

# INNERViews

PUBLISHED FOR THE STAFF OF GENESSEE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
WITH ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION TO COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND FRIENDS.

## Congratulations to GISD Holiday Card Design Winner!

Genesee Intermediate School District congratulates Christene McInerney, GASC Technology Center Graphic Design student and Davison High School senior, for winning the 2008 GISD Holiday Card Design Contest. Christene's artwork was selected from numerous entries and printed as the graphic on the cover of the 2008 cards.

At the December 1, 2008, Davison Board of Education meeting, GISD Superintendent Thomas Svitkovich presented Christene with her original artwork in a custom frame and a gift card as the contest prize. Special thanks go to the Flushing and



Featured above is the GISD Holiday Card 2008, as designed by Christene McInerney.

GASC Technology Center high school students who participated in this year's contest, as well as their art instructors, who encouraged their talent and participation. They all did a great job!

## Donation to GISD Early Childhood Programs and Services Recognized

At its November 25, 2008 meeting, the board of education accepted a donation from Mr. Donald Foren for \$10,000. This generous donation was made on behalf of the Foren family to GISD's Early Childhood Programs and Services (ECPS) to support the outdoor learning center and the communication needs of students at the center. Mr. Foren is the grandfather of a student attending the program. The board invited Mr. Foren and/or

representatives of the family to a board meeting to accept the board's gratitude for this donation. Mr. Dave Foren, the student's father, was present at the December 9, 2008, meeting. Assistant Superintendent for Special Services Jan Russell and ECPS Principal Jennifer Lee were also in attendance at that meeting to thank the family.

This is the second largest personal donation the district has ever received in support of programs and services at GISD. It represents the wonderful work done by staff on behalf of our students. The board recognized and thanked the Foren family for the donation made to Early Childhood Programs and Services.

## Annual Website Reporting Update Received

Legislation was passed four years ago that requires Michigan regional educational service agencies to post a great deal of information on their websites by December 31 of each year. Mr. Jerry Johnson, executive director for Communications and Development, was present at the December 9 meeting with a preview of the GISD information to be posted. He noted that the report begins with an introduction centering on the GISD Teaching, Learning and Service Plan and is followed by district information and data. That content includes general information, and also must include data about 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 board accepted the update. GISD's report information will be available by December 31, 2008, in the Publications area of its website at: [www.geneseeisid.org](http://www.geneseeisid.org).



## Success and Challenges

Over the last several years, I have written about the difficult financial situation here in our state. This year, our environment is worsened by declining enrollment and the terrible plight of the Big Three. We in Genesee County do, indeed, understand the great potential for a perfect storm here in our school community as a result of both our state and national situation. On the positive side, GISD staff made an extra effort to expand our longstanding tradition of giving and providing support to those in need. Through various departmental and program efforts, we are making the holiday season brighter for many children and families across the county. Examples of GISD staff generosity include food drives, Toys for Tots collections, needy family assistance, and donations to numerous other charitable organizations. Despite the ongoing economic difficulties our society is experiencing, it is very important that we continue the strong support for those who are less fortunate in our community. The members of the Genesee Intermediate School District Board of Education join me in extending our sincerest thanks to GISD staff members and students for their outstanding support for families in need during this holiday season. GISD's tradition of giving is symbolic of our everyday work, bringing hope and knowledge to our students.

Your work this year has been outstanding. Particularly during the many challenges we have faced over the last several months, your dedication and positive spirit have been guideposts for our entire school community. We have had many accomplishments. This year, Genesee County was the first county to be granted a countywide seat time waiver by State Superintendent Michael Flanagan. Without going into many details, this waiver will allow our high school students to take as many of their high school classes online as they choose, rather than the two maximum classes prescribed by the state regulations. Also, this year, after a tremendous effort, the *GISD Style and Procedures Guide* was developed. Consistent with our Teaching, Learning, and Service Plan, this guide sets a high standard for GISD communication and publication performance. Once again, in 2008, the GISD Board of Education received the Standard of Excellence Award, the Honor Board Award, and the Distinguished Achievement Award from the Michigan Association of School Boards. Board President Lawrence Ford received the President's Award of Recognition from the Michigan Association of School Boards. Retired Board Member Peggy Tortorice received the Dorothy

