



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.

GISD Board Receives Awards

At the May 9, 2006 meeting, the GISD Board of Education proudly accepted the Honor Board Award and Standard of Excellence Award, presented by the Michigan Association of School Boards.

These prestigious awards have been earned by the GISD Board of Education for their participation in the MASB Certified Board Member Awards program and leadership at the local, state and national levels. The Honor Board Award is given to boards when all board members achieve certification status. The Standard of Excellence Award is given to boards when all board members have received the Award of Merit. Only 11 boards of education in our state have earned the Standard of Excellence Award, and only 19 boards of education have received an Honor Board Member Award.



Pictured left to right are GISD Board of Education members: Jerry G. Raggsdale, Lawrence P. Ford, Peggy J. Tortorice, Paul D. Newman; and Dale A. Green, along with Dr. Thomas Svitkovich, Superintendent.

GISD Summer Hours

GISD summer hours begin on Wednesday, June 14, 2006 and run through Friday, August 25, 2006. During summer hours, GISD is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

GISD Excellence in Educational Leadership Award Established

Over the past several months, the GISD board has discussed ways to recognize educational leaders in the Genesee County community who have provided support for GISD programs, activities and initiatives. Out of those discussions came suggestions that the award: be presented by the GISD board annually; be given at the discretion of the board; be given as recognition of leadership and support for GISD programs; and the award be titled "Genesee Intermediate School District Excellence in Educational Leadership Award." Additionally, it was suggested that a board/staff committee prepare a recommendation to the entire board selecting the recipient(s).

At the May 23, 2006 meeting, the GISD board authorized Superintendent Thomas Svitkovich continue the process to implement this annual award.

GISD End of the School Year Program 2005-2006

Please join your colleagues to review highlights of the 2005-2006 school year at the End of the School Year Program scheduled for Tuesday, June 13, 2006, 12:00 Noon, at the Marion D. Crouse Instructional Center. Lunch will be served from 12:00-2:00 p.m., and casual attire is welcome.

The Marion D. Crouse Instructional Center is located at 3330 Luce Road in Flushing. Driving directions: Traveling NORTH on I-75: Exit I-75 at Pierson Road (exit #122) and turn left (west). Proceed on Pierson Road approximately 2 miles to Luce Road and turn left (south). Proceed on Luce Road approximately 1/2 mile. MCIC is located on the left (east) side of Luce Road.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Board News	2
Staff News	6
June Birthdays	7



Thanks for a Great Year!

Dear Staff,

On behalf of the Genesee Intermediate School District Board of Education, our students and our constituents, thank you for a great school year. As a total staff, we have been honored with several awards. We have received accolades for great services, and we have been recognized for excellence. Your outstanding work has once again maintained our reputation as a premier regional educational service agency.

Our work sends a strong message that public education can indeed assist Michigan leaders in their attempts to remedy our State's economy. Education can provide a quality workforce, outstanding programs for our students and bring stability to our neighborhoods and communities. Michigan needs a strong public education system in order to turn our State's economy around.

In return, the legislature needs to keep its promise to adequately fund public education. Schools cannot help children secure their futures if the legislature continues to break its promise to Michigan's education community. The upcoming primary elections and, of course, this year's November election will certainly be very important. Now is the time to remind candidates that they have a responsibility to adequately fund public education in Michigan. Our students deserve their support.

As we plan for our students' future needs, the budget development process is crucial. For the last several months, many GISD staff members have been working with constituent district leadership staff in establishing next year's budget. Our superintendents unanimously approved our preliminary budgets. These budgets were presented at our annual budget hearing attended for the first time in the history of GISD by a board member representative from every one of our twenty-one constituent districts. They also voted unanimously to recommend approval of all of our budgets. Following that budget hearing process, budget information was sent to every district's Board of Education. As of this date, 2/3rds of the local district Boards have unanimously approved our budgets. The overwhelming support we are receiving from our constituents speaks to our tradition of excellence and the great support GISD is receiving. I believe we enjoy this level of support because of the quality programs we offer and the high quality work of the GISD staff. Our budget process will culminate with GISD Board approval in June. Given all of the twists and turns at the state level, I am very proud to tell you that we are recommending the continued operation of all of our quality programs for the 2006-2007 school year.

