



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.

ECPS Hosts Dynamic Inservice

GISD's Early Childhood Programs and Services recently hosted a two-day inservice with staff. Special guest Cecilia (Freeman) Coaster helped staff members with strategies to work with students with special needs in a very practical and functional way. Coaster has worked as a teacher of children with special needs, both in public schools and in private practice settings since 1979. Her career has evolved to focus on offering parents, teachers and therapists specific tools to use in assisting children who have special needs to reach their greatest potential. Cecilia has authored a book entitled "I Am the Child: Using Brain Gym® with Children Who Have Special Needs." She has been recognized by the Educational Kinesiology Foundation for outstanding service and achievement (1999) and also received an award from the Educational Kinesiology Foundation for her prominent research study (2001).

Central to Coaster's presentation was a summary of the basic steps implemented to integrate movement-based learning for children with special needs. First, educators learned how to assess the needs of a child, including behavior, posture and academic, and then to



Cecilia Coaster (far right) works with a student, parent and staff member to demonstrate movement-based learning.

develop the neurological component required so that learning can take place. Participants learned how to evaluate whether the implemented components were helping to make gains in the child's learning and then how to modify if changes were required to advance the developmental process. The session included rich, hands-on demonstrations with real-life examples that allowed staff to practice the methods presented.

Best Wishes to Mr. Mark

Prior to the October 11 meeting, Mr. Robert Mark submitted a letter to President Peggy Tortorice announcing his resignation from the Genesee Intermediate School District Board of Education effective October 31, 2005. He has accepted a teaching position at Michigan Technological University and will be making a move to Houghton, Michigan.



GISD Board President Peggy Tortorice presents Mr. Mark with a plaque that recognizes his service on the board.

Mr. Mark has been an asset to the GISD Board of Education, serving as secretary and trustee since joining the board on July 1, 2003. He has been an important resource to the board, drawing from his vast business experience.

Mr. Mark served on the Flushing Board of Education for 12 years and has been involved with the Genesee County Association of School Board Members and the Michigan Association of School

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Boards (MASB). During his board tenure, he earned MASB's Award of Merit, Award of Distinction and achieved the Master Boardmember Award. These awards for his commitment to continued education and professional development in education governance place him in the top five percent of all board members across Michigan.

At the October 25 meeting, the board of education recognized Mr. Robert Mark and thanked him for his service to the Genesee Intermediate School District Board of Education. Fellow board members expressed their appreciation for Mr. Mark's service as a great team member and a board member truly dedicated to quality education programming for all students. The board wished him great success in his new career at Michigan Technological University.



Board and Legislative Updates

Prior to the October 11, 2005 GISD Board of Education meeting, Mr. Robert Mark submitted his resignation to the board, effective October 31, 2005. Mr. Mark will begin a new career as an instructor at Michigan Technological University in Houghton, Michigan. He will be moving to Houghton after the New Year to assume his new duties. Mr. Mark has been a key member of the board since July 1, 2003, having served as Secretary and Trustee. Mr. Mark is well known throughout our county, State and nation for his work as a school board member. He has represented GISD as a speaker at Genesee County Association of School Board Members, Michigan Association of School Boards and National School Boards Association activities. In his role as a board member, he was a strong advocate for positive legislation for GISD.

One of Mr. Mark's accomplishments as a GISD board member was to lead the effort to finalize the complete revision of GISD Board Policies. We will all miss Mr. Mark's leadership; however, we wish him great success in his new role as an educator in the north country.

As a result of Robert Mark's resignation, the GISD Board of Education, in compliance with State law, is required to fill his vacancy within 30 days of his resignation date. Therefore, the Board authorized the immediate announcement of Mr. Mark's resignation and advertised for applications for the open position. The Board will accept applications, which include a letter and resume, through November 4, 2005. Interviews for candidates for the position will be held on November 21 and 22, 2005. If necessary, second interviews will be held on November 28, 2005. The Board is also scheduled to make the selection

on November 28, 2005. All interviews are open to the public. Complete schedules and announcements will be posted, and staff is encouraged to join the community and attend the interviews.

