

MYERS, CHERIE

From: LARGENT, JAMES
Sent: Friday, January 6, 2017 9:09 AM
To: GISD-Staff
Subject: Supt Weekly 1/6/17
Attachments: A-F January 2017.docx

Good Morning GISD! Welcome to 2017 and I hope you have had a great week back in the saddle. I have been around to several campuses and see lots of smiling faces and students and staff hard at work. A few things this week:

- January is **School Board Appreciation month**. Mr. Meador put out a press release regarding this, but as you see our board members, please thank them for their work on behalf of our staff and students. We have made, and continue to make, much progress with the support and leadership of our school board.
- Today is **National Technology Day**. I think we have the **best tech department in the State of Texas**, so when you see those folks around, please tell them how much you appreciate the work they do!
- We have moved into our new central office building at **217 N. Jones**. I want to commend our staff for moving in quickly and efficiently, and we were up and running on Wednesday. Thanks so much to **Randy Leach and his staff** for the tremendous job they did in helping make this a quick move. Also, thanks to **Amy Wood and her staff** for helping get technology up and running and making sure our furniture was ready to go. As the high school staff can attest, there will be several more weeks of minor things to correct, but we could not have asked for a better move. We are all excited to have our departments under one roof and the increased efficiencies it will provide for our staff and community.

A-F news:

As you probably know by now, TEA released the "trial run" results of the **A-F system** yesterday. You can read the many, many articles about this system and the many, many questions about how Blue Ribbon Schools, schools with many gold performance standards, and schools named as the top 10% of schools in the nation are suddenly receiving D's and F's under this system. A couple of articles can be found here <http://www.dallasnews.com/news/education/2017/01/05/even-high-performing-schools-get-ds-fs-texas-new-grading-system> and here <http://www.statesman.com/news/local-education/texas-schools-and-districts-got-their->

[letter-grades-from-state/06y5h5VGHqhfgcAozpXh7I/](#) It is also quite interesting that politicians chose to release these grades, right before the legislative session begins...

I have written an article that I will release today about my thoughts. You can find it attached (above) to this weekly. Along with it, I would encourage you to read an article written by my friend, Mary Ann Whitaker from Hudson ISD, that goes into detail about the calculations for the A-F system. You can find it here: https://s3.amazonaws.com/scschoolfiles/484/a-f_explanation_1.pdf

As the Legislative session gets under way next week, I will regularly include a synopsis of what is going on in Austin in my weekly. I can already tell you that it will be a very contentious session as related to public education. This may be the session that finally convinces school employees of the importance of voting...

Email this week:

From Brawner: I am so thankful **Ms. Sullivan** texted me about (my student) being good today. All I'm used to is negative. My student has been trying to read everything that he finds, which normally it's like pulling his arm to read. He has improved in everything and is still so kind and sweet. We are so grateful for her being his teacher because we adore her. She treats him the same as all the other students.

From **Rich Teaching**, many teachers struggle with providing students with what they need the most: **someone who cares about them and their school progress**. As we know, bad things happen to everyone. However, students from poverty may not have the cognitive skills, emotional support, or the coping skills necessary to deal with adversity. The **key isn't to be sympathetic but to show empathy** and provide tools. **Empathy is the ability to understand and share the same feelings**. The good news is that empathy can be taught. There are many ways to show you care. Make your caring explicit. Not every student can read your face or body language, which might be your primary way of showing empathy.

Here are **five empathy-response tools**.

- 1) "I am so sorry to hear that."
- 2) "This makes me sick"
- 3) "We were worried about you."
- 4) "Are you OK"
- 5) "That's awful. I don't know if I could handle that as well as you are."

Judging a student's situation gets in the way. Don't tell him or her how to fix it. That comes much later. Again, try empathy first.

I hope you all have a great weekend and **GO PIRATES!!**

JL

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MYERS, CHERIE

From: LARGENT, JAMES
Sent: Friday, January 13, 2017 1:18 PM
To: GISD-Staff
Subject: Supt weekly 1/13/17

Good afternoon GISD, I hope all of you are finishing up a great week in the district.

- The **Hood County Livestock show** is in full swing this week. We have lots of GISD students participating in **showing animals and projects** and a lot of work goes into this show. Thanks to our **teachers, sponsors and students** for all their hard work. If you get a chance to go out and support them, please do. I am sure we will send out a **full list of winners next week**.
- As of yesterday, we have already had over **80 people apply** for the **Naturally Slim program**. After all applications are in, the company we are working with will review all applications and select the **100 participants** for this year. So, if you are interested in improving your health and learning new ways to take care of yourself, please apply. I know those who are selected will see some really good results.
- Probably the most interesting (and amusing) **article I read this week** was from an **author whose poem was used on the 7th and 8th grade STAAR tests**. The poet said **she could not answer the questions about her own poems** on the tests. Please re-read that last sentence... I think this should give anyone a real good idea about where we are as it relates to testing in Texas. You can read the article here: https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/answer-sheet/wp/2017/01/07/poet-i-cant-answer-questions-on-texas-standardized-tests-about-my-own-poems/?utm_term=.3fb925244064
- **Congrats to Acton Middle School!** This week we were notified that AMS had been chosen as a **Texas School to Watch** by the **Texas Middle Schools Association**. What this means for AMS is they are:
 - 1) Awarded as a High Achieving School
 - 2) Designated as a Model School
 - 3) Recognized as a school for others to visit

The Texas Schools to Watch program is implemented by **Texas Middle School Association** and the **National Forum to Accelerate Middle Grades Reform**. To learn more about TSW, you can go to: <http://www.texaschoolstowatch.com/Home.aspx>

Legislative update (*excerpts taken from the Texas Association of Community Schools*): The Texas Tribune's Evan Smith interviewed Lt. Governor Dan Patrick on Wednesday morning and asked if he intended to **hold school finance hostage to school choice**. Lt. Gov. Patrick replied that "hostage" isn't a very nice word. He explained that he and the Governor were elected because the **people want choice**, and that he intends to move forward with school choice right away. While they are still in the process of writing school choice legislation, he suggested it would include **education savings accounts (ESAs), business tax credits, and special education vouchers**.

Lt. Governor Patrick **avoided directly answering questions** on many issues, but he was **eager to give his opinion on A-F**. "The A-F system is not going away." In Lieutenant Governor Patrick's eyes, A-F is a done deal and while they are open to suggestions of how to make it better, it is here to stay. The following is a telling exchange between Dan Patrick and Evan Smith on this issue, which shines a light on **the real (unstated) reform goal of A-F**.

Dan Patrick: Our A-F system is not going away.
Evan Smith: Does anybody outside the Capitol like it?
Dan Patrick: Schools that got A's and B's like it.
Evan Smith: That isn't a very long list, is it?
Dan Patrick: Maybe that's why we should have school choice.

It is going to be a **long hard session for public education**. It will take a fight to fix school funding, reduce testing, oppose vouchers, and address the A-F fiasco.

Emails this week:

From AMS: I'd like to give a **HUGE "Thanks"** to a few of our staff for making last night a very successful evening for students and parents. **Counselors** – Great job hosting our "Grand Opening" of our new Family Resource Center. **Mrs. Julie Deger** – Excellent presentations by your students on their STEAM (Science Technology Engineering Arts Math) projects over energy and air pollution. **Mrs. Carrie Jones** – Wonderful open house (classroom) for parents to meet you as their child's new Algebra I and 8th Math Teacher. Parents were very appreciative of your time and efforts to meet you. We had well over 200 participants total for an amazing night! Thanks for all you do!

From a parent: Every day when I pick up my son no matter who is with him...**every teacher/staff member** has a **bright smile** and such a **loving attitude** towards all of the students. It is refreshing and makes me **glad my student goes to MAMBRINO!**

From District Staff: I know this goes on **every day at Brawner**, but it's always inspiring to see you and your staff **teaching, reinforcing, and practicing good behavior and life lessons**. Well done!

From **Rich Teaching**, there are many ways to show empathy and connect with your students. Just a **few ideas**:

One and Done: Do one favor, make one connection, or show empathy that is so powerful that an individual or whole class remembers it.

Two for Ten: Identify one or two students who most need a connection. For ten consecutive days, invest two minutes a day in connecting time to talk about anything.

Three in Thirty: Ask enough questions to discover three things (other than name) about every student you have.

Remember, empathy does not mean you let them off the hook for bad behavior. It means you care about the student. It means you want to help them get better so that he or she knows better options for next time. It is about you being an ally for how your students feel as much as how they behave. When the teacher is empathetic, you've just added another good reason for your students to come to school, especially to your class.

Have a great (extended) weekend as we have **Monday off for Martin Luther King Jr. holiday**. Please stay safe and dry, get some rest, and we will see you on Tuesday! **GO PIRATES!!**

JL

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MYERS, CHERIE

From: LARGENT, JAMES
Sent: Friday, January 20, 2017 10:11 AM
To: GISD-Staff
Subject: Supt Weekly 1/20/17

Good Morning GISD, I trust you are having another great week as we move into the fast-paced Spring semester and all the activities that will take place over the next few months.

