

DIRECTOR'S REPORT for the BOARD

Garden City Community School

June 21, 2010

ENROLLMENT

- **Committed Enrollment for 2010-2011 as of 6/14/10: 150 (Goal is 170)**
Elizabeth K-21, Marti 1/2-23, Gina 1/2-24, Wren 3/4 -15, Ben 3/4 -16, Ryan 5/6 -26, Brenda's 7/8 -25.

CURRICULUM

(See professional development & school improvement plan for this month's report)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- **New Teacher training** was held May 25. Topics covered included ethics, GCCS policies, Adlerian Psychology, teacher evaluation processes, our charter contents and catching them up on the extensive professional development staff has been participating in the last two years. I am developing a notebook/a format so any new staff members will receive the same training when first hired to ensure all staff has the needed legal and GCCS information.
- **Staff Professional Development, June 7 – 8**
 - Monday:
 - The 2009/10 and 2010/11 staff met together for the first half hour to share "What I will take away from...." Appreciate Marin, Lisa and Tawna. They also celebrated the year by creating a banner of all the things they felt made the year successful. (I hope to have the board add to this, then we'll hang it in the school and post it on the website.)
 - The remainder of the morning was preparing the 2010-11 staff for next year.
 - Afternoon: Workshop by Idaho Capacity Builders, Joanie & Kathleen "What Students Must & Should Know" working towards planning units that are meaningful to address state standards
 - Tuesday: Grade level teams used this day to collaborate and prepare learning units for next year with the day ending in a relaxing celebration potluck at Brenda's house
- **Math Initiative Classes** – as required by state law for all elementary teachers and administrators, we have been trying to attend the intensive 3 credit math course. This summer Brenda, Ben, Marti and I will be taking the classes and the new teachers are hoping for openings next school year. So far, the SDE covers these costs.

TEACHER EVALUATIONS Certified teacher evaluations were completed in April. Paraprofessional evaluations were completed by Angela and Cindy and given to these employees. This is not required by law, but I wanted them to have acknowledgment of their strengths and any areas they can work to improve.

ART STUDIO This month's volunteer guest artists included:

- **Dancing:** Carolina McArthur, dance choreographer and owner of our neighboring business The Dance Studio. She created individual dances for each grade level incorporating subjects they have been studying. Students attended their sessions in her "real" dance studio! She has been working with them for three weeks and will join them for their outdoor performances for the Family Fun Night, May 20.
- **Boise River Arts Festival:** Director Cindy worked with classes to create an installation art piece of hanging mobiles as part of this arts festival at the request of their festival chairman. This will be used at the Idaho Charter Conference, the GC River Arts Festival and has been requested to be on display at the Boise Water Shed site. Eventually it will return to hang in the school.

- Students in grades 3-8 have been finalizing their portraiture drawing lessons and every student completed their end of the year portraits to add to their GCCS portfolios..

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN *(see professional development & curriculum also)*

I am currently finalizing year end reports due for all the federal grant monies during June. These are including:

1. Title IA budget and school improvement plan
2. Title IA comprehensive plan to qualify as “School-Wide” Title I which allows our special services staff to help ANY student in the school – versus the few that “qualify” financially and academically only.
3. Idaho Coordinated Healthy School Action Plan for 2010-11
4. IDEA/Exceptional Child Report and final budget from this year
5. SDE Discipline reports (every student referral and consequence has to be reported to SDE)
6. Special Education Discipline Tracking Report
7. Safe & Drug Free School action plans and budget report

