



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 Fall Harvest Festival

On Thursday, October 12, 2006, Early Childhood Programs and Services (ECPS) held its annual Fall Harvest Festival. Tactile boxes, face painting, cookie decorating, ghost bowling, leaf sun catchers, a cookie walk, and pumpkin and apple tosses were just a few of the activities that were enjoyed by ECPS students and their families. Pictures were taken of students and presented back to parents in frames made by their



children. The activities were held in the multipurpose room and throughout the building. There were 200 children and family members in attendance for this fun-filled afternoon, making the event a great success!

A child enjoys an activity with a GISD staff member at the ECPS Fall Harvest Festival.

Resolution Adopted

Michigan Safe Schools Week

Providing a safe and secure environment for students is of the utmost importance for all Michigan schools. The Michigan Safe Schools Week, November 5-11, 2006, is a week-long campaign to raise awareness of effective ways to prevent or reduce violence in our schools.

A pledge signing/safe schools week kick-off event will take place at the State Capitol on Monday, November 6, beginning at 10:00 a.m. The ceremony will culminate with students at the capitol leading a statewide safe schools pledge signing. All schools are encouraged to take part in this event by organizing pledge signing ceremonies to coincide with the State Capitol event. Michigan Safe Schools Week provides an excellent opportunity to renew efforts to provide the safest possible environment for our students.

At its October 24, 2006 meeting, the board adopted a resolution proclaiming November 5-11, 2006 as Michigan Safe Schools Week.

GISD Teaching, Learning and Service Plan and Annual Report Approved

Last spring, educational and community members provided input for the 2006-2011 GISD Teaching, Learning and Service Plan. The planning process and meetings to gather input were facilitated by Tom Crampton, Mott Community College executive dean. Working during the summer, the administrative team used this school/community input to prepare the plan for the GISD Board's review and approval. The five broad goals in this plan include Learning for Success; Leadership for Learning; Staff Development; Communication and Community Relations; and Technology and Information Management. These broad goal areas exceed the legal requirements for ISD planning and accurately represent the input we received from our school community.

At the October 10, 2006 meeting, the GISD Board of Education reviewed copies of the plan, as well as the comprehensive five-year report, which included the 2005-06 annual report. Superintendent Thomas Svitkovich made a PowerPoint presentation that highlighted various outcomes of the five-year report and the future direction of the 2006-2011 Teaching, Learning and Service Plan. The board approved the report and the plan.

MASB Education Excellence Award SET SEG Sign Accepted

In May, Genesee Intermediate School District received an MASB-SEG Education Excellence Award in the Special Education Category for its Project CHOICE Program. As a sponsor of this awards program, SET SEG takes great pleasure in drawing positive attention to public schools. At the October 10, 2006 meeting, Dan Gerger, SET SEG account executive, presented the board with a sign that proclaims Genesee ISD as an Education Excellence Award Winner for 2006.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Board News	2
Staff News	3
Nov. Birthdays	4



Election Day: The Future is Just Around the Corner

Dear Staff,

All elections are always important. This year is no exception. Your vote is extremely crucial. Hopefully, you will take time to study the proposals, evaluate the candidates and make an informed choice. As an educator, it is important that you consider the impact candidates will have on the operation of our school district. This year Proposal 5, supported by the K-16 Coalition and our board of education, could make a positive difference in the financial stability of our schools and provide the tools to help all students succeed; but only if approved by the voters of our state. At the GISD Board of Education meeting held on Tuesday, September 26, 2006, the board unanimously approved a resolution supporting Proposal 5. Given all of the new mandates, which for the most part are unfunded by both the federal and state governments, this resolution is crucial to our financial stability. The board's rationale for their strong approval included the following:

- Increases current funding and requires the State to provide annual funding increases equal to the rate of inflation for public schools, **intermediate school districts**, community colleges and higher education (includes state universities and financial aid/grant programs).
- Requires the State to fund any deficiencies in the School Aid Fund from the General Fund.
- Bases funding for school districts with a declining enrollment on the district's three-year student enrollment average.
- Caps the retirement fund contribution for public schools, community colleges and state universities and requires the State to pay the remaining portion.
- Reduces the funding gap between school districts receiving the basic per-pupil foundation allowance and those receiving the maximum foundation allowance.

