



GENESEE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT
GENESEE COUNTY'S REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AGENCY

INNERVIEWS

InnerViews is published for the staff of GISD with additional distribution to community partners and friends.

Read Across America Fun at EKLC and MCIC

Read Across America is an annual event celebrating reading and Dr. Seuss's birthday, which is on March 2nd. This year would have been his 102nd birthday! Students at the Elmer Knopf Learning Center celebrated the event in a variety of different ways. To commemorate the special day, two students from Pat Sanford's Intermediate classroom read stories to some very appreciative students in Sue Himes' classroom.

Read Across America was celebrated at MCIC on March 10. Several members of the community read to the students, including a state representative, a judge and a local anchorman/reporter. A reception was held for the readers. Festivities included a cat decorating contest, an all-day theater and a dance for students. Special thanks go out to all GISD employees who participated in making the event a wonderful experience for all.



EKLC students celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday by participating in Read Across America activities.

GISD Constituent District Budget Hearing Held

On March 16, 2006, the GISD Board of Education and representatives from the 21 constituent district boards of education met to review all of GISD's 2006-2007 projected budgets. Presentations were made in each budget area by GISD administrative staff.

After extensive review, the following budgets were unanimously endorsed by the constituent district representatives:

- General Fund
- Special Education Fund
- Career Technical Education Fund
- Enterprise Fund
- Other Funds



Cindy Gansen, a Flushing Board of Education member, reads to an MCIC student.

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GISD Budget: A Tradition of Partnership

Dear Staff,

On March 16, the GISD Board of Education held the traditional GISD Budget Hearing. All of our budgets were presented by leadership staff to district representatives. In preparation for the budget hearing, many staff members from throughout our organization contributed to this excellent presentation. Communications and Development staff, working cooperatively with the Technology and Media Services Department, presented an outstanding program to our constituents.

Last year, for the first time, Public Act 234 of 2004 required that each local district adopt a resolution expressing its support for, or disapproval of, the proposed intermediate school district General Fund budget. Keeping with its tradition of full disclosure, the GISD Board has decided to ask local boards to review **all** of GISD's budgets, including the General Fund, Special Education Fund, Career Technical Education Fund, Capital Projects Funds, Debt Retirement Fund, Enterprise Fund and School Lunch Services Fund budgets. As of this date, the Genesee County Superintendents Association has reviewed and unanimously approved all of the above-mentioned budgets. Last week at our budget hearing, the constituent district representatives also unanimously approved all of our budgets.

The process of building the GISD budget starts with local district involvement in the same way that the GISD Teaching, Learning & Service Plan was developed. Everything in the GISD budget is derived from direct feedback of superintendents, local districts and our staff. The existing budget development process has been followed in the Genesee Intermediate School District for over 20 years. Sharing our budgets with constituent districts and the community-at-large is not new for us. We welcome the opportunity to showcase our programs and explain our funding strategies.

The overall 2006-07 budget revenue, including all funds, is projected to be \$105,556,871. Overall expenditures for the 2006-07 budget are projected to be \$113,874,276. The 2006-07 budget uses \$8.3 million of fund balance to deliver GISD services to its constituents and meet GISD's capital needs. We are using fund balance to support our constituents in these difficult financial times. Special programs, such as our common office environment, and copier and printer project, help us save operational costs, and therefore, allow us to support our operations and our constituents.

GISD is extremely proud of its fiscal efficiency and remains committed to the highest level of professional-

ism. Through the expertise of our staff and the quality of our programs and service, we impact instruction, learning, productivity and efficiency throughout Genesee County. Over 90% of GISD's comprehensive budget is linked to direct student support services. The remaining 10% of the comprehensive budget accounts for infrastructure and other GISD services vital for student support in Genesee County. Without the operational, business, payroll and administrative support for the organization, all of the direct services to students could not be delivered effectively. More importantly, nearly 92% of GISD's personnel costs are linked to direct student support services. In the last five years, administrative staff has been reduced 15%, while ISD staff providing direct services to students throughout the county has increased overall by 28%, for a total of 917 staff members.

Working collaboratively through the budget process ensures stability for GISD. This is extremely important as we face the changes and challenges ahead. As always, the quality work of GISD's employees ensures that budget expenditures approved by our board of education and endorsed by our 21 constituent boards of education make a real difference in the lives of our students. Wherever you work as a GISD employee, you are part of a great organization, and you are a valuable asset. Thank you for a job well done!

Sincerely,



Board Meeting Location Change

As has been the tradition for many years, the superintendent and members of the Lakeville Board of Education have cordially extended an invitation to the Genesee Intermediate School District Board of Education to conduct its April 25, 2006 meeting in the Lakeville Community School District, followed by the annual end-of-maple-syrup-season pancake supper. The board approved changing the location of its April meeting to the Lakeville Middle School Library.

INNERVIEWS

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GISD Collaborative Schools of Choice Program Endorsed for 2006-2007

The Genesee County Superintendents Association took action on March 2, 2006 to continue the Collaborative Schools of Choice Program for the 2006-07 school year with a new 1% factor. At the March 14 meeting, the GISD board endorsed the Genesee Intermediate School District Collaborative Schools of Choice Program for 2006-07.

