

INNERViews

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

Michigan Special Needs Team Safety Rodeo Winners Recognized

On September 27, 2008, Genesee Intermediate School District hosted the 2nd Annual Michigan Special Needs Team Safety Rodeo at the Erwin L. Davis Education Center. Twenty-two bus teams representing eight districts participated in the event. The first and third place winners for 2008 were GISD transportation teams. Jamie Magness, driver, and Andrea Gerth, transportation aide, were awarded first place. Dawn Wineman, driver, and Karolyn Habbershaw, transportation aide, were awarded third place. Each two-person team participated in six events, including a written test, pre-check, wheelchair loading and securement, safety seat securement, special needs



Pictured in the top photo are Andrea Gerth (left) and Jamie Magness, first place winners in the 2nd Annual Michigan Special Needs Team Safety Rodeo. Pictured in the bottom photo are Dawn Wineman (left) and Karolyn Habbershaw, the third place winners.

emergency, and a driving course. The first place team from GISD will participate in the 12th National Special Needs Team Safety Rodeo on February 28, 2009, in Indianapolis, Indiana. The event is sponsored by the Michigan Association for Pupil Transportation, Special Needs Transportation Committee. At its November 11 meeting, the GISD Board of Education recognized GISD's 2008 Michigan Special Needs Team Safety Rodeo winners.

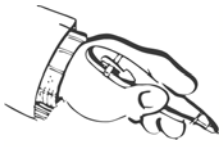
Michigan Association of School Boards Award Presented

During the Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB) Fall Conference, Board President Lawrence Ford was awarded the MASB President's Award of Recognition. This is the highest award that can be earned by board members through MASB's certification/awards program. In order to receive the President's Award of Recognition, board members must complete six prerequisite levels of certification, including at least 29 upper level courses, as well as a minimum of 1,383 education credits. On behalf of MASB, Board Vice President Jerry Ragsdale presented the MASB President's Award of Recognition to Mr. Ford at the November 11 GISD Board of Education meeting.



School Closure Information

As we enter the season of winter weather, please remember that GISD closing information is available on radio station WCRZ (107.9 FM), on television at WJRT (abc12), or on the web at www.geneseeisd.org. If GISD is closed, then all programs, events and operations are cancelled, unless otherwise noted for specific instances.



GenNET Celebrates National Award

The Genesee Intermediate School District has been named a recipient of the National School Boards Association (NSBA) Technology Leadership Network District Salute. The award honors the accomplishments of the Genesee Network for Education Telecommunications (GenNET) consortium that includes GISD and its 21 constituent K-12 school districts. We are proud to have been named a Salute District by NSBA, and we celebrate the leadership and commitment of the GenNET consortium that has made this success possible.



Pictured (left to right) are Dr. Thomas Svitkovich, Larry Ford, Dale Green, Beverly Knox-Pipes, Jerry Ragsdale, Cindy Gansen, and Paul Newman at the November 25 GISD board meeting. At that meeting, the board accepted the Technology Leadership Network Salute District award.

The overarching vision of GenNET is to improve instruction using a telecommunications network that provides expanded access to technology and opportunities beyond the classroom walls, in order to change and improve the educational culture. In the educational community, we are celebrating 12 years of existence. GenNET has impacted the instructional, technical, and administrative sectors of education in Genesee County with tremendous results.

GenNET has provided a common platform, which translates into uniform business operations, reporting procedures, software and hardware, professional development offerings, instructional offerings, and systems protocols. This common environment has saved millions of dollars for local districts. The GenNET system has expanded opportunities and saved even more dollars for local districts through the implementation of GISD shared services. In this time of economic challenges, these savings helped us all maintain outstanding programming in our classrooms.