Proposal 5 requires the state to provide annual funding increases equal to the rate of inflation for public K-12 school districts and **intermediate school districts**, as well as community colleges and four-year universities. The proposal gives ISDs parity with K-12 districts and limits the need to pass on our costs to our constituent districts. Another positive feature of the proposal is that it reduces and caps retirement fund contributions paid by public schools, ISDs, community colleges and state universities. This feature is extremely important to us since it affects all budgets positively. The Special Education Fund, the Career Technical Education Fund and the General Education Fund all have charges for retirement contributions. This cap develops positive cash flow, which helps us contain costs and maintain our programs.

Just as the election is an opportunity to impact the future, GISD is taking steps to invest in strategic ways so

we can continue to provide superior services for our students. During the months ahead, you will receive regular updates about many of the new projects which are underway here at GISD, including the renovation of the Marion Crouse Instructional Center, the renovation of the former Office Max building at Linden and Lennon Roads for our new GISD Transition Center and the development of Genesee Intermediate School District Middle College to be located on the UM-Flint campus. These projects are extremely exciting and will enhance the services we provide to our students and our constituents. I most certainly want to extend my sincerest thanks to all the staff who have worked diligently to bring these programs to fruition. I also want to thank the board for their ongoing support as we move to the implementation phase. Our grant writing team deserves recognition for their excellent work in obtaining the Middle College grant program. This middle college high school will focus on health careers. Dr. Mary Lavengood, John Burmeister and Dr. Chery Wag-onlander put together an outstanding proposal which has been funded. We will use the next several months as a time to formalize our plans. The Genesee Intermediate School District Middle College will open in the fall of 2007 with the support of UM-Flint and Genesys Health Systems. The Greater Flint Health Coalition and the Greater Flint Educational Consortium have actively supported this concept along with our 21 constituent districts.

Again, addressing the immediate issue, I ask that you review the candidates and the proposals on the ballot very carefully as you prepare to vote on Tuesday, November 7, 2006. Should you have a question about any of the details, please do not hesitate to contact our office or visit your professional association's website. There is also information on several other sites, including the K-16 Coalition site. Again, thank you for making an informed decision on this year's ballot, as your vote will make a long-range impact on GISD. Additionally, should you have questions about any of our new developments, please do not hesitate to make contact as well.

Sincerely,

PAC Members Appointed

The GISD Board of Education reappointed Karen Whittaker, representing Lake Fenton Community Schools; and appointed Doris White, representing Westwood Heights Schools to serve on the Parent Advisory Committee.

INNERVIEWS

A publication of
GISD's Communications
& Development Department

Editor

Jerry D. Johnson
Executive Director

Layout & Design

Eileen Jackson

Text Processing & Proofreading

Glenda Letavis

**GENESEE
INTERMEDIATE
SCHOOL DISTRICT**
Thomas Svitkovich, Ed.D.
Superintendent
2413 West Maple Avenue
Flint, MI 48507-3493
(810) 591-4400
TTY (810) 591-4545

WWW.GENESEEDIST.ORG

Furniture Bid Approved

Team members from Business Services, Technology & Media Services, the Superintendent's Office and Human Resources and Operations have been working on addressing the issue of having adequate workstations to meet the increased number of staff members being stationed in the Erwin L. Davis Education Center. Plans were developed, and on September 15, 2006, bid specifications were sent to twenty-one (21) All Steel vendors. The district received two responses. All bidders met the specifications. The Building and Grounds Committee met prior to the October 10, 2006, board meeting to review the bids. As a result, the board approved the bid to purchase the furniture from All Steel/Creative Office Concepts, including installation, in the amount of \$120,357.

MCIC Students Recognize Hometown Heroes

On Wednesday, September 27, 2006, students and staff recognized the local Mt. Morris Township Police, Firefighters and Emergency Medical Responders. At 10:00 a.m., students participated in a parade and a presentation of artwork to the guests from the Mt. Morris Township Fire Department, Swartz and CMS Ambulance companies. The event culminated in an opportunity for students to view a fire truck and two ambulances. The assembly is MCIC's way of thanking local emergency responders for their valiant service to the community and the school.



MCIC staff and students parade around the school grounds honoring Hometown Heroes.

