

DIRECTOR'S REPORT for the BOARD

Garden City Community School

October 18, 2010

ENROLLMENT: 140 TOTAL as of 10/15/10

Elizabeth's Kinder: 19, Marti 1/2- 21, Gina 1/2- 24, Wren 3/4 – 16, Ben 3/4- 16, Ryan 5/6 – 23, Brenda 7/8- 21
We still have some openings in classes, so please pass the word!

COMMUNITY CIRCLES These take place every Wednesday morning at 9AM and everyone is invited to attend any of them! It's incredible how quickly students are mastering public speaking and performance skills!

- **9/22/10 – Wren's 3-4 class:** shared their video taped skits about the 5 R's
- **9/29/10 – Marti's 1-2 class:** singing and puppet skits
- **10/6/10 – Gina's 1-2 class:** singing and skits
- **10/13/10 – Elizabeth's kindergarten:** play with costumes and backdrop created by the kinders

RECENT SCHOOL EVENTS

- **Sept 23: Family Goal Night** was very successful this year. We had about 88% of our families attend and the others were given their "assignments" to be completed and returned to teachers. I have had much interest and requests from other schools who have heard me talk about this family educational event. Families also voted Tiffany Coffey as their second parent rep to the board.
- **Sept 28:**
 - Ryan's 5-6 class spent the day at the **Foothills Learning Center** as part of their geology unit. A few days later, the Foothills staff brought an exciting explosive volcano experiment which was re-enacted on the playground for all classes to observe.
 - Brenda's 7-8 class spent the day in **downtown Boise** learning about the public art throughout the town. The **Boise Arts Commission** provided a tour guide and they also visited our wonderful partner store, Anthropologie (front window display) to learn more about making their current recycled art display as well as tour their store to learn more about design.
- **Sept 30** – Ben and Wren's 3-4 classes walked to the **GC library** to learn about the facility and gather new resources.
- **Oct. 1** – following our music focus this year, 5-8 grade students were invited by BSU to a free performance at the Morrison Center titled "**Saxaphobia**" where they listened, learned and experimented with various saxophones with the entertaining musicians.
- All classes have been taking advantage of the beautiful weather by integrating their class lessons as they take field trips to the Hyatt Wetlands. We've had many parent volunteers help with these interesting, educational hikes.
- **Oct. 15** – Brenda's 7/8 class was shuttled by the Boise WaterShed to their facility off Chinden to experience their latest educational class. All other GCCS teachers have also scheduled to visit this partnering facility. It's an incredible learning experience & they are providing us transportation free of charge.

CURRICULUM

- All teaching staff is taking an NNU class for two credits titled "Differentiation for the Classroom" which Director Cindy will be teaching. Staff is focusing on creating continuity from grades K-8.
- Teachers are preparing some exceptional lessons and activities for first tri-mester. We plan to share some of these with you next month.
- Student Teachers: Pat Griffin (Wren's 3-4), Shana Freedman (Special Education with Angela) and Julynn Brinton-Hall (Brenda's 7-8 and Art Studio) are all doing a great job with their student teaching experiences at GCCS under the guidance of our great staff.. We also have a BSU student, Katy Knight, in her "observation block" who is observing 100 hours at our school. She has been placed in the Art Studio as well as various classrooms as teachers' lesson plans integrate arts for Katy to observe. She hopes to become our student teacher for art in the near future.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

