



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.

Transition Center Wall-Breaking Ceremony

On December 12, 2006, GISD held a Wall Breaking Ceremony at the new Transition Center, located in the recently purchased Office Max building on Linden Road in Flint. The ceremony signified the official start of renovations to the building, which will be used to help prepare older special education students for the next phase of their lives. GISD board members and staff, community members and educators from throughout the county attended the event. The GISD Transition Center is scheduled to open in July 2007.



GISD Superintendent Thomas Svitkovich addresses the audience at the Wall-Breaking Ceremony.



GISD board members take their turn at the wall.

Annual Website Reporting Update

Public Act 413 of 2004 amended the Revised School Code by adding Section 620, which requires every intermediate school district to post information on its website by December 31 of each year. At the December 12, 2006 meeting, Communications and Development Executive Director Jerry Johnson presented the board with a preview of the GISD information to be posted in each of the mandated categories.

During the presentation, Mr. Johnson noted that the data posted is not a comprehensive financial report. The data contained in the web-based report corresponds only to the selected information that is required by law. As required by PA 413 of 2004, GISD's report information will be available by December 31, 2006, in the Publications area of its website at: www.geneseeisd.org.

Resolution for Summer Tax Collection Adopted

The board of education has previously authorized a summer tax levy. In order to continue with that authorization for 2007, a resolution must be adopted and filed with each city and/or township within the Genesee Intermediate School District prior to January 1, 2007. GISD will only levy summer taxes when the local school district is also levying a summer property tax levy. At the December 12, 2006 meeting, the board adopted a resolution to levy summer taxes in 2007 and provide proper notice to the taxing units.

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December is a Very Busy Time

Dear Staff,

On Tuesday, December 12, the board of education sponsored a wall-breaking ceremony at the ISD's new Transition Center. As you recall, the board authorized the purchase of the former Office Max, located at 3136 South Linden Road, at the September 26, 2006 board meeting. Since that time, plans have been underway to renovate the facility. The wall-breaking, our version of a traditional ground-breaking ceremony for new buildings, was a huge success thanks to staff and our students. EKLC students performed and delighted the audience with their talents. The bell-ringing, vocal renditions and piano selections provided entertainment and displayed our students' talents. Video presentations and displays showcased the renovation project and the architect's vision of the final project, which is slated to be completed before the end of the school year. Over 100 staff, students, parents and invited guests attended the ceremony. Members of the board led the wall-breaking, swinging sledge hammers at a wall which will be removed in the renovation project, to commemorate the first step in the renovation work. Invited guests, Flint Township representatives, GISD staff members and students took their turns at breaking the wall as well. All in all, it was a great event. I was most impressed that our neighbors from adjoining businesses attended the wall-breaking and expressed interest in working collaboratively with us to serve our students. Civic leaders and invited guests all made very positive comments about the GISD Transition Center. On behalf of the board of education, our entire school community and the generations of students to come, we want to thank all of our staff who have been involved in the planning process. We also particularly want to thank Assistant Superintendent Jan Russell and Deputy Superintendent Mike Moorman for working with the board of education to bring this project to the renovation/construction stage. I am certain that both THA Architects Engineers

and Wolgast Construction managers will provide us with a quality product.

As you know, December is also a time to celebrate the holiday season with many outstanding traditions. One of our greatest gifts to our school community is our commitment to giving. GISD staff once again exceeded our Combined Campaign goal. This year especially, giving to those in need is most important. I know that staff in all of our locations took on special projects. Toys for Tots, giving to families in need and many other charitable contributions brought a completeness to our holiday celebrations. Many years ago, Winston Churchill said it best, "You make a living by what you get. You make a life by what you give." GISD is certainly known for what its staff gives to our students and our community. On behalf of the board of education, thank you for your generosity and your support for the members of our community.

This December also brings another first. This year, for the first time, our ISD, along with all of the other ISDs/RESAs in Michigan, is required to post a great deal of information to its website. This website posting process requires annual reports for all ISDs/RESAs. Most recently, the legislature has been discussing the possibility of requiring all K-12 school districts and charter schools to follow similar reporting guidelines. I suspect that within a few years all public schools will be following these rules. We are in the final stages of preparing the information for our website. Jerry Johnson, Robin Medling, Cindy McCain and Tomiko Fisher and have taken the lead in the development of our report. The information will be on the website by December 31, and the report will open with an introduction centering on the

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GISD Teaching, Learning and Service Plan. It is designed so visitors will scroll through a great deal of additional district information as an asset in gaining full understanding of our operations. The table of contents for the report will include general information; contracts; contract modifications; compensation; fiber optic and cable equipment; public relations, polling, lobbying and legal services; IRS 1099; travel; certain ISD expenditures; and motor vehicles. The GISD Board of Education has reviewed the report, and we believe it will be another helpful communication tool to share important information with our community.

