

Gladstone School Board votes to offer all-day kindergarten for 2012-2013

Beginning with the 2015 school year, the State of Oregon will require all districts to provide full-day kindergarten, but Gladstone's full-day program will begin in September.

At its March 14th meeting, the Gladstone School Board voted to offer full-day kindergarten at no charge beginning with the 2012-2013 school year. The District currently has four half-day kindergarten classes in addition to one full-day class for which families pay tuition. Moving to all-day kindergarten will have a financial impact on the District in the short-term because currently the state reimburses school districts only for half-day kindergarten, even if the children are participating in an all-day program. The upside of making this change to full-day kindergarten in the fall instead of waiting until 2015, however, is that over a two or three-year period Gladstone's all-day kindergarten program will impact more than 500 children who will benefit from the academic boost they will receive prior to entering first grade. In addition to improved student performance, the District will attract families to Gladstone which will, in turn, result in greater resources for the District. All kindergarten classes are held at the Gladstone Center for Children & Families, located across the street from Gladstone High School at 18905 Portland Avenue.

GHS students turn trash into treasure for SOLVE

By Brenden Thwing, Art Club Coordinator

For the past month and a half, three members of the Gladstone High School art club, juniors **Ashley-Jean Gonzalez** and **Kristy Younglove**, and senior **Chanel Karbonski**, have been working on transforming litter into artwork. The project was introduced to the Art Club by SOLVE as a means of closing the garbage loop and showcasing efforts to clean up streams in Clackamas County through artistic creation. The SOLVE office recently moved from Hillsboro to Portland, and they were in need of new artwork. SOLVE's Student Green Team did a clean up of litter from Phillips Creek, a stream that flows beside the Clackamas Town Center that is surrounded by a sea of parking lots. Litter that is dropped nearby or blown out of trash cans washes into the stream and becomes a problem for the wildlife that call Phillips Creek home.



Left to right: **Ashley-Jean Gonzalez, Kristy Younglove and Chanel Karbonski.**

Meghan Ballard, SOLVE's Green Team Program Coordinator, stated they handed over five bags of litter from the creek to **Brenden Thwing**, Art Club Coordinator at Gladstone High School. The students came up with the concept of utilizing the trash to produce a creative representation of SOLVE's founder, former Governor Tom McCall. In honor of Governor McCall's 100th birthday, the Oregon Historical Society will hold an event, where Gladstone's "trashy" artwork is expected to be a topic of conversation. The piece now hangs in the main office of SOLVE in downtown Portland. Thwing said, "The final design concept theme was discovered after digging into SOLVE's history only to find that former Governor Tom McCall had founded the organization in 1969. Students thought it would be challenging to transform 3-D pieces of garbage into a portrait by tearing the trash apart and manipulating it into shapes to form a face."



For additional information and photos, visit <http://solvgreenteam.wordpress.com/2012/02/22/gladstone-high-transforms-trash-into-treasure/>.

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~ GLAD NOTES ~

John Weinert wins Laureate writing contest

~ Horizons ~

Unforgotten pallid deeds
Done with little grace or might
Taunt us, though we try to hum
Ourselves to sleep at night.

As we whistle past the graveyard walk
With eyes shut tight and teary,
We must hold this knowledge close
Whenever we are weary.

Dreams, like living flower seeds
Planted in the soil of awkward youth,
Wait but for the rain of spring to come
To bring showers of truth.

For ceaseless is the ticking of the morbid clock
And tomorrow will not fail –
New beginnings rise every day,
Another chance to catch the grail.

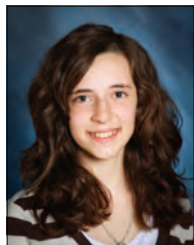
What would you do to make Oregon an even better place to live?

That was a question that Gladstone High School's AP Government and Politics students considered with Gov. Kitzhaber, Secretary of State Brown, U.S. Congressman Schrader, State Rep. Hunt, State Rep. Richardson and several lobbyists and legislative aides.

On February 22nd **Morgan Adair, Sarah Anderson, Llexi Baker, Jason DeMars, Dima Gordeyev, Andy Hunt, Kristy Younglove, Sam Clyde, Zach Gaumont, Stephanie Hernandez, Ryan LeDoux, Sara Mejias, Adam Olander, Elisabeth Peloquin, Kristin Ramey, Brietta Scholz, Stephen Snellgrove, Libby Stewart, Kienan Streed, Keenan Ward, Trace Webster, John Weinert** and **Sabrina Willett** along with social studies teacher, **Kate Sterry**, toured the capitol building, learned about its history and special features, watched the House in action, and learned about protocol and



Kraxberger students attend National Young Leaders State Conference



Joseph Heintz, > an 8th grader, and < **Abby Bender**, a 7th grade student at Kraxberger Middle School attended the National Young Leaders State



Conference (NYLSC) which was held in Bellevue, WA February 23th through 26th. The conference helps young scholars take an introspective, personalized assessment of their leadership skills and abilities and provides an opportunity for them to build a working "toolkit" of strategies to help them successfully, dream, create and implement plans to change how they view their role as community leaders.

politics. Secretary of State Kate Brown explained her role in governing, and students learned that 90% of Oregon's funds are used to educate, medicate and incarcerate.