- Congrats to our **swimmers** on their **4-peat district championship** last night! Our **boys and girls both won district** last night and had great performances all around. We will have a lot of swimmers representing us at regionals.
- I met with my **SSAC (student) group** this week. We had a great meeting as always and I can tell you **they are proud of their school!** They love the **collegiate feel** of the high school, the new **furniture, cafeteria, CTE and fine arts spaces**, and the **many opportunities** they have to take classes of their choice. They like having their **teachers available in the teacher's commons**, and they love the **specialized classrooms** they have access to. I know I **learn more than they do when we meet**, but it is always good to have a dedicated time to talk to our students and get their thoughts.
- Our **theater program** is putting on a production of **Grease**, starting tonight. There are shows all weekend and I hope you will take the opportunity to get out, support our kids, and see a great show!
- Today is **Inauguration Day** for our new president. It is a day that is always interesting to watch as we witness the **peaceful transition of power** from one administration to the next. No matter what your political views, it is a great demonstration of democracy and we wish President Trump much success in tackling some very difficult issues. We also wish President Obama and his family a graceful transition to civilian life and some well-deserved rest.

Legislative Update: On Thursday, Senator Kel Seliger and Representative Dan Huberty had a joint press conference announcing companion bills that would **make Individual Graduation Committees (IGCs) permanent**. Currently, only **13 states still have passing state exams as a requirement for graduation** and almost **all of those have some sort of "escape clause"** similar to what the IGCs offer for students. Few oppose the continuation of IGCs, but those that do are vocal and will likely force a fight to keep these alive.

Early this week, the **Senate and House filed wildly divergent budget proposals**, reflecting their different priorities. **Senator Jane Nelson** filed the Senate budget. **Her budget comes in even below the figures projected to be available by Texas Comptroller Glenn Hagar last week.** The **Senate proposal includes cuts in health and human services, public education, and higher education.** The senate cuts in public education are estimated at **\$1.5 billion.** While the Senate budget accounts for funding population growth in schools, it does so using local property taxes, rather than funds coming directly from the state budget.

The **House**, in contrast, **proposed a budget that is higher than that proposed by the Senate**, and notably higher than Hagar's projections. The **House budget supports enrollment growth, as well as an additional \$1.5 billion** that could only be spent if the legislature reforms the school finance system. The House budget also includes **additional spending on Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program.** The House is proposing to pay for these programs through cuts, deferrals, and possibly dipping into the Rainy Day Fund, which is estimated at over \$10 billion. (Perhaps this is the rainy day we have been saving for.) In a press release, Speaker Straus said, "The initial 2018-19 budget **puts additional resources into public education, child protection, and mental health** while increasing state spending by less than 1 percent."

If you are interested in more analysis on the **A-F debacle**, you can read this from Moak-Casey and Associates. <http://moakcasey.com/email/viewemailarticle.aspx?emid=599a657e-41e2-48f6-a477-4cd7dc431d0a&email=15904>

Emails this week:

From a parent: A HUGE thank you **Coach Schmidt and his coaching staff** that has come out to the **middle schools to watch and support the girls play** their basketball games. It means a lot to the players and parents that you have taken the time to support the upcoming players. Your collaboration is appreciated.

From GHS: I wanted to take a moment to brag on the **Health Sciences teachers at GHS, Sonya Byrd, Tishia Gray, and Christy Pieren.** They are doing a great job in preparing our students for entering the medical profession. My family was able to experience this first hand when **one of our students (Caden Davis) assisted a nurse** in helping with a family member who recently had to visit the hospital. If the care and concern he showed is any indication, we are in safe hands in the future (medically speaking).

From a parent: My (student) is really excited to be working with **Ms. Jackson at Mambrino** on the Fort Worth Stock Yards project. It seems we'll be taking a family trip or two in the spring

so he can look around. Honestly, I'm **thrilled he is having so much fun**. We thank her so much for keeping him inspired and having fun with learning!!!

From **Rich Teaching**, every day you get up and come to work **there's a narrative in your head**. The narrative is you making plans for what will happen, what you will do, and how others might respond to you. Now, ask yourself, "Was that an average day?" **What if you could have a great day every day?** You can, and **some people do**. But, to get there **you have to make changes in your life** that would fulfill the criteria for a great day. **What would you need to do differently?** Would you get up 10 minutes earlier? Would you do a brief workout? Eat a smarter breakfast? Learn something new? The point here is not to tell you what to do. This is all about **your daily narrative**.

When you remember you have choices in life, **you can change your life's story**. You can **change your students' stories because you are their role model**, and you can change your own. Many teachers at your school probably assume they were **just hired to teach**. Yet, **research shows the value of relationships as a strong academic achievement catalyst**. When you foster trusting relationships rich with support for every student, you'll make a powerful impact on building lives. You can have a **classroom and school that has fewer problems and more joy**. Plus, your **students are more likely to stay in school and graduate**. Put relationships first, and you've set the stage for academic success.

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

JL

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BARNES, FAITH

1-27-17

To: BARNES, FAITH
Subject: RE: Supt weekly 1/27/17

From: LARGENT, JAMES
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2017 10:00 AM
To: GISD-Staff <everyone@granburyisd.org>
Subject: Supt weekly 1/27/17

Good Morning GISD. **Wow, what a busy week!** We have had activities going on every night of the week and our **students are being showcased around our state** in many different ways. I have a lot of information for you:

- **On behalf of the GISD Board of Trustees**, thanks to all of you who participated in thanking board members during **Board Appreciation month**. The board received many cards, letters, and other tokens of appreciation from our campuses and departments and they were very appreciative. They sometimes have a **thankless (volunteer) job**, and it is good for them to see the difference they are making in the lives of children.
- Our **GHS F1 team** has made a name for itself as the **undisputed leader in F1 in Schools in Texas!** Our F1 teams took **1st, 2nd and 3rd place** this weekend at regional competition in Austin and became one of only **5 teams in the WORLD to break the 1 second barrier**. Congrats to **Mr. Gibson** and **all our students** for representing us in such an awesome way. **On to Nationals!!**
- If you missed the theater and choir production of **Grease**, you missed a real treat. Our students put on a great show for our community and the talent on stage was just awesome. Thanks to **Mr. Weeks, Ms. Fisher** and **all the students** who had a part in putting on this great production.
- At our board meeting on Monday, our **technology department was given an award from Extreme Networks** for their work with wireless networking. We were also presented an award from **Huckabee** from **two different magazines** who have given our high school project **several awards for innovative design**.
- **73 Marine Corps JROTC cadets** and **five EMT students** from Granbury High School returned last night from Harlingen where they conducted a **three-day exercise at the**

Marine Military Academy and endured over 55 hours of demanding training. Activities included **leadership training, rappelling, zip line, obstacle courses, high ropes course, low ropes course, close order drill, paint ball - culminating with a four mile hike on Wednesday night.** Thanks to our adult chaperones / GISD staff, **Christy Pieren (GHS), Shannon Chancellor (MES) and Joe Overstreet (GHS)** for their mentorship and dedication this week in helping with the transformation process.

- I attended the **science fair** last night and we had lots of great projects. From seeing if mash from an alcohol still is good to feed animals (**it is**), to which natural acid breaks down rocks the quickest (**lime juice**) to a student who actually made an **artificial pancreas** that could be helpful to diabetes patients. Many projects are moving on to regionals, and we had over **\$2,000 in scholarships** given to the winners to help them improve their projects for the next level. Thanks to **Rene Jackson and all our staff who helped** with these projects. **Good stuff!**
- I was not able to attend, but we had **college and career night** last night and our **counselors always do a great job** of getting **many different schools and agencies** to attend and show our students the vast array of opportunities that are out there for them. Thanks for the effort and I know it was a great event.
- Please see the attached documents related to a **new recycling effort** in our schools, called the **Clothes Bin**. We have placed **containers in the same location as the paper recycling** containers and any materials put in these bins will be recycled. It is a good program and proceeds from this program will be used district-wide for unbudgeted items.

Legislative Update:

This week there was not much news out of the state capitol as legislators are still settling in, so I will mention a little of **what is going on in Washington as it relates to education.** I was asked about the **nominee for Secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos.** Here is what I found, and unfortunately, it doesn't sound real promising for public education.

During the confirmation hearing, Ms. DeVos either **displayed a lack of knowledge about the fundamentals of public education,** or **refused to answer questions** that members on the Senate Committee believe are critical to her qualifications for the job.

Here are several notable moments during the confirmation hearing:

-Ms. DeVos **refused to acknowledge that schools are no place for guns**, contending that there's one school in Wyoming that **needs weapons to protect students from grizzly bears**. "We don't carry weapons on school property," **an alarmed Ray Schulte, Superintendent** of the Park County School District 6 in Wyoming, subsequently informed reporters.

-Ms. DeVos seemed to have **no understanding of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act**, known as IDEA, which requires that public schools provide free and appropriate educational services to all students with disabilities. **She suggested that the fundamentals of IDEA could be shifted to the states to enforce.**

-Ms. DeVos **refused to agree** that all **schools that receive public federal funds**—traditional public, public charter or private schools that receive voucher money—**should be held to the same standards of accountability.**

As I have said before, 2017 is going to be very interesting, if nothing else...

