



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.

SKIP to a Great Start Success

Successful Kids = Involved Parents

SKIP to a Great Start parents and children enjoyed the Early Childhood Music classes offered last spring through a partnership between Genesee Intermediate School District and the Flint Institute of Music (FIM). Funding support was provided through a grant from the Target Corporation.

The six-session program was taught by Glen Holcomb from FIM for children from birth to age five. He provided the group lessons at twelve SKIP sites in local school districts. Holcomb, professionally trained in voice, led the children through a series of melodies to help them develop their listening skills, learn rhythms and become exposed to a variety of musical styles. The children also learned elements of language and pre-reading skills. Parents noted that even very young children were enthused about the program, and they often heard the children singing the melodies between classes. After



Pictured are SKIP to a Great Start students and families participating in music classes offered in partnership with GISD and the Flint Institute of Music.

the six weekly music lessons, the children and parents went to the Flint Institute of Music for a session called *Petting Zoo*, where children were able to play a variety of string and percussion instruments.

The partnership allowed many parents

to experience the FIM program and facility who otherwise would not have. Offering the program at the SKIP sites gave the children and parents high-quality experiences to enrich the child's development and help the parent understand how to broaden the child's foundation for learning.



Touring Exhibit at GISD

The 2006 VSA arts of Michigan Emerging Artist Touring Exhibit, entitled "Arts Enlightenment," is currently on display throughout GISD's Erwin L. Davis Education Center. Over 50 pieces of artwork by statewide children, youth and adults with disabilities will be there until the middle of September. Included are the works of seven GISD Project Choice students from Carter Middle School.

VSAMI's Emerging Artist Exhibit is open to any person with a disability who enjoys creating through visual arts media. Work is chosen annually for inclusion in the exhibit based on quality and is juried by a panel of professional artists and arts educators. The exhibit tours statewide to schools, libraries, art and community centers, malls and to arts education and disability conferences.

The Emerging Artist Touring Exhibit program is made possible, in part, through funding provided by the national office of VSA arts, under an award from the U.S. Department of Education.

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Welcome Back!

Dear Staff,

This year, our traditional Opening Day Workshop took a new twist. We were proud to premiere our new GISD organizational video. The video was a huge success and described the many GISD programs that serve our students and our constituents. We saw GISD staff in action, working, teaching and serving our customers. Overall, the feedback from the program was very positive. As we said in the introduction, there were no paid actors. GISD students and staff volunteered to be the cast for this documentary of GISD programs and services. On behalf of our entire school community, I want to extend a special “thank you” to the members of the planning team that made all the arrangements for our Opening Day Workshop and developed the video: Jerry Johnson, Glenda Letavis, Anna MacDonald, Melinda McGraw, Jan Russell, Rose Marie Strauss and Tracy Valentine. A copy of the video is available at no charge by contacting Glenda Letavis at 591-4541 or gletavis@geneseeisd.org. The video will also be accessible soon to view on our website at www.geneseeisd.org.

As you saw in the video, we are growing and changing in a dramatic fashion to meet the needs of our constituents and our students. GISD has a total of 1,058 staff members who support our programs and services. Our staff breakdown is: 485 (46%) special education teachers and paraprofessionals; 216 (20%) transportation staff; 178 (17%) Health, Safety and Nutrition Services staff; and 181 (17%) teachers, teacher consultants, Mott Middle College staff, technology staff, administrative staff, custodial and support staff.