Brown emphasized the importance of getting young people involved, as currently only 40% of Oregon's voters are under the age of 30. She handed out voter registration cards for each student to fill out and return to her.

On the House floor, there was a tribute to Oregon's "Mother of the Year" followed by recognition of Oregon's "Volunteer of the Year." Rep. Hunt recognized the class from GHS and introduced his son, **Andy Hunt**.

This session was the first time a regular session has been held during an even year. Sessions will now run 30 days in even years and 160 days in odd-numbered years.

Rep. Hunt answered questions, and Gov. Kitzhaber talked about his policy priorities and what it is like to be the first governor in Oregon's history to serve three terms of office. Two lobbyists from an interest group talked about what lobbyists do and their role in the political process. Rep. Richardson talked about the letters the students had written to him with budget policy suggestions; and Congressman Schrader compared the political life in Salem with life in Washington D.C.

Students came away with a positive view of what's happening in Salem and their role as Oregon citizens. As one student put it,

"This eye-opening experience awakened me to the reality that it is possible for young people to get involved and have their voices heard."

Names in the News

Amanda Kelner, Ryan Mellmer, and Kaity Maley competed in the District 13 Solo and Ensemble Competition on February 25th. Ryan and Kaity placed 3rd in the alto saxophone and trumpet category, while Amanda won the French horn category. Amanda will be competing at the OSAA State Solo Competition on May 5th. **Nikki Acevedo** was one of four finalists for Metro East Rose Festival princess. Two Gladstone High School students won credit vouchers for Clackamas Community College at their College Skills Competition on February 23rd. **Ian Kinnes** placed 2nd in the Spelling Bee and **Alexandra Thompson** took 3rd in Math III Geometry. Ian will receive an 8 credit hour voucher to use for classes at CCC and Alexandra will receive a 4 credit hour voucher.

~ MORE GLAD NEWS ~

National visitors



On March 11th, the Oregon Community Foundation (OCF) brought a group of 25 people to the Gladstone Center for Children & Families to tour the facility and discuss the Boomers & Babies program that was launched with a significant grant from OCF. The Boomers & Babies program supports efforts by early childhood care and education organizations to engage boomer age volunteers in activities that contribute to children's school readiness. The visitors represented foundations similar to the Oregon Community Foundation that are based in Baltimore, New York City, Rochester, Maine, Grand Rapids, upstate Minnesota, Denver, Los Angeles and San Francisco. **Kathy Hartlaub**, center coordinator, and **Susan Trone**, the center's volunteer coordinator, represented the school district. In reference to that presentation, **Denise Browning**, school board member, responded by saying, "I've been dreaming about the day we would be bringing 'them' in by the busload. Guess it is here!"



Mr. John Wetten celebrates "Everybody Reads Day" with 4th grade student, **Andrew Czernik**.

Volunteers **Molly Schlenker** (left) and **Colleen Stutz** set up a learning zone in the Gladstone Center for Children & Families (GCCF). >



< **Kendra Pittam** and **Melissa Hensley** work on iPods with kindergartners.

Spaghetti/Bingo Night was held at the GCCF on Friday evening, March 2nd. More than 100 meals were served during the Parent Club-sponsored event. Families donated games and gift cards for the Bingo activity. An additional highlight was giving away two donated weekends at the beach. GHS students served and worked the bingo tables.



Joseph and Michelle Holloway enjoy dinner together on Spaghetti/Bingo night.

With donated books from the community and a contribution from the Gladstone/Oak Grove Rotary, every child through kindergarten leaves **Story Hour** at the GCCF with a book. Here > **Lennie Bjornsen**, Director of Early Childhood Supports Gladstone / Jennings cluster, has the Story Hour children spellbound with his animated reading.



<Volunteer, **Walt Allais**, builds bookshelves with materials donated by Home Depot. One bookshelf is raffled off each week at Story Hour (*attendance being the only criteria*). Weekly guest speakers include Cub Scouts, the Gladstone Public Library librarian and the Cat in the Hat!



Everybody Reads Day at John Wetten Elementary

< The Cat in the Hat (aka **Wendy Wilson**, principal) hosted a morning assembly to kick off the 6th annual Everybody Reads Day, on Friday, March 16th. As a special treat, **Mr. John Wetten**, read "The Real Story of the Three Little Pigs," as told through the voice of the Big Bad Wolf. The children's faces revealed their excitement in meeting the man for whom their school is named.