Emails this week:

From District Staff: Good morning!! I attended the 4th grade Texas program at Mambrino last night and was just amazed! **Mrs. Oates is masterful** at orchestrating a production where many of the students had individual parts. It was a **great show that honored our great state!** In addition, the 4th grade teachers (**Mrs. Jackson, Mr. Martinez, Mrs. McKelvain, Mr. Thompson**) completed a **PBL on Texas history** with a multitude of incredible projects that were on display as well. I know the students have a greater understanding of our rich history, not to mention lifelong memory of a great performance. Just wanted to say **congratulations to Mambrino team** for a job well done!!

From GHS: I just wanted to say what a great job **Rene Jackson** did with the **district science fair** again this year. **She always goes above and beyond** to find more scholarships for our students. She has also revised the awards process to ensure **all the great projects move on to regionals**. Thank you for all you do!

From HR: At the end of 2016, the organization who handles our substitute software reached out to our substitute teachers and asked them to nominate their Sub Managers (or whoever facilitates their work as subs) for special recognition and the chance to win some prizes. **Larry Hooper** was nominated by one or more of the substitutes who said some wonderful things about him. We wanted to make sure you knew how important your substitute teachers think

Larry is. Here are a few of the kind words said about Larry: **"Larry cares about each one as a valued TEACHER. He places us/me with great opportunities to serve the Super Students in Granbury ISD! I Appreciate Larry's daily efforts and courtesy!"** "Larry has always been available for any question I might have. I feel he **often has a thankless job**, but he keeps on standing up for his subs. If someone has an issue with signing on, etc., I always tell them to **"Call Larry----he'll help you"**.

From District Staff: I wanted to tell the **AMS 7th grade coaches, Jacob Herbold and Landry Mullins**, congratulations on **defeating Aledo last night to become the District Champs!!**

From **Rich Teaching**, establishing an **achievement mindset** is all about **developing student drive, effort, and intention**. Let's **contrast some teacher view points**, or comments of teachers who struggle with mediocrity:

- "I can push, but most of these students just don't even try."**
- "I don't feel comfortable doing the rah-rah stuff."**
- It's not my fault. Parents are supposed to motivate their own students, not me."**
- Motivation is just a gimmick. I focus on the serious stuff. I do content."**

Conversely, with the achievement mindset, **teachers make the following comments:**

- "In my class, I love teaching students to motivate themselves."**
- "Sometimes my class seems a bit like a pep rally, but my students need it."**
- "The best part is near the end of class when students look at each other and say, "Wow, we did it!""**

Change what you're doing and **start influencing the student's achievement mindset**. Next we'll look at some of the **most effective achievement boosters of all time...**

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

JL

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MYERS, CHERIE

From: LARGENT, JAMES
Sent: Friday, February 3, 2017 9:18 AM
To: GISD-Staff
Subject: Supt Weekly 2/3/17

Good Morning GISD, I hope you are having a great first week of February. A few things:

- We are seeing some **increases in absences** at some campuses. Please do all you can to make sure students are **disinfecting hands often** and we are sending them to the nurse if we suspect fever. Unfortunately this is something we seem to deal with every year around this time and hopefully it will run its course soon.
- This week is **Counselors Week** and I hope all of you will thank your counselors for all they do for students each day. They do a great job assisting our kids and guiding them toward their future.
- Congrats to all our **history fair winners**. It is always fun to see the projects our students come up with and their involvement in this program. Thanks to all of you who encourage participation and help our students with their projects.
- Good luck to our **swimmers** as they head to the **Regional Swim Meet** this weekend. I know they will represent GISD well as always.
- We are in the part of our year where there is a **ballgame, concert, banquet, parent meeting, or other competition or exhibition** going on **virtually every night of the week**. Please take some time to go out and support our students when you get a chance. I continue to be impressed and so proud of the **tremendous talent in GISD from our students and staff**. We need to take every opportunity to **show our community what a great school we have** and how many **wonderful students** we have the opportunity to work with every day.

Legislative update

I was in Austin earlier this week and the buzz is all about what will happen in this session to affect education. A-F, education savings accounts (vouchers), standardized tests, and school finance are all topics of discussion that we will hear more about each week.

From the **UEA newsletter**: The Lieutenant Governor has made vouchers a high priority of his in this legislative session. Several variations on vouchers have been introduced over many sessions and have all failed to pass. The latest scheme is called "education savings accounts." The concept will allow the state to provide a fixed amount grant to eligible families to help offset tuition at private schools. One figure that has been discussed is approximately \$5,000 in a grant per eligible student.

If you think about it, there are not many private schools where the tuition is \$5,000 or less. This will not help disadvantaged students access a private school education. In addition, private schools do not operate under the same accountability as our public schools. There is no guarantee the money spent on private schools will produce outcomes greater or equal to our public schools. The argument against vouchers is this takes money away from public schools when they are already underfunded as it is.

In the past, the issue has always been blocked in the Texas House. The State Representatives have seen the flaws in the system and realized that weakening public schools is not the way to improve our education system.

Get Involved

Become familiar with the legislation that affects public schools. News, your school district, and your association are good sources. Share your opinions with your elected officials. You do not have to know the nuts and bolts of particular legislation. Sharing your thoughts as teachers and public school employees is important.

To find who represents you -- www.fyi.legis.state.tx.us

Emails this week:

From GHS: One of our students just returned from being at a private school this year. Following a test this morning, she gained the attention of the other students testing and quoted **"y'all need to stop taking this school for granted, because it's much better than the one I was at."** I asked if she would elaborate with details of why and she replied **"the variety of students from different backgrounds helps me grow socially compared to over there where there's really only one type of kid and they are all exactly the same. They also don't provide help like this either and I would fall behind everyone else if I didn't understand something. This school has much nicer facilities and too many of you take that for granted!"** She really started preaching at the other students and I was loving it. **It's just a nice**

breath of fresh air that some students not only realize these things, but are willing to share when they've seen "the greener grass." Have a good weekend.

From district staff: Thanks to **Ms. Alcorn and Mr. Doss** for their help in making GREASE happen. It seemed to really bring happiness to all of the audience members who came and it built up the community spirit and support for our schools.

From Baccus: Today I was able to have 10 chromebooks, 20 tablets (not iPads), and 4 iPods working on the system all at once and **never experienced a delay or being kicked off the network**. With all the movement and projects that have gone on with technology, **I really appreciate what they have accomplished**. I had students researching weather patterns on chromebooks, working on math applications on my tablets (an assortment of Kindle Fires, Asus tablets, and a few assorted other brands) and researching the sun with virtual reality on the iPods. Everything was working so well, the **students begged me not to make them go to lunch or recess**. Please **thank everyone in technology** for the work it has taken to get the network running this well.

From district staff: I'd like to thank our **GISD History Fair Campus Coordinators, Pam Futch (GMS), Ricky Kizer (AMS) and Betty Lowry (GHS)** for their support of our students entering the GISD History Fair. The coordinators worked hard all year to help students through their research process. They assisted the district history fair coordinator in planning the fair and were there to review process papers, encourage students during judging, and help award medals and scholarships. **Betty Lowry** also stepped up and helped judge research papers after one of our judges did not show up. I'd also like to thank **Rhonda Naylor and James Greene** from STARS & BTC for judging exhibits at our history fair. Their efforts were much appreciated! **Onward to Regionals and State!**

From district staff: We had one **student from ROTC** who went to each cafeteria line thanking the ladies, telling them **great job, good food**, I support you and that many of the kids out there feel the same way. That just about brought our workers to tears. We have had kids come through the BYO line that don't normally eat there.

I hope you all have a great weekend and **GO PIRATES!**

JL

**Dr. James M. Largent
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MYERS, CHERIE

From: LARGENT, JAMES
Sent: Friday, February 10, 2017 8:55 AM
To: GISD-Staff
Subject: Supt weekly 2/10/17

Good Morning GISD, I hope all of you are wrapping up another great week in the district.

- I have gotten few questions recently about the **Flex Days on our calendar** and exactly what they are. First, just think of them as a **normal work day for staff**. A lot of students will be at school on those days. I think the best way to explain them is to **think of them as an exemption day**. Our goal for those days is to give students who have taken care of business all year to be finished with school early. Those who need to make up **attendance hours**, need some **focused help on tests**, finish up **incomplete grades**, prepare for **summer retakes**, etc., time to get some **focused help**. All teachers will be working with **small groups of students** on these days. And, all **support staff will be here**, as we will run buses, have the cafeteria open, etc. It will certainly require some organization and coordination as we move closer to those days. If you have further questions about these days, let me know.
- It is always great when our community gets to read about some of the **wonderful things going on in GISD**. Here is a link to an article on our culinary program that was featured in *Granbury Living* magazine. Great job by Allison and Breanne for representing us so well! <http://lglmagazine.com/granbury-culinary-arts/>
- **Judy Gentry** was honored at the **Chamber of Commerce banquet** with the **Howard Clemmons Distinguished Service Award**. Judy has worked very hard to build relationships in our community and she is a wonderful advocate for our CTE programs and GISD in general. Congrats to Judy for this well-deserved honor and for representing GISD so well!
- I made it out to the **Brawner bracelet sale** this week. The kids did a **PBL project on making, marketing and selling products**, and they were having a great time. I felt like I was in a real market with vendors trying to persuade me to buy their product. **Great job staff and students!**

Legislative Update: Last Friday, the **Senate Finance Committee** took up the issue of TRS. We learned at the hearing that Senator Joan Huffman intends to file a **bill addressing TRS**

ActiveCare. From her comments at the committee meeting, it appears that the bill will include key points from the interim report including:

1. There will be one plan with a high deductible (\$4,000 in network and \$8,000 out of network).
2. Only districts with fewer than 1000 employees will be allowed to participate in TRS ActiveCare.
3. Districts with fewer than 1000 employees will have one chance to "opt out".
4. The state will continue to pay \$75, and districts will pay a minimum of \$150.

