



Gladstone Schools Employee Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 8 • March 17, 2015

Celebrations

JWE Valentines cheer homeless

Gladstone children in Kaitlyn Gillies' third grade class made Valentine Cards for a non-profit called Street Books. The cards were provided to homeless people so they would have cards to give to their loved ones.

"Many people chose Valentines and wrote notes to their friends and family," said Laura Moulton of Street Books.

"We are grateful students gave their time and energy to help people who needed a little extra love," she added.

6th & 7th graders get free books

Thanks to a partnership with The Clackamas Bookshelf, every sixth and seventh grader at Kraxberger Middle School got to choose a free book.

The Bookshelf, a new non-profit housed in a portable behind Kraxberger, has given away over 4,000 books to children in the Gladstone and North Clackamas School Districts since launching their group in August.

The group seeks teen and adult volunteers to help clean donated books. Used book donations are also appreciated. For information, email katy.preston10@gmail.com.

\$63,000 grant to fund AVID at Kraxberger

Starting in fall 2015, Kraxberger Middle School will launch a school wide college preparation system called Advancement Via Individual Determination [AVID]. The program will be phased in, starting with sixth grade.

AVID targets mid-level students with academic potential, but barriers to college, including poverty, minority race, or the lack of a college-going family culture. A cohort of hand-selected students will take a year-long AVID elective class, with small group support from academic tutors two days each week.

All students in the school will have the advantage of learning organizational strategies, including Cornell Notes, keeping an organized binder, and using a planner. In addition, all will participate in Socratic Seminar and benefit from a school environment rich in college preparedness information.

The program, launched through a grant from the Miller Foundation, will send 8 staff members to Denver for training at AVID's headquarters this July.

Two school leaders hired

The Gladstone School District announced the hiring of two new leaders for the coming academic year.

Christina Alquisira will be the Early Learning Director for the GCCF, replacing Interim Director Carol Kemhus.

Alquisira brings to the role experience as the early learning coordinator for the Forest Grove School District, and years as a school counselor at Cornelius Elementary School. A fluent Spanish speaker, she holds a Master's Degree in Education from the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Becky Lukens will be the new principal at Kraxberger Middle School, replacing Nancy Bailey, who retires in June.

Lukens founded Pacific Crest Community School in 1993, and serves as Co-Director and teacher there. Previously, she taught history at West Linn and Nestucca Union High Schools. She holds a post-Master's certificate in Education from Lewis and Clark College.

Calendar

Spring Break
March 23 to 27
School Board Meeting
April 8 @ 6:30 p.m.

GCCF & JWE cooks plan clever Dr. Seuss menus

Cooks at the GCCF and JWE planned some creative menus in celebration of Dr. Seuss's birthday.

Special meals included ABC-shaped chicken nuggets, Red Fish/Blue Fish jello, and -- of course -- Green Eggs & Ham.

Adding to the fun, School Resource Officer Eric Graves and other members of the Gladstone Police stopped in to read Dr. Seuss books during lunch.

GHS students help Backpack Buddies program

Counting out cans of tuna and loaves of Dave's Killer Bread, special education students at Gladstone High work each Tuesday in the Gladstone Food Pantry located on the school campus.

Together they load backpacks with donated food for children whose families are facing hard times.

"These students develop and practice real-world job skills like inventory, repackaging, and teamwork," said Principal Natalie Osburn.

School Board News

From the March 11 Board meeting

Board Members present :

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

The Board:

- Heard an update on the counseling program.
- Heard a report on homeless students in the District.
- Approved a GHS Robotics Team trip to Eastern Washington University for a regional competition.
- Approved a GHS Softball Team trip to a tournament in Newport.
- Discussed the District Technology Planning Team report.
- Approved a new policy on staff health and safety.
- Approved the adoption of new Language Arts curriculum for grades 6 to 12.
- Approved a transfer of funds to subsidize the food services program.
- Approved the resignation of two district employees.
- Acknowledged the termination of contracts for temporary employees.
- Extended contracts for teachers.
- Approved the hiring of the Early Learning Director for the GCCF and the Principal for Kraxberger Middle School.
- Approved a revision in the District's Open Enrollment cap for kindergarten.
- Received updates from District administrators.
- Discussed the District financial report.
- Discussed the need for Budget Committee members.

Open Enrollment applications due April 1

Families living outside the Gladstone District who wish to enroll students in Gladstone Schools have until April 1 to apply. If the number of applicants for a given grade level exceeds the number of open spots, enrollment will be decided by lottery.

Application information and forms are available on the District and school websites: <http://ow.ly/K7REx>

Openings are available in grades K-10 at these schools:

Full day kindergarten at GCCF: This well-established full-day program is in the secure environment of our state-of-the-art early childhood center. Students receive weekly instruction from specialists in art, music, P.E. and technology. After school child care is available.

John Wetten Elementary [grades 1-5]: This well-rounded program includes weekly instruction from specialists in music, P.E., technology, and library.

Kraxberger Middle School [grades 6-8] This small school offers electives in Spanish, band, or a rotation of 6 electives. AVID, a college-readiness system, launches this fall. All sixth graders attend a week-long outdoor school at the coast.

Gladstone High School [grades 9-10]: This small school offers 31 opportunities to earn college credits, fine arts electives, and 35 hands-on career-technical classes. 17 sports teams and over a dozen afterschool clubs help each student find their niche.



“We believe that out of the public school grows the greatness of a nation.” ~ Mark Twain