This is an exciting time. While other service agencies have reduced employees or spun off key services, we have proceeded in a different direction. In this next year ahead, we will be providing more services to districts, and we will continue to explore additional ways of providing efficient and cost-effective assistance to our constituents. For example, Business Services is providing shared business services to eight districts. We are negotiating with several others to expand this service line. Our Technology and Media Services Department is pro-

viding shared technical services to five districts and will expand this program to several others. Our Special Education Services Department is continuing to provide additional services to our districts in response to their request for expanded programming. More Project CHOICE sites and classrooms are being developed. Plans to implement a new transition center are being initiated, and final negotiations are progressing to purchase a facility. Education and Learning will increase its support for instruction and staff development. The latest test scores are extremely positive. The countywide average for all high school MEAP test results in all areas were at or above the state average. This is another step in our continuing efforts to improve scores at all levels. New programs on the drawing board include shared communications services, more cost-effective programs and expanded health, safety and nutrition programs for our birth-to-five population.

Within the next month, our new Teaching, Learning & Service Plan will be presented to the GISD Board of Education for its approval. We certainly appreciate the work of literally hundreds of citizens and staff in helping us develop this document. I want to thank Assistant Superintendent Dr. Mary Lavengood and Executive Director Jerry Johnson for their leadership in the development of this plan. As we move into our new school year, I am certain that many other growth programs will be introduced for GISD, providing cost savings to local districts through economies of scale, GISD experience and efficiency.

In keeping with our tradition of encouraging health and fitness activities for our staff, I want to extend my personal congratulations to those of you who participated in the Crim. I also want to thank several staff members who volunteered time and effort to make the Crim successful, particularly those staff who helped with Special Olympics events, activities and fundraising. We salute

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Bus Driver Charlie Jackson. He has run every ten-mile Crim race since it began and celebrated the 30th Anniversary of the Crim by leading the start of this year's ten-mile event.

On behalf of the board of education, we want to wish all of you great success during the upcoming school year. We hope that you will have many wonderful experiences. Our expectation is that 2006-07 will be filled with many changes and challenges; however, the year ahead will be one of our best.

Sincerely,



Administrators Demonstrate Blackboard

At the August 22, 2006 board of education meeting, Assistant Superintendents Jan Russell and Beverly Knox-Pipes demonstrated the use of Blackboard technology. Both showed how Blackboard technology is used with the GenNET Governing Board and the Genesee County Association of Special Education Administrators to produce and transmit meeting materials and conduct meetings. The presentation provided first-hand experience as to how electronic meetings can be conducted.

GISD Board Committee Assignments for 2006-2007

Based on recommendations by Peggy Tortorice, president, the following board committee assignments were approved for the 2006-2007 school year:

Personnel/Salary/Labor Relations

Lawrence Ford, Chairperson
Paul Newman
Dale Green (alternate)

Building & Grounds

Paul Newman, Chairperson
Jerry Ragsdale
Dale Green (alternate)

Policy

Jerry Ragsdale, Chairperson
Dale Green
Paul Newman (alternate)

Finance

Dale Green, Chairperson
Lawrence Ford
Paul Newman (alternate)

MASB Liaison/LRN Member

Peggy Tortorice
Paul Newman (alternate)

Liaison to Local Boards

Lawrence Ford
Dale Green (alternate)

GASC Technology Center Administrative Council

Paul Newman
Jerry Ragsdale (alternate)

Education Advisory Group (EAG)

Lawrence Ford
Paul Newman (alternate)

Genesee County Educational Foundation

Peggy Tortorice
Jerry Ragsdale (alternate)

Mott Middle College Advisory Committee

Jerry Ragsdale
Peggy Tortorice (alternate)

Genesee/Shiawassee Workforce Development Board

Jerry Ragsdale
Paul Newman (alternate)

Genesee County Association of School Board Members Executive Committee

Lawrence Ford
Jerry Ragsdale (alternate)

MASB Delegate Appointed

As a part of the Michigan Association of School Boards' annual fall conference, the MASB Delegate Assembly will meet and decide MASB's positions on a wide variety of issues affecting education. Michigan intermediate school districts are entitled to one voting delegate and one alternate. At the August 8, 2006 meeting, the board voted to appoint Mr. Jerry Ragsdale as the voting delegate and Mr. Paul Newman as the alternate to the Delegate Assembly.