They are clearly looking at saving State money and the above measures certainly do that! Eliminating all districts with more than 1000 employees would cut the pool dramatically. I would imagine we can also expect more of a shift to having employees and employers picking up more of the tab...

On a **positive note**, HB 515 (Rep. VanDeaver) and HB 1333 (Rep. Isaac) are companion bills that **requires Texas to test no more than required under federal law**. Representative Isaac is calling his bill "**The Teaching over Testing Bill.**" Parents, teachers, and educators have expressed support for the bill thus far.

Parts of these bills:

1. **Prohibits data from state assessments being used for teacher performance.**
2. Limits state testing to no more than is **required by federal law**.
3. Requires the Commissioner to adopt rules to **choose nationally recognized norm-referenced assessments** as alternative assessments that can be used in **grades 3-8**. *This promotes local control by **allowing districts to choose from a list of tests** approved by the Commissioner.
4. Revises the accountability system and **changes the weight of various domains**. Most importantly, it reduces the weight that can be based on state tests in Domains 1-3 from 55% to 25%.

*This bill would require a federal waiver to allow #3 to occur, as currently all students must take the same test.

Emails this week:

From GHS: I wanted to express my thanks to our **maintenance department** for completing a request in **less than twenty-four hours**. They go **above and beyond EVERY** time to make sure our buildings are in the best possible working order. I'm **proud to work alongside them**.

From AES: We want to shout out to the fabulous **Tamara Kimmell, Amanda Rogers, Diane Fullerton and Sandie Sermarini** from our fabulous **Special Education Department** and **Tammy Griffiths, Heather Hughes and Toni Solsbery** from our campus for going above and beyond. They truly have **servant hearts** and do whatever it takes for our children. We love them so much!

From Oak Woods: I just wanted to let you know that the **GHS baseball team** did such a fabulous job this morning. They were **greeting students** at both entrances this morning and we even had a few who were walking around the cafeteria, **sitting down and talking with the kids**. The kids thought it was **so cool** for them to be here! They were a **very respectful group of young men** and we were blessed to have them on campus this morning.

From Mambrino: Thank you to the **GHS Baseball Team** for sending a super group to Mambrino to greet our students this morning! **Having them 'jump start' our day was amazing!!!**

From Brawner: I am so glad that our district provides schools the use of the **Language Line**. I was able to communicate with **one of our parents that speaks Vietnamese** through the interpreter with Language Line. The **parent was so very appreciative** and told us that she is so proud to know how her child is doing and what she needs to do at home to help. A **wonderful tool that enables us to communicate with ALL of our parents!** Thank you!

From a Community Member: I am the organizer for the **Granbury Santa House** in the gazebo on Granbury Square which had its grand opening on November 25th, 2016. This memo is to thank you so much for the support we received from your **Honor Roll/Key Club members** who worked in the Santa House. We received well over 2,800 people within the short time we were open. Our members were able to handle this large amount of people primarily because of the support we received from **each and every one of your students**. They handled a **great range of responsibilities, from greeting guests, calming frightened children, supporting Santa himself by introducing each child to him by name, keeping a running tally on everyone who entered, etc.** Most importantly, they handled it with **smiles and enthusiasm**. Another **Thank You goes out to Erica Woodyard**. . The spirit of Christmas was everywhere. Your **young adults** helped bring that spirit to life.

From **Rich Teaching**, a student who seems lazy or unmotivated for one teacher will often work hard for another teacher. This simple fact shows us that **it is the teacher that makes the difference** and the achievement mindset changes everything. The **achievement mindset says, I can build student effort, motivation, and attitudes to succeed**. They are **all teachable skills**. The **research is solid** that student's expectations of their success in class has a whopping effect on student achievement. **Low-performing students expect to struggle** and if you ask them what their goal is, it may be to just "pass the class." But, **these students will not cut it** in a high performing teacher's class. **Effective teachers create the climate and expectations starting on day one and never, ever back off them**. Pursue goals for your class with a high expectation for mastery. When students get questions right, or reach their micro goals, celebrate and continue interacting for even higher-order learning. If they struggle, help them uncover the false assumptions or strategies. Help them grow. If you give up on students, they'll quit, too.

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

JL

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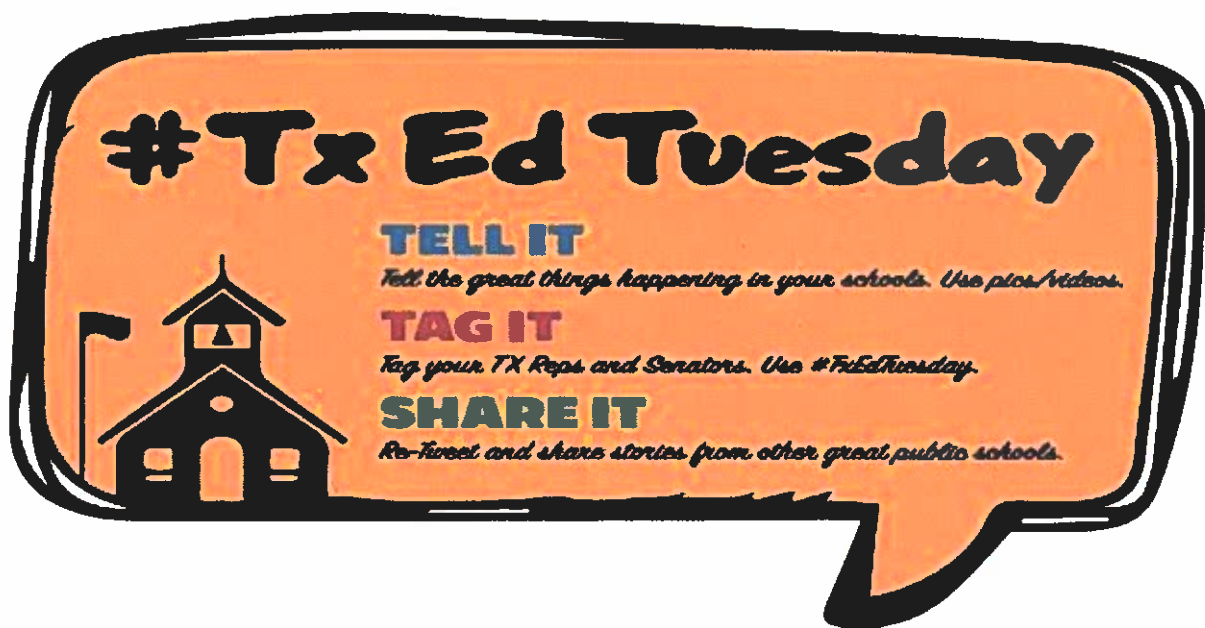
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MYERS, CHERIE

From: LARGENT, JAMES
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2017 10:02 AM
To: GISD-Staff
Subject: Supt weekly 2/17/17

Good Morning GISD, I hope you are all having a wonderful week in the district. A few items of interest this week:

- The **Stowaways** competed in Killeen at Regionals Competition Saturday. The team was the **second highest scoring team of the entire competition** including dance studios, private schools and public schools. Both the officers and the team were awarded best in class for their division, judges awards for all 6 dances, honors for precision, presentation, choreography and dance technique and sweepstakes.
- The **Texas Retired Teachers Foundation (TRTF)** is now accepting **applications for its scholarship and grant programs** for current teachers. All applications, including supplementary materials such as transcripts (if applicable), are due to the TRTF office **no later than 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 16, 2017**. Be sure to share these applications with recent or soon-to-be college graduates or active educators you know. [Classroom Assistance Grants](#) help Texas public educators pay for unique projects, learning platforms and more! [DOWNLOAD APPLICATION](#)
- We do a great job of sending out **positive things on Twitter and Facebook**. A new initiative going around our state is call **#TxEDTuesday**. Please read the bubble below. The thought is to **flood the "twitter world" each Tuesday** with positive public school information. And, make sure to tag **@SenatorBirdwell** and **@RepMikeLang** when you tweet about great things going on in GISD.



Legislative Update: In the legislature this week, the Senate State Affairs Committee voted to send out a bill on payroll deduction to the Senate floor. **This bill would stop the horrible practice (tongue firmly in cheek) of allowing state employees to use payroll deduction to pay their "union" fees.** (Texas is a non-union state for teachers, but this would include dues to UEA, ATPE, TSTA, etc.) This is **considered a top priority for Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick**, along with his school choice voucher program. **Texas Professional Educators director** said, "This bill is both **unnecessary and discriminatory**, and the legislature should focus on issues that actually matter." Law enforcement union leaders came to speak out against the bill as well. President of the **Austin Police Association** said, "You are picking on people who make \$30,000-\$40,000 a year." The author of the bill, **Senator Huffman**, was asked if she had heard from local elected officials or administrators that this type of payroll deduction process was an issue. "I have not personally received a complaint," she said...

