



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.

MCIC Staff Goes to Base Camp

Marion D. Crouse Instructional Center staff kicked off the new school year with some fun!

On Monday afternoon, August 28, 2006, MCIC Staff participated in professional development team-building activities at GASC Technology Center's Base Camp.

After lunch, the entire staff was able to partake in several great teaming activities, which proved to be a fun way to find out more about their peers and themselves.

It was obvious that communication, teamwork and respect are important aspects of successfully getting the job done. MCIC staff believe they are proof that professional development can be fun and meaningful.



MCIC staff participate in a team-building activity at the GASC Technology Center's Base Camp facility.



Countryside Crafters Fair

November 4, 2006

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

at the Elmer A. Knopf Learning Center

It's time again for the annual Countryside Crafters Fair at the Elmer A. Knopf Learning Center, located on the corner of Van Slyke and Maple Roads. The crafters fair will feature handcrafted items for sale, a bake sale and a café for lunch. Shuttle bus service will be available from Carman-Ainsworth High School. No baby strollers, please. If you would be willing to help sell raffle tickets, please call Marsha Mancillas at 591-4489.

Mobile Teacher Stations to be Purchased

In August, GISD submitted a request for bids for the purchase and installation of nine (9) Mobile Teacher Stations for the Mott Middle College program. The specifications were sent to five (5) vendors who specialize in this equipment. On August 15, 2006, the District received two (2) responses. At the September 26, 2006 meeting, the board voted to award the bid to City Animation, based on their low bid of \$22,500.00.

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November Election Ballot: Proposal 5

Dear Staff,

As you recall, the GISD school community actively participated in the K-16 Rally in June of 2005. Our staff, students and their parents, as well as community members, rallied on the steps of the Capitol in Lansing to send a strong message about the lack of financial support for public education in our State. Our goal was to bring awareness to the fact that the system for funding public education is not working. We said that we have a “structural” problem with the funding system. Following the rally, a state-wide petition drive was successful to bring a proposal to the legislature. The legislature did not act on the proposal, so now it will be on the November ballot as Proposal 5 for the voters of Michigan to decide.

At the GISD Board of Education meeting, held on Tuesday, September 26, 2006, the Board of Education unanimously approved a resolution supporting Proposal 5. Their rationale 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 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.

As the board discussed this important proposal, I had an opportunity to reflect on our financial situation here at GISD. As I’ve said in many meetings with our staff, our Special Education Fund and Career Technical Education Fund are adequate to support programs for students. Nearly 50% of staff are supported in their work by these funds. However, the remaining 50% of our staff are supported by the General Education Fund and/or grants. We all understand that grants are not necessarily the most stable source of funding and, as a result, we must depend on some form of State Aid in order to plan and maintain programs. Traditionally, Section 81 of the State Aid Act is our source of funding for the General Education Fund. This year, for the first time in the last three years, we received an increase in our General Education Fund equal to that of the K-12 districts. In previous years, we have either received cuts or no increase, which has caused us to pass increased costs on to our K-12 districts and/or reduce/limit GISD services.

Proposal 5 requires the State to provide annual funding increases equal to the rate of inflation for public K-12 schools 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 constituents. Another positive feature of the Proposal is that it reduces and caps retirement fund

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INNERVIEWS

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contributions paid by public schools, ISDs, community colleges and state universities. This feature helps us contain costs and maintain our programs.

Please be sure to review the entire Proposal as you prepare to vote on Tuesday, November 7, 2006. Should you have any questions about 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 important proposal which indeed will have a long-range impact on GISD.

Sincerely,



MCIC Renovations Approved

In May 2004, the GISD Board of Education approved a capital improvement plan after careful study. The plan included a description of work to be done at each GISD facility, and the Capital Improvement Long-Range Plan was also included in the GISD Teaching, Learning and Service Plan. Since that time, meetings have been held with building principals to review student enrollment data, history, trends, graduation rates and long-range growth projections. Following the Teaching, Learning and Service Plan, and utilizing the demographic information, as well as the energy study, the district has worked with architects and construction managers to initiate the process to implement the renovation projects outlined in the plan.