Along with this change on our Board of Education, we are experiencing a great deal of new legislation from Lansing. Starting January 1, 2006, all new school employees must have criminal history background checks, including fingerprint checks. This is not necessarily new for GISD staff, since we have been requiring checks for all new staff for some time. Effective with this new legislation, all previously-hired employees must also have a criminal history background check, including a fingerprint check, on file at their school district no later than July 1, 2008. This means that all employees at GISD will have to have a background check and a fingerprint check filed with the district by that date. The State Aid Bill for the 2005-2006 school year was passed with a \$175.00 per pupil increase in the foundation allowance. However, Section 81, which is the General Fund (Foundation Allowance) for ISDs was not increased. This is not good for ISDs in general and GISD specifically. The Legislature also decided that Michigan public schools cannot start the academic year until after Labor Day. This new law takes immediate effect for all Michigan school districts and will impact school calendars for the 2006-07 academic year, provided prior existing contract language is not violated. The common start day will help with our ongoing efforts to develop a countywide common calendar.

Overall, I expect that we will see a very busy legislative year with more rules, regulations and changes. As we prepare this issue of InnerViews, our staff is deeply involved in the reauthorization of the Michigan Telecommunications Act. Depending on the outcome of this legislation, we could see some change in how GenNET operates. We will keep you posted as to the developments, and we are always open to your questions and comments.

As always, I appreciate your commitment, dedication and hard work. You are a great asset to our school community.

Sincerely,

INNERVIEWS

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Beecher and Kearsley Business Services Contracts Approved

Over the last few months, the GISD Board of Education has been apprised of the shared business services requests from local districts. The board authorized the superintendent to continue to take the necessary actions to address the requests as the relationships continued to be defined. The services being defined are customized based on the request of the local district.

Business Services staff worked with the Thrun Law Firm, P.C., to develop a standard contract, including options for defining the specific details of customized services and payments. Contracts are also being finalized for Bendle, Flushing and Westwood Heights, and other districts interested in utilizing GISD Business Services.

Beecher Community Schools

Superintendent Forrest Gunderson, Beecher Community Schools, worked with Business Services to develop a concept for GISD to provide the management of the business office of the Beecher Community School District. A contract was submitted to the Beecher Community School District, and at its October 5, 2005 meeting, the Beecher Board of Education approved the contract.

At the October 11, 2005 meeting, the GISD Board of Education approved the contract for GISD to manage the business office of the Beecher Community School District.

Kearsley Community Schools

Superintendent Jeffrey Morgan, Kearsley Community Schools, submitted a written request to purchase business management services from Genesee Intermediate School District. Business Services staff developed a conceptual model of services to be rendered and a pricing model for the services based on the actual cost of the employee billed back on a per diem basis. A contract was submitted to Kearsley Community Schools, and at its October 10, 2005 meeting, the Kearsley Board of Education approved the contract.

At the October 25, 2005 meeting, the GISD Board of Education approved the contract for GISD to provide business services on a per diem basis to Kearsley Community Schools.

Three-Year Contract Extensions Approved

Genesee Intermediate Education Association (GIEA)

During the 2004-05 school year, representatives from the GIEA/Board Finance Committee met to review several issues and concerns related to the cost of health insurance, the flexible spending account, proposed legislation that could affect public school employees' health insurance, cash option for employees not electing health insurance, longevity pay, the process for deducting Association dues, the common school calendar and wages. Members of the GIEA and the board administrative team believe that it is in the best interest of the Board of Education, the Association and employees to have long-term contracts in place so that the board can accurately project costs and employees can plan for the future.

The board Personnel Committee was involved in the process, and on September 30, 2005, a ratification vote was conducted for the GIEA membership. Of the 175 eligible members, 105 voted yes and 21 voted no. Superintendent Thomas Svitkovich recognized the efforts of the Win-Win teams and especially Vice President Barb Whitman and staff members Thomas Princinsky, Cynthia McCain and Jan Russell. At the October 11, 2005 meeting, the board approved the three-year contract extension with the GIEA.