Email this week:

From a Parent: I'd like to recognize **Brad Eppler, Danny Guidry, Greg McCarthy, and Matt Holly** for their dedication to their players. Each of these men takes a vested interest in their players. Their teams are great! However, it's the work they put into these boys to create **upstanding, goal setting members of society** that should be noted. They **work with other sports and academic clubs to allow their students to become well rounded student athletes.**

They instill a sense of pride and work ethic in their players. Our family appreciates each one of these men and are so thankful they are serving as positive role models for our son.

From **Rich Teaching**, every one of the strategies in this book is powerful, but **giving fabulous feedback may be the holy grail**. As soon as you see progress, you get inspired. With quality feedback, the goal moves closer and hope rises. That's how it works for your students, too. Quality feedback has clear, shared goals, establishes progressions, provides actionable feedback that moves learning forward, activates students as the owners of their own learning, and allows students to track their big-picture trends. Here are a few examples of things you and your students can do:

- Ask more questions in class.
- Review work and talk it over.
- Summarize the learning daily.
- Preview learning before class.
- Work closer with a study buddy.
- Create a mind map or graphic organizer of the content.
- Ask the teacher for specific help.
- Look up difficult concepts.

Savvy teachers use feedback to stay in the know. Students cannot control everything that happens to them in class, but through student feedback, they can respond to your teaching. Feedback is the substance for positive change in your work. Seek it out, use it, and enjoy the difference.

I hope you all have a great weekend and **GO PIRATES!!**

JL

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MYERS, CHERIE

From: LARGENT, JAMES
Sent: Friday, February 24, 2017 12:57 PM
To: GISD-Staff
Subject: Supt Weekly 2/24/17

Good afternoon, GISD. What a beautiful week of summer weather (in February)! This has been a great week to get outside and enjoy some activities, sports, etc. Of course, I think it will be in the 30's in the morning. Good old Texas weather... A few things:

- We had a great **Board Meeting** this week where we filled up our new board room with **student achievement and recognition**. We recognized, **state swimmers, F1 team, history and science fair winners, our spelling bee winner and the counselors from all of our campuses**, who are some of our **unsung heroes in the district**. It is always great to see our students and staff being recognized at board meetings to highlight just a few of the many awesome things we have going on in GISD.
- I spoke to **Mrs. Gill's career exploration class** this morning at **AMS**. We had a good time talking about interests, career pathways, education, and ways to find a job you love, so you will never have to work a day in your life. Many of them already know what they want to do, or at least have an idea of their area of interest.
- If you want to see some high quality baseball, we have our **Pirate Baseball tournament** going on this weekend. Get out and support the Pirates when you can.
- We hosted a **powerlifting meet** on Tuesday with lots of lifters from many schools coming to compete in Pirate Pavilion. Thanks to all the **coaches and volunteers** who helped put on a great meet! We are also beginning **softball, track, golf** and are in the **middle of our soccer seasons**. Something is going on almost every night of the week. You should never be bored.

Legislative Update:

In an Appropriations Committee meeting this week, **Teacher Retirement Service (TRS) Executive Director Brian Guthrie** focused on the TRS-Care shortfall. Several challenges, including **rising health care costs and the significant cost of non-Medicare retirees'**

healthcare, are drawing down the TRS trust fund and lagging rates of investment return are making **such spending rates unsustainable**. Guthrie admitted that **if no changes occurred in the current system or legislation that TRS-Care would close down**. *(This is something we should all be concerned about. This is also why there has been a lot of discussion recently about moving all TRS insurance to a high deductible, health care savings account plan. I am sure we will hear a lot more about this in the next few months... JL)*

In **budget news**, the **state share of education funding continues to decline as districts continue to provide a larger share of the funding**. In 2017, 41% of public education funding is coming from the state. In 2018, 38% of public education funding will come from the state. Donna Howard asked the LBB how much more the state would have to pay if it were to shoulder 50% of the costs to fund public education. For 2017 that number would be \$4 billion. Another interesting statistic is recapture as a percentage of M&O (maintenance and operation budget). Historically it has been between 3 and 5%, but in 2018, **recapture will account for 6% of M&O**. Mary Gonzales and Gary VanDeaver inquired about a **\$33 million decrease in federal funds**. Apparently that was based on the state not meeting “maintenance of effort” (MOE) for IDEA part B.

TEA has also asked for an increase in funds for testing, and as they explained at a later hearing, it costs more to make shorter tests (as in those revised tests for HB 743). Yes, this is a good time to scratch your head and reread that sentence.

Email this week,

From GHS: I would like to thank **Dianne Burns** for what she does on a daily basis. Our newborn needed a prescription, but had not been added to insurance yet. I emailed Mrs. Burns and **she went above and beyond to get our issue solved**, going even so far as to call S&W Healthplan and our pharmacy to ensure the situation was handled. **Saved my wife and I a lot of hassle. Thank you Dianne!**

From **Rich Teaching**, so many teachers **try a great strategy in isolation and wonder why it did not produce the effects** that they had hoped for. The real reason is that **most isolated strategies will fail**. But the good news is the effects are cumulative. **The more you do, the easier it gets**. The process of mastering the more hidden or soft side of achievement is critical if you want to foster it. Your **four primary tools for building a great attitude** are **modeling** (the achievement mindset and high achievement thinking), **learning to sow the seeds of**

success, and consistently attributing connections. Each of these has a strong effect, and together they create a synergistic force **that compels students to achieve more than they thought they ever could.**

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

JL

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BARNES, FAITH

MARCH 3, 17

From: BARNES, FAITH
Sent: Friday, March 3, 2017 8:48 AM
To: LARGENT, JAMES
Subject: RE: Supt Weekly 3/3/17

Great news regarding vouchers!!

From: LARGENT, JAMES
Sent: Friday, March 3, 2017 7:48 AM
To: GISD-Staff <everyone@granburyisd.org>
Subject: Supt Weekly 3/3/17

Good Morning GISD, I hope you are having a great week in the district. I was able to get out on some campuses this week. A few things:

- **AES** was excited as they were in fun-run mode and having a good time with character lessons.
- **Baccus** was busy as the staff had a cajun lunch and raised money for Relay for Life.
- **Oak Woods** was displaying their history fair projects. I saw lots of Alamo projects and Battle of San Jacinto models.
- -I checked in at **GHS** and the **Eagles Nest project** that is progressing nicely. They are working hard, enjoying working with our community mentors, and have made some great progress.
- -**Softball** got off to a great start in district with a big win. Good luck to them as they move through district play!
- -**Girls golf** has a home tournament this weekend. They will be competing at Harbor Lakes today and tomorrow.

Legislative Update:

There were **two big news items this week** in legislature, **both involving vouchers**. The first piece of news was when some **Richardson ISD students** were **questioning Sen. Huffines** about vouchers and the fact that the vouchers would not cover the cost of private schools. Their point was that if it wouldn't cover the cost of private school, the **students politicians say vouchers will help, will really not benefit from this program**. The **Senator went on a rant, called the kids selfish** and I guess he was **frustrated that a group of students have figured out the voucher scheme, too**.

The **second bit of news** came when **Rep. Huberty, the House Education Committee chair**, said that **he saw no path forward for vouchers** in the House. We are even hearing rumblings that the Senate is going to have a hard time passing a bill as well. This is **great news for public schools** and we hope our legislators will **stand up to the pressure they will be getting from top leaders in Austin** who are pushing hard for this program. More to come...

Emails this week:

From a Parent: I want to tell you how fantastic the program the **2nd graders** put on yesterday evening. I thoroughly enjoyed it! It was the **most well-rehearsed and choreographed performance/program I have ever seen before in an elementary school** (I can tell you my three children have attended several different elementary schools). I **could not believe these children were only 2nd graders**. The performance even brought tears to my eyes. **Ms. Oates, Ms. Moody, Ms. Brown** and all the **other 2nd grade teachers** should be proud of the amazing work you did! I will not be shy about telling others! Makes me very proud to be a **Mambrino** parent!

From a Parent: I just wanted to write an email to you and let you know **how great the driver is for bus #14 (Mike Dugan)**. My son left his iPhone on the bus Friday. He realized it once he had been home for awhile. I called and just left a message at the bus barn fully prepared to never see it again. I figured I might would get a call back Monday if we were lucky. I feel terrible that I don't know the gentleman's name that drives that bus but **there he was, on a Saturday no less, at my door to return my sons phone to him**. We have written him a thank you note but I figured I needed to go beyond just a note and let y'all know **how greatly we appreciate him**. Thank y'all for all y'all do!

From GHS: The new **Library Coordinator** from **Region 11** Service Center, Karen Smith, came and visited with me this last Friday. She was **extremely impressed with the Learning Commons**, the design and functionality of it, and that my thoughts and ideas were listened to and acted on with the architects. She was also very excited about the **direction in which we are taking it from Library to Learning Commons**. While she was here, I took her on a tour of the rest of the school. **We visited all of the CTE**, she saw the **Teacher's Commons** there, the **art rooms**, a few of the **computer labs**, some of the **science labs**, then we swung by **ROTC**. **She was truly blown away**. She told me that she was going to share with other librarians to come and see our design and how we operate as well as encouraging Dr. Steelman to get other schools to come and see "what we are doing right".