Again, despite the tremendous challenges we are facing, I am hopeful that you will have a wonderful summer. I especially want to congratulate all GISD staff members who are celebrating family graduations, as well as their own. These events mark the beginning of new adventures and opportunities. Again, as we look back over this year, I also want to thank each of you. Indeed, we have had an extremely successful year, and we are ready for a great summer ahead.

Sincerely,

GISD Facilities Approved for Wireless Genesee Initiative

At its April 25, 2006 meeting, the GISD Board of Education approved support of the Wireless Genesee initiative to provide no-cost Internet access for all Genesee County residents, businesses and organizations. At that meeting, Superintendent Thomas Svitkovich was authorized to designate GISD facilities as antenna locations for Wireless Genesee.

Subsequently, Superintendent Svitkovich presented a recommended list of GISD facilities as potential sites for antenna locations for Wireless Genesee, along with conditions for facility use consistent with GISD policy and Michigan law. At its May 23, 2006 meeting, the board approved the list of potential sites to be offered to the Wireless Genesee initiative.

Board Organizational Meeting Scheduled

Consistent with Michigan School Law and GISD policies, "the Board of Education shall organize annually on or before the fourth Monday in July at a meeting called for that purpose." At the May 23, 2006 meeting, the board scheduled Wednesday, July 19, 2006 at 5:00 p.m. as the date for the GISD Board of Education organizational meeting.

INNERVIEWS

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Purchase of Mat Platform Tables Approved

On April 11, 2006, the Genesee Intermediate School District submitted a request for bids for the purchase of ten (10) Performa™ Power Mat Platforms with rails to meet the needs of our students at the Marion Crouse Instructional Center. The specifications were sent to seven (7) medical equipment vendors. On May 2, 2006, the district received two (2) responses.

Prior to the May 9, 2006 meeting, the Buildings and Grounds Committee met to review the bids. Based on the review of bids and recommendations by the Building and Grounds Committee, the board approved the purchase of ten (10) Performa™ Power Mat Platforms with rails from Sammons Preston Rolyan, based on their low bid of \$42,520.00.

Automation Alley Membership Approved



The Genesee Intermediate School District has been offered a one-year free membership to join the 620 Automation Alley businesses, governments and educational institutions dedicated to the development and promotion of a first-class technology cluster in Southeast Michigan. Such a formal relationship would enhance numerous initiatives and activities in which GISD is already involved.

This partnership would provide GISD access to/ participation in current and prospective grants, event postings, IT Training consortium, member directory, press release system, recruitment assistance, RFP system and scholarship programs through Baker College, Kettering University, Michigan Jewish University, Northwood University, Oakland Community College and Walsh College.

Membership would also allow GISD to assess the value of an ongoing partnership at the cost of \$500 per year. Numerous Genesee County organizations are currently members in this partnership. It makes good business sense to further align GISD with a myriad of technology and economic efforts emerging between Genesee and Oakland counties, along the I-75 corridor. At the May 23, 2006 meeting, the GISD board authorized acceptance of the one-year membership. Based on the perceived value of the membership, board approval will be sought for subsequent annual memberships.

Specialized Transportation Consortium Bus Purchase Approved



During the 1997-1998 school year, the district formed the Specialized Transportation Consortium. GISD currently provides specialized transportation services for 21 local districts. This year, GISD is transporting over 1,100 special needs students on 80 bus routes, operating out of ten locations. In the beginning, the consortium purchased older buses from participating school districts; and each year has upgraded the fleet to replace the older buses. This year, the consortium plans to purchase seven (7) buses.