Genesee Intermediate Educational Support Personnel Association (GIESPA)

During the 2004-05 school year, representatives from the GIESPA/Board Finance Committee met to review issues and concerns related to the cost of health insurance, the flexible spending account, proposed legislation that could affect public school employees' health insurance, cost savings that have been realized as a result of implementing various cost-saving techniques for insurance coverage for support staff, longevity pay, the common school calendar and wages.

The board Personnel Committee was involved in the process, and on October 6, 2005, a ratification vote was conducted for the GIESPA membership. Of the 335 eligible members, 170 voted yes and 31 voted no. There were 6 spoiled ballots. Superintendent Thomas Svitkovich recognized the efforts of the Win-Win teams and especially President Brenda Maynard and GIESPA/Board Finance Committee member Charlie Jackson, as well as staff members Thomas Princinsky, Cynthia McCain and Jan Russell. At the October 11, 2005 meeting, the board approved the three-year contract extension with the GIESPA.

Genesee/Shiawassee Workforce Development Board Representative Designated

The district recently received a request from Career Alliance to nominate a board member to serve on the Genesee/Shiawassee Workforce Development Board through December 31, 2007.

Mr. Jerry Ragsdale expressed interest in representing the “education sector” on the Workforce Development Board. Board Secretary Lawrence Ford currently serves on the Workforce Development Board representing the “private sector.”

At the October 11, 2005 meeting, the board designated Mr. Jerry Ragsdale to serve on the Genesee/Shiawassee Workforce Development Board through December 31, 2007.

GISD Board Considers Property Purchase

Genesee Intermediate School District was approached by estate representatives for property located at 2461 West Maple Avenue, directly west of the Davis Education Center. The Building and Grounds Committee met prior to the meeting to review the property appraisal. The possibility of making an offer to purchase the property was discussed in closed session.

At the October 25, 2005 meeting, the board authorized the superintendent to move forward with negotiations to purchase the property.

Donations to GISD Programs

Generous donations to the Elmer A. Knopf Learning Center and Early Childhood Programs and Services were received by the board. The donations were given by parents and community members, as well as Patsy Lou Williamson Buick-GMC.



Edward F. Gwiazdowski Scholarship Awarded



Mayme Scramlin, a University of Michigan-Flint elementary education student, has been selected by the family of long-time GISD administrator Edward F. Gwiazdowski as a recipient of a \$500 scholarship named in his honor. The Edward F. Gwiazdowski Scholarship was made possible by generous contributions made to the Genesee County Educational

Foundation by many of Ed’s co-workers, friends and associates. Applicants for the annual scholarship must have a 3.3 or higher grade point average and qualify for student teaching in the coming year.

“I am honored to be receiving the Edward F. Gwiazdowski scholarship. It is an accomplishment that will be remembered throughout my life and really motivates me to continue to work hard,” said Scramlin. “I am thankful for the money to help with tuition, but also the recognition by being chosen for my hard work.”

Disability Network Honors GISD

At its annual employment luncheon, the Disability Network awarded a Certificate of Appreciation to Genesee Intermediate School District for its participation in the Mentoring Program. The Disability Network, in collaboration with the Flint Area Chamber of Commerce, Career Alliance, Michigan Works! Employment Services, and the Michigan Department of Career Development/Rehabilitation Services, has developed a mentoring program that links businesses and employers in our community to jobseekers with disabilities. The purpose of this program is to promote the career development of these jobseekers by assisting them to gain hands-on exposure to a career they are interested in at a business they have selected, while evaluating their personal career goals and targeting skills for improvement. It provides employers with a better understanding of what people with disabilities have to offer, identifies potential career targets, promotes diversity at the worksite, develops lasting relationships with disability-related resource personnel who offer support and promotes positive public relations within the community.

Special recognition goes to Beverly Knox-Pipes for her involvement as a mentor to Paul Benjamin, who worked along with her in GISD’s Technology and Media Services department.