At the September 12, 2006 meeting, Jan Russell reviewed the Marion D. Crouse Instructional Center renovation plan. Proposed renovations incorporate the addition of new classrooms, therapy rooms and several specialty areas, including leisure, productivity, cooking, dining, sensory and life skills, as well

as completely new state-of-the-art systems for heating, cooling, lighting and technology. Renovations are planned to be completed in six phases over a three-year period with a total projected cost of \$7.33 million. Prior to the board meeting, the Building and Grounds Committee examined the renovation plan in detail. The board approved the recommended renovation plans for the Marion D. Crouse Instructional Center.

Shared Technical Services Approved

This school year, the board has approved technical services agreements to form partnerships to provide technical support with Beecher, Atherton, Kearsley, Davison and Lake Fenton. Details for customized technical support services have also been worked out and agreements finalized for Bendle, Bentley, Goodrich and Linden. The agreements have been approved by their respective boards of education. At the September 12, 2006 meeting, the GISD board approved the shared technical services agreements with Bendle, Bentley, Goodrich and Linden and authorized the superintendent to employ necessary staff and fully define the working relationship with the districts, as outlined in the agreements.

GISD Co-Sponsors Flint Area Public Affairs Debates

Genesee Intermediate School District has been a co-sponsor of the Flint Area Public Affairs Debates since 1986. At the September 12, 2006 meeting, the board voted to continue co-sponsorship of the Flint Area Public Affairs Debates in the amount of \$500.

Thank You to Hurricane Katrina Relief Donors



GISD's Katrina Relief Activities included support for the Relocation Center where our staff represented the Genesee County education community and assisted with the school registration function for Katrina victims coming to Genesee County. Other Katrina-related activities included the costs for transporting Katrina victims from New Orleans to Genesee County and supplies to support victims in this transition process. Subsequent applications to FEMA for reimbursement of expenses incurred were denied, even after attempts to gain political support for special consideration. As a last resort, GISD staff and related organizations were asked to help, and GISD received an outstanding response.

Seventy-two individual donations from staff members, community members, businesses and philanthropic organizations totaled \$9,860.85. As stated when the donations were solicited, if GISD received more than the requested amount to fund the Katrina Relief Activities, the balance would be distributed to the Genesee County Educational Foundation. Following is the exact distribution:

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| Katrina Relief Activities | |
| Total Expenses | \$ 6,638.30 |
| Genesee County Educational Foundation: | |
| Ligon Outdoor Center | \$805.64 |
| Mott Middle College Student Scholarships | \$805.64 |
| Project S.K.I.P. | \$805.64 |
| Edward F. Gwiazdowski Scholarship | <u>\$805.63</u> |
| Total | \$9,860.85 |

At the September 26 meeting the GISD Board of Education accepted the donations and

extended its thanks to each individual who contributed to this worthwhile cause.

Property Purchase Approved for Special Education Transition Services Center

Over the last several years, the GISD Board of Education has been actively engaged with the school community to develop and implement GISD's Teaching, Learning and Service Plan, the Facilities Study and other planning tools.

Through this process of study, the board has researched documented reports outlining the need for a transition center to provide services for older special education students preparing them to move into the next phase of their lives.

To identify a center site, the board utilized a search process to explore a variety of options. As a result, it was concluded that an existing facility in close proximity to actual work experiences for students would be most appropriate. After intensive review, the former Office Max building, located at 3136 South Linden Road was identified as the preferred site.

All documents for the purchase of the site were evaluated by the Thrun Law Firm, and a thorough review of the physical characteristics of the building and site by THA Architects and Wolgast Corporation has taken place.

At the September 26, 2006 board meeting, Jeff Bennett of THA Architects, Tim Johnson of Wolgast Corporation, Deputy Superintendent Michael Moorman and Assistant Superintendent Jan Russell presented a plan for renovating the building. As a result, the board authorized the purchase of the Office Max building and site for \$800,000 and further authorized the superintendent to execute the necessary purchase documents as well as expedite continued planning for the renovation project.

PAC Member Appointed

At the September 26, 2006 meeting, the board appointed Kristie Gross, representing Carman-Ainsworth Community Schools, to serve on the GISD Special Education Parent Advisory Committee.

Donations Accepted

Generous donations to the Marion D. Crouse Instructional Center (MCIC) and the Office of Education and Learning were received by the board. The donations were given by family, friends, the Flushing Rotary Club and WJRT-TV12 for the 2006 Spelling Bee. Ruth's Harvest, a charity organization, contributed \$10,000 to enhance technology for student use at MCIC.