The Building and Grounds Committee met prior to the May 9, 2006 board meeting to review the requested bids, the current bus inventory and a five-year plan for replacing buses in the future. Based upon the review of bids and the recommendation made by the Building and Grounds Committee, the board voted to award the bid to purchase seven (7), 72-passenger buses with air conditioners, two-way radios, lifts to accommodate wheelchairs and track systems to tie down wheelchairs to Capital City Bus Sales of Lansing based on their low bid of \$84,949 per bus for a total cost of \$591,983.

50th Olympian Games

Preparations are underway for the celebration of the 50th Annual Flint Olympian Games. The 50th celebration is being dedicated to the memory and contributions of C.S. and Ruth Mott, as well as Frank and Marie Manley. Their insight created this nationally renowned program. GISD has been asked to support the participation of students in this program and join the long list of community leaders who are working to make this program a reality. Mr. Paul Newman, GISD Board Vice President, is one of these leaders working to make the 50th Olympian Games a huge success. The games are made possible through the work of hundreds of volunteers sponsoring agencies, businesses and civic organizations. At the May 23, 2006 meeting, the board authorized support of the program at the "gold level" at a cost of \$250.00.

News from VSA arts of Michigan-Genesee County

VSA arts of Michigan-Genesee County (VSAMI-GC) has been restructured to better serve children and adults with disabilities in our area. The restructured organization now consists of four committees that plan and organize events for their local areas. Each of GISD's center-based programs has its own committee, as well as a committee for the Project CHOICE classrooms. Each committee can tailor arts programs that target particular needs within their school or group. The restructuring allows for VSAMI-GC activities to better meet the needs of each group.

This year, the annual VSA arts festival was split into five events, entitled "Rhythms, Rhymes and Squiggly Lines," and designed to emphasize the role that literacy plays in the lives of people with disabilities. The Marion D. Crouse Instructional Center hosted the first event with four artist workshops on March 3 & 6. Artist in Residence Sam Huff organized the four artists and experiences so that students could receive an intensive 40-minute experience in one or two visual arts media. The students participated in stenciling, painting with the art roller, clay and screen printing. Their work was used to create the backdrop for the school's spring musical, entitled "Once Upon a Time."

GISD Project CHOICE classrooms participated in an arts festival at the Red Ink Studio in Flint on May 16. Over 140 students participated in visual arts, creative movement, storytelling and drama experiences. Representatives from Congressman Dale Kildee's office, The Flint Journal and abc12 were on hand to witness a day of creative fun and to see firsthand the power of the arts in the lives of persons with disabilities. Three other arts festival days took place at Elmer A. Knopf Learning Center on May 16, Early Childhood Programs and Services on May 18 and at Clio Circus Park on May 22. At each event, students participated in visual arts, movement, music, and drama experiences. VSAMI-GC is grateful to all the staff who worked on the festivals and the administrators who have supported the restructuring of our organization.

The annual VSAMI Emerging Artists Touring Art Exhibit will be on display at the Erwin L. Davis Education Center from mid-August through mid-September. Be sure to stop in and view the amazing artwork by VSAMI artists from our local area and around the state. This exhibit has been very popular among the GISD staff and administration for many years!

"Once Upon A Time" at MCIC

Once Upon a Time, on April 26, 2006, MCIC students performed their annual Spring Music Festival. Students from Hamady High School Honor Society and St. Robert Elementary were on hand to help students as they acted out songs and stories to a packed house. Highlights of the show included "An Audience with the King and Queen," "A Knight's Quest" to capture a marauding dragon, "5 Little Monkeys" and "The Monster Mash." Art and scenery were created by Artist in Residence Sam Huff and students during the VSA arts Artist Workshops in March. Students created a castle, mural, clay crowns, screen printed invitations and t-shirts for the show. The annual program, under the direction of



MCIC students and helpers from St. Robert Elementary in Flushing perform the "Left Sock Thievers."

music therapist Carolyn Vierkorn, culminates a year of arts, music and creativity for students and staff. Special thanks to all who worked hard to make the program a success again this year.