MCIC Students Salute Hometown Heroes

Representatives from the Mt. Morris Township Fire and Police Departments were honored at the annual Marion D. Crouse Instructional Center Hometown Heroes Recognition Assembly. Students made cards and posters for each department's station house. Artist in residence Sam Huff helped students create fabulous clay cookie jars for students to give as a token of appreciation. The assembly was coordinated by music therapist Carolyn Vierkorn and emceed by Mike Riley. During the program, students performed renditions of patriotic songs and recitations using communication devices. Parents, guests and friends had a great time singing and clapping along to the familiar favorites. After the assembly, the firefighters and police officer allowed students to view their emergency vehicles. The students and staff at MCIC truly appreciate the dedication, valor and sacrifice of our local emergency responders.



MCIC Principal Sue O'Brien thanks members of the Mt. Morris Township Fire and Police Departments for their everyday efforts that make them "Hometown Heroes."

Greater Flint Health Coalition Presents "A Cultural Competence Workshop for Effective Leadership"

Cultural competence is a set of congruent behaviors, practices, attitudes and policies that come together in a system, agency or individual enabling the entity to work effectively in a multi-ethnic, pluralistic and linguistically

diverse community. Edwin J. Nichols, Ph.D., is a Clinical/Industrial Psychologist working in organization development. He promotes an understanding of how socialization processes "color" an individual's view of the world, shapes the formation of "isms" in our society and the workplace, and highlights how logic and value sets influence decision-making processes. He is the Director of Nichols and Associates, Inc., an applied behavioral science firm, effecting technology transfer to organizations, based on principles of philosophy and behavioral science. Dr. Nichols' commitment is to help organizations achieve systematic congruence through cultural competence; thus, assuring the value added, the competitive edge and an increased market share.

He will be speaking on Wednesday, November 9, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon at the Davis Education Center Conference Area at Genesee Intermediate School District. This presentation is free of charge. Your RSVP may be faxed to (810) 232-3332, called into the Health Coalition office at (810) 232-2228 or emailed to gfhc@flint.org. Please respond by November 4.

Thinking of Retirement?

Register online to attend an upcoming Preretirement Information Meeting to learn more about:

- Pension Benefits
- Service Credit
- Retirement Eligibility
- Insurance Coverage
- And Much More!

**Genesee Intermediate School District
Conference Area ABCD
2413 West Maple Avenue
Flint, Michigan 48507-3493
Conference Area ABCD**

5:30-7:30 p.m.

**November 1, 2005
February 7, 2006
April 10, 2006**

**Register online to attend at
www.michigan.gov/ORSschools**

**Call the Office of Retirement Services
at (800) 381-5111 for more information.**

Fall Harvest Festival at ECPS

On Friday, October 14, 2005, Early Childhood Programs and Services (ECPS) held a Fall Harvest Festival. Face painting, cookie decorating, ghost bowling, popcorn hands, cotton candy, spooky walk and making harvest bags were just a few of the activities enjoyed by ECPS students and their families. Pictures were taken of the kids and presented back to the parents in frames made by their children.

The activities were held in the multi-purpose room and throughout the building. There were 125 children and family members in attendance for this fun-filled afternoon. Refreshments were provided, and it was reported to be a great success by families and staff.



A staff member and student work on their harvest bags during the ECPS Fall Harvest Festival.

Welcome New GISD Staff

At the October 25, 2005 meeting, the board approved the hiring of two staff members. LaShiela C. Darden was hired as a School Social Worker to work with students at the Elmer A. Knopf Learning Center. Bethany K. Doxey was hired as a School and Community Liaison and will support services provided to Genesee County school districts by GISD's Health, Safety and Nutrition Services department.

Resignations Accepted

At the October 11, 2005 meeting, the GISD Board of Education accepted the resignation of Kara A. Lake, School Social Worker, Special Education Services. Resignations for the purpose of retirement were also accepted from: Karen M. Russell, Teacher of Students with Cognitive Impairment, Marion D. Crouse Instructional Center; Beryl P. Smith, Coordinator for Instruction, Reading Recovery, Education and Learning; and Marilyn D. Henson, Project Coordinator I, Health, Safety and Nutrition Services.