Leaves of Absence Approved

Leaves of absence were considered and approved for: Teresa L. Olson, Bus Driver, Transportation Services; Dalberta J. McField, Transportation Aide; Kimberly A. Levander, Paraprofessional; and Melinda S. DeWyse, Bus Driver.

Exciting Summer at MCIC

Horse Experience



Students at MCIC enjoyed a fifth summer of "The Horse Experience." Eighty-seven students participated in touching, brushing, feeding or leading the horses. Forty-four students were able to ride the horses, some riding double for greater assistance. Students chose their activity using Superhawks. Riders

would communicate the command "walk" to our sidewalkers by tapping the saddle, giving eye contact, smiling or saying "walk" verbally, or by using a communication device that said "walk" for them. Some students worked on turning and stopping the horse with reins.

Special thanks go out to Jill Richardson who brought her wonderful horses Cody and Sonny. "Party Ponies" owner Charlie Hardaker and his assistant Belinda continue to work with us during our nine sessions. Thanks to paraprofessional substitutes, Amy Irish and Jen Nelson, who led horses, cut up carrots, set up our equipment, helped transfer and sidewalk with our students. Carolyn Vierkorn's daughter Miranda took great pictures to share with staff and to send home with students. If you know anyone who would like to volunteer next summer, if you have any questions or if you would like to see more pictures, please contact Lori Eastwood, physical therapist, certified therapeutic riding instructor at MCIC (591-4237).

Performing Artists

MCIC students were treated to two special performing artist events organized by music therapist Carolyn Vierkorn. On Wednesday, June 21, singer and guitarist Hayden Carruth performed two concerts in the school gym. He treated them to folk music played on his guitar, banjo, fiddle and harmonica while students clapped and moved along with the tunes. It was a great way to start the summer with music, fun and laughter.



On Wednesday August 23, Greg Lester's Puppet Adventures performed "Thumbelina" for the elementary unit students. The show included handmade puppets, music and special lighting effects. Students were "wowed" by the beautiful puppets and their wonderful cos-

tumes. Students learned to be kind to one another through this classic folk tale. After the show, Zip the Puppet posed with several students for pictures.

Carnival



MCIC's annual "Summer Carnival" continues to be a big success. This year the carnival was held on July 27, and attendance by families and friends of students was at an all-time high. The carnival continues to be manned entirely by volunteers ages 9-18, many of whom request to work year after year. Many long-term friendships develop between students and volunteers because of this fun day.

The carnival is a learning experience for MCIC students as well as an opportunity to relax and have some fun. Games and activities are adapted with voice output devices, single switches and specialized computer programs to meet the physical and cognitive challenges that students display. Carnival food and a variety of great prizes are part of the fun experience. The Speech Department (organizers of the Carnival) wish to thank the staff for the effort they make to ensure that every student attends the carnival. In addition, thank you to staff for offering support and encouragement to students as they make their way down the midway!

Ruth's Harvest

In January, 2006, the MCIC Speech Department was approached by Ruth's Harvest, a local charitable organization, for the purpose of a monetary donation. The donation was collected as the result of the recent Tours des Lacs Bicycle Race held July 29-30 in Fenton. MCIC stu-

dents and staff participated in the race by making rice krispie treats which provided riders with quick energy. They also manned registration booths, collected race fees, passed out and collected electronic chips for race statistics, and cheered riders as they made their way on the course.

The two-day event was a tremendous experience and resulted in the presentation of a \$10,000 donation to be used for the enhancement of the MCIC GenNET room which will be used as a student technology center and the development of a "Parents as Partners in Technology" component. The students and staff are grateful to Ruth's Harvest for the very generous donation as well as the local community sponsors who support the Tours des Lacs race. MCIC students and staff plan to help again next year.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Genesee County's Household Hazardous Waste Collection will take place on Saturday, October 14, 2006 from 10 AM until 2 PM at the City of Flint Water Service Center at 3310 East Court Street, Flint; Clio High School, One Mustang Drive, Clio; and General Motors SPO, 6060 West Bristol Road, near Swartz Creek.

All household hazardous wastes will be collected except explosive or radioactive materials, medical waste, commercial or industrial wastes, and latex paint.

Genesee County has various local outlets to dispose of many hazardous materials year-round. Citizens interested in finding out more about hazardous waste or to obtain a list of local outlets, contact the Genesee County Health Department at (810) 257-3603, or log onto www.gchd.us.

