

INNERViews

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

GISD Awarded United States Tennis Association Grant

Thousands of youth from Genesee and Shiawassee counties are being introduced to tennis as the result of a grant from United States Tennis Association (USTA). The funds from the USTA Recreational Tennis grant are being used to provide tennis equipment for 40 schools. Additionally, tennis will be offered this school year as part of the physical education curriculum in all 40 schools. The USTA grant will also help fund part of GISD's 21st Century Community Learning Centers program, where tennis will be offered as part of the curriculum in after school and summer programs in more than 15 schools within Genesee County.

This is an exciting partnership as students from diverse backgrounds will be exposed to the game of tennis.



A student enjoys learning the game of tennis.

“Research continues to show the importance of participating in physical activity for young people. Tennis is a perfect opportunity to integrate physical activity into our schools and expose students to a lifelong sport. Many of the students in our schools will play the game of tennis for the very first time in their lives. We're excited to

bring this opportunity to Genesee County students,” said Gloria Bourdon, director of the GISD's Health, Safety, and Nutrition Services department. If you're interested in learning more about incorporating tennis into your physical education curriculum or after school program, please contact Gloria Bourdon at 591-5118.



Countryside Crafters Fair

November 7, 2009

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

Elmer A. Knopf Learning Center

It's time again for the annual Countryside Crafters Fair at the Elmer A. Knopf Learning Center (EKLC), located on the corner of Van Slyke and Maple Roads in Flint. Admission is only \$1.00 for this juried show with easy parking and a continuous shuttle from Carman-Ainsworth Middle School, which is located behind the EKLC. For more information contact Jill Haug, ELKC, at 591-4489.

PAC Members Appointed

At its October 13 meeting, the board reappointed Kristie Gross, representing Carman-Ainsworth Community Schools, to the GISD Special Education Parent Advisory Committee. At its meeting on October 27, the board reappointed Tracey Fowler, representing Davison Community Schools, and Jay Hewitt, representing Genesee School District. Additionally, the board appointed Natalie Dennings, representing Swartz Creek Community Schools, to the committee.



Meeting the Challenge

Dear Staff,

The past several weeks have not been filled with great news for GISD. The governor's proration of \$127 per student is now a looming threat of further cuts to come, unless the legislature acts to increase revenue. This deduction from the foundation allowance for Genesee Early College and Mott Middle College students will cause financial problems at both of these institutions. We are currently considering the budget ramifications and working to develop a plan of action. This situation is extremely serious and may become more of a problem if there is another proration in the winter or spring as revenues in our state continue to decrease dramatically. To make matters worse, we received information from the Genesee County Equalization Department that General Motors is filing a tax appeal for the 2009 tax year. They are filing this appeal to have their taxes adjusted because of falling property values, closed plants, and demolished factories. Obviously, they believe their property has lost significant value here in Genesee County due to the economy. If their appeal is granted, GISD will lose another \$1.16 million in revenue. This loss is in addition to the decline in property taxes I outlined for staff at the Fall Workshop. You will recall that I stated we would lose \$76,000 general fund revenue, \$447,000 career technical education revenue, and \$1.1 million special education revenue.

At this point, we are investigating the situation and attempting to determine the extent of damage this potential decline in revenue may cause. The hardest hit areas due to the millage levied will be special education and career technical education. Obviously, this is very bad news and will create a great deal of worry and frustration. However, I know and continue to believe that somehow, by working together, we can find solutions to these financial problems in order that we can continue to deliver quality programs for our constituent districts.

Following the theme of our mission and the excellent work we do as GISD staff, I am pleased to report that the Genesee Intermediate School District Board of Education recently approved our *2008-09 Annual Report* and our updated *2006-2011 Teaching, Learning, and Service Plan*. The board was extremely complimentary to GISD staff for all of the outstanding accomplishments over the last several years. Highlighting the list, of course, is the increased level of service we are providing to our constituent districts. Our *Teaching, Learning, and Service*

Plan is divided into five goal areas: (1) Learning for Success, (2) Leadership for Learning, (3) Staff Development, (4) Communication and Community Relations, and (5) Technology and Information Management.

