



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's Career Technical Education Department Helps Develop English Language Arts Units

In mid-March, the Michigan Department of Education was presented with four English Language Arts (ELA) units developed in collaboration with Career Technical Education (CTE). The four CTE/ELA units were developed for Marketing, Business Administration, Law, Public Safety and Health Science programs to show how ELA can be integrated into selected CTE programs and meet core content graduation requirements.

Dr. Jeremy Hughes, Deputy State Superintendent, and Patty Cantú, State Director for CTE, expressed special thanks to Gary Tower, GISD's Director of Career Technical Education, for this statewide project which included 54 participating school districts from 11 ISDs, curriculum consultants, the Michigan Department of Education and the State Career Technical Education office. These units are posted on GISD's Career Technical Education website. Gary also presented, "Crossing Boundaries: ELA and CTE" at the Governor's Education Summit on March 26 with a team from Macomb ISD.



Pictured are members of the statewide curriculum taskforce that developed the new English Language Arts units. Left to right: Gary Tower, GISD; Jeremy Hughes, MDE; Jennifer Wandzel, Clarenceville High School; Jim Martemucci and Dennis Hunt, Calhoun Area Technical Center; and Patty Cantú, Office of Career and Technical Preparation.

GISD Staff Awards Acknowledged

At the May 8, 2007 meeting, the GISD Board of Education recognized several GISD staff members that recently received awards from various organizations. The honorees included:

- Sharon Armstrong, Language Arts Coordinator, received the *Creative Writing Educator of the Year Award* from the Michigan Youth Arts Festival (MYAF).
- Kenneth Duncan, Bus Driver, received the *Excellence in Transportation Award* from GISD's transportation department staff and administrators.
- Joanne LeBlanc, Reading Recovery Coordinator, received the *Celebrate Literacy Award* from the Flint Area Reading Council.
- Dalberta McField, Transportation Aide, received the *Excellence in Transportation Award* from GISD's transportation department staff and administrators.
- William Welch, Science Coordinator, received the *Woodie Flowers Award* from Dr. William Murphy and Small Parts, Inc.

Mott Middle College Student Earns MASB/GCASBM Scholarship

On April 30, Mott Middle College (MMC) student Peter Kost was honored as one of six winners selected by the Genesee County Association of School Board Members to receive a \$500 college scholarship. Each of the 21 school districts in Genesee County recommended one senior to compete for these awards. The students had to demonstrate outstanding academic and community service records. Peter will be graduating from MMC on June 14. As an early college student, he has also earned an Associates Degree from Mott Community College. Peter plans on continuing his education as an entering college junior at the University of Michigan-Flint.

Congratulations to Peter on this outstanding accomplishment!

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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 breaks its promise to Michigan's education community. As educators, we must ask our elected officials to join us in building the future, despite the severe challenges of the present. We must solve the problems of the present and look forward with new energy to the construction of a solid budget future for Genesee County and Michigan.

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 for local school district board of education representatives. 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, all 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.

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 academic year, I want to thank each of you. Indeed, we have had an extremely successful year, and we are ready for a great summer ahead.

Sincerely,

Tom

GISD Board Member Receives Master Platinum Award



At the May 22, 2007 board of education meeting, Superintendent Thomas Svitkovich presented the Master Platinum Award to Mr. Jerry Ragsdale for his participation and achievements through the Michigan

Association of School Boards (MASB). The Master Platinum award from MASB is presented to leaders who continue to develop new skills, stay up-to-date on educational issues and participate in professional development programs as a school board member.

Construction Updates Received

At the May 22, 2007 board meeting, Michael Moorman, Deputy Superintendent, Human Resources and Operations, presented an update of the status of both the Transition Center construction and the Marion D. Crouse Instructional Center renovation. As a part of the update, Mr. Moorman and the board discussed various aspects of the projects, such as timelines and specific issues related to the work at each site. The board accepted the update.

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GISD Board of Education Awards Accepted



At its May 8, 2007 meeting, the Genesee Intermediate School District Board of Education proudly accepted the Honor Board, Standard of Excellence and Distinguished Achievement awards presented by the Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB).

These awards have been earned by the GISD Board of Education for its members' 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. The Distinguished Achievement Award is given to boards when all members have received their Master Boardmember Award.