Upland Hills Farms at ECPS

Farm animals visited Early Childhood Programs and Services on April 27. All of GISD's early childhood classrooms participated in this fun-filled activity. Each student was encouraged to touch all of the animals and most did! There were many different animals to see, including some puppies. Officer Ron, from the Mundy



Township Police Department, and his K-9 "Scout" attended the activity. Everyone had their favorites, and all the children enjoyed a wonderful educational experience!

GenNET Pioneers at MCIC

Recently, Debby Hooper and Charlie Richards, teacher consultants at MCIC, concluded their participation in the GenNET Pioneers workshops. The purpose of the workshop was to pilot and demonstrate the expanded use of technology to support student academic achievement. One of the requirements of the workshop was to design and implement a project utilizing knowledge gained. Debbie and Charlie, in collaboration with three MCIC classrooms and one Seymour Elementary (Flushing) classroom did the following:

1. Created teaching units relating to Mexico: (South of the Border and Cinco de Mayo).
2. Assisted classrooms in planning.
3. Facilitated three group interactions between MCIC and Seymour Elementary; two of which utilized the GenNET facilities at both school buildings.

The project culminated with Seymour students visiting MCIC for a fun time of crafts, food sampling and, of course, breaking a piñata. All involved believe the project was a success. Some of the goals accomplished were: multicultural awareness; handicap awareness; appropriate age-related peer activities; use of student augmentative communication devices; and the use of technology to enhance socialization and academic enrichment for all students involved.

The support of MCIC principal, Sue O'Brien, and Seymour Elementary principal, Michele Blair, was appreciated by both staff and students. Each of the three activities also involved the active participation of 8-10 Seymour parents. All staff and administration involved are working on plans to continue the project next year, with the possibility of expanding the project to include additional sites.

Special Olympics Volunteers Needed

Special Olympics is looking for volunteers to work at the Car Show on June 17 and 18, 2006 at the Perani Arena & Event Center.

Volunteers are needed to work four-hour time slots.

If you are interested in helping Special Olympics, please contact Shelia Gafney at 591-4344.

Reading Recovery Graduates

Since 1996, GISD has been the training site for 104 Reading Recovery® teachers. Graduation will be held Tuesday, June 6, 2006, from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., at the Davis Education Center, Room 101.

Congratulations and best wishes to the Reading Recovery® Class of 2005-2006:

- Tina Brandalik - Chippewassee Elementary Midland Public Schools
- Kelley Carroll - Patterson Elementary Holly Area Schools
- Jonica Fisher - Randels Elementary Carman-Ainsworth Community Schools
- Courtney Hummell - Seymour Elementary Flushing Community Schools
- Kellie Kanicki - Bangor West Elementary Bangor Township School District
- Nicole Mott - Springview Elementary Flushing Community Schools
- Michelle O'Keefe - Stewart Community Elementary, Flint Community Schools
- Tanya Sly - International Academy of Flint

Thank You EKLC Students!

Reading Recovery® staff would like to thank Lori McLean's students at EKLC for their hard work. They have provided the students of GISD's Reading Recovery® program with over 600 writing books during the 2005-2006 school year. The writing books are used every day by Reading Recovery® students to write and read original stories.

GISD Crim Team 2006

The Crim Festival of Races will be held on Saturday, August 26, 2006. This year marks the 30th anniversary of the event. All GISD employees participating in a Crim race will receive a GISD Crim Team 2006 shirt, and GISD will pay one-half of the cost of one event for which staff members are registered. You are not required to train or run as a team. Crim registration forms have been sent to all buildings/programs. The form is accessible online, and you can also register online at www.crim.org.

To obtain your GISD Crim Team 2006 shirt and reimbursement, you must submit a copy of your Crim event registration form *and receipt* to GISD's Communications and Development department. For more information call Glenda Letavis at 591-4541.



