



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 at MCIC

The staff and students of Marion D. Crouse Instructional Center were pleased to host the annual Read Across America celebration at the school on Friday, March 2.

The usual cast of "Cat in the Hat" characters were on hand to help promote reading through special Dr. Seuss themed activities. Readers from around Genesee County, including a local mayor and councilman, a state senator and two news reporters, visited MCIC to read to the students.

Guests enjoyed meeting the students and were invited to a cake-and-punch reception held in the colorfully decorated gym. Each class created its own Dr. Seuss book cover for a school-wide contest and participated in a dance on Friday afternoon.



Pictured are MCIC Occupational Therapists Carol Kolongowski and Theresa Flange dressed in Thing 1 and Thing 2 costumes.

Collaborative Schools of Choice Program Endorsed for 2007-08

The Genesee County Superintendents Association took action at its retreat on March 1, 2007 to continue the Collaborative Schools of Choice Program for the 2007-08 school year with a new 1% factor. At its March 13, 2007 meeting, the GISD board endorsed the Genesee Intermediate School District Collaborative Schools of Choice Program for 2007-08.

Priority Children Representative Appointed

On March 31, 2007, Dr. Thomas Svitkovich's one-year term on the Priority Children Board of Directors will expire. Priority Children is an organization dedicated to supporting children in our county. Members of the organization have also been partners in many GISD activities, including the early childhood initiatives and health-related programs. Priority Children has also recognized GISD for the outstanding work in the Health, Safety and Nutrition Services department.

The mission of Priority Children explains that the organization is dedicated "to improve the quality of life for children and families in Genesee County through Assessment, Public Awareness and Advocacy." At the March 13, 2007 meeting, the board designated Dr. Svitkovich as Genesee Intermediate School District's representative for the next one-year term that will run from April 1, 2007 through March 31, 2008.

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Celebrating and Preparing for the Future

Dear Staff,

Over the last week, we celebrated the excellence of our staff. Employee recognition ceremonies were a great success. We recognized the contributions of all staff, those who reached milestone years, and we enjoyed each other's company. We smiled, laughed and sometimes shed a tear of happiness as we congratulated staff and recognized the success of GISD's many programs. As a regional service agency, GISD's strength is its employees, making it possible to provide the programs and services we offer.

Our organization's ability to meet the needs of our constituents is based on our agility and focus. We have developed a great reputation for service, quality and excellence because we deliver a great product. Our Teaching, Learning and Service Plan is our guidepost, the basis for our budget and our programs. New directions and excellent programs are a direct result of planning that is focused on meeting the needs of our constituent districts.

We are in the final stages of selecting a principal/planner for our new health middle college which will be housed on the campus of the University of Michigan-Flint. We will open this fall with an initial class of between 80 and 100 students. Our primary partner, Genesys Health Systems, will host students for clinical experiences and related classes. This program has been strongly endorsed by the Greater Flint Health Coalition and our twenty-one constituent districts. A grant received from the Michigan Department of Education will fund planning and development of this innovative new program.

The GISD Transition Center is slated to open this fall. All of the plans have been finalized. Renovation is underway. Staff have been busy with a number of committees that will address students and staff assignments, daily schedules/calendars, and many other operational aspects of the program. The GISD Transition Center is being completed without a bond issue or tax increase to our citizens. GISD's Special Education Capital Projects fund,

along with other special education funds, are covering the cost for this new facility without reducing the revenue stream to our constituents or existing programs.

The new middle college and the GISD Transition Center are just two of the many new innovations we expect for the 2007-08 school year.

Expansion of shared programs and the development of new services are underway. For example, this fall, high school students in five of our school districts (Carman-Ainsworth, Davison, Flushing, Grand Blanc and Mt. Morris) will be able to take college classes using our GenNET ITV system. Thanks to the leadership of the Greater Flint Educational Consortium (GFEC), we were able to finalize the details of this exciting pilot program. As the year progresses, we hope to be able to expand this program to all of the high schools in Genesee County. I believe that a virtual college on our high school campuses will indeed be a first for our region and state.