Only 11 boards of education in Michigan have earned the Standard of Excellence Award; only 17 have received the Honor Board Award; and the Genesee Intermediate School District Board of Education is the **only** board to receive the Distinguished Achievement Award this year.

Building Preventive Maintenance System Presentation Received

On April 30, 2007, Maintenance and Operations Specialist David Burt, Assistant Superintendent Jan Russell and Deputy Superintendent Michael Moorman met with the special education administrative team and head custodians from each building to roll out an automated preventive maintenance program for building safety and mechanical systems. This system has been developed on-site with assistance from Technology and Media Services, thus saving the district approximately \$7,500 plus monthly maintenance and upgrade fees.

Preventive maintenance is another cost-saving measure the district is taking in order to become more efficient in managing mechanical systems maintenance, managing related supply inventories, using staff time and to control costs. In recent years, the district has also updated some HVAC systems with automated controls that have saved the district considerable sums of money.

At the May 22 board meeting, the board accepted a presentation by Mr. Burt who explained the new system for preventive maintenance and provided an overview of utility savings resulting from the automated control systems.

GISD Honored for Excellence in Education

The Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB) named GISD a recipient of the 2007 Education Excellence Award for the Bridges to the Future program. All of the winners across Michigan were honored in early May at a luncheon hosted by MASB and SET SEG School Insurance Specialists. An independent panel of state education specialists judged entries and the winners were selected based on uniqueness, the critical need served and evidence of impact on student achievement.

"This program takes a unique approach to making education relevant, and the impact on student achievement is evident," said Justin King, MASB executive director.

Bridges to the Future is a collaborative before- and after-school program between GISD, the United Way of Genesee County and all of the county's 21 constituent school districts with significant financial support from the C.S. Mott Foundation. The program, which emphasizes literacy and provides learning opportunities in math, leadership and youth development, serves over 17,000 kids annually. As a winner, GISD will now move on to round two for a chance at being chosen as "Michigan's Best" and to receive a cash prize to help further the goals of the program.



Pictured front row, left to right: Angela Warren, United Way; Beth Doxey, GISD; Gloria Bourdon, GISD; and Judy Fridline, GISD. Back row, left to right: Bonita Bingham, Flint Schools; James Yake, GISD; Dr. Thomas Svitkovich, GISD; and Peggy Tortorice, GISD Board of Education.

Bids for MCIC Phase II Renovations Approved

On February 1, 2006, the board approved the updated GISD Capital Improvement Long-Range Plan, which included the renovation of the Marion D. Crouse Instructional Center (MCIC) beginning in 2006. On September 12, 2006, the board approved a design and associated cost estimates to renovate MCIC in three phases.

Phase I of the plan called for construction of a 9,860 square-foot addition housing three classrooms, a central changing room, pre-vocational and art rooms and additional restroom space. On May 8, 2007, the board received a report on the progress of construction of the addition.

The renovation of the existing 49,552-square-foot structure will be completed in phases, but all of the renovation work was bid at one time under Phase II. Requests for bids were posted in the newspaper and on the state website. Wolgast Corporation, GISD's construction manager, solicited 681 contractors to bid on the project. On April 17, 2007, a pre-bid meeting was held at MCIC for the jobs included in Phase II. Approximately 50 contractors attended. On Thursday, May 10, 2007, bids on 11 jobs were opened from 43 separate contractors at an open meeting at the Davis Education Center.

At the May 22, 2007 meeting, based on Wolgast Corporation recommendations and concurrence by GISD administration, the GISD board awarded the Phase II MCIC projects to the low bidders at a total cost of \$3,950,716. Of the 11 jobs that were awarded, 55% of low bids came from Genesee County contractors; and 82% of the low bidders are union contractors.

First Reading of Board Policy Revisions Approved

GISD's contract with NEOLA includes a policy update service to keep the district abreast of changes needed to ensure compliance with recent legislation and to maintain quality and usefulness of the board policies. Recently, NEOLA provided drafts of recommended new or revised policies for consideration by the board. The Policy Committee met prior to the May 22, 2007 board meeting to review the revisions and make recommendations to the board. As a result, the board approved the first reading of the board policy revisions.