Genesee County students enjoy the benefit of high school and middle school two-way, interactive television (ITV) classes, high-speed internet, shared data services, and web-based, teacher-led online classes. GenNET students participate in additional programming provided by the GenNET online project that offers over 600 teacher-led courses via the web. As a result of its success, this program was expanded through the REMC association to provide all Michigan high school and middle school students online courses to meet the Michigan online experience requirements. Most recently, the GenNET Governing Board authorized a seat time waiver application that was approved by Michigan Department of Education Superintendent Michael Flanagan. Now, Genesee County high school students have an opportunity to take more than the maximum of two online courses per year. Genesee County is the first and only county in the state to have been granted a waiver of this type. Again, this adds more opportunity for students in their local GenNET districts.

GISD consistently models and promotes the effective use of technology at all levels through Blackboard, videoconferencing, email, video streaming, and other emerging technology. We use technology in all of our shared services programs. In many cases, the technology allows the program to be cost-effective for our shared program partners. We employ technology for communication and collaboration among colleagues, staff, parents, and the larger community. Most recently, the GISD board of education developed a truly paperless board meeting through the use of Blackboard. Through their example, we are saving time and resources that directly impact our bottom line.

The GenNET Pioneers program is more than a staff development program. It provides K-12 teachers with opportunities to learn the effective use of GenNET's technology infrastructure. GenNET Pioneers learn how to improve student achievement through best teaching practices, classroom management, and integrating technology into instruction. Over the years, the GenNET Pioneers have learned that virtual field trips take students anywhere in the world. Last year, ITV classes for high school students were expanded through the GenNET/FANET ITV connection with Baker College, Kettering University, Mott Community College, and the University of Michigan-Flint. Our students continue to have the benefit of a college classroom experience, while remaining in their high schools. Classes, including calculus II and III, Newtonian Mechanics (Physics), and advanced foreign languages are taught for both high school and college credit, minimizing travel and scheduling conflicts.

I am very proud that we were named a Salute District by NSBA. This year, we were selected as one of only three districts nationwide to receive this award, and GISD is the first and only regional educational service agency in the nation to achieve this prestigious honor. I want to extend my sincerest thanks to everyone on GISD's staff that is involved in one way or another in the GenNET venture.

As we approach this holiday season, I also want to extend my best holiday wishes to all GISD staff. May you enjoy the company of friends and family during this wonderful time of the year, and may you enjoy hope and happiness during the year ahead.

Sincerely,



GISD Style and Procedures Guide Received

During the last year, GISD staff members have undertaken the process of developing a style and procedures guide that is a reference document for all GISD employees. A districtwide team of top-level clerical and administrative support staff for each of GISD's major departments and programs assisted with the research, decision-making, and creation of the document. They provided expert-level input and will now act as a resource for their respective department to help ensure their team members are producing materials within the specifications provided in the guide. The newly created guide will be an evolving, or "living," document that will be updated and expanded over time, based on the needs of the district. The guide includes GISD's rules and suggestions for writing styles and grammar usage, policy and procedural instructions, and guidelines for the presentation and printing of GISD publications. Use of the "style guide" should lead to a more consistent "look" for GISD publications. An electronic version of the document is stored on a shared network drive and also contains links to the resources, templates, forms, and graphics that are referenced in the guide. At its meeting on November 11, the board received the *GISD Style and Procedures Guide* and thanked team members for their work on the project.

Student Discipline

At its November 11 meeting, the board took action to expel a Mott Middle College student for violation of the Student Code of Conduct and applicable Michigan law.

Constituent Districts Cost-Saving Partnerships and Collaborations Report Received

Each year, GISD Board of Education members visit each of the 21 constituent district board of education meetings. Traditionally, GISD board members take time during these visits to highlight collaborative programs and share the benefits of GISD's shared initiatives. This year, working with members of GISD's leadership team, Executive Director for Business Services Cynthia McCain and Executive Director for Communications and Development Jerry Johnson prepared a report detailing all of the collaborative programs offered by GISD. They also prepared a customized version of the report for each individual constituent district. The report identifies the program and describes the cost benefit, and outlines the success of GISD's cost-saving partnerships and collaborations. Shared programs save millions of dollars, giving districts the ability to sustain important classroom programs. At the November 11 board meeting, Jerry Johnson, Cynthia McCain, and Dr. Thomas Svitkovich provided a presentation, along with other members of GISD's leadership staff. The board accepted the report.

