

INNERViews

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

MCIC Honors Hometown Heroes

On Wednesday, September 30, Marion D. Crouse Instructional Center students gathered to honor and recognize local emergency responders from the Mt. Morris Township police and fire department, the Genesee County Sherriff's department, local ambulance companies, and representatives from the military. Organizer Carolyn Vierkorn stated, "Every year, we set aside one day to thank the people who work hard to keep our school, community, and nation safe, secure, and free. This day is our way of paying tribute to these important community helpers."

The Swartz Creek Dragons Marching Band, under the direction of John Michailo, was on hand to lead the Parade of Patriots from the school to the stage

and also to support the MCIC Rhythm Ensemble in performing *American Every Day*, a crowd pleasing red, white, and blue anthem. Students presented artwork to the emergency responders to thank them for their dedication and hard work. Afterward, students were able to visit the emergency vehicles and have their photos taken with the visitors.

Jason Newbold, son of staff member Deb Newbold, was on leave from the Navy and wore his dress blues to the event. Also on hand were members of the local Army National Guard, including substitute Leanna Jenkins.

GISD Teaching, Learning, and Service Plan and Annual Report Approved

Throughout the summer, GISD's administrative team reviewed the goals, objectives, and outcomes of the 2006-2011 GISD *Teaching, Learning, and Service Plan*. As a result, an annual report was developed for 2008-2009, and the plan was updated, including some minor adjustments in terminology. These modifications address the increase of data collection and analysis for accountability purposes, as well as the expansion of professional development and technology infrastructure to implement those processes. The proposed changes and a brief presentation that highlighted various outcomes and future directions were presented to the GISD Board of Education at its meeting on September 22, 2009. The board accepted the report.



An MCIC student explores the interior of an ambulance that visited the school during MCIC's Hometown Heroes recognition event.



School Funding: The Dilemma Continues

Dear Staff,

We have begun the fourth month of our fiscal year without a state budget for education. As we go to press with *InnerViews*, state funding for schools continues to be a mystery. What we know at this point is that our local revenue source will be less, since the State Equalized Value in the county is dropping. We also know that we will continue to be aggressive in pursuing grant funding from all sources, including funds available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

The current state budget proposal includes a \$218.00 per pupil reduction in the foundation allowance for K-12 districts. If that becomes reality, we will take a tough hit at both Genesee Early College (GEC) and Mott Middle College (MMC), since we are dependent on foundation allowances and some grant money to fund those schools. The funding problems for both MMC and GEC will get worse if that reduction continues into the 2010-2011 budget year. Clearly, the biggest problem is the projected 44% reduction in Section 81 funds. That reduction is far greater than the projected cut in the K-12 foundation allowance. Section 81 is a source of revenue for our General Education Fund, which supports programs in the Office of Education and Learning; Health, Safety, and Nutrition Services; Technology and Media Services; and the basic operations of our school district. I am also uncertain whether other categorical funding will also be cut, affecting other programs. Obviously, we are in a very difficult situation.

On the positive side, Jerry Johnson, executive director of Communications and Development, and many of you have made calls to our legislative delegation and other members of both the Michigan House and Senate. You have expressed your concerns and encouraged support for the wonderful programs that we operate for our students and constituent districts. Our legislative delegation is supporting us, and for that, we are very grateful. I remain optimistic during these difficult times, since we are developing systems to deal with these proposed reductions in order to save jobs and to save

programs. It will take all of us working together to be able to survive this crisis and I believe that our reputation and hard work will carry us forward

Switching gears and looking to our accomplishments during this opening month of school, I am pleased to report that, as of this date, 54 ISDs, including GISD, 478 K-12 districts, and eight charter schools are GenNET partners. As a result, the Seat Time Waiver is providing education to the students of our state. Only two ISDs and a handful of districts have yet to sign on as partners. I extend my compliments and congratulations to Assistant Superintendent for Technology and Media Services (TMS) Beverly Knox-Pipes and the TMS staff for the implementation and initial operation of this program. Grant funding is being pursued in many departments, including TMS and Education and Learning. We hope to receive an *Improving Instruction through Regional Data Initiatives* grant to build a data warehouse for our constituent districts. This grant represents an initiative to leverage savings, since we plan to partner with Wayne RESA.