Leaves of Absence Approved

At the May 8 and May 22, 2007 meetings, leaves of absence were considered and approved for: Doreen Campbell, Transportation Services; Deloris Eddins, Marion D. Crouse Instructional Center; Jatasha Haralson, Business Services; William Lewis, Jr., Marion D. Crouse Instructional Center; Stacy Mead, Early Childhood Programs and Services; Michele Shaw, Transportation Services; Laura Walthers, Day Treatment Program; and Susan Zajac, Special Education Services.

Reading Recovery® News

On May 4, 2007, GISD Reading Recovery staff were pleased to host State Representative Lee Gonzales, who visited GISD's Reading Recovery program to observe a Reading Recovery lesson. Reading Recovery provides early literacy intervention for struggling first grade readers and writers.

Children participating in the Reading Recovery program have daily 30-minute lessons with a specially trained teacher. More than 1.6 million U.S. first graders have had Reading Recovery lessons since it began in the United States in 1984.



Pictured (from front row, left to right) are Jane Sargent, Reading Recovery teacher at Dye Elementary in the Carman-Ainsworth Community Schools; Jacobi Johnson, Dye Elementary Reading Recovery student; and Representative Lee Gonzales surrounded by Reading Recovery professionals and supporters from Flushing, Carman-Ainsworth, Genesee Intermediate School District and Oakland University.

Since 1996, Reading Recovery in Genesee County has been supported by GISD, which has been the training site for 110 Reading Recovery teachers, including the class of 2006-2007:

- Kylene Cole, Goodrich Area Schools
- Dianne Corcoran, Hartland Consolidated Schools
- Leah McEldowney, Holt Public Schools

- Heather Nyman, Linden Community School District
- Sara Sikes, Hartland Consolidated Schools
- Miriam Smillie, North Branch Area Schools
- Conchita Snuverink, Hartland Consolidated Schools
- Katie Williams, Linden Community School District

Thank You EKLC Students

The Reading Recovery staff would like to thank Sheri Mykietiuik's students at EKLC for their hard work. Approximately 700 writing books, produced by the EKLC students this school year, were used every day to write and read original stories by Reading Recovery® students throughout Genesee County. The students at EKLC provide a needed and productive service through the work they do. A big thank you to EKLC students!

Congratulations Graduates!

Rochelle Bila, teacher, Autism Spectrum Disorders, EKLC, and her husband, Mike, would like to announce that their daughter, Danielle, will be graduating with honors from Goodrich High School on June 10. Danielle will be attending Central Michigan University in the fall. Because Mom and Dad are both CMU alumni, they are very excited Danielle has chosen to become a Chippewa.



Erin Kathleen McGraw, daughter of Melinda McGraw, Human Resources and Operations Administrator, graduated from Western Michigan University on Saturday, April 28. Erin earned a Master's degree in Speech Pathology and is currently employed as a Speech Therapist at Borgess Hospital in Kalamazoo. In addition, Melinda's son, Corey Daniel, will graduate from Grand Blanc High School on June 6. Corey plans on attending the University of Michigan-Flint in the fall and will major in Engineering. The McGraw family would like to express how extremely proud they are of both Erin and Corey.

Dylan Moore, son of Kerry Moore, counselor at Mott Middle College, graduated in May from Lake Fenton High School. Dylan is a three-letter athlete, salutatorian, class president, president of Key Club, and an Honor Society and Student Council member. He is actively

involved in Young Life, many community service activities and works at Spring Meadows Country Club. Dylan plans on attending the Honors Program at Grand Valley State University where he has been accepted in the business program.

Eric Seeley, son of Karen Seeley, program secretary, EKLC, and her husband Gene, graduated on June 3 from Powers Catholic High School. Eric will be attending Oakland University in the Fall.

Congratulations and best wishes to all members of the Class of 2007!



Donations Accepted

Generous donations for use by GISD's Office of Education and Learning, Ligon Outdoor Center, Marion D. Crouse Instructional Center, and Early Childhood Programs and Services were received by the board. The donations included award ribbons, science-related products, chairs, cash, and various gift certificates and prizes. The donations were given by family and friends of students, by staff, and by numerous Genesee County area businesses and organizations.