All of these programs and many others are supported by the GISD budget. As you know, we are underway to gain approval of all of our budgets. At the recent Budget Hearing, attended by representatives of 20 of our 21 constituent districts, we received unanimous approval of all of our budgets. As we explained to board members, our Career Technical Education Fund is revenue neutral. In other words, our expenditures are in line with the revenue we receive on an annual basis. Even though we are spending fund equity in our Special Education Fund, it is in great shape. Our expenditures of fund equity are limited to capital improvements. This is a direct contrast to the General Education Fund budget. We have experienced deep cuts in Section 81 (the foundation allowance for ISDs) from the State. These cuts and increasing costs are causing us to restructure programs supported by the General Education Fund

INNERVIEWS

A publication of
GISD's Communications
& Development Department

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in order to reduce spending and bring this budget to a revenue neutral position. In other words, we must limit our expenditures to the actual revenue we will receive in a single fiscal year without using our savings account. This must happen since we have exhausted the available revenue in our savings account, and if we continue without changes in the way we deliver services in the General Education Fund area, we will exhaust our savings account and bring the General Education Fund into a deficit condition. Therefore, over the next month, we will deal with the restructuring of services provided by the General Education Fund. This restructuring will impact Technology and Media Services, Ligon Outdoor Center, Education and Learning as well as Communications and Development.

As I stated at the annual Budget Hearing, over the last ten years we have increased our overall staff by 98%, and during that time, reduced our administrative staff by 32%. In other words, we have doubled our staff and reduced administrators by a third. This flattening of the administrative structure has saved literally millions of dollars which has supported increases in programming for our constituent districts. Given the current situation here in Michigan, it is imperative that other adjustments be made in order to bring our General Education Fund budget into line.

Working cooperatively through the budget process with our constituent districts and with internal union and board leadership, we will ensure the future stability of the Genesee Intermediate School District. This level of collaboration and cooperation is extremely important as we face the challenges and changes ahead. No matter what the outcome, we must focus on ensuring that we, as an organization, can continue to provide the quality services and programs which have become our hallmark. Wherever you work as a GISD employee, you are a part of a great organization, and you are a valuable asset. Thank you!

Sincerely,



Location Changed for April 24 GISD Board Meeting

As has been the tradition for many years, the superintendent and members of the Lakeville Board of Education cordially extended an invitation to the Genesee Intermediate School District Board of Education to conduct its April 24, 2007 meeting in the Lakeville Community School District, followed by their annual end-of-maple-syrup-season pancake supper and the Lakeville Board of Education meeting. As a result of the invitation, the GISD board has changed the location of its April 24, 2007 meeting to Lakeville Middle School.

General Enrollment Information

GISD's Business Services staff prepared general enrollment information, including live birth data and five-year enrollment projections for the GISD. The enrollment information was generated from the Single Record Student Database (SRSB). Generally, the information suggests flat or slightly declining population trends. 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 March 13, 2007 board meeting, Cynthia McCain, Executive Director – Finance, presented the GISD board with a summary of the report. The board accepted the report.

Board Policy Revisions Adopted

At the February 27, 2007 meeting, the board approved a first reading of board policy revision recommendations from NEOLA's policy update service to keep the district abreast of changes and additions needed for legal compliance and to maintain quality and usefulness of the board policies. At the March 13, 2007 meeting, the board held a second reading and approved the recommended policy changes. The revised policies will now become a part of GISD's electronic policy manual accessible through the GISD website at: www.geneseeis.org.

Summer Programs Approved

Elmer Knopf Learning Center (EKLC)

For many years, GISD has successfully operated a summer recreational day camp program. The program has provided activities for students with moderate cognitive impairments (MoCI) and autism spectrum disorders (ASD). The EKLC summer program will run three days a week from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The duration of the program will be five weeks. Staffing will be determined by student enrollment, and transportation will be provided for students whose resident district participates in GISD transportation services.

In addition, at the request of Grand Blanc Community Schools, GISD will provide a pilot program for students with autism spectrum disorders who attend GISD's ASD Project CHOICE classrooms in Grand Blanc. The program will serve up to 16 students currently enrolled in the Perry Center and Brendel GISD Project CHOICE ASD classrooms. The program will run four days a week, from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The duration of the program will be six weeks. Transportation and lunches will be provided by the parents of the registrants.