Our programs are being celebrated by our county's school districts. As an example, the participation level at Ligon Outdoor Center has increased dramatically. The programs at our nature center have been very successful. I am also extremely pleased that we will be celebrating the grand re-opening of the Marion D. Crouse Instructional Center (MCIC) after a three-year renovation period. You will be invited, along with the community, to take part in the reception at MCIC, which should be scheduled within the next month. With the initiation of the planned addition and renovations at the Elmer A. Knopf Learning Center (EKLC), utilizing AARA funding, every one of our facilities will have been updated/renovated within the last decade. This means that our students and constituents are receiving outstanding services in great facilities, thanks to your hard work and dedication.

One last thought. I know that our United Way Employee Combined Campaign is going well. However, we need an extra effort this year to be certain that those in need, and the very special programs provided by GISD with United Way support, continue to be funded. If you haven't already

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made your contribution to the Employee Combined Campaign, I ask on behalf of our students and school community that you make an extra effort to help those that are truly in need. The GISD staff has been a leading team in providing continued support for United Way's Employee Combined Campaign. On behalf of our total community, I extend my thanks for your generosity and support.

Sincerely,



H1N1 and Seasonal Flu Report Received

At the September 8 GISD Board of Education meeting, Health, Safety, and Nutrition Services (HSNS) Director Gloria Bourdon reported that HSNS staff members have been working with the Genesee County Health Department (GCHD) to develop and implement an infectious disease plan to deal with H1N1 and seasonal flu in Genesee County.

Following the guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the GCHD, GISD has shared information with constituent district staff to help prepare parents to deal with the consequences of flu in schools, including following universal precautions and encouraging parents to keep students home when they are ill and displaying flu symptoms. Schools will also send students home when they are ill. The board accepted the report.

First Reading of Recommended Revisions to Genesee Early College Student Handbook and Mott Middle College Student Handbook

The *Genesee Early College Student Handbook* and the *Mott Middle College Student Handbook* have been reviewed. As a result, the Genesee Early College staff and the Mott Middle College staff have updated the handbooks to utilize current terminology and to reflect changes in law. The updates also reflect

changes in staff names and the respective missions, learner outcomes, and graduation requirements for each school.

After review by the GISD Board of Education Policy Committee and discussion at the September 22 GISD board meeting, the board approved the first reading of the *Genesee Early College Student Handbook* and the *Mott Middle College Student Handbook*.

Technical Services Contracts with Carman-Ainsworth Community Schools approved

Since the 2006-07 school year, the GISD Board of Education has approved technical services agreements to form partnerships to provide technical support for 13 Genesee County school districts.

Recently, Carman-Ainsworth Community Schools Superintendent Bill Haley worked with GISD's Technology and Media Services department to finalize a customized shared technical services plan for Carman-Ainsworth. A contract was submitted to Carman-Ainsworth Community Schools, and Mr. Haley has returned the signed contract.

At its meeting on September 22, the GISD Board of Education approved the contract for GISD to provide technical services for Carman-Ainsworth Community Schools through the 2009-10 fiscal year. Further, it also authorized the superintendent to employ necessary staff and fully define the working relationship with the district as outlined in the agreement.

Donation Accepted



Generous donations to GISD's Transition Center and the Marion D. Crouse Instructional Center were received by the board. Donations included personal care supplies for use by Transition Center students, and a Prone Stander and Mat for use by Marion D. Crouse Instructional Center students.