From **Rich Teaching**, thousands of teachers have already successfully motivated students from disadvantaged backgrounds. You can do it, too. **Your own mindset is a critical piece of the puzzle**. Before you ever, ever claim that a student is unmotivated, **ask yourself if you have carefully developed the achievement mindset** using the tools you have learned. There are **no unmotivated students, only students in unmotivated classrooms**. Collect the tools you have, make a plan, and let's make some magic happen.

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

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MYERS, CHERIE

From: LARGENT, JAMES
Sent: Friday, March 10, 2017 8:40 AM
To: GISD-Staff
Subject: Supt Weekly 3/10/17

Good Morning GISD, I hope you are enjoying another great week in the District and are ready for a nice week of Spring Break. A few things:

- Tuesday night, I attended the **Night of Percussion** at GHS. What a great show and an incredible display of talent. As a finale, the **GHS choir joined in** on the last piece of music and it was spectacular. Thanks to **Mr. Kirk, Ms. Fisher** and everyone who had a part in this performance. Great job and **I love seeing our groups work together on projects and performances**. I am seeing more and more of this and it really shows the **camaraderie we have in our district**. Great job!
- **Seven exemplary middle-grades schools** in Texas have been named "**Schools to Watch**" as part of a recognition program developed by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform.
Congratulations to the 2017 Texas Schools to Watch® campuses: Acton Middle School, Granbury ISD, Decker Middle School, Manor ISD, Harwood Junior High, HEB ISD, Hernando Middle School, Socorro ISD, Melillo Middle School, Pasadena ISD, Scoggins Middle School, Frisco ISD, Timberview Middle School, Keller ISD
- We hosted a **varsity track meet last night** with lots of teams coming to town. If someone is **looking for a great PBL project**, it would be interesting to know the **economic impact GISD has on our community**. With as many teams and parents coming to town for games, competitions, meetings, etc. the impact has to be huge. With **hotel stays, restaurants, fuel, shopping, etc.** I bet the number would be staggering. If anyone decides to look at this, let me know. We could get some good PR in our community by letting them know the dollars GISD brings in to our local economy.
- I am wrapping up my week at **Brawner** where I will be **reading Dr. Seuss** and watching their presentation of **Peter Pan**.
- This week is **Diagnostician Week**. We have a very dedicated group of diagnosticians in GISD who work mainly **behind the scenes with parents, teachers and administrators** to make sure that the individual needs of many of our students are taken care of. If you **see a diagnostician today, give them a hug**. I know I will...

Legislative Update:

On Tuesday, several of our **school board members and administrators** made a trip to Austin. We met with the **School Coalition**, sat in on the **House Education Committee** meeting, and spent some time with **Rep. Mike Lang** and his **Chief of Staff**. We discussed some **school finance** issues that are very important to us, our **opposition to vouchers**, and the need to revert more control over public schools back to the **locally elected officials and professional educators**. Rep. Lang listened, spent a lot of time with us, and we appreciated his comments. As this is his first session in the legislature, he is listening to anyone and getting all sides of issues, as he should. He seemed very receptive to the issues that we discussed with him. We will watch closely to see how he votes, and we certainly hope he will vote in the best interest of public school children.

Senator Birdwell was invited to this meeting, but was unable to meet with us. He did send a staffer to listen to our discussion.

This was the **biggest week in the legislature thus far** as the **House rolled out a school finance bill** and the **Senate rolled out their "bathroom bill."** There were lots of people at the Capitol to testify on both of these issues. As more bills get voted out of committees, we will begin to get a clearer view of what we can expect in the coming weeks. Right now, the **House and Senate are light years away from each other** as to what each body deems important.

Emails this week:

From District Staff: Saturday, the secondary History Fair Coordinators and I spent the day at the University of Texas at Arlington for the **Fort Worth-Arlington Regional History Fair**. There were a record number of entries at Regionals, and we had 11 students place. **5 are moving on to state!**

From GHS: I just wanted to share with you about the **best day ever (so far) in my teaching career**. It was so much fun to share a **'real world' experience** with the students. They were able to see first-hand **WHY the details mattered**. **WHY knowing the rules of plating made a difference**. **WHY setting the table and having everything ready on time was important**. After 8th period, we got serious about EVERYTHING! It was MARVELOUS!!! To see the kids in action, to see them putting all of the pieces together, to **hear everyone complement them on the**

food and get to relay that information was **beyond PRICELESS!!!** Thank you, GISD for the **BEST DAY EVER!!!**

From District Staff: Thank you to everyone who helped with the **Leadership Granbury** tour yesterday. We had a great group of **community members** visit **Admin, AMS, Oak Woods, and GHS**. They all were very impressed with the students, staff, academics, facilities, and technology. One lady even stopped me to say that it **was the best day of the program**. The whole day went very smoothly, **so thank you for everyone who pitched in to make it successful**.

From a Parent: I am sure it is not uncommon for high schoolers to complain about their teachers, my daughter is no exception. However, **she repeatedly sings Ms. Rothardt's praises**. I told her about the KOME teacher of the week award. She promptly went online to fill out the form. I wanted to **share her words** about this great teacher and the **difference she is making at GHS**: Ms. Rothardt is an **outstanding teacher**. She goes **above and beyond in her classroom**. She gives us wonderful notes and then a ton of problems to practice. The most impressive thing is **her dedication**. She is **always available for tutoring and comes to support our extra-curricular activities**. She is hands down the **best teacher at our high school**.

From GHS: I would like to **recognize Alice Casey** and she is a **traffic, hall, and all of the above monitor**. She greets **everyone, every day, with a smile and a wave**. It is **obviously her ministry** and it has not gone unnoticed.

From BTC: BTC would like to thank **Mrs. Reddell from GHS**. She is one of our **faithful visitors here at BTC**, and we **really appreciate her help** in making sure our students here are keeping up!

From GHS: A quick note.....just want to recognize **Mr. Zimmerman in our maintenance department** for his work in **producing our JROTC target stands....first rate work**. They were modeled off the **Olympic finals hall at the Olympic Training Center** – and he did it with **scrap wood!**

From AMS: I would like to say what a **great group of people we have working at the H.R. dept**. They are always so helpful with any concerns I may have, and **quick on getting back to me with answers**. Thank you **Mrs. Wright and Mrs. Taylor** for coming on Friday for our "Purple Out" to greet our students in the morning as they are coming in the doors. Great seeing their smiles as they are welcomed to school by these ladies. I would also like to say thank you for the **special treats every month with the monthly birthday cakes**. Very nice treats. **Really appreciate everything the H.R. dept. does for our district**.

From STARS/BTC: I would like to recognize **Regina Cox** from the **business office**. She is always pleasant and so wonderful to work with. She makes it her mission to make sure you are taken care of when you need a credit card, check, or anything else. **She truly represents customer care.**

From **Rich Teaching**, the rich classroom climate mindset is simple. Focus on **what students need to succeed**, and **build that environment every day**. Remember that **relationships are first**. Your students want to know, "Should I invest any energy in you (the teacher) to make my investment currency worthwhile." If you don't **purposefully invest thoughtfulness and clear positive actions** into your classroom climate, your job can become a nightmare every day. It will be filled with tardy students with motivation and discipline issues who act out, roll their eyes, and make comments behind your back. **Developing a rich classroom climate mindset will transform your classroom** into one amazing place to learn, and **you'll love your job every day**.

I hope you all have a **restful Spring Break!** Enjoy your time off, recharge the batteries, and be ready to come back energized and ready to go! **GO PIRATES!!**

JL

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MYERS, CHERIE

From: LARGENT, JAMES
Sent: Friday, March 24, 2017 11:04 AM
To: GISD-Staff
Subject: Supt Weekly 3/24/17
Attachments: TRS Brief 3-23-2017.pdf

Good Morning GISD, we are definitely in the middle of spring! We have something going on all the time and lots of great things happening on our campuses:

- This week, our **principals and instructional leaders** spent some time at **Baccus** with their **3rd grade PLC team**. As part of our own “**administrator PLC**” we are going to go around to a different campus each month or so to learn about the unique things going on at that campus and see what might apply at other campuses. OIUr first visit to Baccus was great! Thanks to Robert Herrera and his staff for welcoming us.
- I got to watch a “**double dip**” on Tuesday as our **softball and baseball teams** were both in action at home at the same time. The best part was that **both our teams won district games** and are off to a great start in district play.
- Last night, we went to Aledo to watch our **girls soccer team** compete in their playoff game. The came up a little short to a good Centennial team, but it was good to see them back in post-season, and I’m sure we will back again next year.
- As we make a push into our **testing time of the year**, just keep doing what you are doing. **Teach our curriculum every day, check for success**, and make sure to **communicate with parents on areas where they can help** with extra study, particular **ideas and concepts** their student is struggling with, and **opportunities for extra tutoring**, etc. I have no doubt that our kids will do fine.

Legislative Update:

From The *Texas Tribune*, after little debate Thursday, the **Senate Education Committee** voted 7-3 to **pass legislation that would create two public programs subsidizing private school tuition and homeschooling expenses**. Senate Bill 3, a priority for Lt. Gov. [Dan Patrick](#), now heads to the full Senate, where it’s also expected to pass. Corresponding bills have not been

taken up by the House Public Education Committee. The first program created in the bill, education savings accounts or ESAs, would **give parents online accounts of state money to pay for private school tuition or homeschooling expenses**. The second program, **tax credit scholarships**, would allow businesses to receive **credits against their insurance premium taxes if they contribute to approved scholarship organizations**.