1. **Sept 21** – Secretary Jeanna was trained by the state in the new **Immunization Requirements**
2. **Sept 29** – This time the staff’s NNU Differentiation class that I’m facilitating was **“Developing Tiered Instruction”**. These are very important skills to know how to meet all students’ “learning readiness” regarding the teaching of one idea within the classroom. Staff will be sharing these at our next class meeting and I hope to have examples shared with the board in the near future.
3. **Sept 30** – Angela & Cindy attended the SDE’s Federal Programs Director Meetings
4. **Oct. 7 & 8: State Teacher Professional Development days.** The Idaho Art Education Association’s State Conference as held at GCCS! All GCCS teachers attended the workshops and gained valuable ideas and through art classes and networking with over 100 other teachers from throughout Idaho. The workshops were exceptional. The keynote speaker was the editor of SchoolArts and has asked several of us to write articles about our school and arts integrated projects she saw throughout the school! Collaborative art projects between Elizabeth & I through the kindergarten’s Art Studio session were the table decorations.
5. **Oct 6-8** – Angela attended the state conference for **Exception Children** in Sun Valley. She felt she gained the most knowledge regarding Asperger’s syndrome.
6. **Oct 12-13-** Cindy will be attending the **Idaho Superintendents’ Network** which she was chosen to join as part of an application process last summer. These meetings focused on various school district leadership topics including developing school leaders and best ways to observe and evaluate staff.
7. **Oct. 13** – **All Staff “Conversation Café”** meeting to discuss where GCCS is at in indicators for best practices for overall school aspects as well as in curriculum, assessment and instruction. School Improvement Team members Angela, Wren and Brenda helped Cindy facilitate this process. Information gathered is being formatted and will be used as staff input to develop our continuously changing school improvement plans and professional development decisions.
8. **Oct. 18** – Cindy will be at School Improvement trainings in Parma titled **“Observation Protocol”** with the Capacity Builder project.
9. **Oct. 19** – Cindy will be in Fruitland at the **“Prep Academy”** with the Capacity Builders Program working on teacher evaluations and “evidence vs. opinion” trainings.
10. **Oct. 19** – Michele Roth is attending the Idaho Educational Technology Assn’s trainings on the new Idaho State-wide Data process (ICEE)
11. **Oct. 20** - As part of our Healthy Schools program, Elizabeth will represent GCCS at the newly forming Dept of Health & Welfare’s **“Healthy Eating Active Living”** statewide plan and network which Laurel has been helping.
12. **Oct. 21** – No School as all GCCS staff will be attending the **Teaching with Poverty in Mind workshop by Eric Jensen.** GCCS is the host of this state-wide event and will also be hosting Eric Jensen at the school October 20!

FINANCES

- The approval of Idaho’s Job Stimulus funds came through last month, but no one has received the funds nor have the requirements for use and reporting been decided by the feds yet.

MARKETING

- We have continued to have tours of the school.
- An on-going ad is now in Family Magazine each month as well as an elementary and middle school ad in their on-line version.
- Hosting the Idaho Art Ed Conference and the Eric Jensen workshop is currently helping get our name in public.
- ***“Kids’ Fit Expo”**, was Oct 9-10 sponsored by Idaho Business League. We had an information booth at this event and had our school flyers included in their goodie bags. The booth included our new display board, lots of students’ pictured in various engaging activities and huge student artwork as the backdrop. Thanks to Kathy Anderson and Michelle Rollins (parent volunteers) for helping me with the booth.
- The Auction Committee is developing a photo montage/video for the event. Melanie Folwell is on our PR committee and will be helping me turn this video into a promotional tool to use for the school (after the auction).
- Brenda’s 7-8 grade class has been working hard in their Video Production unit recently. They are getting close to finalizing their advertisements about GCCS which we will use to promote the school in various ways.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Thursday Oct 28. Community Council (6:30-7:30+PM).** The parent board reps will lead a discussion about changing the school's name.
- **Thursday, Oct. 21 (7:30AM – 3:00PM) GCCS is hosting the workshop “Teaching with Poverty in Mind” by Eric Jensen.** School will be closed that day as we want our entire staff to attend. Board members, friends, parents and public...as long as there's space, it's open to anyone. \$75 cost and college pro dev credit available! This is very exciting for us to be hosting and it's becoming great PR! Eric Jensen will be arriving early Wed Oct 20 so we will be hosting him around Boise and at the school. Let Cindy know right away if you'd like to attend so we can have the food and chair count finalized. Staff and board members' registration fees will be covered through a professional development grant we have.
- **Tues, Nov. 2 – VOTE!!!!** Please be sure to vote this time. Be sure you've researched the State Ed Supt. candidates to know who will be best for the future of GCCS! This vote is vital to us!
- **Saturday, Nov. 13 – ANNUAL “Night of the Dragons” AUCTION.** Be sure to buy your tickets right away from Michele and pass the word to others about attending and/or donating!
- **Thursday, Jan. 13: GCCS's Update to the Idaho Public Charter Commission , 9AM+** This is a “state of the school” power point/report I prepare and present, but the Commission expects the board president and treasurer to also attend. Anyone else interested is invited. I plan to also have Michele attend as business manager so she can experience the process and answer any detailed educational finance questions which might arise.

NOTE to BOARD: The staff and students are absolutely amazing this year! You're always invited to our school events and classes so you can experience the great “feel” first hand!

Respectfully submitted by Cindy *Hoovel*, GCCS Director