In the Learning for Success goal area, we charted many accomplishments exemplified by our work with high priority schools. Our staff developed a rubric and process for personal curriculum use in local districts. We introduced ActPoint™ as a tool for schools to use in creating personal curriculums. Resources and support for MEAP and MME/ACT preparation scoring and data analysis were provided to constituent districts. GISD facilitated implementation of RtI (Response to Intervention) countywide. Reading Recovery® was integrated into RtI and early literacy services to include increased consulting, focusing on interventions. Interactive television (ITV) programs were implemented at the elementary school level, and ITV dual enrollment courses were expanded utilizing FANET/GenNET connections. GenNET distance learning systems were also used to conduct onsite science sessions from the Ligon Outdoor Center.

In the area of Leadership for Learning, GISD staff expanded curriculum consulting services in English language arts, Reading Recovery®, mathematics, science, and social studies with Eastern Upper Peninsula Intermediate School District, Lapeer County Intermediate School District, and St. Clair Regional Educational Service Agency. We initiated shared special education services in Bentley Community School District, Goodrich Area Schools, Lake Fenton Community Schools, and Lakeville Community School District. The utilization of BlackBoard was expanded to the GISD Board of Education and other local boards of education to implement paperless meetings. The Genesee County Superintendents Association Curriculum Committee of the Whole was developed and supported to address countywide curriculum issues, and a seat time waiver was granted to allow Genesee County high school students the opportunity to take all of their classes online.

In the area of staff development, we surpassed our training goals. We implemented Pioneers IV to increase the number of teachers proficient in the integration of technology with instruction. We continued our partnership with Kettering University and the University of Michigan-Flint to provide professional development to mathematics and science teachers for integrating technology into

(Continued on page 3)

instruction. We continue to provide training to GISD para-educators who work with special needs students. Our staff conducts teacher workshops on the new science GLCEs K-7 at GISD and in all five Lapeer County districts. We also conducted training for early childhood staff and many other professionals throughout the region.

In the areas of communication and community relations, we implemented the *GISD Style and Procedures Guide* and shared the document with local districts. Our staff implemented a legislative grassroots communications network with superintendents and local boards of education. We provided a presentation to each local board of education about GISD programs, services, and projects. We also provided numerous media reports on a variety of programs, news releases, as well as responded to media requests for information and background on educational issues.

In the area of technology and information management, we expanded shared technical service agreements to a total of 13 local districts. Our technology staff implemented an interface between SchoolsOPEN and AESOP software to manage employee benefits and payroll. They also implemented EmployeeWeb to replace payroll hard copy check information. In addition, the Technology and Media Services department created many electronic formats to transition functions to a paperless environment.

All of these accomplishments are examples of a great staff, working together, guided by our *Teaching, Learning, and Service Plan*. Many of our accomplishments are built on good, old-fashioned teamwork. We know that sharing resources and services with constituents brings cost savings, efficiencies, and helps direct resources to the classroom. By eliminating the duplication of services, we become more efficient, and we can increase our effectiveness to help find solutions to the terrible financial problems we are facing. The state's focus on consolidation of services is a mirror of our shared services program. We have been doing our best for many years to be certain that our organization and constituent districts survive the challenges of declining enrollment and severe financial cuts. Our focus on continuing to save money will certainly be an asset to all of us here at GISD. As always, your help is most appreciated. Once again, thank you, on behalf of the GISD Board of Education, for your excellent work.

Sincerely,



Expanded Education and Learning Services Contract with Lapeer County Intermediate School District Approved

Since the 2007-08 school year, the board has approved education and learning services contracts to form partnerships to provide education and learning consultant services with four state ISDs/RESAs, including Lapeer County Intermediate School District. Additionally, the board approved English as a second language services agreements with 17 Genesee County school districts and two public school academies. Currently, GISD has a contract with Lapeer County Intermediate School District to provide curriculum coordination services. Lapeer County Intermediate School District Superintendent Joseph Keena worked with the Education and Learning department to expand the shared education and learning services and, specifically, add instructional services coordination. A contract was submitted to the Lapeer County Intermediate School District, and Mr. Keena has returned the signed contract.

At its October 13 meeting, the board approved the contract for GISD to provide expanded education and learning services for Lapeer County Intermediate School District. Further, it is also authorized the superintendent to define the working relationship with the district as outlined in the agreement.