Shared Technical Services Agreements Approved

In June the board approved the first technical services agreement with the Beecher Community Schools to form a partnership to provide technical support, followed by approval of agreements with Atherton Community Schools and Kearsley Community Schools. Details for customized technical support services have also been worked out and agreements finalized for Davison Community Schools and Lake Fenton Community Schools. Both agreements have been approved by their respective boards of education and will continue in full force until such time that the parties terminate the agreements per the conditions described in the agreements. At the August 22 meeting, the GISD board approved the shared technical services agreements with Davison and Lake Fenton and authorized the superintendent to employ necessary staff and fully define the working relationship with the districts as outlined in the agreements.

Scholarship Recipient Selected



Penny Smith, a University of Michigan-Flint elementary education senior, has been selected by the family of longtime Genesee Intermediate School District administrator Edward F. Gwiazdowski as a recipient of a \$500 scholarship named in his honor. Penny is a working mom with two children. She had attended Mott Community College and

UM-Flint right out of high school, but never finished her degree. She returned to UM-Flint in 2002 after holding a variety of jobs.

"I was unable to return because of several reasons, but finally I decided it was time to finish my degree," said Penny. It was through the Education Department that Penny learned about the scholarship. She says she was thrilled when informed she had been selected. "It's huge, because I have many expenses I need to cover that otherwise I couldn't cover," said Penny, who will graduate in December.

The Gwiazdowski Scholarship was made possible by generous contributions made to the Genesee County Educational Foundation by Ed's many co-workers, friends and associates. Applicants for the annual scholarship must have a 3.3 or higher grade point average and qualify for student teaching in the coming year. The scholarship can be used to pay for tuition, books, fees and/or supplies.

Individuals interested in learning more about the Gwiazdowski Scholarship may contact the UM-Flint Education Department at (810) 766-6878.

GISD Receives Backpacks from Office Depot

On Thursday, August 17, 2006, Office Depot distributed backpacks filled with school supplies to several local organizations for children who would benefit from receiving a Back-to-School Backpack. GISD's Health, Safety and Nutrition Services department submitted a request for the backpacks on behalf of local school districts.



Across Michigan, backpacks were presented to schools and nonprofit organizations. In Genesee County, backpacks went to Tucker Elementary in the Beecher Community School District, Center Academy and GISD.

When shopping for school supplies, remember you can help schools get credits for free supplies! Encourage parents, students and school supporters to give their school's name at the check-out counter. Each time they buy school supplies at Office Depot, the school they mention receives credits equal to 5% of the qualifying purchases to use for FREE SUPPLIES!

Tuuri Day Conference

Mott Children's Health Center's 34th Annual Tuuri Day Conference will be held on October 18, 2006 at the Sarvis Center, Flint. The topic "Neurodevelopmental Disorders in Children/ Youth: Strategies for Social/Emotional Success"

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will be explored by two keynote speakers: Dr. Kevin Blake, nationally recognized presenter and trainer and Sean Barron, journalist and writer living with autism.

Workshop speakers will discuss: Social Dimensions of ADHD, Teenagers with Neurodevelopmental Disorders, Neurological Effects of Lead Poisoning, Apraxia of Speech-Shaping Verbal Skills for Non-Verbal Children, Interventions in Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, Preschoolers and Behavioral Analysis, Person-Centered Planning and the P.L.A.Y. (Play and Language for Autistic Youngsters) Project.

Registration forms are available at www.mottchc.org or by calling (810) 767-5750, ext. 5214. Special accommodations provided, if requested. Cost is \$50.00 (includes continental breakfast, lunch and materials), and \$25 for undergraduate students. Reservations are due by October 11, 2006. Continuing education, social work, psychology and nursing education credits are pending.