General Enrollment Information Received

At the March 14 meeting, the board received a report from Cindy McCain, Executive Director – Business Services, pertaining to general enrollment information. Business Services staff prepared the enrollment information, including live birth data and five-year enrollment projections for the ISD. The information was generated from the Single Record Student Database (SRSD). In addition, specific trend data on adult education, special education and career technical education have been developed. As in the past, detailed enrollment projections for each local school district were developed and distributed to the superintendents for their use. At the meeting, Cindy McCain also noted the following key trends in Genesee County: enrollment is down; birth rates are flat for the county; and the need for special education services is growing. The board accepted the report.

Priority Children Representative Appointed

On March 31, 2006, Dr. Thomas Svitkovich's one-year term on the Priority Children Board of Directors will expire. At the March 14 meeting, the GISD Board of Education designated Dr. Svitkovich as Genesee Intermediate School District's representative for the next one-year term that will run from April 1, 2006 through March 31, 2007.

Summer Programs Approved

Elmer A. Knopf Learning Center

For many years, GISD has successfully operated a summer recreational day camp program. The program has provided activities for moderately cognitive impaired and autism spectrum disorder students. The program for the 2006 summer will begin on July 11 and end on August 10, 2006.

The program will run three days a week (Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday) from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Staffing will include group leaders, summer program assistants, camp coordinators and necessary support staff. Transportation will be provided for students whose resident district participates in the GISD Specialized Transportation Consortium. As in the past, a hot lunch program will be available through the Carman-Ainsworth Community Schools Food Service.

Early Childhood Programs and Services

Last summer, for the first time, Early Childhood Programs and Services offered a Summer Enrichment Program for students 3-7 years of age. At the end of the program, families and staff were surveyed and overwhelmingly indicated that the program was a success. Families also expressed interest in having this program every summer.

A 2006 summer enrichment program for Early Childhood Programs and Services students, ages 3-7 years, is being proposed to run three days a week (Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday) from 8:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The program will begin on July 11 and end on August 10, 2006. Staffing will include approximately three group leaders, two camp coordinators and necessary support staff. Transportation will be provided for students whose resident district participates in the GISD Specialized Transportation Consortium. Daily snacks will be provided by the families. In addition to the program for 3-7 year old students, a program for Early On families with children birth to 36 months will be offered. This program will be available one day per week up to two hours and include music, literacy, gross motor, sensory and fine motor activities.

At the March 14 meeting, the GISD Board of Education approved plans for summer programs at both buildings.

Donation Accepted

THANKS

On behalf of Health, Safety and Nutrition Services, the board accepted a generous donation from the Fenton Road Rite Aid Store #4471. The store donated \$134.95 for the Even Start/SKIP Regional Family Event held on February 27, 2006.

Resignations Accepted

Resignations for the purpose of retirement were accepted from: Francis F. Hudson, Teacher Consultant for Students with Disabilities, Elmer A. Knopf Learning Center; and Pamela A. Mills, Paraprofessional, Elmer A. Knopf Learning Center.

Leaves of Absence Approved

Leaves of absence were considered and approved for: Lillian J. Yuncker, Paraprofessional, Marion D. Crouse Instructional Center; Michael P. Riley, Paraprofessional, Marion D. Crouse Instructional Center; Cheryl L. Pfeiffer, Transportation Aide, Transportation Services; Patrick B. Maul, Bus Driver, Transportation Services; Cynthia S. Henne, Dental Health/Education Facilitator; Health, Safety and Nutrition Services; and Phyllis J. Clark, Paraprofessional, Elmer A. Knopf Learning Center, Project CHOICE.

Take Our Kids/Grandkids to Work Day at GISD

National "Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day" is scheduled for Thursday, April 27, 2006. GISD staff members are welcome to participate by bringing their child/grandchild to work with them (see criteria), pending the approval of their immediate supervisor.

This national event encourages parents and other adults to take their kids to work and show them the wide range of jobs and career choices available. The event also offers GISD a great opportunity to promote the importance of career technical education and career exploration at a young age.

The following **criteria** have been established for Take Our Kids/Grandkids to Work Day at GISD:

1. Child must be at least 9 years old or in the fourth grade to participate.
2. Child must remain with parent/host throughout the day.
3. Parent/host will complete a "work plan" that describes the activities and experiences the child will engage in during the day.
4. The "work plan" must be pre-approved by your immediate supervisor.

Submit "work plan" to immediate supervisor along with the Request to Participate form below.

- Request to Participate -

Take Our Kids/Grandkids to Work Day at GISD

Thursday, April 27, 2006

You must meet the criteria and have your building/program supervisor's pre-approval to participate.

Child's name: _____

Employee's name: _____

Building/Program: _____

GISD phone number: _____

Supervisor's signature: _____

- I want a Certificate of Participation for my Kid/Grandkid.



Educator Online Recruitment Fair

One online application - 23 employers!

Once you apply online, your application and credentials are added to a countywide database used by recruiters from 23 Genesee County area public school districts.