Public Schools/Charter Schools Comparison Report Received

At its meeting on November 25, GISD board members reviewed a report titled: *A Comparison of Administration Costs and MEAP Scores among Michigan Public Schools and Charter Schools*. The report includes specific data for Genesee County, and is produced annually by Dr. David Treder, GISD's research, evaluation, and assessment coordinator. Overall, the report shows that the "cost of administration per pupil of Michigan's charter schools is nearly twice that of Michigan's public school districts. Further, the cost of administration as a percent of expenditures of Michigan's charter schools is twice that of Michigan's public schools." "Michigan's public schools outperform charter schools on the MEAP math test (grades 4 and 8) and MEAP English Language Arts tests (grades 4 and 7), over the last 5 years, by 12 to 21 percentage points. Michigan public school students outperform charter school students on the MEAP math tests (grades 3 through 8) and the MEAP English Language Arts (grades 3 through 8) for both Fall 2006 and Fall 2007 by 6 to 20 percentage points." Also, Genesee County's public school districts outperform Genesee County's charter schools across all subjects and grade levels. The board accepted the report.

Audit Report Received

During the past several months, Lewis & Knopf, CPAs, P.C., have been involved in their annual audit of GISD financial records. The audit is very comprehensive and included in-depth tests of various federal programs managed by the district, as well as the normal tests conducted as standard audit practice. Mr. Kim Lindsay of Lewis & Knopf attended the November 25 Board of Education meeting to present their review of the accounting practices and procedures utilized by Business Services. GISD board members were pleased to learn that the overall GISD 2007-08 audit is rated as excellent. Fund balances meet or exceed the expected fund equities identified in the 2007-08 budget. GISD remains financially healthy and stable for the current fiscal year. The GISD board commended Business Services staff for their attention to quality financial management, and administrators were also recognized for doing an excellent job managing their budgets.

Co-Sponsorship of 2008-09 Flint Area Public Affairs Debates Approved

Genesee Intermediate School District has been a co-sponsor of the Flint Area Public Affairs Debates since 1986, and has annually contributed to the funding of the program. While the Flint Area Public Affairs Debates is not asking for a financial contribution this year, it is asking for continued endorsement as a co-sponsor. The organization has accumulated sufficient funds to cover this year's expenses. At its November 25 meeting, the board of education approved GISD's continued co-sponsorship of the Flint Area Public Affairs Debates.

Genesee County Drain Commission Agreement Approved

On April 24, 2004, the Board of Education approved an agreement with the Genesee County Drain Commission to nest the Genesee Intermediate School District under its federal storm water permit. Recently, GISD expressed its interest in continuing to nest with the county. At its November 25 meeting, the board reviewed and approved the resolution authorizing participation in the storm water cooperative service agreement with the Genesee County Board of Commissioners. The agreement will remain in effect until October 1, 2013.

Proposed School Board Research Report Received

Mr. Edward Graham, principal of Kuehn-Haven Middle School in the Montrose Community School District is a student at Oakland University, and he is working on his doctoral dissertation. Dr. Thomas Svitkovich is Mr. Graham's doctoral mentor, and he has been advising him regarding his research. Mr. Graham's proposal involves studying the actions of K-12 boards of education in Genesee County and the resulting effects on district activities. At the November 25 GISD board meeting, Mr. Graham presented a brief description of his project to the board so that GISD board members can be aware of his research, even though GISD will not be a part of this study. Dr. Svitkovich reported that the board may also be asked to be involved in a review of the survey instrument, once it is available. The board accepted the report.



Donations Accepted

Generous donations on behalf of Early Childhood Programs and Services (ECPS), Health, Safety, and Nutrition Services (HSNS), and the Marion D. Crouse Instructional Center (MCIC) were received by the board. The donations included \$10,000 designated for the Outdoor Learning Center at ECPS, and numerous contributions totaling \$47,339.90 for use at Genesee County's first free Community Baby Shower, which was hosted by HSNS, area agencies, and hospitals. The donation to MCIC included kitchen supplies totaling \$1,323.00.