On behalf of the GISD Board of Education, all of our students and constituents, I wish to thank you for a great year. Once again GISD has expanded services, helped with cost-cutting efforts throughout the county and provided outstanding programs. Many of our projects have been recognized with state and national awards. Working together, we continue to grow new services, maintaining GISD's tradition of outstanding performance and quality. As you leave for the holiday vacation to celebrate the joys of the season with your family and friends, I want you to know that we are most appreciative of your efforts. I wish you a great holiday ahead with health and happiness for you, your family and friends. I also wish prosperity, health and happiness for each of you as we face a new year which, as always, will be filled with change and challenges.

Sincerely,



2005-2006 Audit Report Received

During the past several months, Lewis & Knopf, Certified Public Accountants, has been involved in its annual audit of GISD financial records. The audit is very comprehensive and includes in-depth tests of various federal programs managed by the district, as well as the normal tests conducted as standard audit practice.

At the December 12, 2006 meeting, Mr. Kim Lindsay, of Lewis & Knopf, presented the firm's review of the accounting practices and procedures utilized in Business Services. Lewis & Knopf is a superior auditing firm, and each year they make suggestions which helps GISD increase efficiency. GISD board members were pleased to learn that the overall GISD 2005-06 audit is rated as excellent. Fund balances meet or exceed the expected fund equities identified in the 2005-06 budget. GISD remains financially healthy and stable for the current fiscal year. The GISD board commended Business Services staff for their attention to quality financial management, and administrators were also recognized for doing an excellent job managing their budgets.



Report Received

Quality of Life Report: Three Decades of Change in Genesee County (1979-2006)

The Community Foundation of Greater Flint recently sponsored a Quality of Life Report. The Social Systems Research Institute was commissioned to complete this report, which includes specific inferences to education.

The overall result for public schools (K-12) shows a distinct upturn in satisfaction since 2001. GISD is pleased with the overall report related to public education and has shared the document with the Superintendents Association. GISD staff will use the document in preparing grants and in the ongoing planning process. Results in the report will also be considered as surveys and other evaluation reports are prepared.

The board acknowledged receipt of the report at its December 12, 2006 meeting.



Local Rotary Clubs Recognized

The Rotary Clubs within Genesee County (District 6330-Area 7) have formed a significant partnership with the 21 constituent school districts and the ISD. This countywide initiative is entitled "Rotary Reads," and its purpose is to provide a collection of books to every third grade classroom in Genesee County. Rotary is a huge worldwide organization. Its membership includes business and professional leaders who encourage high ethical standards and help build goodwill and peace in the world. Approximately 1.2 million Rotarians belong to more than 32,000 clubs in more than 200 countries. In Genesee County, there are nine local Rotary Clubs, with a combined total membership of over 500. Rotary believes that literacy is the foundation for virtually all forms of education and an essential component of poverty reduction, social inclusion and economic development.

Club leaders from Genesee County's nine clubs have worked to develop a collaborative service project focusing on literacy to benefit the entire county. Rotary Clubs are focusing the "Rotary Reads" literacy initiatives on third grade classrooms because as students enter third grade, the reading process changes from a process of learning to read to a process of reading to learn. The "Rotary Reads" literacy project will provide every third grade classroom in Genesee County with a common set of books containing rich text that will expand students' knowledge of the world. Over the next month, the books will be delivered to local districts and distributed to third grade classrooms. In January, local Rotary Club members will be at schools to officially present the books to area classrooms. Rotary Club members will also read to students in March during Rotary Literacy Month.

At the December 12, 2006 meeting, the board adopted a resolution acknowledging this outstanding program and thanking local Rotary Clubs for supporting literacy in our schools.

Participation Supported

100 District Leaders for Citizenship and Service Learning Network

Recently the Education Commission of the States National Center for Learning and Citizenship appointed Michael J. Thorp, a member of the Goodrich Board of Education, to the 100 District Leaders for Citizenship and Service-Learning Network. In this role, Mr. Thorp will represent Goodrich Area Schools, Genesee County and the State of Michigan. Members of this network from across the nation will work to support citizenship education and service learning projects for students. State and district policymakers, as well as education leaders, will identify, develop and implement policies to support student academic and civic achievement through this initiative. This is an honor for Genesee County to have one of its local board members representing this region and the state as a member of this network.

The first meeting of the network will be held in New Orleans at the AASA National Conference on Education on February 28, 2007. Mr. Thorp has requested that Genesee Intermediate School District join other organizations, including the Goodrich Board of Education, Genesee County Association of School Board Members and the Michigan Association of School Boards, to help defray costs of his attendance at this meeting.