Employees Hired

At its meetings on September 8 and 22, the board approved the employment of Julie A. Banks, Teacher of Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder; Melissa R. Biazza, School Social Worker; Nicole J. Lucy, Teacher of Students with Cognitive Impairments; Joseph Buffa, Teacher - Genesee Early College; Tracie Crawford, Teacher of Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder; and Hannah Wilcox, Teacher of Students with Cognitive Impairments.

Leaves of Absence Approved

Leaves of absence were considered and approved for Dawn L. Carlson, Transportation Services; Susan K. Zajac, Special Education Services Center-North; Kathryn Bartlett, Elmer A. Knopf Learning Center; Melinda DeWyse, Transportation Services; Placido John Dias, Marion D. Crouse Instructional Center; Jessica Drouin, Transportation Services; Kim Putney, Transition Center; Dale Spillers, Transportation Services; Rebecca Stuber, Transportation Services; and Anne Zanger, Special Education Services Center-North.

Resignations Accepted

A resignation was accepted from Kara A. Deschler, School Psychologist. Resignations for the purpose of retirement were accepted from Barbara K. Williams, Health, Safety, and Nutrition Services; and Dalberta McField, Transportation Services.

Music and Fun in the Sun at MCIC



The students and staff at the Marion D. Crouse Instructional Center were treated to two musical events in August and September!

Jazz on Wheels

On August 26, the Jazz on Wheels group rolled into town. Pianist and leader, Pat Cronley, put on a great show with local musicians Sherm Mitchell on trombone and flute; Marcia Allen, vocals; Sabrina LaMar, vocals and saxophone; Cierra Curran, vocals;

Nick Callandro, bass; Gene McBride, drums; and Nick Opperman, guitar. Students danced and played along to the jazz and rock beats.

The students and staff look forward to this concert every summer! Jazz on Wheels was founded by Pat Cronley and other Flint area musicians in 2002 in an effort to introduce kids to different styles of music. For more information about Jazz on Wheels visit its website at <http://www.jazzonwheels.net>.

Guy Louis

On September 18, Guy Louis returned to MCIC for an outdoor concert to culminate camp week. He sang some old American favorites and then picked up the beat to play some good old fashioned rock and roll. Students participated by dancing and clapping along. Guy's performances are high energy and student-friendly. He loves interacting with kids of all ages. Guy has a repertoire of over eight assemblies for school-aged students. His music is positive, uplifting, and a joyful experience for everyone. He brings over 23 years of experience to every concert and is a very versatile musician. Visit Guy Louis on the web at <http://www.guylouis.com>.

Visionary Art Visits the Erwin L. Davis Education Center



The VSA arts of Michigan Emerging Artists Touring Exhibit entitled, Visionary Arts, was on display at the Davis Education Center from

August 15 through September 15, 2009. Visitors and GISD employees were treated to visual art works by a broad spectrum of Michigan VSA arts participants. The exhibit included works by six Genesee County students who participate with VSA arts of Michigan-Genesee County and Arts JAM!, which is a Flint after-school program. A GISD employee commented that "We look forward to this display every year. It brightens up our hallways." Two of the works were sold to local families and GISD employees.

Established in 1977, VSA arts provides and advocates for arts, education, and creative expression involving children and adults with disabilities, thereby strengthening the human spirit and improving the quality of life for all. VSA arts of Michigan provides arts opportunities to over 25,000 participants annually with programs and events that occur in schools, nursing homes, hospitals, and arts and community centers across the state. Genesee County has been involved with VSA arts since 1991. Information about classroom registration and programming for the 2009-10 school year will be on the VSA arts of Michigan website by November. For more information see <http://www.vsami-genesee.org>.



National Breast Cancer Awareness Month

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Breast cancer is the second leading cause of death from cancer among women in Michigan. In 2006, 331 women in Genesee County were diagnosed with Breast Cancer. The American Cancer Society estimates 40,170 women in the U.S. will die from breast cancer during 2009. Early detection enables early treatment and increases the chances of survival.

Breast cancer is an abnormal growth of tissue in one or both breasts. Usually breast cancer develops in the milk producing areas of the breast known as the ducts or lobules.