Board Policy Revisions Adopted

At its November 11 meeting, board members conducted a first reading of the following revised GISD Board Policies: 3121 (Criminal History Record Check), 3130 (Assignment and Transfer), 3437.01 (Military Leave), 5320 (Immunization), and 8210 (School Calendar). Additionally, board members received the following new policies recommended for inclusion in the GISD Board Policies and Bylaws: 5114 (Foreign and Foreign-Exchange Students), 5605 (Suspension/Expulsion of Students with Disabilities), 8100 (Energy Management Conservation Policy), and 8351 (Security Breach of Confidential Databases). At its meeting on November 25, the board conducted a second reading and adopted the revisions and additions to the aforementioned GISD's Board Policies and Bylaws.

Energy Management Consortium Update Received

At its October 28, 2008 meeting, the board of education heard a report on the Energy Management Consortium activities and approved the hiring of Ms. Jill Sheldon as full-time energy manager. In that report, the energy consultant firm, Energy Education, Inc., recommended that the consortium hire both a full-time energy manager and a part-time energy manager. On November 18, 2008, the Energy Council met to interview the finalist for the part-time position and unanimously supported the hiring of Mr. Jimmy W. King for the position. Mr. King will work for the consortium as a team member with Ms. Sheldon and will report to GISD Deputy Superintendent Michael Moorman. The report also indicated that the Energy Council discussed plans to implement the energy program and the progress in adopting energy policies and guidelines, as well as began the tentative assignment of energy managers to member districts. At its November 25 meeting, the GISD board received the Energy Management Consortium update and approved the employment of Mr. Jimmy W. King as part-time energy manager.

AASA Resolution in Support of “All Children Will Learn” Adopted

The United States Congress is considering the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Currently, that act is known nationwide as *No Child Left Behind* (NCLB). The American Association of School Administrators (AASA) has developed a resolution after a great deal of study, which recommends a concentrated approach to help target populations, identified by the federal government, improve their school outcomes. Their approach coordinates and combines a variety of federal programs to focus on the special needs populations currently identified by the federal government. Members of GISD’s Education and Learning department have reviewed the resolution. Executive Director of Communication and Development Jerry Johnson has also reviewed the resolution from a legislative perspective. Mr. Johnson was present at the November 25 meeting to answer board member questions. At that meeting, the board of education approved the resolution.

Human Resources Contract with Lapeer Community Schools Approved

Lapeer Community Schools Superintendent Debbie Thompson has been approved for the past two years as a member of the Genesee County Superintendents Association and has been attending their meetings. As a result of this relationship, Superintendent Thompson has expressed an interest in GISD’s shared programs, including Shared Human Resources. At its November 25 meeting, the board reviewed an agreement, which was developed by Thrun Law Firm, P.C. Deputy Superintendent Michael Moorman was present at the board meeting to answer any questions related to the development and implementation of the contract. As a result, the board approved the contract, and authorized the superintendent to develop staff and infrastructure capacities necessary to implement the terms of the contract.

Welcome to GISD!

At its meeting on November 11, the board approved the hiring of Nicole R. Slosser as a Genesee Early College teacher.

ECPS Fall Harvest Festival

On Friday, October 24, 2008, Early Childhood Programs and Services (ECPS) held its annual Fall Harvest Festival. Making goodie bags and sun catchers, decorating picture frames, playing in a jump house, ghost bowling, decorating cookies, and face painting are just some of the activities enjoyed by ECPS students and their families. At the festival, photos were taken of the kids and



A costumed ECPS student enjoys an activities at the Fall Harvest Festival.

were then presented to the parents in frames made by their children. The activities were held in the multipurpose room and throughout the building, and refreshments were served. There were 150 children and family members in attendance for this fun filled afternoon. The festival was a great success!