SPECIAL SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

- **GCCS Garden Party Family Fun Night, May 20** About 450 attended this extremely successful event which was filled with a very full potluck, dance or singing performances by each class, art shows covering the school and special appreciation name tags and gifts to school volunteers, parents and the three teachers who were leaving (Marin, Tawnia and Lisa)
- **Student Transition Day, June 2** Current and future students enjoyed a fun hour with their next year’s teacher and classmates. Students staying in the same class worked with their 2010-11 teacher to create the welcoming plans. Former GCCS students, 9th graders Cai Odell and Michelle Little, visited with the graduating 8th graders with the help of Pat Griffin facilitating. They ate pizza while they asked questions and got advice for the transition to traditional schools from the older students. Parents met during this time to ask Director Cindy questions and enjoy informally visiting with each other.
- **School Clean Up Day, June 3** The entire school cleaned their rooms and other areas this day with all school work and art portfolios going home.
- **Last Day of School, June 4** (individual class activities in morning, swimming/rock climbing at the Y 11-2 (paid with Healthy Schools grant) and 8th grade graduation/school celebration community circle 2:15-3:00PM.
- **Idaho Charter School State Conference, June 15 – 16** was attended by Cindy, Brenda Miller, Michael Tetrault, Angela Banning and Wren Nicks. Cindy and Brenda gave a workshop on Student Led Conferences and we had a school display as part of their integrating science school exhibits.
- **School facility improvements:**
 - **Art Studio & Multi-Purpose Room** Thanks to Bart Gepner, Candy Wildt, and various other volunteers (who were helping to work off payments due) for the great improvements made to our art studio and multi-purpose room! Pat & Elizabeth spent a lot of time helping, too. The studio is larger and everything’s been freshly painted and cleaned!
 - **Staff Bathroom** – this has been freshly painted by a parent (working off payments that were due).
 - **All classrooms** have been completely “gutted” and are being re-planned by the teacher moving into the area. This will include better space planning, acoustics adjustments and some fresh painting needed taped items pulled off the paint.

STAFF NEWS

- Secretary: The position was advertised and we have hired Jeanna (sounds like Gina) Vickery to be our secretary. She has been a volunteer office greeter throughout the year, so we have been impressed with her skills, personality and work ethic throughout the year and are very pleased she has accepted the position. She has a 7th grade daughter attending GCCS. Jeanna received several days of training at the beginning of June and will start August 9 working on an hourly basis.
- Special Services: Angela will continue to be the Special Services Coordinator and part-time counselor next year. She is to be thanked for doing an exceptional job with our special needs students and special services staff this year. In fact, we recently received a letter from the State Department of Education stating our school was “commended” for the great job our Special Education program has been run this year. Every requirement was completed and all reviews went well. This is the first year we have received this acknowledgment!
- Support Staff:
 - Pat Griffin was re-hired on a full-time basis to work in the special needs area as well as work with many of the teachers getting his student teaching experiences completed for his teaching certification. In addition to mentoring Pat, teachers will sometimes trade their classes and work with Pat’s special needs groups while he gets his teaching hours with their classes.
 - Linda Selby was re-hired on a part time, hourly basis to continue working with special services.
 - Shana Freedman was given additional hours. She will continue as the kindergarten aid from 8:30AM – noon, but will work in Special Education in the afternoon. She will also be using the SpEd experience to complete her Special Ed teaching certification.
 - Gaylen Curry*, currently our bus driver, has been hired at minimum wage as recess safety monitor from 10:30AM – 12:30PM.
 - Michelle Rollins* has been hired as lunch room monitor and facilitator at minimum wage from 10:45AM – 1:15PM.
*These positions in the past have been covered by Special Services staff – taking away from their teaching time and costing us more per hour.

TECHNOLOGY No report

FINANCES –

- Proposed 2010-2011 budget report has been published in the Idaho Statesman this past week and will be voted on by board for approval to send to the Idaho Department of Education. This included our current and past (4 years required) which Michele had to prepare for this public review requirement.
- Michele worked with our new auditors to get most of our 2009-2010 financial audit completed on June 16.
- ***NOTE: We still need to get more students as this is what will ease up the budget for next year. Please help recruit and/or tell me your ideas!***

MARKETING & PUBLIC RELATIONS

- ***Word of mouth is still the best way to recruit – please help with this!***
- Summer tours will be offered every Wednesday at 6PM June 23 – August 4. They will start shortly after 6PM and will be done in a group tour format that is completed by 7PM. I need volunteers to help – especially in July while I’m gone. Please let me know if you can commit to help with any of these. (If requested, I will contact any visitors to give them more information following their visits.)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Boise River Arts Celebration, Tuesday, June 29, 5:00-7:30PM** at Garden City Hall. Our students' river art "hanging mobile" installation will be on display while artists are performing and creating. The event is free!
- **GCCS Pot Luck in DeMeyer Park, Thursday, August 5 at 6PM**
- **Staff In-Services – August 16-20**
- **GCCS OPEN HOUSE, Thursday, August 19, 6-7PM.** Introduction of staff and board and casual visits to classrooms/teachers for students and families.
- **School Starts for Students August 23.**

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Hoovel, Director