All women are at risk for developing breast cancer; however, there are several risk factors that can increase the risk. These risk factors include:

Women 50 years of age and older are at an increased risk.

Family history of breast cancer in a mother, sister, daughter, or other multiple relatives.

Personal history of breast cancer.

Never giving birth or having a first child after the age of 30.

Menstruating before 12 years of age or stopping menstruation after 55 years of age.

Other possible risk factors include obesity, low physical activity, alcohol consumption and long term use of hormonal replacement therapy. Mammography is one of the best tools available to detect breast cancer early. Yearly mammograms are recommended beginning at age 40. Clinical breast exams are also recommended once a year starting at age 20 along with monthly self breast exams.

The Genesee County Health Department's Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP) offers free clinical breast exams, mammograms, pelvic exams and Pap smears to women who qualify. The program may also assist with diagnostic services if an abnormality is found. Medicaid may be provided to assist with treatment when a woman currently enrolled in the BCCCP is diagnosed with breast or cervical cancer through the program.

The BCCCP program is available for women within age requirements that are uninsured, underinsured and income qualified. For example, a one person household with an income of \$27,075.00 is income qualified. It is not county restricted and does accept the Genesee Health Plan and those on Medicare part A only. For more information or to see if you qualify for this life saving screening, please contact the Genesee County Health Department at 810-237-4545.

New Arrivals

Stephanie Resky, teacher consultant, MCIC, is proud to announce that she and her husband recently welcomed two additions to the family! Grandson Aidan Frederick Schwalbach was born July 7, weighing 7lbs., 14 oz. On August 28, grandson Brody Steven Resky was born, weighing 8 lbs., 11oz. Congratulations to the Resky and Schwalbach families!

Don Gauthier, para-educator, EKLC, and wife Leigh, announce the birth of their son, Jalen Ross Gauthier. Jalen was born on August 24, weighing 8 lbs., 2 oz., and measuring 21.5 inches long. Congratulations to the Gauthier family!

GISD Flu Clinics

GISD is again offering flu shots to GISD staff at no cost. Clinics have been scheduled as follows:

Tuesday, October 20, 2009

8:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Marion Crouse Instructional Center (MCIC)

Friday, October 23, 2009

7:30 – 9:00 a.m. and 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Erwin L. Davis Education Center – Room 102AB

Tuesday, October 27, 2009

8:30 – 9:30 a.m.

Transition Center

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Health, Safety, and Nutrition Services

Monday, October 26, 2009

1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Elmer Knopf Learning Center (EKLC)

These are the only clinics scheduled and the only ones that GISD staff may attend where GISD will pay the fee. Staff may attend any clinic that fits into their schedule. Please make arrangements with your immediate supervisor to ensure that your work area is covered prior to participating on district time.

The McLaren Visiting Nurse Service will be directly billing individual insurance companies. **You must bring your insurance card and GISD ID badge with you.** You do not need to know if your insurance covers this service. McLaren staff will determine coverage for each person and the billing will be done automatically. If you do not have coverage for vaccinations through your insurance coverage, GISD will pay the cost for you.

Spouses and immediate family members (nine years of age or older) may also participate in the flu shot program by providing the insurance card or by paying the \$20.00 fee for the cost of the vaccine. This includes BCBS, Medicare (part B) and HealthPlus members.

Wedding Bells

Bob and Carol Snyder, physical therapists for GISD, are pleased to announce the marriage of their daughter, Heidi, to Brian Wolfe on June 27 at Mayfair Bible Church in Flushing. The couple lives in Kalamazoo, where Heidi teaches math at Loy Norrix High School and Brian is employed at Duncan Aviation in Battle Creek.

New Doctors in the Family

Patrick and Aileen Armstrong, son and daughter-in-law of Sharon Armstrong, coordinator for instruction – language arts, Education and Learning, have graduated as Doctors of Anesthesia from the University of Michigan. Patrick received the Academic Excellence Award from his class of residents. The couple will begin their last-year specialty study at Duke University and the University of North Carolina. Congratulations to the Armstrong family!