Baby News

Dana Jones-Shaw, secretary, Business Services, and husband Alvin, would like to announce the birth of their son, Peyton Lee. He weighed 8 lbs. 6 oz. and was 21 inches long. Peyton was born at 10:30 a.m. on March 15, at Genesys Regional Medical Center.

Jackie Mann, Project Coordinator-Benefits in Human Resources, is proud to announce the birth of her first grandchild, Emily Rachael. Emily was born to Jackie's daughter, Sarah Camarena, on April 23, at 6:52 p.m. and weighed in at 9 lbs. 15 oz, 21.5" long. Mom, Dad and baby Emily live in Grand Rapids and are all doing well.

GISD End-of-the-Year Workshop

As a result of staff input in conjunction with discussions among Administrative Staff and Advisory Council, GISD will not host the traditional End-of-the-Year Workshop this year. During this time of scarce resources, it was agreed to forego the annual district-wide event. However, a building/program may host its own end-of-the-year event (e.g., potluck/picnic) with the approval of its administrator. Should you have any questions, please contact Jerry Johnson at 591-4426.

Middle School Math Initiative Supported by GFEC

Dr. Robert Burek, Executive Director of the Greater Flint Educational Consortium (GFEC), announced that the GFEC Board recently approved spending up to \$15,000 to fund the cost of a professional development initiative for middle school math teachers in Genesee County. Dr. Robert Trammel, a math consultant from Indiana, facilitated the training program.

The objective of the initiative was to provide math teachers with the tools to teach the state curriculum. Middle school math has been a target area for county superintendents for some time, as the pressure for performance on the part of students grows and as today's students face a rigorous ACT test in their junior year. The bridge in instruction from middle school to high school has long been a concern for administrators in the county.

A team of 48 professionals representing 10 school districts attended the conference. The requirement was for participating districts to send a team of two math teachers, one special education teacher and the principal of that building.

Program coordinator, Fenton Superintendent Peggy Yates, stated, "Dr. Trammel focused on building rigor and relevance into math instruction. He shared with our group a wealth of tried-and-true practical applications to engage our kids in thinking mathematically."

GISD Summer Hours

GISD summer hours begin on Wednesday, June 13, 2007 and run through Wednesday, August 22, 2007. During summer hours, GISD is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

VSA arts Paints the Town "Read"



This spring you may notice more public places to plant yourself as VSA arts of Michigan-Genesee County's (VSAMI-GC) Bench Parade kicks into gear! Artists throughout the county and beyond have been painting, decoupage, printing and sculpting art onto 6' to 8' benches to promote literacy. The ultimate goal is to raise funds for VSA's artist residency program which impacts 800 children and adults with disabilities in the county. The Bench Parade evolved from VSAMI-GC's 2007 theme "Paint the Town READ – Integrating Literacy and Community through the Arts."

The 30-plus benches will be exhibited in many Genesee County locations. Benches have already gone out to Barnes & Noble at Genesee Valley Center in Flint Township, Good Beans Café in Flint and The Espresso Institute in Flushing. The Flint Public Library and Red Ink Studios have created, and are displaying, in-house benches. GISD's Davis Education Center is hosting a bench, created by EKLC students with artist Marti Miller, entitled "Mr. Pine's Mixed Up Signs."

The benches will be auctioned off on Saturday, June 9 at Sloan Museum from 6:00 to 9:00 PM. Tickets are \$50 and include dinner by Fandangles and complimentary wine. VSA arts is an international organization founded by Jean Kennedy Smith and is based in Washington D.C. For further information on purchasing tickets or other ways to participate, contact Randee Pieper at 810-733-7196 or visit www.vsami-genesee.org.

VSA arts Exhibition at Union Station

VSA arts will display the visual artwork of children from around the world as part of its annual "Start with the Arts Family Festival" at Union Station in Washington from June 5 to 24. ArtLink, an international cultural exchange program in its sixth year, paired 51 U.S. classrooms with their global counterparts last November. Students aged 7-14 created visual arts projects that were exchanged with an international partner classroom. One piece of artwork by a student in each classroom was selected to join the exhibition at the festival. The ArtLink program emphasizes diversity and provides an opportunity for students to appreciate other cultures.

