

From: LARGENT, JAMES
Sent: Friday, October 6, 2017 8:44 AM
To: GISD-Staff
Subject: Supt Weekly 10/6/17

Good Morning GISD. Thanks for another great week in the district and I hope you all enjoy a nice, restful weekend.

- I had an interesting meeting at the Service Center this week regarding **teacher recruitment**. Just some interesting stats. **Fifty percent of teachers work within 30 miles of where they graduated high school**. Only **4% of students on the ACT survey indicated that they wanted to be a teacher**. We discussed with the TEA representative what our thoughts were on this and how to get more of our students to want to become teachers. The general consensus was that we need our state leaders to **respect teaching as a profession, pay and take care of teachers, and promote teaching as the noble profession it is**. I think he got more feedback from superintendents than he was asking for...
- I received a nice story last week after I emailed the winner of the homecoming tickets that they had won. This was the response I got: That is awesome! **I am giving them to a student in one of my classes. He has never been to a game, and he has a "date" to hoco. I am pretty sure that this is his first date as well**. When I won this morning, he was in my first period class. I asked him if he had tickets yet. He told me no. I am so excited for him. **First date, first hoco, first football game! What a day!**
- One of our parents from **Brawner** nominated **Brenda Browning** for **95.3's Teacher of the Week!** The radio station surprised her with the award. **Brenda received \$150 in gift certificates** from Cheerful Heart, Visa, Whataburger, and Chili's! **Way to go, Brenda!** We are proud of you!
- This week, **GMS, Mambrino, Emma, Brawner and Baccus** combined for a **parent/student picnic** Monday night. They had **824 parents and students** register at the event. This did not include those who did not register, staff and their children, which brought the number to **over 900!** Special thanks to **Jodie and Menielle** for manning the **mobile bus**.
- Congrats to our **tennis team** as they finished **2nd place in district** and will be hosting the **Bi-district match** against Lakeridge.

Commentary:

If you are like me, events like what happened in Las Vegas this week make me ask myself **why these things happen?** I won't get into all the politics, legal discussion, blame game, etc. But, I will say that it seems we have **more and more groups and factions who make it their purpose in life to hate and tear down anyone who isn't just like them.** People who **look different, act different, worship different, have different values, customs, opinions, etc.** These people have all become targets of these hate groups and many of these groups hide behind perfectly normal-sounding names. **Non-stop hate is what we see on the news, opinion shows, talk radio, and social media.** It has almost become the norm on social media and unfortunately even with some of our political leaders.

I don't know what causes a seemingly normal man to spend days hoarding automatic weapons in a hotel room, then indiscriminately spray bullets into a crowd of young people who are only there to enjoy a concert. **Some things just don't make sense.** Maybe we will learn more as the days and weeks go on. But, maybe he had seen so much hate-speech on TV, radio and social media that he bought in to some ideology and that set him off to do what he did. I guess we may never know. But, I do know that **hating someone, or a group of people, just because they may think or act differently from you is the first step in having a pretty miserable existence...**

Emails this week:

From Mambrino: The first few weeks of school I felt I was on a sinking ship..... Thanks to Sermarini, Brown, Schulte, Williams, Fullerton, Curtsinger, Martin, Carpenter, Periello, Kinnear, and Mr. Wayne being there to help and guide me! My ship is being sailed and cannot sink! I am so blessed to be a Pirate and to be surrounded by so much love, support, and encouragement!

From District Staff: Shout out to Mrs. Kinser at AES-she brightens my days every Tuesday and Thursday when I go service one of my students. Her big smile and love for teaching shines throughout. Thank you for loving the kiddos and building those relationships! You rock!

From Mambrino: Mrs. Younk and team.... All I can say is WOW! I am amazed at the job they do with their sweet babies. Katrina, Ann, and Brittany, Mambrino is blessed to have you!

From GHS: I have to boast about our **Technology Dept.** and specifically **Menielle Donahoo**. I reached out to **Mrs. McClintock and Mrs. Donahoo** needing some help with some technology for my upcoming PBL. Not only did they respond immediately and with a reassuring solution, but they also accommodated to my schedule to come meet with me in person. Mrs. Donahoo was extremely helpful in helping me with exactly what I needed and even **went as far as to make a 15 minute YouTube video to teach me as well as my classes on how to implement this technology**. I cannot say enough about how **helpful and accommodating our Technology Dept. has ALWAYS been** and how much I appreciate Mrs. Donahoo and all her hard work. Thank you for hiring **such great people**.

From Brawner: I want to brag on **Jeff Berryman**. His organization of the event and communication with the campuses was top notch. Well done, Jeff! I know everyone had a great time. It was **such a family-friendly event** and the weather was perfect. I see this as an **annual event!**

From District staff: Thanks to **Dona Wright** for executing the **dip contest and MLB playoff hot dog day** in the administration building. She always makes it look so easy by covering every detail from the right amount of food needed to the most creative decorations. **Thanks Dona for all you do.**

From a Parent: I was so, so impressed with **Mrs. Dana Gonzalez at AMS** yesterday at our meeting to discuss my sweet Jr. High kid! **Mrs. Gonzalez is definitely for the kids!** She wants the students to be successful and goes above and beyond to give them the helps and in-class support they need to excel academically. She shared with me the things she does to help our students **make real connections to *their* past and *their* history**, which is so important in today's fast paced, self-focused lives. **Thank You Mrs. Gonzalez, I am so blessed to have you as my kid's teacher!!**

From GHS: **Melissa Knight at GHS** is a great teacher. She keeps her kids **engaged from bell to bell, she is awesome as one of the STUCO sponsors**, and is a great colleague willing to help anyone and anywhere. **We are truly blessed in this district and at GHS to have a teacher of her quality.**

Have a great weekend and **GO PIRATES!!**

JL

Dr. James M. Largent
Superintendent

Granbury ISD

217 N. Jones St.

Granbury, Texas 76048

(817) 408-4007

(817) 408-4014 Fax

james.largent@granburyisd.org

www.granburyisd.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/granburyisd

Twitter: www.twitter.com/granburyisd