Michigan Special Needs Team Safety Rodeo Winners

On September 26, 2009, Genesee Intermediate School District hosted the 3rd Annual Michigan Special Needs Team Safety Rodeo at the Erwin L. Davis Education Center. Sixteen bus teams representing seven districts participated in the event. The first and second place winners for 2009 were GISD transportation teams. Jamie Magness, driver, and Andrea Gerth, transportation aide, were awarded first place. Dawn Wineman, driver, and Karolyn Habershaw, transportation aide, were awarded second place. Each two-person team participated in six events, including a written test, pre-check, wheelchair loading and securement, safety seat securement, special needs emergency, and a driving course. The first place team from GISD will participate in the 13th National Special Needs Team Safety Rodeo on March 5, 2010, in Orlando, Florida. The event is sponsored by the Michigan Association for Pupil Transportation, Special Needs Transportation Committee. Congratulations and great job, Jamie, Andrea, Dawn, and Karolyn!



October Birthdays

1	Nicole Lucy	MCIC
1	Vicki Waltrip	SESC-N
2	Joan Millington	Project CHOICE
2	Kelly St. Amand	Transportation Services
3	Traci Deno	Business Services
3	Nicole Slosser	Genesee Early College
4	Steven Gibson	Transportation Services
4	Debra Lancot	Transportation Services
4	Patricia Sanford	EKLC
5	Sharon Davis	Transportation Services
5	Lisa Voydanoff	Project CHOICE
5	Gary West	Transportation Services
6	Eric Wood	Mott Middle College
7	James Emmerling	Education & Learning
7	Kristine Kelly	EKLC
7	June Rice	Transportation Services
7	Roger Schlosser	Transportation Services
9	Placido John Dias	MCIC
9	Richard Kotsko	Transportation Services
11	Pamela Corey	MCIC
11	Theresa Kelly	SESC-N
11	Stacie Pearson	EKLC
11	Lee Rossmassler	Mott Middle College
12	Delia Garza	Transportation Services
12	Anica Tasevska	MCIC
13	Elaine Andres	Transportation Services
15	Nicolette Cheff	SESC-N
15	Marlene Cooper	Transportation Services
15	Verna Frederick	EKLC
15	Laurie Potter	EKLC
16	George McCarthy	Transportation Services
18	Carlton Lewis	MCIC
18	Shannon Warren	Transportation Services
19	Karolyn Habbershaw	Transportation Services
19	Rita Herrington	Transportation Services
20	Kara Montgomery	EKLC

21	Darryl Leeper	EKLC
21	Kelli McDowell	Transportation Services
21	Debra Wright	Business Services
22	Michele Marcy	EKLC
22	Mark Newton	MCIC
22	Angelina Skinner	Transportation Services
23	Janet Donnelly	EKLC
23	Deloris Eddins	MCIC
24	Beth Harvey	MCIC
25	Amy Scherrer	EKLC
26	Jacqueline Morgan	ECPS
27	Michele Bradley	Mott Middle College
27	Pamala Legutko	ECPS
28	Belinda Linn	Business Services
28	Roy Sovis	Education & Learning
29	Holly Johnson	TMS
30	Sharon Campbell	EKLC
30	Janis Jennings	Transition Center
31	Catherine Gardener	Transportation Services
31	Paul Holdren	Mott Middle College
31	Bradley Irwin	TMS

November Birthdays

1	Barbara Prevett	Business Services
1	Judy Torok	Transportation Services
2	Tina Mullins	TMS
2	Mary Staley	MCIC
3	Barbara Fetrow	Project CHOICE
3	Michael McBean	Transportation Services
4	Brigitte Stark	EKLC
4	Cheryl Thomas	TMS
5	Laura Caballero	SESC-N
5	Lori Leonard	Transportation Services
5	Barbara Wilson	MCIC



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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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