Early Childhood Programs and Services (ECPS)

Early Childhood Programs and Services has proposed a 2007 Summer Enrichment Program for birth to seven-year-old children who are enrolled in the program during the school year. A program for students ages three to seven years is proposed for five weeks, three days per week, for two hours and 45 minutes. The program will operate from July 10, 2007 through August 9, 2007. The total number of staff will be determined by student enrollment. GISD will provide transportation, and daily snacks will be provided by the families. A parent/child program for students birth to 36 months of age will be offered again for five weeks, one day per week, up to two-hour sessions per week and may include music, literacy and language, gross motor sensory, and fine motor activities. Program options will be determined on student enrollment.

At the March 13, 2007 meeting, the GISD board approved the summer programs for EKLC and ECPS.

Project CHOICE Report Received

Project CHOICE has three components, including awareness activities for general education students, interactive experiences between students in our Center programs and students from local schools, and classroom alternatives for students with severe disabilities. Social interaction is an integral aspect of functioning within the family and the community. Since 1986, GISD has had many special events and ongoing activities that bring together center-based students and students without disabilities. At the March 27, 2007 meeting, staff from the Marion D. Crouse Instructional Center presented examples of some of the interactive experiences.

This year, there are three new community partners that participate with GISD students at the Marion D. Crouse Instructional Center (MCIC), including Mt. Morris Alternative Education Basketball Team, GenNET Pioneers Project, and peer buddies. Representatives, including staff, students and parents from each of the partner organizations, were present at the March 27, 2007 board meeting to provide information on their interactive experiences with MCIC students. They were joined by Jan Russell, assistant superintendent, Special Education Services, who answered questions regarding Project CHOICE.

GISD Transition Center Renovation Bids Accepted

On May 25, 2004, the Board adopted a Long-Range Capital Improvement Plan, which was updated in February 2006. The purchase of property to house a transition program and related construction and renovation was scheduled as part of that plan. In September 2007, the Board purchased the vacant 23,174 square foot Office Max building located at 3136 S. Linden Road to house the GISD Transition Center.

On January 9, 2007, the Board approved the design and estimated costs totaling \$159.59 per square foot, or \$3,698,546, including the cost of the building and the roof replacement. After significant input from staff and community, the cost estimate was higher than the original proposal due to design changes that added an additional 1,100 square feet of space being renovated.

Wolgast Corporation, GISD's construction manager, solicited 1,098 contractors to participate in the bidding process. Requests for Bids were posted in the newspaper and on the state website. On February 22, 2007, a pre-bid meeting was held at the site of the GISD Transition Center at 2:00 p.m., and over 40 interested contractors attended. Eighty-eight (88) contractors submitted bids. On March 7, 2007, bids were opened and read aloud at the GISD Transition Center in front of many interested contractors and others. 50% of the low bids came from local contractors; and 79% of the low bidders were union contractors.

At the March 13, 2007 meeting, based on Wolgast Corporation recommendations and concurrence by GISD administration, the GISD board awarded the Transition Center projects to the low bidders at a total cost of \$2,078,174.

100 District Leaders Network Presentation Received

Michael Thorp, Goodrich Board of Education member, attended the AASA National Conference on Education in New Orleans on February 28, 2007. As a member of the 100 District Leaders for Citizenship and Service-Learning Network, Mr. Thorp will represent Goodrich Area Schools, Genesee County and the State of Michigan. Through this initiative, state and district policymakers, as well as education leaders, will identify, develop and implement policies to support student academic and civic achievement. GISD is honored to have a local board member representing this region and the state as a member of this network. At the March 27, 2007 meeting, the GISD board accepted a presentation by Mr. Thorp regarding this nationwide effort to support citizenship education and service-learning projects for students.

Donations Accepted

Generous donations for use by GISD's Office of Education and Learning and Marion D. Crouse Instructional Center were received by the board. The donations included Ribbon Drapes for Spelling Bee medals and medical supplies that were given by friends/family and a local business.



School Bus Purchases Approved

On March 6, 2007, the Board approved district participation in the Michigan School Business Officials (MSBO) and the Michigan Association for Pupil Transportation (MAPT) bus purchasing program for school districts. At that time, the board reviewed and approved the sample resolution and the bid documents. The program was established in 1994 when Michigan School Business Officials (MSBO) joined with Michigan Association of Pupil Transportation (MAPT) to initiate a group bus purchasing program to save their members time, money and concern. With cooperation from school bus vendors, the MSBO Bus Specifications Committee combined to design a program in which all districts could take advantage of group purchasing, regardless of the size of their order.