From *Moak-Casey*, The **Teacher Retirement System** provides both **pension funds for retired employees and health care benefit plans for both current and retired employees**. Created by and funded in part by the state, each biennium the legislature must continue to fund and provide for TRS programs. In the 85th legislative session, stakeholders are focused particularly on the TRSCare and TRS-Active Care programs, because, **unlike the pension fund which is actuarially sound, the health care program faces an estimated \$1 billion shortfall**, which could be adjusted lower as the session continues. Legislative fixes in the past decade have helped the program inch along, but **the legislature must provide a long-term remedy this session to sustain it**.

Both of the issues above are critical to public education and would definitely have a major impact on public schools, public school employees and retired public school employees. There is much debate about “fixing” the TRS system, with very few of the “fixes” involving the state adding money to the program. Most of them will mean increased costs and loss of benefits for everyone. At the same time, the state’s portion of paying for public education will reach a **new low of about 38% of the state’s budget**. I have **attached a document** that goes into a lot more detail on the TRS issue if you are interested. *JL*

Emails this week:

From AMS: I just wanted to let you know about the positive experience I have had with **AMS boys athletics**. As a parent I have been **impressed with their communication**. They **reach out to us on a variety of platforms**, including **email, texts, and social media**. Their messages are always timely, informative, and forward-thinking. **Knowing the AMS athletics practice plan each week really helps us coordinate the family schedule**. I also truly appreciate their **support of our choir program**. They are quick with words of praise, are always willing to drive buses, and work with us when we have the occasional scheduling conflict. I really appreciate their contributions to our campus athletics as well. They have done a great job of **building character, positive attitudes, sportsmanship, and work ethic**, as well as the important athletic fundamentals of the sports.

From GMS: I just want to say that **Mrs. Tisdale** is awesome! I email her daily and visit with her and the students through email. It has been a great year for me and my **BTC kiddos**. I appreciate her!

From Region 11: Hello! I just wanted to share with you how impressed I was on my recent visit to your high school. **Ms. Tammy Jo Burns** was my first interviewee for **spotlights on Region 11 librarians to watch** because **she is a dynamo!** I got to meet her in my first meeting as the ESC Library Services Consultant and I just knew I had to see her space and tune in on her innovative spirit. Here is the newsletter I sent out on our listserve for other librarians around the region to see her example. <https://www.smores.com/1370q> I shared this info also with my former school district (Grapevine- Colleyville ISD) and from what I understand you are going to have more visitors! Thank you again for being so welcoming and **being a shining example for GREAT LIBRARIES!**

From a Parent: I can't thank **Ms. Lell and Mrs. Herbold** at **Oak Woods** enough for making **this week of intense writing FUN!** (My student) has **looked forward to each day with anticipation!** After the first day he was floating and **chattered continually about his adventure.** He was encouraged as he said each day he had produced more words on the page. I told him these skills are his to keep and to build on after camp. I really **can't thank you enough.** I hope you all got some camp photos. With **tremendous gratitude.**

From a Parent: Wanted to share a **huge kudos about Mr. Boomer.** My senior daughter truly **enjoys his government class** and somehow somehow he **has found a way to get her out of bed super early to come to an early morning study session** before a big test (which by the way she did wonderful on). This speaks volume especially when she is not a morning person at all! Thank you Mr. Boomer for making such a **difficult topic fun and enjoyable to learn about.**

From AMS: First off, we **middle school coaches appreciate those of you who helped run our track meet** more than this email can begin to tell you. Everyone was doing their part to help and it did not go unnoticed! Secondly, I watched the races go by and you all had **smiles on your faces,** and had **high fives and praises for our boys/girls from both GMS and AMS.** I could not be more proud to work with a group of people who really **do love the kids and love being a part of a team.** You all are truly awesome for helping our athletes! Thank you so much for all you do!

From ***Rich Teaching***, your students want to know, **"What's in it for me?"** **Relevance is everything** to your students. If their brain does not buy into classroom learning, it is not changing. If the brain doesn't change, no learning will occur. Relevance answers the question, **"Why should I learn this?"** Students need to feel that their own culture is more than OK, it is

valid and acceptable to talk about at school. **They want to know if the school and staff care enough about them to give them a voice** and help foster their vision. Only then are you likely to get students engaged fully. **Students need teachers that will invest in them** socially, emotionally, and cognitively. Without your investment, students feel like they can't invest in school. **Don't wait for them. You have to go first.**

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

JL

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MYERS, CHERIE

From: LARGENT, JAMES
Sent: Friday, March 31, 2017 9:05 AM
To: GISD-Staff
Subject: Supt Weekly 3/31/17

Good Morning GISD. What another busy week!

- We had some excitement Tuesday night as the **straight line winds wreaked havoc** on our area. We lost **power at AMS** and had to do some last minute rearranging of their day. The **students got a free day** at home, and the **staff spent their day collaborating**, checking on students at BTC and observing others. We also had a roof blown off of one of our portables at AES, but otherwise we came out OK. Thanks to all who were **up early making plans** and trying to make this as smooth a day as possible. **Thanks to our great bus staff** for being ready to run an additional route and getting our students home safely. We announced that we were going to run buses at 9:00, and by **9:12 all students were gone!** That may be the **quickest non-emergency evacuation of 800 students in the history of public schools, ha!**
- At the board meeting Monday night, we announced that we are going to **nominate our School Board as Region 11's Honor Board of the Year!** They have been so supportive of the **transformational changes we have made in GISD over the past few years** and believe me, this does not happen everywhere. Their support is a real key to us changing **our facilities, our focus on authentic learning**, and supporting our **great staff at GISD**. We will be working the next couple of months on their nomination packet and we hope that the entire DFW area gets to learn more about the great support we have in GISD.
- We also released and discussed the **UTA's Highest and Best Use Report** (feasibility study) at our board meeting. For those of you who would like to see the report or **use this as a model for your classes** on how to write a quality report, you can find the link to the report here. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B4TwOZongYBhbC15Q1BzRGNLZzg/view> We will be working with Weatherford College, the City of Granbury and other entities to insure those facilities and land that we vacated are put to great use in our community.
- Congratulations to our **UIL Academic competitors! Granbury High School finished 3rd overall in academic competition**, 41 points shy of runner-up. First place teams and individuals placing 1st-3rd, advance to Regional Competition, April 7-8, at Prosper High School. Along with our two **Speech and Debate students** who are advancing, **Granbury**

High School is sending 14 students to regional competition. Thank you to ALL our competitors and coaches for such a successful showing.

- I was in attendance Tuesday night as our **GHS Baseball team** got a **great win over Centennial**. All of our spring sports continue to be impressive and are making a strong showing for **post-season play**.
- Our **GHS Bass Team** had 5 teams out of 11 qualify for the regional tournament. To qualify they must fish a minimum of 3 tournaments and be in the top 50% in points at the end of the season. To qualify for State they must finish in the top 50% at Region. Region will be held at **Lake Palestine on April 22**. State will be held at **Ray Roberts on May 20-21**. Good luck to our anglers as they continue to compete!

Legislative Update: It is getting really busy in Austin as bills are starting to get passed out of committee and on to their respective bodies for full votes.

Yesterday, the Senate voted out the “**voucher bill**.” With a **vote of 18-13** it passed the Senate and **will now move to the House**, where it is expected to get less enthusiastic support. An amendment was introduced that would have schools who take vouchers **administer the same tests that public school students take** (so there could be some comparison on results). That **amendment failed by the same 18-13 vote**. Our Senator Birdwell voted **FOR the voucher bill and AGAINST the amendment**.

In another bill that educator groups are extremely upset about, the **Senate passed SB 13**, which is a **bill that would take away your right to payroll deduct your Association dues for ATPE, UEA, TSTA, etc**. The Senator who introduced the bill said that government should not be in the business of collecting dues. Interestingly the bill exempts firefighters, police, and EMT employees. It leaves **public school employees, correctional officers and some state employees** without an **easy, secure way of paying association dues**. In the debate, it was noted that **no one had complained about this, no entity had said this was a problem**, and many people believe **this is an attempt to silence the voice of teachers** because of our collective stance against vouchers. This bill also heads to the House for consideration. **Senator Birdwell voted FOR this bill, as well**.

Emails this week:

From BTC: Thank you, thank you to all the **AMS teachers who came out to BTC** during the power outage and visited with their students. **It means so much** when they get to see familiar faces and keep that connection with their campus!

From a Parent: I would like to say thank you to our **bus drivers** for their hard work and especially to **Mr. Torres** for making my son's **bus ride home so special**.

From Parents: We wanted to let you know what **an exceptional program is within the walls of Brawner**. We have had an **awesome experience** with the transition to Granbury ISD and wish we would have moved sooner (from a neighboring district)! After all, we have adopted **the Brawner way**. **"Learning for all whatever it takes!"** Have a wonderful remaining 2016-2017 school year.