Genesee Early College Student Handbook and Mott Middle College Student Handbook Adopted

At its September 22, 2009 meeting, the board of education approved a first reading of revisions to the Genesee Early College Student Handbook and Mott Middle College Student Handbook, as recommended by the staff at Genesee Early College and Mott Middle College. These revisions reflect changes in law and provide updates to current terminology, changes in staff names and the missions, learner outcomes, and graduation requirements. The Policy Committee met and made amendments to the recommended revisions, which were discussed at the September 22, 2009 meeting.

At its October 13 meeting, the board conducted a second reading and adopted the Genesee Early College Student Handbook and Mott Middle College Student Handbook.

Health, Safety, and Nutrition Services Contract with Linden Community Schools Approved

Over the summer months, GISD has experienced several changes in the Health, Safety, and Nutrition Services department as a result of shifts in funding. After discussions with Linden Community Schools Superintendent Ed Koledo, it was agreed that GISD would enter into a shared services contract to provide before and/or after school programming for students in second through fifth grades in the Linden Community Schools during the 2009-10 school year. A youth development professional will be employed by GISD to provide these services, and Linden Community Schools will be billed for the services provided to deliver these programs. At its meeting on October 13, the board reviewed the documentation, approved the agreement, and authorized the superintendent/designee to hire appropriate personnel to deliver the services.

Plans for Potential Addition/Renovation at Elmer A. Knopf Learning Center Presented

In keeping with GISD's capital improvement plan, administration and Elmer A. Knopf Learning Center staff worked with THA Architects and Engineers to develop plans to repurpose the 67,235 square feet of existing space at EKLC. However, it soon became evident that a more pressing issue was the shortage of classroom space.

Subsequent to this planning, federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) dollars were made available for construction of special education facilities. The continuing uncertainty in district revenues and the availability of ARRA funds provide an opportunity to construct more classroom space to deal with EKLC's immediate needs at a minimal net cost to the district, an opportunity that may not present itself in the future. Therefore, GISD applied to the state of Michigan to use ARRA money to fund the construction of the additional classroom space, some 15,008 square feet which, if approved, would be the first phase of the project.

At the October 13 board meeting, representatives of THA Architects and Engineers and Wolgast Corporation were in attendance to present plans and timelines for a multi-phased project at EKLC that includes the addition of classroom space and, when funds allow, the renovation of the existing building space over multiple fiscal years. GISD administrators were also available to answer

questions about the design process, scope of the project, timelines, finances, and the ARRA funding process.

Approval of the application for ARRA funds at \$1.4 million is expected soon. When GISD is certain the funding is in place, board approval will be requested to move forward with bidding on phase one of the project. The estimated base cost of phase one is \$2,461,800. If the project is approved by the board, the balance of the cost would come from the Special Education Capital Projects Fund budget. The board accepted the presentation.

Newaygo County RESA Requests for Support of MASB Delegate Assembly Resolutions Approved

The board of education has designated Vice President Jerry Ragsdale to serve as a voting delegate to the Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB) Delegate Assembly, which was held on October 22 in Lansing. Prior to the Delegate Assembly, GISD received a request from the Newaygo County RESA asking for the GISD Board of Education's support for two resolutions to be voted on at the Delegate Assembly. The first resolution was entitled "5.50 Post Secondary and Career Readiness (Rev. 2009)". This resolution updates the "Employability Skills" resolution that was last updated in 1996. Their consideration of a second resolution entitled "9.65 School Construction" was also requested. This is a new resolution and would be included in the Health, Safety, and School Facilities section of the MASB 2009 Resolutions & Bylaws Handbook.

After reviewing the resolutions, the administration is not opposed to either position. Over the past year, the Superintendents Association Curriculum Committee of the Whole has been working with the GASC Technology Center staff and our Career Technical Education department, along with Assistant Superintendent for Education and Learning Mary Behm, to develop career technical education crosswalks with academic credit. The superintendents have reached consensus on which career technical education classes will be available for credit in the areas of language arts, mathematics, science, and visual arts.

The school construction resolution incorporates a great many elements of GISD's current practice.

As a result of review of the resolutions and GISD administrative input, the board provided guidance to its delegate for a vote of support for both resolutions.

Michigan Special Needs Team Safety Rodeo Winners Recognized

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 Habbershaw, 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.