MCIC is Going to the Dogs!

Once a month, throughout this school year, the elementary students at the Marion D. Crouse Instructional Center (MCIC) will be meeting a variety of therapy dogs. The program is being provided as part of MCIC's science program that relates to MI-Access. In September, MCIC students concentrated on sizes "big" and "little."



This month, students are concentrating on the feel of different textures. As the photograph shows, MCIC students are enjoying the "hands-on" experience!

Genesee Early College Student Activities

Circuit Court Field Study

On November 6, 2008, 10th grade students from Mrs. Kost's civics class at Genesee Early College (GEC) traveled to the Genesee County Circuit Courthouse. Students visited Judge Hayman's courtroom and witnessed a sentencing, and also observed a trial in Judge Fullerton's courtroom that involved a drunken driving case. Based on students' discussions that followed, much was learned about the judicial process during their visit.

Arab-American Museum Visit

On November 14, 2008, all GEC 10th and 11th grade students traveled to Dearborn to conduct a field study at the Arab-American Museum. Not only were students given a personal tour, they were also able to sample Middle Eastern cuisine. A good time was had by all!

New Book Club

Several students from GEC have started a Book Club. Sponsored by Teacher Mary Ann Kost, students meet once a week to discuss, socialize, and debate different books of their choice. The students first tackled Khaled Hosseini's novel The Kite Runner. Next on the list is A Thousand Splendid Sons, also by Hosseini.

Day Treatment Students Celebrate Thanksgiving

GISD's High School Day Treatment class, located at Davison High School, celebrated Thanksgiving together with a homemade dinner. Everyone helped cook the meal, and then discussed all of the things for which they were thankful.

Sue O'Brien Nominated for ATHENA Award

Sue O'Brien, Principal, Marion D. Crouse Instructional Center, was recently recommended as a nominee for the Genesee Regional Chamber of Commerce's prestigious ATHENA award. This year there were sixteen nominees that were honored for their many achievements and contributions in our community. The ATHENA Award is presented yearly and recognizes the strength and leadership of professional women in the community—those who mentor young women, inspire and create balance, and forge new paths for other women to follow. The Genesee Regional Chamber of Commerce honored all nominees at a banquet on November 6, 2008. Sue was nominated for her professional leadership in special education, the VSA arts of Michigan-Genesee County, the Foster Grandparent Program, and Deaf Blind Central at Central Michigan University, along with her extensive community service and volunteerism.

In honor of Sue's recent ATHENA Award nomination, the staff at MCIC held a surprise breakfast for her. During the event, she was dressed regally for the occasion, including a crown, scepter, roses, and a toga.

Congratulations to Sue for her many accomplishments, and for being celebrated as one of our community's most prominent women leaders!

Doctorate Earned

Mary Howell, Coordinator for Instruction, Reading Recovery, will graduate from Oakland University on December 13, 2008 with her Doctorate of Philosophy degree in Reading Education. Mary achieved her Ph.D. after successfully defending her dissertation on May 8, 2008. The graduation ceremony for the summer graduates will be held with the fall graduates in December at Oakland University. Congratulations Dr. Mary Howell!

Wedding Bells

Kelly Kovacs, GISD substitute teacher, and Steven Stockmeyer tied the knot on November 22, 2008, in Reese Michigan. Kelly is the daughter of Janelle Kovacs, EKLC CHOICE teacher, and husband Gene. Congratulations to the newlyweds!

Greg Wilson, accountant, is pleased to announce the marriage of his daughter, Monica, to Paul O'Keefe. Monica's daughter, LeiLani, accepted Paul's proposal (to be her daddy) and has also officially become an O'Keefe. The O'Keefe's are currently serving as missionaries in Ireland. Congratulations and best wishes!

New Grandmother

Linda Roberts, GISD transportation safety trainer, announces the birth of her first grandchild, Ian James Roberts. Ian was born on November 29, 2008, weighing 7 lbs. and was 19 inches long. This new addition to the Roberts family joins parents Ryan and Darcie at their home in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan. Congratulations on the new arrival!