Beardmore Service to Education Award from the State Board of Education because of her long-standing dedication to our school community. This past year, GISD was the first service agency in the nation and one of only three school districts to receive the 2008 Technology District Salute from the National School Boards Association. These awards are well deserved and were received because of the dedication and commitment of our very talented staff and board members. Jamie Magness and Andrea Gerth received a first place award in the Michigan Special Needs Team Safety Rodeo, and Dawn Wineman and Karolyn Habbershaw received a third place finish in that same Rodeo. Our staff members are consistently recognized individually for their accomplishments as members of a great team. Beth Hackett and Eileen Jackson received a Distinguished Achievement Award from the Michigan School Public Relations Association for their Great Start Collaborative Report to the community. Indeed, through these honors, we were recognized this past year as a premier regional educational service agency on many levels. Having been highlighted for our excellence affirms our hard work and dedication.

All in all, 2008 has been a great year for GISD. However, we all know that we are in very difficult times. The auto crisis will plague us for some time. I believe our strength will carry us through these challenges. As we look forward to the new year ahead, I am certain that GISD will continue to implement high-quality solutions to very difficult problems for the benefit of our entire school community. In your workplace, a personal effort to maintain a high standard of excellence and implement positive solutions will speak with the loudest voice in our educational community. Again, as this calendar year closes, we extend to each of you our sincerest appreciation for a job well done. May the new year ahead bring you health, happiness, and the companionship of friends and family.

Sincerely,

## 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 2009, the board of education must take action by adopting a resolution and filing a copy of that

resolution with each city and/or township within the Genesee Intermediate School District prior to January 1, 2009. The Genesee Intermediate School District will only levy summer taxes when the local school district is also levying a summer property tax levy. At the December 9 meeting, the board adopted a resolution to levy summer taxes in 2009 and provide proper notice to the taxing units.

## December Bills Payable

The Genesee Intermediate School District Board of Education scheduled its regular December meeting early due to the holiday break. As a result, only one meeting, the December 9, 2008 meeting, was scheduled. At the time the board approved the meeting schedule, it was indicated that special action would be necessary to authorize the payment of December bills. At the December 9 meeting, it was recommended and approved that the administration office, upon the review of the board treasurer, is authorized to process the December bills payable and issue checks. The board, as an official body, will approve the December financial reports in January.

## Parent Advisory Committee Member Appointed

At its meeting on December 9, the GISD Board of Education appointed Kimberly McCarthy, representing Fenton Area Public Schools, to the GISD Special Education Parent Advisory Committee.



## Donations Accepted

Generous donations to the Marion D. Crouse Instructional Center were accepted by the board. The donations included craft items, as well as a \$507.13 cash donation from the Knights of Columbus, Council 6694.

## EKLC Winter Music Programs

On Thursday, December 11, 2008, the Elmer A. Knopf Learning Center (EKLC) held its annual winter music programs. Center based and Project CHOICE students sang, danced, and performed for audiences filled with family and friends. A production using a black light, music videos, and brightly colored costumes topped off the fun. EKLC also sponsored a holiday collection of clothing and

nonperishable food items. The collected items were donated to Whaley Children's Center and CrossOver Downtown Outreach Ministries of Flint. Many folks that attended the winter music programs brought donations with them. If you are interested in attending an upcoming music program, join staff and students at EKLC on Thursday, April 2, 2009, for spring music shows. Show times will be announced at a later date.

## A Healthy New Year

The GISD wellness committee is dedicated to helping employees make and keep New Year's resolutions to get physically fit and healthy. Two new programs, "The Biggest Loser" and "Keep on Stepping," are currently being developed by committee members. Expect to receive more information about each program soon!

## New Arrival

Charlie Jackson, GISD bus driver, announces the birth of his grandchild, Emily Marie Leschuk. Emily was born on December 9, 2008, weighting 6 lbs. and 14 oz. and was 19 inches long. The new addition to the Leschuk family joins Lynn, Bob and big brother Tyler at their home in Oxford, Michigan.