Submit your online application and credentials by visiting the Genesee County Educator Online Recruitment Fair link at: www.geneseeisd.org. For more information please contact: Melinda McGraw, Genesee Intermediate School District, at (810) 591-4591.

Advertising and promotional support provided by the Flint Area School Employees Credit Union.

Attention Teachers: Writing Contest for 5th Grade Students

Gaines Jewelers is sponsoring a writing competition for students in the fifth grade. The title of the writing is "Why My Mother Deserves a Heart of Diamonds." One writer will be awarded a \$750 gift certificate to Gaines Jewelers, as well as a \$100 donation to their school library. In addition, \$100 gift certificates to Gaines Jewelers will also be awarded to the top writer in each of the participating districts. This is a wonderful writing opportunity for fifth grade students. The papers will be scored based on the Michigan Writing Rubric. Please contact Mary Lavengood, GISD Assistant Superintendent, Education and Learning, via email at mlavengo@geneseeisd.org to let her know the number of classrooms that will be participating. The deadline for submission is Friday, April 30. Papers must be delivered to the Office of Education and Learning at Genesee Intermediate School District, 2413 W. Maple Avenue, Flint by 4:30 p.m. on April 30.

Congratulations New Grandparents!

Deborah Hooper, Teacher Consultant, Early Childhood Programs and Services, and husband Chuck, would like to announce the birth of their grandson, Sean Gabriel Baldiga. This is the first grandchild for Deb and Chuck. Sean was born on February 20, 2006 to daughter and son-in-law, Susan and Joe Baldiga. He weighed 8 lbs. 13 oz. and was 22" long.

Sheryl and Scott Brandow are the new proud parents of Coleman Scott, born on February 21, 2006. Sheryl is the daughter of Barb Prevett, Distribution Center Operator, and husband Terry. This is the first grandchild for Barb and Terry. Coleman weighed 8 lbs. 1 oz. and was 19½ inches long. At two weeks old, Sheryl brought the baby to visit Barb's friends here at the Davis Education Center, and everyone thought he was absolutely beautiful!

Cyndi Carter, Materials Clerk in the Teacher Discovery Center, would like to announce the birth of her first grandchild on Wednesday, March 15, 2006 at 1:32 a.m. Cameron James Glenn Lucas was born on March 15, weighing in at 7 lbs. 7oz. and was 20 inches long. His parents are Cody Lucas and Jessica VanVolkenberg.

April Birthdays

1	Deborah Driskill	Transportation
2	Denise Evert	EKLC/CHOICE
2	Deborah Hooper	SESC
2	Sharlene Howe	EKLC
3	Debbie Monroe	Transportation
4	Donald Kreiner	EKLC/CHOICE
4	April McNally	ECPS
4	Robin Somers	ECPS
5	Bobby Caldwell	Transportation
5	Lisa Hook	Davis Ed. Center
5	Janice Shumaker	EKLC/CHOICE
7	Joan Gibson	Transportation
8	Edward Shumaker	Transportation
9	Karen Lapan	Transportation
9	Theresa Rose	Transportation
11	Gail Kern	MCIC
12	Rochelle Bila	EKLC
12	Nancy Glady	MCIC
12	Margaret Wallace	Transportation
12	Martha Wrigley	EKLC
14	Lerlean Campbell	Transportation

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14	Amy Dunn	Transportation
15	Serina Ross	EKLC
15	Tracy Valentine	Davis Ed. Center
16	Sheryl Perry	Transportation
16	Allan Walt	MCIC
18	Barbara Gould	MCIC
22	Cheri Owens	Transportation
23	Jessica McCallum	SESC
23	Jill Richardson	MCIC
25	Jeanette Miller	ECPS
26	Cathy Stewart	MCIC
28	April Hampton	ECPS
28	Diane Scrimger	EKLC/CHOICE
28	Tasha Vaara-Suydam	EKLC
29	Sandra Angell	EKLC/CHOICE
29	Linda Kear	Davis Ed. Center
30	Rebecca Barbat	MCIC
30	Joseph Johnson, IV	Transportation
30	Theresa Koval	Transportation
30	Patricia Pignatelli	Transportation
30	Tina Ray	Transportation

1	Tricia Lewis	Transportation
2	Becky Finkle	ECPS
2	Laura Hawks	SESC
3	Evelyne Brown	MCIC
3	Dana Jones-Shaw	Davis Ed. Center
3	Gary Lewis	Transportation
3	Dawn Lindstrom	EKLC
3	Vicky Piazza	EKLC
3	Margaret Prosch	Health
4	Sharon Madarasz	Davis Ed. Center
4	Kenneth Sirignano	MCIC
4	Cynthia Workman	Davis Ed. Center
5	Jessica Prast	Transportation
5	Steven Taddei	Davis Ed. Center

GISD Jobs

GISD's Human Resources and Operations department is accepting applications for numerous positions. Online applications are available at www.geneseedsd.org. For more information, call Cindy Workman at (810) 591-4404 or visit GISD's Human Resources and Operations department at 2413 West Maple Avenue in Flint.

May Birthdays:

1	Danyale Coburn	Transportation
1	Ryan Johnson	EKLC