Randee Pieper, teacher in GISD's MoCI Project CHOICE program at Carter Middle School, and her students partnered with a class from Estonia, which represented Michigan this year in the program. One of Randee's students, Curtis Schaefer, was one of 13 artists invited to the ArtLink/VSA Festival at Union Station and Congressional Reception in June. In addition to Curtis and his family, VSA is flying Randee to Washington D.C. for the reception.

"Mammograms for Mom and Me" Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Event

On June 9, 2007, the Genesee County Health Department's Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program, in collaboration with the Genesee County Cancer Connection, will hold "Mammograms for Mom

and Me” breast cancer screening for women from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. at 115 E. Pierson Rd. in the McCree Health and Human Services building.

Door prizes and information about breast cancer, including how to do a self-breast exam and an opportunity to participate in a FREE clinical breast exam are available. Women who qualify will also receive a voucher for a FREE mammogram. In addition, those screened will have their name entered into a drawing to win a \$20 gift card for Target or Kroger. What better gift can you give your mom than a fun day together and a screening that just might save her life?

Breast cancer ranks second after lung cancer as the leading cause of cancer death among women in Michigan. Having a mammogram is the most effective way to detect breast cancer. Mammograms can frequently detect cancer two years before a lump can be felt. Early detection increases five-year survival rates to more than 92%.

For more information about this event or the Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program, please contact the Genesee County Health Department at 810- 237-4545.

Speak to Your Health! Community Survey

June marks the beginning of the third round of a community-wide effort to monitor the health of Flint and Genesee County residents.

The 2007 *Speak to Your Health!* Community Survey, sponsored by the Prevention Research Center of Michigan and the Genesee County Health Department, will collect important information about the health status and quality of life of Genesee County residents. Up to 1,800 residents throughout the county will be randomly selected to participate in the telephone survey. Residents chosen will be asked about a variety of health issues, including access to health care, neighborhood issues, health status, health behaviors and more.

The survey results, which provide a snapshot of Genesee County’s health, will also be used to determine whether aspects of community health have improved, worsened or stayed the same, as compared to previous years (2003, 2005).

The survey will be administered by the Michigan Public Health Institute. Results of the 2003 and 2005 *Speak to Your Health!* Community Surveys are available to the community at <http://www.sph.umich.edu/prc> or by calling 810-768-7970.

Family Summer Fun!



Celebrate Michigan's world-class freshwater fishing on June 9 and 10, 2007.

Michigan's Free Fishing Weekend are two special days when all fishing license fees will be waived for residents and out-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/>

If you are looking for fun things to do with your family try some of the items listed at: <http://www.michigan.org/travel>



June Birthdays

2	Lori Lane	MCIC
2	Rachel Montague	Transportation
2	Gail Snider	Mott Middle College
4	Jessica Fletcher	Transportation
4	Rebecca Kirby	MCIC
4	Amanda Lamielle	Day Treatment
4	Teresa Skellenger	MCIC
5	Cheryl Martin	EKLC/CHOICE
6	Deborah Morgan	EKLC/CHOICE
6	Cheryl Pfeiffer	Transportation
6	Theresa Southworth-Cockman	SESC
7	Kandy Griswold	SESC
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
9	Joyce Wylie	Day Treatment
12	Sarah Boulay	Transportation
12	James Lane	Davis Ed. Center
12	Diane Sparks	MCIC
13	Veronica Long	MCIC
18	Jonathan Lasley	Davis Ed. Center

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18	Jane Walker	Transportation
20	Judy Green	EKLC/CHOICE
20	Jennifer Preston	EKLC
21	Terry Emmendorfer	Transportation
22	Carol Farver	Health
23	Marcia Pavkovich	SESC
24	Lonna Beardslee	EKLC
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
28	Sharlene Weisenberger	Transportation
30	Kimberly Cole	ECPS

2	Andrea Camero	EKLC/CHOICE
2	Heather Sandrik	Mott Middle College
4	Gail Jahn	EKLC
4	Melva Kaiser	Day Treatment
5	Paula Meredith-Faris	ECPS
5	Beverly Nelson	MCIC
5	Joan Olsen	EKLC/CHOICE

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.

July Birthdays

1	Lynn Bengelink	EKLC
1	Susan Boegner	Transportation
1	Carol Rumminger	EKLC/CHOICE
1	Karen Seeley	EKLC
1	Stephanie Williams	EKLC