



Gladstone Schools Employee Newsletter

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Celebrations

Wetten works to boost attendance

John Wetten Elementary is working hard to improve student attendance this year. Like schools across Oregon, some 20 percent of students are chronically absent, missing over 10 percent of the school year.

“Students who miss class twice a month or more have gaps in their learning that can make it hard to catch up,” said Vice Principal Jere Applebee.

Classrooms with the best attendance will be rewarded with prizes such as J.J. Jump passes and Winterhawks tickets.

The school is also working with parents of chronically absent kids to resolve issues so they can avoid court and fines.

GCCF Science Hour serves ages 3-8

Families who want to learn easy ways to support science learning for children age three to eight are invited to join Science Hour at the Gladstone Center for Children & Families.

Events are planned at GCCF at 4:15 p.m. on the following dates:

- October 15: Fall Fun
- November 20: Food Science
- January 22: Color & Patterns
- February 19: Making Things Move
- March 19: Wonderful Water

Technology team to explore strategies

A School Board advisory committee of 40 district staff and community members will work together from October to February to develop a recommended framework for technology use in Gladstone Schools.

With the help of professional facilitators, the group will consider a range of technology issues from students needs and teaching techniques to professional development needs and decision-making for technology use.

“Presenters, panelists, and provocateurs — including Gladstone students — will help us think outside the box,” explained project coordinator Lennie Bjornsen, Director of Family and Student Support.

Besides a wide array of staff representatives, the group includes several tech-savvy parents willing to step up and share their knowledge, experience, and perspectives.

“Technology is a catalyst and a tool that can transform and support education in exciting ways,” said Bjornsen. “It will be essential to align our technology plan with our education objectives.”

Chinese program begins at GCCF, JWE, & Kraxberger

In September, teacher Miao Fan traveled nearly 6,000 miles from her home in Shaoshan, China to join the teaching team in the Gladstone School District.

A former journalist, she taught for eight years at Datong Primary School in China’s Hunan Province.

Besides teaching, Ms. Fan is skilled in a number of Chinese arts, including calligraphy, paper cutting, Chinese cuisine, tea ceremony, knot weaving, and recitation.

She will be teaching students Chinese culture and introducing them to the Mandarin language at John Wetten Elementary, the kindergarten, and Kraxberger Middle School. Lessons may range from Chinese jump rope and making dumplings to learning Mandarin vocabulary and Chinese history.

Calendar

Veteran’s Day Holiday
November 11

School Board Meeting
@ 6:30 p.m. November 12

Gladstone High wins \$7,000 technology grant

This month Daimler Trucks North America donated \$7,000 to the technology program at Gladstone High School.

Funds will be used to support classes in robotics and engineering technology.

“By supporting students in technology and engineering, we hope to encourage them to stay in school to prepare for rewarding careers in manufacturing,” said Roger Nielson, Daimler’s chief operating officer.

Alumna in Ireland writes to Kraxberger Kids

Kraxberger students are learning about life in Ireland from a former Gladstone alumna.

Erin Pratt, now a Portland State University student, has a blog called “Live from Limerick, Ireland,” where she answers questions posed by the seventh graders in Amy Otto’s social studies class.

The two-way communication on topics from castles to fashion will continue through December, when Erin will return to Gladstone to visit the students.

School Board News

From the October 8 Board meeting

Board Members present :

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

The Board:

- Met German exchange student Marina Lauterbach and her host family.
- Met Chinese teacher Miao Fan and her host family.
- Approved trips for the ASB leadership group, the GHS Varsity Volleyball team, GHS business students, and Varsity/JV baseball.
- Approved the District Mission Statement and Guiding Principles.
- Approved the 2014-15 District Goals.
- Approved the Achievement Compact for 2014-15.
- Discussed the monthly financial report.
- Discussed the need for Budget Committee members.
- Discussed policy updates regarding Sexual Harassment, Academic Achievement, Personal Electronic Devices, and Restraint and Seclusion.

GHS athletes and leaders plan Gladstone Gives Back day of service

Do you know a Gladstone senior or a homebound neighbor who could use a hand with weeding, leaf raking, lawn mowing or stacking firewood?

A team of 200 athletes and student leaders from Gladstone High plan their annual Gladstone Gives Back community service day on October 18, and they are ready to help!

If you know a neighbor who could use a helping hand, contact event organizers Lynnda Prom at proml@gladstone.k12.or.us or Kathy Beykovsky at 971.227.2655.

The goal of the event is to thank the community for their support of Gladstone schools and athletic teams.



The new teachers hired this year bring a variety of experience and skills to the district.

What parents say about Gladstone schools:

“Great kids! Great teachers!! Great parents! Great coaches!”

“Having a full day for kindergarten gives kids a great advantage. My daughter is far more advanced than friends outside the district, thanks to the full day program and, of course, her awesome teachers.”

“We value the small, more personal school experience.”

“Teachers really go above and beyond to make the learning experience special.”

“Teachers really care about the kids and make every student feel like a part of the school.”

“I love the variety of extra curricular activities at every level.”

“I feel that the high school offering support to all students on Saturday mornings is a big help. My daughter took advantage of coming in around 7 a.m. most days to keep up her GPA while playing three sports. The level of support at all of our schools is phenomenal and I thank all the teachers for making it available.”