The Building and Grounds Committee met prior to the March 27, 2007 board meeting to review the bids. Following that review, it was recommended that the board of education adopt the resolution authorizing participation in the MSBO/MAPT School Bus Purchasing Program for the purposes of purchasing ten school buses for the GISD Special Education Transportation Consortium. They will be purchased from the low bidder, Capital City Bus Sales out of Lansing, at a total cost of \$923,380.00.

Leaves of Absence Approved

At the March 13, 2007 meeting, leaves of absence were considered and approved for: Jill McCarthy, Transportation Services; Tracey Tortorice, EKLC; and Angelina Skinner, Transportation Services. At the March 27, 2007 meeting, a leave of absence was considered and approved for Margaret Wallace, Transportation Services.

Resignations Accepted

At the March 13, 2007 meeting, resignations for the purpose of retirement were accepted from: Julie H. Cooper, Special Education Services; and Sharon K. Madarasz, Education and Learning.

Dr. Robert Burek Honored

On March 9, Dr. Robert Burek, Executive Director, Greater Flint Educational Consortium (GFEC), received the Michigan Association of School Administrators (MASA) Hall of Fame Award for Region 5. Dr. Burek, who was superintendent for Fenton Area Public Schools for nine years before retiring in 2000, was nominated for his community involvement during his career and in retirement in the Fenton community. Dr. Burek has also served as an officer of the Fenton Kiwanis Club, a member of the Southern Lakes Regional Metropolitan Parks and Recreation board and as co-chair of the fundraising campaign for the Fenton Cultural Center.

Congratulations Mott Bears!

Paul Holdren, Mott Middle/Early College teacher, also serves as the Mott Community College wrestling coach. On March 8, Paul's Mott Bears placed 6th overall out of 63 qualifying teams at the 2007 NCWA National Wrestling Championship held in Dallas, Texas. Mott Community College hails three all-American wrestlers, and they placed as follows: Tony Mochty, Kearsley High School graduate, placed 3rd; Bryce Walser, Montrose High School graduate, placed 3rd; and Patrick McNulty, North Branch High School graduate, placed 6th. There are 150 colleges and universities competing to go to NCWA nationals. Of these, 63 teams qualified. Well done, Mott Bears!

Take Our Kids/Grandkids to Work Day at GISD

National "Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day" is scheduled for Thursday, April 26, 2007. 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:

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

Submit "work plan" to immediate supervisor along with the Request to Participate form located in the next column.

- Request to Participate - Take Our Kids/Grandkids to Work Day at GISD

Thursday, April 26, 2007

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.



GISD Employees Honored

GISD staff were honored during Employee Appreciation Week, March 27-30, 2007. This special week is a chance to say "thank you" to all GISD employees for the outstanding job they do throughout the year. Those who were recognized for 10, 15, 20, 25 or 30 years of service are:

30 Years of Service

Tammy L. Krul - MCIC; Barbara A. Ratliff - MCIC; Bonnie L. Russell - MMC; Pamela A. Prior - EKLC; Joan L. Olsen - EKLC CHOICE; Paula L. Meredith-Faris - ECPS; David A. Krupa - Davis Ed. Center; Barbara J. Prevett - Davis Ed. Center

25 Years of Service

Robert L. Dippold - MCIC; Dawn E. Satchell - MCIC; Diane M. Sparks - MCIC; Cindy L. Carskadon - EKLC CHOICE; Linda Scheffler - Special Services

20 Years of Service

Ronald Ledford - MCIC; Mary E. Beardslee - EKLC; Rochelle L. Bila - EKLC; Judith A. Fulkerson - EKLC; Brenda K. Maynard - EKLC; Suzanne C. Tucker - EKLC; Michelle C. Motyl - EKLC CHOICE; Julie H. Cooper - Special Services; Denise L. Welsh - Special Services