Welcome to GISD!

At the September 12, 2006 meeting, the board approved the hiring of: Sally A. Gill, Teacher of the Severely Multiply Impaired; Lisa A. Kotarski, Teacher of Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders; Jaimi E. Smith, Teacher of Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders; Stephanie L. Solberg, Teacher of Students with Cognitive Impairment; Shannon Y. White, School Nurse; Kara A. Deschler, School Psychologist; and Pamela K. Korb, Transition Coordinator. At the September 26, 2006 meeting, the board approved the hiring of: Tamara A. Morrow, School Social Worker; Theresa R. Flange, Occupational Therapist; James C. Yake, School and Community Liaison; and Michele D. Bradley, Teacher of Physical Education and Health.

Family Weddings

Chad Rumminger, son of Carol Rumminger, EKLC/CHOICE teacher in the MOCI classroom at the Brendel Middle School Campus in Grand Blanc, and Melissa Scruba were married on July 8. The wedding was held at St. Mary's Church in Royal Oak with a reception following at Glen Oaks in Novi. Chad works for BBDO, an advertising agency in Troy, where he handles all the golf advertising for Chrysler. Melissa is a high school teacher in Fraser. Carol stated that many of her relatives from out east were able to come to the wedding, but she was especially happy to see her oldest son Jason, his wife Heidi and her only grandson Will (one-year-old) who flew in from California for the wedding. After a honeymoon in Hawaii, the newlyweds are now living in Royal Oak.

On Saturday August 5, 2006, Mariah Perkins, daughter of Jeanne Quinlan from EKLC, was married to Scott Gordon. The wedding was held at the chapel at Crossroads Village with the reception immediately following at the banquet hall. Mariah and Scott honeymooned on

Mackinac Island and toured the Upper Peninsula. Congratulations Mariah and Scott!



October Birthdays

| | | |
|----|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1 | Phyllis Clark | EKLC/CHOICE |
| 1 | Vicki Waltrip | SESC |
| 2 | Joan Millington | EKLC |
| 3 | Diana Drake | ECPS |
| 4 | Patricia Sanford | EKLC |
| 5 | Sharon Davis | Transportation |
| 5 | Lisa Hocutt | EKLC/CHOICE |
| 5 | Gary West | Transportation |
| 6 | Eric Wood | Mott Middle College |
| 7 | Kristine Kelly | EKLC |
| 7 | June Rice | Transportation |
| 7 | Roger Schlosser | Transportation |
| 8 | Maxine Pratt | Davis Ed. Center |
| 8 | Debra Wedding | EKLC |
| 9 | Placido Dias | MCIC |
| 11 | Pamela Corey | MCIC |
| 11 | Theresa Kelly | SESC |
| 11 | Lee Rossmassler | Mott Middle College |
| 12 | Delia Garza | Transportation |
| 13 | Elaine Andres | Transportation |
| 15 | Nicolette Cheff | SESC |
| 15 | Marlene Cooper | Transportation |
| 15 | Laurie Potter | EKLC |
| 16 | George McCarthy | Transportation |
| 18 | Carl Lewis | EKLC |
| 18 | Shannon Warren | Transportation |
| 19 | Karolyn Habbershaw | Transportation |
| 19 | Rita Herrington | Transportation |
| 21 | Darryl Leeper | EKLC |
| 21 | Debra Wright | Davis Ed. Center |
| 22 | Michele Marcy | EKLC |
| 22 | Mark Newton | MCIC |
| 22 | Angelina Skinner | Transportation |
| 23 | Janet Donnelly | EKLC |
| 23 | Deloris Eddins | MCIC |
| 24 | Beth Harvey | MCIC |
| 26 | Jacqueline Morgan | ECPS |

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| 27 | Pamala Legutko | ECPS |
| 28 | Belinda Linn | Davis Ed. Center |
| 28 | Roy Sovis | Davis Ed. Center |
| 29 | Holly Johnson | Davis Ed. Center |
| 30 | Sharon Campbell | EKLC |
| 30 | Janis Jennings | EKLC |
| 31 | Paul Holdren | Mott Middle College |
| 31 | Brad Irwin | 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.

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 | Davis Ed. Center |
| 5 | Barbara Wilson | MCIC |