Congratulations Graduates!

Diane Burt, Accountant in Business Services, graduated with high honors from Mott

Community College on Saturday, May 6, 2006 with an Associate Degree in Applied Science, Sign Language Interpreter Education. Family and friends were there to show support and cheer on Diane as she accepted her degree. Diane states, "I have been working for a long time for this degree, and it feels awesome to have accomplished it. I want to give special thanks to my family for their patience, support and love. I couldn't have done it without you."

Jatasha Haralson, Project Specialist in Business Services, graduated from Northwood University on May 12, 2006 with a BBA in Management. Tasha plans to begin a Masters program in Public Administration at Central Michigan University in the fall of 2006.

Josh Dippold, son of Robert, Paraprofessional at MCIC and Loretta, Bus Aide in Transportation Services, will be graduating from Hamady High School on June 4, 2006. Josh has volunteered at the MCIC Carnival for the past eight years. He has also played varsity baseball for the past two years. Josh will be attending Mott Community College in the fall.

Kirstin Knag, daughter of Terese Knag, Shared-Time Director of Business Management Services and husband Kim, will be graduating from Powers Catholic High School in June. Kirstin has been accepted to the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor. Her chosen major is chemistry, with the goal of entering medical school.

Alicia Nicole Harrison, daughter of Nick and Beverly Harrison (Occupational Therapist at SESC-N), graduated from Indiana Tech on May 13. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration with concentrations in sports management and marketing. Alicia not only earned academic honors by being named to the Dean's list all four years, but she also earned sports honors by being named to the Wolverine Hoosier Athletic Conference Women's Basketball all-conference team (3rd Team in 2005 and 2nd Team in 2006). She is also a two-time member of the NAIA Academic All-American team.

Mary Rickard, Teacher Consultant in Early On Services and husband Larry, Head Custodian at Ligon Outdoor Center, proudly announce that their son, Jeremy, has graduated this month with a Master of Science in Computer Science from John Hopkins in Maryland. Jeremy is currently employed by Lockheed Martin in Maryland.

Michael Slater, son of Doug and Pattie Slater, Project Specialist in Vocational Assessment, graduated with honors from Grand Blanc High School on May 31. He will be attending Michigan State University in the fall. While at Grand Blanc High School, Michael played four sports, including hockey, football, baseball and lacrosse.

Cassie Welch, daughter of Joan Olsen, Teacher at Lake Fenton High School Project CHOICE, graduated May 5, 2006 from Michigan State University with a degree in Telecommunications, Information Studies and Media.

Devon Cassidy, daughter of Kim Levander, Paraprofessional at Early Childhood Programs & Services, graduated from Queens College in New York City with a Masters in Library Science.

A New Arrival!

Arvind Poobalan, Applications Developer/Analyst in Technology & Media Services, and his wife, Dolly, have been blessed with a new baby boy, Samuel Franklin. Samuel was born on April 27, weighing 7 lb. 8 oz. and was 20 inches long. This is the first child for Arvind and Dolly. Congratulations to the Poobalan family!

Honors for the Levander Family

Kim Levander, Paraprofessional at Early Childhood Programs and Services, has been granted a \$600 scholarship by the Zonta Club of Flint. The scholarship will be used for Kim's fall semester at MSU, where she will be starting the final year of her Master of Social Work program. Kim is proud that she has maintained a 3.9 GPA in the program so far and is thrilled to be the recipient of the scholarship. Another honor was bestowed on the family when Kim's son-in-law, Chris, was selected as a finalist in the seven-minute short division of the Tribeca Film Festival. Congratulations to both Kim and Chris!

A Reminder About ATV Safety

The All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Safety Institute is asking educators to impress upon students and parents the importance of ATV safety. Summer vacation marks a time when students have more free time, some of which may be unsupervised and include access to an ATV. Almost 90% of youth ATV-related injuries occur when a youth is operating an adult-sized ATV. For more information, visit www.atvsafety.org or call (800) 852-5344.