Wild Swan Theater Visits MCIC

On October 6, 2006, Wild Swan Theater from Ann Arbor visited to perform "American Tales, Short and Tall." The ensemble included two actors and a musician. Accompanied by colorful props, they performed original scripts drawn from three short tales interspersed with American folk songs, while students sang and clapped along. Wild Swan Theater is nationally recognized for its ingenious artistry—blending storytelling, movement, and music into magical, accessible experiences. This program was part of the annual performing artist series organized by MCIC Music Therapist Carolyn Vierkorn.

Welcome to GISD!

At the October 24, 2006 meeting, the board approved the hiring of; James H. Donovan, Mott Middle College Counselor; and Michele E. Lambaria, Physical Therapist, Special Education Services.

American Education Week November 12-18

American Education Week will be celebrated on November 12-18. This year's theme will be, **Great Public Schools: A Basic Right and Our Responsibility**, highlights the importance of bringing together educators, school staff, parents, students and communities in a unified effort to build great public schools. The theme also reflects the vision of calling upon America to provide students with quality public schools so that they can grow, prosper and achieve in the 21st century.

Leaves of Absence Approved

At the October 10, 2006 board meeting, leaves of absence were considered and approved for: Barbara A. Olszewski, Teacher—Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders; Laura A. Hawks, Paraprofessional, Special Services; Sharlene M. Weisenberger, Transportation Aide; Jill A. McCarthy, Bus Driver; and Christine M. Emmendorfer, Bus Driver. At the October 24, 2006 meeting, leaves of absence were considered and approved for: Jeanette Miller, Teacher, Early Childhood; Audrey Fickle, Teacher, Speech/Language; and Gregory Burley, Head Custodian.

Resignations Accepted

At the October 24, 2006 meeting, the GISD board accepted resignations for the purpose of retirement from: John A. Burmeister, Director of Grants and Development; and Linda K. Kear, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent.

Special Arrivals

Kelli Horner, paraprofessional at ECPS, and husband Mike welcomed the birth of their daughter Ruby Elizabeth on Tuesday, October 3, 2006. Ruby weighed 6 lbs. 14 ozs. and was 20 inches long. Waiting at home are her sister Haley and brother Bradley. Congratulations!

Judy McAllister, paraprofessional at EKLC, and husband Charles are the proud grandparents of a new granddaughter, Gabreial. She was born on her parents' (Brian and Kristina McAllister) eighth anniversary weighing 7 lbs. 14 ozs. and was 21 inches long. Congratulations to the McAllisters!

2413 West Maple Avenue
Flint, Michigan 48507-3493
Phone: (810) 591-4400
TTY: (810) 591-4545
www.geneseeisd.org

GENESEE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT

INNERVIEWS

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
4	Brigitte Stark	EKLC
5	Laura Caballero	SESC
5	Barbara Wilson	MCIC
6	Cindy Carskadon	EKLC/CHOICE
7	Amy Brown	Davis Ed. Center
8	Kimberly Schmidt	Transportation
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	Mott Middle College
12	Delynn Stone-Demell	Transportation
13	Christina Hoffmeyer	EKLC
14	Pattie Chaney	MCIC
14	Lisa Whitson	SESC
15	Doreen Busch	MCIC
15	Barbara Diegel	Transportation
15	Linnae Sauvola	Davis Ed. Center
17	Shannon White	ECPS
18	Grace Kirby	MCIC
18	Gay Ann Roos	EKLC
18	Kay Saurman	SESC
19	Adam Kurtz	ECPS
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	Rose Oseguera-Witham	SESC
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	Bonnie Russell	Mott Middle College
29	Patricia Spooner	Transportation
30	Bryan Aiello	Transportation
30	Christine Isaacs	MCIC
30	Marsha Mancillas	EKLC
30	Theresa Shepard	EKLC

December Birthdays

2	Marie Dunn	EKLC/CHOICE
3	Joanne LeBlanc	Davis Ed. Center
3	Connie Smith	Health
4	John Earegood	Transportation
5	Doreen Campbell	Transportation
5	Deborah Davis	Transportation
5	Marian McFadden	SESC
5	Kathleen McIntosh	Transportation

GISD Jobs

Human Resources and Operations is accepting applications for numerous positions. To view openings and apply online, visit the "employment" link at www.geneseeisd.org. For additional information, call Cindy Workman at (810) 591-4404.