At its October 27 meeting, the board recognized GISD's 2009 Michigan Special Needs Team Safety Rodeo winners.



Pictured left to right are Lawrence Ford, president of the GISD Board of Education; Jamie Magness and Andrea Gerth, winners of the 2009 Michigan Special Needs Team Safety Rodeo; and Gary West, director of GISD's Transportation Services.

Donations Accepted

Generous donations to Early Childhood Programs and Services, the Elmer A. Knopf Learning Center, and the Marion D. Crouse Instructional Center were received by the board. Donations included adaptive equipment, student hygiene products, nutritional supplements, and books for use by students.

2008-09 Donations Report Received

At its October 27 meeting, the board received a report that summarized donations made to GISD during the 2008-09 school year. The board accepted 154 donations with a total value of \$88,523.17. Donations ranged from cash and services for the Community Baby Shower to adaptive devices and instructional aids and were received from parents, staff members, organizations, businesses, and community members. All GISD special education center programs, as well as Education and Learning; Genesee Early College; Health, Safety, and Nutrition Services; Ligon Outdoor Center; and Mott Middle College received donations during the 2008-09 school year. After receipt of the donations report, the board expressed its sincerest thanks to all who have contributed to its programs.

Resignations Accepted

A resignation was accepted from Erin Lamb, Health, Safety, and Nutrition Services. Resignations for the purpose of retirement were accepted from Alan Houtaling, Elmer A. Knopf Learning Center and Michael Riley, Marion D. Crouse Instructional Center.

Accelerated Return from Leave Approved

At its October 13 meeting, the board considered and approved an accelerated return from leave of absence for Chanda Cleaves, Business Services.

Leaves of Absence Approved

Leaves of absence were considered and approved for: Monica Heicher, Transportation Services; Jamie Lamke, Elmer A. Knopf Learning Center; Susan Meyer, Early Childhood Programs and Services; Christine Shinavier, Transportation Services; Christine Emmendorfer, Transportation Services; and Tina Mullins, Technology and Media Services.

Students Build Custom Motorcycle

Through its Health, Safety, and Nutrition Services department, GISD partners with 15 Genesee County schools to provide the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program. These before- and after-school programs provide a variety of academic enrichment opportunities for students in grades K-9.

This past summer, students in the 21st Century Community Learning Centers summer program at Carman-Ainsworth Middle School participated in a unique and exciting opportunity. Over the course of the summer program, students built a custom motorcycle. With the help of local bike builder Jeff Olney, the students learned a host of technical, mechanical, and academic skills during their participation in this project. For more information about this project or the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program, contact James Yake, Health, Safety, and Nutrition Services, at 591-5120.



Pictured are students from Carman-Ainsworth Middle School building a custom motorcycle during the 21st Century Community Learning Centers summer program.

Literacy Awareness Day

If you want to help adults with their reading abilities, assist them with English as a second language, or if you know someone that needs assistance, come talk to the Genesee County Literacy Coalition at Literacy Awareness Day on Monday, November 9, 2009, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Literacy Awareness Day will take place at the Mission of Hope, located at 4618 Roberts Street in Flint.

For more information or to learn about volunteer opportunities, please call the Genesee County Literacy Coalition at (810) 239-9425.

Wild Swan Theater Visits MCIC

Twenty nine years of rave reviews from young people, parents, teachers, and the press has made Wild Swan Theater one of the most admired professional theaters for families in the nation, garnering praise for its ingenious artistry, its innovative audience accessibility program, and its projects for participants with disabilities. Premiering productions in its home base of Ann Arbor and touring them throughout Michigan and the Midwest, Wild Swan Theater has enchanted hundreds of thousands of play-goers of all ages in theaters, schools, libraries, and museums of all sizes. In addition to its many performances each year, Wild Swan Theater offers a wide variety of workshops for teachers and students, youth drama camps, and after-school programs.

The troupe visited Marion Crouse Instructional Center on Friday, October 2, to perform *Drum Me A Story* for the elementary and intermediate age students! *Drum Me a Story* is a delightful, humorous collection of well-known African tales including *Anansi and the Moss Covered Rock* and *How the Turtle Got Its Shell*, performed through storytelling, acting, and drumming. As part of the performance, Jaclyn Morrow, who has studied drumming for years, demonstrated her many drums and taught the audience about them. Their visit was part of the annual Performing Artist Series organized by MCIC music therapist, Carolyn Vierkorn. Costumes, audience participation, and photo opportunities after the show were three of many highlights of this year's event. Find out more information about Wild Swan Theater by visiting their website at <http://www.wildswantheater.org/>.