Family Summer Fun!

Celebrate Michigan's world-class freshwater fishing on June 10 and 11, 2006. Michigan's Free Fishing Weekend is two special days when all fishing license fees will be waived for residents and out-of-state visitors alike on both inland and Great Lakes waters. All fishing regulations will still apply.

If you would like to make reservations to camp at a state campground this summer, you may call the reservation line at 1-800-44-PARKS (1-800-447-2757) or you may make your reservation on line at <http://www.midnrreservations.com>

Donations Accepted

Generous donations to GISD's Davis Education Center Staff Appreciation event; GISD Hurricane Katrina – Victim Support; Parent Advisory Committee Library; Health, Safety and Nutrition Services; Marion D. Crouse Instructional Center and Early Childhood Programs and Services were received by the board. The donations were given by numerous businesses in Genesee County, as well as GISD staff, family and friends.

Welcome to GISD!

At the May 9, 2006 meeting, the board approved the hiring of Alicia J. Jeffery as Teacher of the Speech and Language Impaired at the Elmer A. Knopf Learning Center.

Resignations Accepted

Resignations for the purpose of retirement were accepted from Betty M. Thorson, Transportation Aide, Specialized Transportation Services; and Claudia J. Mercier, Bus Driver, Transportation Services.



June Birthdays

2	Lori Lane	MCIC
2	Rachel Montague	Transportation
2	Gail Snider	Mott Middle College

3	Pamela Mills	EKLC
4	Jessica Fletcher	Transportation
4	Rebecca Kirby	MCIC
4	Teresa Skellenger	MCIC
5	Cheryl Martin	EKLC/CHOICE
6	Deborah Morgan	EKLC/CHOICE
6	Cheryl Pfeiffer	Transportation
6	Theresa Cockman	SESC
7	Kandy Griswold	SESC
7	Robert Krupp	Davis Ed. Center
7	Arvind Poobalan	Davis Ed. Center
7	Dean Sensabaugh	Davis Ed. Center
8	John Rouse	Davis Ed. Center
8	Bobby Tipton	Davis Ed. Center
9	Judy Lemon	ECPS
9	Debra Nellis	Transportation
9	Michelle Stafford	EKLC/CHOICE
12	Sarah Boulay	Transportation
12	James Lane	Davis Ed. Center
12	Diane Sparks	MCIC
13	Veronica Long	MCIC
18	Jonathan Lasley	Davis Ed. Center
18	Jane Walker	Transportation
20	Judy Green	EKLC/CHOICE
21	Terry Emmendorfer	Transportation
22	Carol Farver	Health
23	Marcia Pavkovich	SESC
24	Valerie Stein	Davis Ed. Center
25	Carla Harris	EKLC
27	Mary Pratt	SESC
27	Dale Spillers	Transportation
27	Chery Wagonlander	Mott Middle College
28	Laurie Baker	EKLC/CHOICE
28	Sharlene Weisenberger	Transportation
30	Diane Howard	Transportation

July Birthdays

1	Lynn Bengelink	EKLC
1	Susan Boegner	Transportation
1	Carol Rumminger	EKLC/CHOICE
1	Karen Seeley	EKLC
1	Stephanie Williams	EKLC
2	Andrea Camero	EKLC
2	Heather Sandrik	Mott Middle College
4	Gail Jahn	EKLC
4	Melva Kaiser	SESC

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GENESEEE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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July Birthdays (cont.)

5	Paula Meredith-Faris	ECPS
5	Beverly Nelson	MCIC
5	Joan Lynn Olsen	EKLC/CHOICE



***One online application
23 employers!***

GISD Jobs

GISD's Human Resources and Operations department is accepting applications for numerous positions. Online applications are available at www.geneseeisd.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.

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.

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