For more information, contact: Libby Richards at (810) 237-7568 or richards@mottchc.org



Upcoming Musical Performance:

The Mott Middle College Steelheads

The Steelheads will be performing at the Clio Amphitheater on September 1, 2006 at 7:30 pm. The event adds an exciting dimension for the percussionists as they will be performing with world famous steel pan player Andy Narell. Narell has performed with dozens of jazz masters and has twelve solo albums to his credit.

Tickets for the performance are \$10.00 in advance and \$15.00 at the door. For more information, please contact Jim Coviak at (810) 232-8746.



**GISD Staff
2006 Flu Shot Schedule**

GISD will again be providing the opportunity for staff to get a flu shot at no cost to the employee (you may be asked to show your GISD ID badge). Family members over the age of 10 may also participate at a cost of \$28.00 per person. The fee must be paid at the time of immunization by cash, or check made payable to Visiting Nurse Services of Michigan.

The following dates are the only approved clinics where arrangements have been made to pay for GISD staff participation. Due to limited supply and availability of nursing staff, additional clinics could not be scheduled. Staff can attend any of the listed clinics.

Marion D. Crouse Instructional Center
Tuesday, October 24
8:00 - 10:00 a.m.
GenNET Room

Erwin L. Davis Education Center
Friday, October 27
8:00 - 10:00 a.m.
Room 102AB

Elmer A. Knopf Learning Center
Monday, October 30
2:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Multipurpose Room

Welcome to GISD!

At the August 8, 2006 meeting, the board approved the hiring of: Kimberly S. Cole, Teacher, Early Childhood Education; Laura N. Henry, Teacher of Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders; Yvette A. Bentley, Teacher of Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders; and Lauren V. Coates, School Social Worker, Day Treatment Program.

Wedding Bells

Christensen/Johnson

Holly Christensen, Materials Clerk, Technology & Media Services and Ryan Johnson, Custodian, EKLC, were married in Cancun on July 22, 2006. Ryan is also the son of Rachel Johnson, Paraprofessional, MCIC. Congratulations to the Johnsons!

Letavis/Obert

Amanda Letavis, daughter of Glenda Letavis, Program Secretary, Communications & Development, married Ryan Obert on August 5, 2006. Amanda is a third-grade teacher at West Bendle Elementary, and Ryan works for ES-3, a marketing firm in Rochester, Michigan. They were married at Holy Redeemer Catholic Church with a reception following at the Pine Knob Carriage House. The couple honeymooned in Maui, Hawaii. Congratulations to Amanda and Ryan!

New Family Member

The Resky Family had real fireworks for the 4th of July this year! Stephanie Resky, Teacher Consultant, MCIC, and husband Dan became the proud grandparents of their first grandchild on that day. Braxton Daniel Resky arrived weighing 7 lbs. 9 oz. and was 19½ inches long. Paul and Angie are the proud parents. Congratulations to the Resky family!

Charlie Jackson is a Crim Standout!



Charlie Jackson, Bus Driver, Transportation Services, is one of the 24 runners honored this year by the Crim Festival of Races for participating in all 30 of the Crim 10-mile races. Charlie and the others were honored with their names painted on the mile markers along the course and were given VIP treatment during the Crim pep rally held on Thursday, August 24, 2006. They also got a 10-minute head start for the race.

Congratulations on this milestone, and keep it going, Charlie!

Donations Accepted

Generous donations to Early Childhood Programs and Services and the Marion D. Crouse Instructional Center were received by the board. The donations were given by staff, family and friends.

Leaves of Absence Approved

Leaves of absence were considered and approved for: Cheri A. Owens, Bus Driver, Transportation Services; Rebecca L. Barbat, Paraprofessional, Marion D. Crouse Instructional Center; Michael L. McWherter, Bus Driver, Transportation Services; and Deborah L. Morgan, Paraprofessional, Elmer A. Knopf Learning Center.