Resignation Accepted

A resignation for the purpose of retirement was accepted from Laura S. Norton, Transportation Services.



December Birthdays

2	Marie Dunn	Transition Center
2	Kevin Strieter	TMS
3	Joanne LeBlanc	Education & Learning
3	Connie Smith	HSNS
4	John Earegood	Transportation Services
5	Doreen Campbell	Transportation Services
5	Marian McFadden	Day Treatment
5	Kathleen McIntosh	Transportation Services
6	Kimberly Elder	EKLC
6	Patricia Slater	Transition Center
7	Andre Greene	Day Treatment
7	Rachel Gidcomb	EKLC
7	Ruth Robinson	EKLC
8	Charles Jackson	Transportation Services
8	Theodore McIntosh	Transportation Services
9	Rebecca Case	HSNS

9	Barbara Covert	Transition Center
9	Robin Medling	TMS
9	Aimee Phillips	HSNS
11	Thomas Nellis	Transportation Services
12	Megan Daunt	Business Services
12	Kimberly Levander	Project CHOICE
13	Sondra Robinson	Transportation Services
13	Lori Weiss	ECPS
13	Barbara Whitman	EKLC
13	Sara Yuncker	MCIC
14	Lawrence Brown	Day Treatment
14	Jacqueline Chapman	Transportation Services
14	Pamela Korb	Transition Center
14	Amy Rathsburg	EKLC
14	Yvonne VanGorder	MCIC
14	Brooke Wallace	Transportation Services
15	Ebony Brown	Transportation Services
15	Dawn Stephens	Transportation Services
17	Penelope Clare	Education & Learning
17	Amy Hackett	MMC
17	Melanie Wood	Business Services
18	Rachel Hairston	Business Services
18	Michelle Hermiz	Business Services
19	Elizabeth Hackett	HSNS
19	Shirley Heffner	Project CHOICE
21	Kulsum Bhimani	ECPS
21	Violet Jeffery	SESC
22	Mark Guith	Transition Center
23	Carol Dickerson	EKLC
24	Christine Shinavier	Transportation Services
24	Stephanie Solberg	EKLC
26	Karen Barney	Transportation Services
26	Barbara Ratliff	MCIC
26	Carrie Shelly	MCIC
27	Barbara McCurry	Day Treatment
28	Melissa Hart	Transportation Services
28	Robert Just	TMS
28	Donna Lovern	Project CHOICE
29	Jennifer Lee	ECPS
29	Suzanne Rhodes	Human Resources
29	Theresa Rogers	MMC
29	Carolyn Vierkorn	MCIC
30	Nicholas Stage	EKLC
31	Lori Banaszak	TMS
31	Mary Heffner	MCIC
31	Gale Luketich	Transition Center
31	Lori Warner	Transportation Services

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 & Learning
4	Tamara Morrow	SESC-N
6	Jacqueline Mark	Project CHOICE
7	Ashley Livingston	Business Services



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



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.**

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

InnerViews Submissions

InnerViews is published for the staff of Genesee Intermediate School District with additional distribution to community partners and friends.

Please submit articles and information to Eileen Jackson, Communications and Development, by mail, fax at (810) 591-7570 or email: ejackson@geneseeisd.org. Be sure to include your name and contact information.

Articles will be reviewed for information that is appropriate for the publication, timeliness, as well as relevance to the InnerViews newsletter audience.

INNERViews

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BOARD OF EDUCATION

Lawrence P. Ford President
Jerry G. Ragsdale Vice President
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Paul D. Newman Treasurer
Cindy A. Gansen Trustee

Thomas Svitkovich, Ed.D., Superintendent
2413 West Maple Avenue, Flint, Michigan 48507-3493
(810) 591-4400 TTY (810) 591-4545

EDITOR

Jerry D. Johnson
Executive Director

TEXT PROCESSING AND DESIGN

Eileen Jackson

www.geneseeisd.org

