tours available**

Open Enrollment applicants interested in touring schools in Gladstone are invited to do so.

- Full-day kindergarten : Drop-in tours from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 24.
- John Wetten Elementary: Tour from 5:30 to 6:15 p.m. Wednesday, March 11.
- Kraxberger: School tours arranged by request. Call 503-655-3636.
- Gladstone High: Tours & half-day student shadows each Wednesday in February Call 503-655-2544 to schedule.

Open Enrollment applications are on the district website. They are due April 1.

## **Employee wellness program expands**

The Gladstone District's employee wellness program has again expanded this year, serving Gladstone High and the coming soon to the District Office. This makes the rollout complete to all schools in the district.

Each site has a wellness committee that plans wellness challenges, after work activity groups, and rewards for meeting wellness goals.

Gladstone High kicked off their first month's effort with a schoolwide wellness challenge to improve sleep hours and water consumption.

Funded by the OEA Trust, the program has the goal of improving educator health and well-being for all employees.

A website is provided as a resource for participants:

<http://www.oeachoice.com/>

Staff members interested in participating in the wellness program can contact their site coordinator:

- GCCF -- Amy Marlia & Christina Whitley
- JWE -- Greg Wendling & Nancy West
- WLK -- Rob Hill & Debbie Gorton
- GHS -- Kristi Straw
- DO -- Tammy Tracy



## **Kemhus to direct GCCF through June**

Carol Kemhus, a retired educator from Oregon City Schools, has joined the Gladstone District, serving as Interim Director of the Gladstone Center for Children & Families from February through June.

Kemhus has extensive experience in elementary administration. After working as a teacher and school counselor, she served for many years as principal at both Mt. Pleasant Elementary and Park Place Elementary Schools in Oregon City.

In addition, she has deep familiarity with the District's new elementary language arts curriculum.

"The staff and district have been grateful for the leadership Kathy Hartlaub has provided the past four months," said Superintendent Bob Stewart. "Fortunately, we have found an equally experienced principal to lead the kindergarten."



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