## Leave of Absence Denied

A leave of absence was considered and denied for James A. Gazso, EKLC Project CHOICE.

## January Birthdays

3	Lara Clarke	Business Services
3	Sandra Mann	MCIC
3	Sandra Wheeler	Transportation Services
4	James Gazso	Project CHOICE
4	Mary Howell	Education and Learning
4	Tamara Morrow	SESC-N
6	Jacqueline Mark	Project CHOICE
7	Ashley Livingston	Business Services
7	Patrick McHugh	MMC
7	Allyson Mills	SESC-N
7	Cindy Verbeke	ECPS
8	Adrienne Hardimon	SESC-N
8	Kristy Mohr	Business Services
8	Judith Pannick	Project CHOICE
9	Denice Lepczyk	Transportation Services
9	Dwayne Odneal	EKLC

9	Regina Ondovcsik	Transportation Services
9	Julie Salim	MCIC
9	Pamela Weisenburger	Project CHOICE
10	Juliet Hardwick	Project CHOICE
10	Major Harper	EKLC
10	Lori Mclean	Transition Center
10	Teresa Olson	Transportation Services
11	Pamela Marsack	EKLC
11	Tracey Tortorice	Project CHOICE
11	Crystal Wright	Transportation Services
12	Christopher Combs	Day Treatment
12	Charlotte Gambrel	Transition Center
12	Karl Lang	Transition Center
12	Camille Timmons	MCIC
13	Michelle Grifka	EKLC
13	Susan Meyer	Project CHOICE
14	Judith Fulkerson	Project CHOICE
14	Margaret Lapeen	Transportation Services
14	Rhoda Read	Business Services
15	Allison Emmerling	SESC-N
15	Stacy Hodges	Business Services
16	Donna Dean	Project CHOICE
17	Karen Dutil	Transportation Services
17	Marisa Ulmer	HSNS
18	Ulysses Tara Mcnea	EKLC
19	Ida Allen	MCIC
19	Lu Sinda Johnston	MCIC
19	Kimberly Latoni	MCIC
19	Debra M. Marien	ECPS
19	Linda Phillips	Project CHOICE
20	Matthew Osmon	MMC
20	Mandy Thomas	ECPS
21	Christine Emmendorfer	Transportation Services
21	Stephanie Gay-Strawsburg	EKLC
21	Gus Jefferson	Transportation Services
21	Randy Wilson	Transportation Services
22	Kimberly Drury	EKLC
22	Deborah Isham	MCIC
23	Tomiko Fisher	Office of Superintendent
23	Patricia Pillen	Transportation Services
24	Kathleen Dinnan	Transportation Services
24	Bradley Norman	Transportation Services
25	Harvey Porter	Project CHOICE
25	Candice Wagner	EKLC
25	Dawn Wineman	Transportation Services
26	Sheila Gafney	EKLC
26	Patrick Maul	Transportation Services
26	David Skinner	Transportation Services
28	Mary Behm	Education and Learning
28	Valerie LaCarter	Transportation Services
29	Joanne Blimka	MCIC
30	Deborah Baird	Transportation Services
30	Stacy Dowd	Transportation Services
30	Ruth Rosenberger	Day Treatment
30	Donald Vanhorn	MMC
31	Deborah Washburn	ECPS

## February Birthdays

1	Kathy St. James	Transportation Services
2	Diane Burt	Business Services
2	Deborah Lannom	MCIC
2	Laura Rainey	MMC
3	Linda Jaworski	SESC-N
3	Amy Lowell	Transportation Services
3	Windel Robinson	Transportation Services
3	Adrian Wright	Transportation Services
4	Eileen Jackson	Com. and Dev.
4	Robert Snyder	EKLC
4	Genevieve Weber	EKLC
5	Kathleen Bell	ECPS
5	Annette Harden	Transportation Services
5	April Miller	HSNS

## GISD Jobs

The Human Resources and Operations department at Genesee Intermediate School District is accepting applications for numerous positions. **To view openings and complete an online application, visit the "employment" link at: [www.geneseeisd.org](http://www.geneseeisd.org).**



**Genesee Intermediate School District**  
*Genesee County's Regional Educational Service Agency*

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