After reviewing the details of the request at the December 12, 2006 meeting, the GISD board authorized support up to \$500 to defray the costs of lodging. Reimbursement will be made following GISD policy, which requires completion of an expense reimbursement request form and a summary report of the conference experience.

December Bills Payable

Since the board had only one scheduled meeting in early December, it was recommended and approved that the administration office, upon review of the board treasurer, is authorized to process December bills payable and issue checks. The full board will approve December financial reports in January.

New GenNET Self-Service Help Desk



GISD's Technology and Media Services department recently introduced the new GenNET Self-Service Help Desk to enhance the benefits of GenNET technical and information services support.

Nearly one-half of the authorized users are fully trained in the Self-Service Help Desk operation and are actively using the system. Training and implementation for remaining users is slated for completion in early January of 2007.

Self-Service Help Desk users log into this secure web-based application where they:

- Submit support requests online quickly and easily.
- Upload supplemental documents and screen captures to clarify their needs.
- Create purchase requests for technology.
- Monitor and manage district-wide support issues by reviewing open and closed requests.
- View real-time news about upcoming events like training, state reporting and system upgrades.
- Search their district's historical data to resolve common problems.

Respondents to a survey have given the GenNET Self-Service experience an excellent rating and report that it is highly effective and more enjoyable to use than other systems. One of the most popular benefits is the ability to manage support request data in a single organized, easy-to-use interface that eliminates the need to file through email and notes. The flexible interface also enables self-service users to filter and sort their district's support request data, placing valuable information at their fingertips wherever an Internet connection is available.

Technology and Media Services staff is working to add new features to the GenNET Self-Service Help Desk, including frequently asked questions, tip sheets, how-to's, common forms and helpful links.

Congratulations to GISD Holiday Card Design Winner

Genesee Intermediate School District congratulates Amy Hoxsey, a senior at Kearsley High School, for winning the 2006 GISD Holiday Card Design Contest. Amy's artwork, selected from dozens of entries, was printed as the graphic on the cover of the 2006 cards. Her design was created and submitted through her Graphic Design (Visual Communications) course at the GASC Technology Center.

At the January 8, 2007, Kearsley Board of Education meeting, GISD Superintendent Thomas Svitkovich and GISD Board of Education president Peggy Tortorice will present Amy with a custom-framed version of her design and a \$50 gift card. Special thanks go to the Beecher, Kearsley, Flint Southwestern Academy, GASC Technology Center and Hamady High School students who participated in this year's contest. They all did a great job!



Featured is the card design by Amy Hoxsey, a senior at Kearsley High School.

Upcoming Television Special

Television station abc12 (WJRT-TV), in partnership with local schools, the Law Offices of Lee Steinberg, P.C. and the Connect with Kids/CWK network, will air:

**"On the Rocks:
The Epidemic of Teen Drinking"**

Saturday, January 27, 2007
7:30 p.m.

Seventy-five percent of all 12th graders have tried alcohol. Thirty percent say they've been drunk in the past month. Parents can tune in to learn more facts on teen drinking and why experts say we have an epidemic of teen drinking in America — one that far and away overshadows the problems of all illegal drugs combined.

Thank You

The children and I want to thank you for your continued support of the Edward F. Gwiazdowski scholarship fund. Thank you for always keeping him in your thoughts. We wish you a very safe and happy holiday.

- *Maryanne Gwiazdowski and Family*

Wedding Bells

Cindy Hodge, Program Secretary, Career Technical Education, was married to Cliff Thurlow on December 9, 2006. The couple were married at St. Andrews Church in Davison with a reception following at Tyrone Hills Golf Club. They enjoyed a beautiful honeymoon in Oahu, Kauai and Maui, Hawaii. Congratulations Cindy and Cliff!

Baby News

Barb Olszewski, teacher at EKLC's Project CHOICE classroom at Durant-Tuuri-Mott, and her husband Paul welcomed their twins, Jacob

Theodore and Sarah Nicole, on Saturday November 25. Jacob weighed 4 lbs. and was 17¼ in. long, while younger sister Sarah was 5 lbs. 11 oz. and was 19 in. long. The Olszewski family is excited to celebrate their first Christmas with their special gifts of joy.

Service in Iraq

Roy Sovis, Coordinator for Instruction, Social Studies, Education and Learning, and his wife Pam recently learned their son John has volunteered for a second tour in Iraq. Previously a National Guardsman, he is now Army active duty and will to be promoted to a Sergeant in the next coming months. Because he is joining a unit already deployed, he will only serve six months in Iraq during this tour. John hopes to soon be going to Ranger special forces training upon his return.

Donations Accepted

Generous donations for use at Early Childhood Programs and Services; Health, Safety and Nutrition Services; and the Marion D. Crouse Instructional Center were received by the board at the December 12, 2006, meeting. The donations included numerous assistive and safety devices, as well as a \$396.71 donation from the Knights of Columbus Council #6694. Additionally, Macy's Department Stores and Target Community Relations made generous donations to the Project SKIP to a Great Start Program.