Green eggs and ham were served for the Everybody Reads Day lunch while **Mrs. LaValley** read a Dr. Seuss book. The school buzzed with excitement as 33 readers from various backgrounds, including retired teachers, police officers, firefighters, and authors read to the classes. Great conversations followed as the children were given time to visit with the guests and ask questions. This event celebrated literacy and showed the children that everyone shares a love of reading.

"Pause for Paws," the school-wide reading challenge, started the same day. This challenge encourages students to read as many books as they can; and for every book they finish, they earn a leopard paw to post in the cafeteria.

~ Calendar of Events ~

April

- 19 Preview/Orientation at Gladstone Center for Children & Families, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. RSVP at 503-496-3939.
- 5,12, 26 Early Childhood Story Hour, 4:15 - 5:30 p.m. Gladstone Center for Children & Families
- 26 In-service Day - NO SCHOOL

May

- 1 Kindergarten Round-Up, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m., Gladstone Center for Children & Families
- 3 Kindergarten Round-Up, 9 - 11 a.m., Gladstone Center for Children & Families
- 3,10 Early Childhood Story Hour, 4:15 - 5:30 p.m. Gladstone Center for Children & Families
- 17 - 19 Variety Show, 7 p.m., GHS Auditorium (*solo singing, dancing, acting, choral music, instrumental music, and musical theater*)
- 25 Reduction Day - NO SCHOOL
- 28 Memorial Day - NO SCHOOL

June

- 4 Baccalaureate, 7 p.m., Gladstone High School
- 6 8th Grad Recognition, 6:30 p.m. Gladstone H.S.
- 7 Last day of school
- 7 Graduation, 7:30 p.m., Peter Stott Center, PSU
- 18 Gladstone Education Foundation Annual Golf Tournament, 1:30 p.m., Stone Creek Golf Club Tammy Tracy 503-650-2577.

FamilyCare Health Plan continues to impact students at Wetten Elementary

It has been a year since the students at John Wetten Elementary School received a \$20,000 gift from FamilyCare Health Plans for their Healthy Students/Healthy Oregon campaign. Under the direction of **Trey Mott**, it has been a year of great accomplishments and gratitude for the gift that has made it all possible. Students are enjoying more fruits and vegetables at lunch time; those who bring their lunches from home can now access one of two salad bars; students are more knowledgeable about how nutrition and exercise work together to ensure a healthier lifestyle.

Food Services at John Wetten Elementary no longer serve chocolate milk, nor is food used as a reward for student achievement. Nutritious snacks are provided, and the staff monitors students' choices to ensure they are choosing from at least 3 of the 5 food groups. With the additional salad bar provided by **FamilyCare Health Plans**, the traffic flow through the cafeteria runs smoothly, allowing extra time for students to enjoy their lunches. Wellness information is sent home in every school newsletter, and a "Healthy & Fun Choices" lesson and activity book by **Kirsten Klug** has been given to every student to enhance their understanding of nutrition and healthy choices.

Plans for phase II of the program are now in place which will focus on exercise, in addition to nutrition.

Costumes & Competition



FIRST team member, **Stephen Snellgrove** (GHS senior) prepares for the Robotics Regional Competition held March 9 - 11 at the Memorial Coliseum. The Team 3131 robot scored points for baskets as well as doing some fancy platform balancing. FIRST balances the real-life struggles of competition with the skills of working together as a team.

An environmental win/win

Are you interested in saving money, lowering your negative impact on the environment, and supporting the Green School Club?

Gladstone High School's Green School Club is partnering with the Clackamas County Office of Sustainability and the Energy Trust of Oregon to offer Gladstone families opportunities to:

- 1) attend a workshop on home efficiency;
- 2) chat on the phone with an efficiency expert; or
- 3) have an in-home visit from an Energy Trust advisor and receive a prioritized list of custom recommendations based on comfort goals and cost savings.

Clackamas County will make contributions to Gladstone's Green School Club for each participating family. In addition, homeowners can receive cash incentives for any work done on their home from the Energy Trust of Oregon. If interested in participating in a home energy review or to learn more about cash incentives or an energy saving kit for apartments, please contact Energy Trust of Oregon at (866) 368-7878 or online at www.energytrust.org.

Gladstone Education Foundation Annual Golf Tournament

The Gladstone Education Foundation is sponsoring its 7th Annual Golf Tournament fundraiser, **Monday, June 18th**, at **Stone Creek Golf Club**. Shot gun starts at 1:30 p.m. \$125 per single; \$500 per foursome. Cost includes range balls, cart, individual gift, box lunch, barbeque dinner and awards. Space is limited, so gather three friends, neighbors, business associates or family members and sign up for a fun-filled day of golf, amazing prizes, and great food while raising money for the Gladstone Education Foundation. For sponsorship opportunities or more information contact **Tammy Tracy** at

503-650-2577 or tracyt@gladstone.k12.or.us.