Resignations Accepted

A resignation for the purpose of retirement was accepted from George J. Heinz, Custodian, Marion D. Crouse Instructional Center, and a resignation was accepted from Cheryl Thomas, Coordinator for Instruction-Early Literacy, Office of Education and Learning.



September Birthdays

1	Barbara Abdella	EKLC/CHOICE
4	Sheila Cummings	ECPS
4	Robert Stacey	EKLC
5	Michael Moorman	Davis Ed. Center
5	Evelyn Tereau	EKLC/CHOICE
5	Wanda Timmons	Transportation
7	Donald Dunlop	EKLC
7	Ida Green	MCIC
7	Barbara Williams	Health
8	Van Bueche	Transportation
8	Larry Casler	Davis Ed. Center
9	Glenda Letavis	Davis Ed. Center

9	Linda McKeown	ECPS	22	Sara Willingham	EKLC
9	Michelle Motyl	EKLC/CHOICE	23	Loretta Dippold	Transportation
10	Audrey Fickle	EKLC	23	Dianne Dunchock	MCIC
11	David Burt	Davis Ed. Center	23	Jeri Jackson	Transportation
11	Carolyn Clark	MCIC	24	Carla Diehl	Transportation
12	Dana Applebee	SESC	24	Bethany Doxey	Health
12	Amy Cox	Mott Middle College	25	Bonnie Lee	Transportation
12	Linda Justice	ECPS	26	Cathy Bueche	Transportation
12	Cynthia Miller	ECPS	27	Jason Collard	EKLC
12	Bradley Rife	Transportation	27	Karri Trezona	EKLC/CHOICE
13	Mary Bright	MCIC	28	Jan Russell	SESC
13	Dawn Satchell	MCIC	28	Kathryn Sergeant	Davis Ed. Center
13	Carisa Stone	Transportation	29	Rhonda Mattiuzzo	ECPS
13	Sharon Titus	Transportation	30	Pauline Coleman	ECPS
13	Deanna Yurk	Transportation	30	Alan Houtaling	EKLC
14	Allen Craven	Health			
14	Tammy Krul	MCIC			
14	Sherri Schopieray	Transportation			
14	Thomas Svitkovich	Davis Ed. Center			
14	Kristie Wilson	Transportation			
15	Evelyn Andrews	EKLC			
16	Nicky Carson	Transportation			
16	Andrew Feldhus	Davis Ed. Center			
16	Vicki Fletcher	Transportation			
17	Dianne Fillwock	Transportation			
17	Janice Gillette	EKLC/CHOICE			
18	LaShiela Darden	EKLC			
18	Cheryl Thomas	Davis Ed. Center			
19	Anna Anderson	Transportation			
19	Nannette Simpson	Transportation			
21	Sherry Dykes	ECPS			
21	Karen Merrill	Davis Ed. Center			
22	Laura Elder	ECPS			
22	Stacy Gillman	EKLC			
22	Debra Gonzalez	EKLC			
22	Brenda Maynard	EKLC			
22	Mary Rickard	ECPS			
22	John Shepard	SESC			
22	Peggy Walt	EKLC			

October Birthdays

1	Phyllis Clark	EKLC/CHOICE
1	Vicki Waltrip	SESC
2	Kelly St. Amand	Transportation
3	Diana Drake	ECPS
4	Patricia Sanford	EKLC
5	Sharon Davis	Transportation
5	Lisa Hocutt	EKLC/CHOICE
5	Gary West	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.geneseeis.org.

If you need additional information, call Cindy Workman at (810) 591-4404.

To access the electronic version of *InnerViews* or other GISD publications, visit www.geneseeisd.org

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***One online application
23 employers!***

Once you apply online, your application and credentials are added to a countywide database used by recruiters from 23 Genesee County area public school districts.

Submit your online application and credentials by visiting the Genesee County Educator Online Recruitment Fair link at: www.geneseeisd.org.

For more information please contact:
Melinda McGraw, Genesee Intermediate School District, at (810) 591-4591.