15 Years of Service

Linda R. Barber - MCIC; Lori L. Eastwood - MCIC; William S. Lewis, Jr. - MCIC; Victoria L. Milne - MMC; Lee A. Rossmassler - MMC; Terryl J. Sperlich - MMC; Lynn Bengelink - EKLC; Sherry L. Osmon - EKLC; Margaret J. Smithwick - EKLC; Tracey L. Tortorice - EKLC; David G. Wilson - EKLC; Kenneth E. Wilson - EKLC; Janice M. Shumaker - EKLC CHOICE; Terese K. Knag - Davis Ed. Center; Becky A. Downing - Special Services; Beverly A. Harrison - Special Services; Ruth M. Rosenberger - Special Services; Mark S. Fisher - Special Services

10 Years of Service

Carol A. Farver - HSNS; Jill Jackson - MCIC; Elizabeth C. Dickens - MMC; Theresa M. Shepard - EKLC; Nell M. LePard - EKLC CHOICE; Lisa M. Hook - Davis Ed. Center; Beverly A. Knox-Pipes - Davis Ed. Center

Thanks to all building/program committee members who volunteered their time to make each building/program event enjoyable for everyone!

Employee's Grandson Was a Jeopardy Contestant

GISD bus driver Allen Ford's grandson, Benjamin Noe, is one of 15 teens nationwide that were invited to be contestants in the "Jeopardy" Teen Tournament. Benjamin is a sophomore at Flushing High School. He took an online "Jeopardy" test in September to qualify to audition. In October, he was invited to audition in person in Chicago. A November 5 audition consisted of a written test, playing Jeopardy against other teens and a personality interview. The week before Thanksgiving, Benjamin's mom received a call from a Jeopardy staff member asking Ben to fly to Los Angeles to play Jeopardy in the Teen Tournament. According to Jeopardy staff members at the audition, approximately 5,000 teens passed the online test. They invited 300-400 to audition, and 15 teens were subsequently invited to play the game in L.A. Ben, his parents and grandparents all flew to L.A. for the March 12 taping of the show. When the show ended, Ben was only \$321 short to continue to the finals. Congratulations to Benjamin!

April Birthdays

| | | |
|----|------------------|------------------|
| 1 | Deborah Driskill | Transportation |
| 2 | Denise Evert | EKLC/CHOICE |
| 2 | Deborah Hooper | SESC |
| 2 | Sharlene Howe | EKLC |
| 3 | Susan Lauritzen | Transportation |
| 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 |
| 6 | Kimberly Howd | Transportation |
| 7 | Joan Gibson | Transportation |
| 8 | Edward Shumaker | Transportation |
| 9 | Karen Lapan | Transportation |
| 11 | Gail Kern | MCIC |
| 12 | Rochelle Bila | EKLC |
| 12 | Debbie Crawford | Transportation |
| 12 | Nancy Glady | MCIC |
| 12 | Margaret Wallace | Transportation |
| 12 | Martha Wrigley | EKLC |
| 14 | Lerlean Campbell | Transportation |
| 14 | Amy Dunn | Transportation |
| 15 | Serina Ross | EKLC |

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| | | |
|----|--------------------|------------------|
| 15 | Tracy Valentine | Davis Ed. Center |
| 16 | Sheryl Perry | Transportation |
| 16 | Allan Walt | MCIC |
| 17 | Joy Armour | MCIC |
| 18 | Barbara Gould | MCIC |
| 22 | Debra Kelley | Day Treatment |
| 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 |
| 30 | Rebecca Barbat | MCIC |
| 30 | Theresa Koval | Transportation |
| 30 | Tina Ray | Transportation |
| 30 | William Welch | Davis Ed. Center |

| | | |
|---|-------------------|------------------|
| 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 | Angela Gittings | Transportation |
| 5 | Jessica Prast | Transportation |
| 5 | Steven Taddei | Davis Ed. Center |

GISD Jobs

The Human Resources and Operations department at GISD is accepting applications for numerous positions. To view current openings and complete an online application, visit the "employment" link at www.geneseeisd.org. If you need additional information, call Cindy Workman at (810) 591-4404.

May Birthdays

| | | |
|---|--------------|----------------|
| 1 | Ryan Johnson | EKLC |
| 1 | Tricia Lewis | Transportation |
| 2 | Becky Finkle | ECPS |
| 2 | Laura Hawks | Day Treatment |