Countryside Crafters Fair

November 5, 2005

10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Elmer A. Knopf Learning Center

The annual Countryside Crafters Fair is held at the Elmer A. Knopf Learning Center, which is located on the corner of Van Slyke and Maple Roads in Flint.

The crafters fair will feature handcrafted items for sale, a bake sale and a café for lunch.

Shuttle bus service will be available from Carman-Ainsworth Junior High School, located at 1409 West Maple Avenue in Flint. No baby strollers please.

"Puppet Adventures" Visits MCIC

The MCIC Performing Artist Series kicked off its 2005-06 season with a performance of "Jack and the Beanstalk," by Greg Lester's Puppet Adventures. The puppet show was held in the MCIC gym on a 14-foot portable stage. Students from the elementary unit were treated to dazzling hand-crafted puppets and sets! They enjoyed the 30-minute program which included puppets, sound and visual effects. The program was organized by Music Therapist Carolyn Vierkorn. After the show, Mr. Lester allowed students to come up and have pictures taken with Zip the puppet.



Pictured are an MCIC staff member and student enjoying a performance of "Jack and the Beanstalk" presented by Greg Lester's Puppet Adventures crew.

November Birthdays

1	Barbara Prevett	Davis Ed. Center
1	Judy Torok	Transportation
2	Tina Hardy	Davis Ed. Center
2	Mary Staley	MCIC
3	Barbara Fetrow	EKLC/CHOICE
5	Laura Caballero	SESC
5	Barbara Wilson	MCIC
6	Cindy Carskadon	EKLC/CHOICE

9	Janelle Kovacs	EKLC/CHOICE
10	Crystal Yachcik	SESC
11	Jill McCarthy	Transportation
11	Stephanie Resky	MCIC
12	Wanda Buchler	Transportation
12	Mary Rankins	Transportation
12	Terryl Sperlich	MMC
12	Delynn Stone-Demell	Transportation
13	Christina Hoffmeyer	EKLC
14	Pattie Chaney	MCIC
15	Doreen Busch	MCIC
15	Barbara Diegel	Transportation
15	Linnae Sauvola	Davis Ed. Center
15	Denise Witte	Transportation
17	Shannon White	ECPS
18	Grace Kirby	MCIC
18	Gay Ann Roos	EKLC
18	Kay Saurman	SESC
19	Adam Kurtz	SESC
19	Karen Russell	MCIC
19	Larry Williams	MCIC
20	Tara Hodo	Transportation
21	Peter Kaake	ECPS
22	Carl Cox	Transportation
22	Patricia Dombrowski	SESC
22	Margaret Radtke	Transportation
22	Linda Winer	Transportation
24	Mark Deschaine	EKLC
24	Linda Hailey	Health
24	Rosemary Oseguera-Witham	ECPS
24	Catrina Wiskur	Health
25	Sharon Armstrong	Davis Ed. Center
26	Cheryl Barnhart	EKLC
27	Kimberly Marshall	EKLC/CHOICE
27	Judith McAllister	EKLC
27	Dalberta McField	Transportation
27	Jeffrey Reno	SESC
28	Carzella Hairston	Transportation
28	Jill Jackson	MCIC
29	Janet Beardslee	EKLC/CHOICE
29	Ronald Ledford	EKLC
29	Thomas Princinsky	Davis Ed. Center
29	Bonnie Russell	MMC
29	Patricia Spooner	Transportation
30	Christine Isaacs	MCIC
30	Marsha Mancillas	EKLC
30	Theresa Shepard	EKLC

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December Birthdays

2	Marie Dunn	EKLC/CHOICE
3	Joanne LeBlanc	Davis Ed. Center
4	John Earegood	Transportation
5	Doreen Campbell	Transportation
5	Beverly Kelly	SESC
5	Kathleen McIntosh	Transportation

GISD Jobs

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