Welcome to GISD!

At the December 12, 2006 meeting, the board approved the hiring of: Toyonna L. Robbins, School Social Worker, Early Childhood Programs and Services; Jennifer R. Preston, Occupational Therapist, EKLC; and Melissa L. Wing, Coordinator for Instruction, K-2 Early Literacy and Math, Education and Learning.

Enjoy a Healthier More Fulfilling Life: Become a CrimFit Member

CrimFit is a year-round fitness program designed to keep you motivated and give you the tools to get you started. More than just another fitness program, CrimFit will be your new way of life. Together with various other fitness partners, CrimFit provides information, motivation, access to resources and a well-defined activity program to help you achieve your fitness goals.

The principles of CrimFit are based on the guidelines from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, which identify the levels of physical activity needed to reduce your risk of chronic disease, stabilize your weight or lose weight.

CrimFit member benefits include:

- Annual consultation with a fitness trainer, and access to CrimFit panel of experts.
- Clinics , seminars and monthly activities just for members.
- Discounts at area health and fitness centers, and at area retail partners.
- CrimFit pedometer, wristband and t-shirt.
- Members only website featuring an on-line mileage log and connections to other members.
- Rewards for achieving fitness goals.
- Tips, recipes and advice from partners and sponsors.
- Year-round activities and cross-training with other CrimFit members.
- Vouchers for two area races, including the Crim.

Visit the Crim website at www.crim.org to learn more about the program and how to join.

Leaves of Absence Approved

At the December 12, 2006 meeting, leaves of absence were considered and approved for: Traci Kita, School Social Worker; Joselyn Johnson, Paraprofessional; Annette Harden, Transportation Aide; and Angelina Skinner, Bus Driver.



January Birthdays

3	Sandra Mann	MCIC
3	Sandra Wheeler	Transportation
4	Mary Howell	Reading Recovery
4	Tamara Morrow	SESC
6	Jacqueline Mark	EKLC
7	David Krupa	Davis Ed. Center
7	Patrick McHugh	MMC
7	Cindy Verbeke	ECPS
8	Adrienne Hardimon	SESC
8	Judith Pannick	EKLC/CHOICE
9	Denice Lepczyk	Transportation
9	Dwayne Odneal	EKLC
9	Regina Ondovcsik	Transportation
9	Julie Salim	MCIC
10	Juliet Hardwick	EKLC/CHOICE
10	Major Harper	EKLC
10	Lori McLean	EKLC
10	Teresa Olson	Transportation
11	Pamela Marsack	EKLC
11	Tracey Tortorice	EKLC
12	Christopher Combs	Day Treatment
12	Charlotte Gambrel	EKLC
12	Camille Timmons	MCIC
13	Michelle Grifka	EKLC
13	Susan Meyer	ECPS
14	Judith Fulkerson	EKLC
14	Mary Lavengood	Davis Ed. Center
14	Rhoda Read	Davis Ed. Center
15	Allison Emmerling	SESC
15	Stacy Hodges	Davis Ed. Center
16	Donna Dean	EKLC/CHOICE
17	Karen Dutil	Transportation
18	Joan Mondeau	Transportation
19	Ida Allen	MCIC
19	LuSinda Johnston	MCIC
19	Kimberly Latoni	MCIC
19	Debra Marien	SESC
19	Linda Phillips	EKLC/CHOICE
20	Mandy Thomas	ECPS
21	Christine Emmendorfer	Transportation
21	Gus Jefferson	Transportation
21	Randy Wilson	Transportation
22	Deborah Isham	MCIC

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23	Tomiko Fisher	Davis Ed. Center
23	Patricia Pillen	Transportation
23	Annette Ryder	Transportation
24	Bradley Norman	Transportation
25	Candice Wagner	EKLC
25	Dawn Wineman	Transportation
26	Sheila Gafney	EKLC
26	Patrick Maul	Transportation
26	David Skinner	Transportation
28	Valerie LaCarter	Transportation
29	Joanne Blimka	MCIC
30	Deborah Baird	Transportation
30	Stacy Dowd	Transportation
30	Ruth Rosenberger	SESC
30	Donald VanHorn	MMC
31	Deborah Washburn	ECPS

2	Patti Garvin	Transportation
2	Deborah Lannom	MCIC
2	Laura Rainey	MMC
3	Linda Jaworski	SESC
3	Windel Robinson	Transportation
4	Eileen Jackson	Davis Ed. Center
4	Robert Snyder	EKLC
5	Kathleen Bell	ECPS
5	Annette Harden	Transportation

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.

February Birthdays

1	Kathy St. James	Transportation
2	Diane Burt	Administration