Wedding Announcement

Jessica Busch, daughter of MCIC secretary Doreen Busch, married Shawn Strout at Clay Hill Farms in York, Maine on Saturday, September 19, 2009. Jessica is Program Services/Admissions Coordinator at May Institute, a private school for Autistic students in Randolph, Massachusetts and Shawn is a chemical engineer for Shaw Group in Cambridge, Massachusetts. After a Mediterranean cruise honeymoon the couple will reside in Dorchester, Massachusetts. Congratulations to the newlyweds!

ECPS Fall Harvest

On Friday, October 23, 2009, Early Childhood Programs and Services (ECPS) held its annual Fall Harvest Festival for students and parents.

The students attended with their parents and participated in various activities, including face painting, ghost bowling, making ghost suckers, creating Fall necklaces, making popcorn hands, and decorating cookies. The activities were held in the multipurpose room and throughout the building, and refreshments were served.

There were 123 children and family members in attendance for this fun filled afternoon. The festival was a great success and enjoyed by all!



Pictured is an ECPS student who attended the Fall festival dressed as Elmo from Sesame Street.

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	Project CHOICE
4	Brigitte Stark	EKLC
4	Cheryl Thomas	TMS
5	Laura Caballero	SESC-N
5	Lori Leonard	Transportation Services
5	Barbara Wilson	MCIC
6	Cindy Carskadon	Project CHOICE
6	Janet Morey	Transportation Services
6	Marsha Steuck	Transportation Services
7	Sarah Conger	Business Services
8	Sandra Morgan-Jones	Genesee Early College
8	Kimberly Schmidt	Transportation Services
9	Janelle Kovacs	Project CHOICE
10	Crystal Yachcik	SESC-N
11	Jill McCarthy	EKLC
11	Stephanie Resky	MCIC

12	Wanda Buchler	Transportation Services
12	Kathleen Caldwell	Project CHOICE
12	Mary Rankins	Transportation Services
12	Terryl Sperlich	Mott Middle College
12	Delynn Stone-Demell	Transportation Services
13	Christina Hoffmeyer	EKLC
14	Pattie Chaney	MCIC
14	Lisa Whitson	Day Treatment
15	Doreen Busch	MCIC
15	Barbara Diegel	Transportation Services
15	Linnae Sauvola	Human Resources
16	Kari Huneycutt	MCIC
17	Shannon White	ECPS
18	Grace Kirby	MCIC
18	Gay Roos	Transition Center
18	Kay Saurman	SESC-N
19	Adam Kurtz	ECPS
19	Larry Williams	MCIC
20	Tara Hodo	Transportation Services
21	Peter Kaake	ECPS
22	Carl Cox	Transportation Services
22	Patricia Dombrowski	SESC-N
22	Margaret Radtke	Transportation Services
22	Linda Winer	Transportation Services
24	Mark Deschaine	SESC-N
24	Linda Hailey	HSNS
24	Rosemary Oseguera-Witham	SESC-N
24	Catrina Wiskur	HSNS
25	Sharon Armstrong	Education and Learning
25	Mary Erickson	EKLC
25	Evilia Jankowski	HSNS
26	Cheryl Barnhart	EKL
26	Carrie Weber	EKLC
27	Kimberly Boggs	Project CHOICE
27	Dalberta McField	Transportation Services
28	Carzella Hairston	Transportation Services
28	Jill Jackson	MCIC
29	Ronald Ledford	MCIC
29	Bonnie Russell	Mott Middle College
29	Patricia Spooner	Transportation Services
30	Bryan Aiello	Transportation Services
30	Christine Isaacs	MCIC
30	Steven Loftin	Transportation Services
30	Marsha Mancillas	EKLC
30	Theresa Shepard	Transition Center

December Birthdays

2	Marie Dunn	Transition Center
2	Kevin Strieter	TMS
3	Douglas Haseley	SESC-N
3	Joanne LeBlanc	Education and 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



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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.

INNER*Views*

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