From District Staff: Just wanted to let you know how much I continued to be impressed with one of our newer educators, **Karl Kreusel at GMS**. He has been instrumental in helping us and students with the new 8th grade math transition into Algebra I. Yesterday during testing, he dressed very professional in order to model for his students **"dressing for success."** What a gift our kids have in Mr. Kreusel as a teacher in more ways than math!

From AMS: A huge **"Thank You"** goes out to **Ron Holmgreen, Randy Leach, Scott Campbell, Terry Slemmons, Brian Caruthers**, and all of the **morning bus route staff** helping transport students from AMS back home when we did not have the electricity for the day. The building was too dark to even let students inside, and everyone jumped in and helped take care of students first! Thanks to all for helping a bad situation smooth and safe for students and families!

From **Rich Teaching**, if a classroom feels safe, students know that only good things will happen to them while they are attending. They will drop their guard, become less oppositional, and take learning risks. When students don't feel safe, or they are unsure about the environment, all bets are off. **Creating an upbeat, emotionally positive class climate is no Pollyanna idea**. The science is rock solid. **Create and maintain norms** to foster a rich environment. **Students need to know you will protect them from bullying, and you will not embarrass or humiliate them in front of their peers**. This warm, uplifting climate allows students to flourish and bloom.

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

JL

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MYERS, CHERIE

From: LARGENT, JAMES
Sent: Friday, April 7, 2017 8:40 AM
To: GISD-Staff
Subject: Supt Weekly 4/7/17

Good Morning GISD, As we end our 5th six weeks, I hope you are ready to finish our year strong and continue to engage and inspire our students. We are in the ballgame, banquet, contest, awards, and testing part of our year. Please remember to focus on what is most important; the work you are doing in the classroom:

- Thanks to all of you who worked with our **staff and students at AES** as they had to deal with the loss of a student this week. The **teamwork, compassion, and genuine concern** for our students does not go unnoticed. People from all over our district worked to help in any way they could to support AES. I am very proud of all of you! Our continued thoughts and prayers go out to the family and all of those who worked and knew Wyatt. A couple of emails I received related to this are below.

From AES: It's with grateful hearts and deep appreciation **AES wishes to acknowledge and thank all the overwhelming support from the district** following the loss of one of our precious students. We had support in every corner of our building including numerous texts, emails, phone calls, prayers and love sent our way. **Claudia Hurst and Ron Holmgreen** spent 2 days guiding, encouraging and leading us through the most difficult time we've experienced along with **Jeff Meador and Dobie Williams** who provided wisdom and words when we were experiencing shock and grief. **Sharon Williams, Megan Guidry, Doug Barnett, Cindy Holt, Jeri Dewberry, Holli Moore, Meredith Deemer, Mary Stennett, Amanda Rogers, and Nova Dea** were on hand in our counseling room and **Karman Chandler and Angie Molinari** were on call and texting for support as needed. This was an incredible comfort to our entire staff and we truly want to convey the warmth and love we all felt as we loved on our grieving staff and students. There is no possible way we could have gotten through this day and the days to come without the love and support from these incredible people. **Thanks to all the campuses for their willingness to give up staff to support us. The past two days have proven what a strong team we have within GISD.**

From GHS: As I was entering school today, **Ms. Barbara Townsend** stopped me. She wanted to relay her thanks to **all of the GISD counselors** for your readiness and response to the needs of the Acton Elementary School family. As a **School Board member**, she wanted to let us know that she appreciates the service that we provide to staff and students. As a counseling team member, I am **so very grateful for each of you**. You suit up and show up every day to give it

your all for students. You are the epitome of servant-hearted people and it is an honor to be a part of the team. **Thank you for being difference makers at GISD.** Enjoy your half day and please encourage one another to keep doing what we do best—loving students and helping them to find their very best path

- We had several students compete at the **State Science and Engineering Fair** in San Antonio this past weekend. Of our participants, **Liesl Krone placed 2nd overall in the Chemistry** category with her project entitled “Analyzing Spent Grains as a Sustainable Source of Feed.” She also **received a special award entitled the “Ricoh Sustainable Development Award 2017.”**
- April is **School Library Month**. We have many great librarians who do a variety of important tasks in GISD. There is much more to the job now than in the past and we appreciate all they do to make our “learning commons” a successful part of GISD!
- I attended the **AMS band’s Pre-UIL concert** on Monday. They are playing some difficult music and I know they will represent us well at their contest.
- I was at **Baccus** bright and early for Mrs. Leudeker's **PBL market place**. Students had made and marketed a variety of items that were on sale. Proceeds are going to Ruth’s Place. Thanks for the great job and I hope you made a lot of money!
- On Tuesday night, I was able to see the **GHS Choir’s Pre-UIL concert**. I can't express how impressed I was with the quality of the music our choirs' presented. Great job and good luck next week!

Legislative Update:

This week in Austin saw a continuation of several issues that we have been talking about. The House approved two bills that would not allow state dollars to be used for vouchers of any kind. This was after the Senate approved vouchers last week. So, it will be interesting to see where this tug of war goes...

The House committee on education passed some major changes to the A-F system. The common theme from educators is that we don't like the system, but if we are going to have it, at least make it a system that is somewhat fair and actually uses good data. We think this bill would partially do that, although there is still more emphasis on the once a year test than I would prefer. Whether or not the Senate will agree is still in question.

The Senate and House will soon be going to conference committees to try to reach some common ground on a variety of issues, so we will see where that goes in the coming weeks. Stay tuned.

A lot of emails this week:

From a Parent: I just wanted to tell you that my **wife and daughter ran into some of the football players this morning at AES**. My daughter was absolutely **star struck**. Thought the football players were the greatest people to ever step foot at her school. Anyway, my wife said **they were really nice to my daughter** and extremely respectful to her. A great representation of the program and our school my wife thought. I figured you would want to hear the good things since generally we only hear about the bad. Have a good weekend!

From GMS: **Granbury Middle School Science Club** is dedicated to enriching the science experiences of students after school hours. Students and sponsors partner together to further explore science related topics and interests. This past Saturday, with the support of our **Admin team and the volunteering help of Coach Tyson Stewart and Librarian Christy Jonas** we were able to take 16 students to the very impressive **Texas A&M Physics and Engineering Festival**. Students **interacted with college students and professionals** at the university and were able to be a part of hundreds of hands on displays and presentations. Our **students represented GMSD very well** and I was very proud of them. Afterwards on the bus ride home they all were very excited and were able to give feedback on many of the things they had seen and learned throughout the day. We hope to expand this trip next year!

From Emma: I writing today to bring attention to a group of students that showed great maturity as well as dedication to our lil pirates here at Emma Roberson. Bright and early Friday morning the **football boys were high-fiving and greeting our students** as they entered our building. But even before that, I encountered one specific student that left a strong impression. As I was walking up to the doors, **Isaiah Garcia** quickly noticed that I had more bags than I could handle and he offered to help. I happily handed over several bags and he carried them to the library for me. **As I thanked him for his help he offered a blessing over my day**. What an incredible way to begin a Friday morning! **I love knowing that Granbury ISD is fortunate enough to have students like Isaiah, that are willing to go out of their way to help others**. Not to mention how fortunate our community is to have **parents that are raising well mannered, thoughtful children!**

From GHS: The **GHS Art Department** would like to thank **Jeff Meador & Teresa Wills** for their support and help in getting word out about our **2017 GHS Art Show!** They truly went above and beyond. All are invited this April 20-22 to come and see the **amazing work produced by our students.**

From Emma: We would like to thank the **Engineering Design and Development class at the high school** for solving a problem for us. We had a part missing from a basketball goal we are giving away for perfect attendance. The company could not send us another part, however we had one from another goal. **We sent the part to Greg Belleau's class and a senior, Glenn Rodgers, created a duplicate part and printed it on the 3-D printer.** This is problem-solving at it's finest!!

From a Parent: My son **LOVES morning assembly at Emma Roberson.** He **begs to come at 7:10 when the doors open.** He loves class and what you are doing. He gets up early and wants to come to school. I personally love parent pick up and how quick and smooth it is. Our family loves the small town and the lake. Just wanted to share some good news on **how our family who moved here from Fort Worth is loving small town Granbury!**

From GMS: Thanks to **Laurie Williams, Laurie Dees, and Sheila McKamy at AMS** for sharing books with GMS to help us teach Number the Stars. We could not have done it without them.

From Mambrino: I want to give a **BiG SHOUT OUT to Amy Wood.** My computer has had MANY problems with pop-ups and she finally fixed them all. **AMY, YOU SO ROCK!!!! THANK YOU!**

From GHS: I would like to give a **shout out to Cari Davis.** She is our Law and Public Safety teacher who has started a new competitive student organization called LEFSA – Law Enforcement & Forensics Student Association. They **competed for the first time this year** and are taking students to **State competition in El Paso.** She organized a super fun mystery dinner called "Murder Among the Mateys". It was well attended and helped raise funds for the State competition.

From Pecan Plantation: The members of the **Pecan Plantation Women's Club** who attended the luncheon and tour of Granbury High School in March thank you. The **chefs prepared a delicious lunch for us.** The chicken salad sandwich, spinach salad, and homemade angel food cake were perfectly presented. **We enjoyed getting to meet and visit with the student chefs.** Our ladies were excited to learn about the various areas of study available to the high school students. Congratulations on adopting a successful vigorous curriculum.

From *Rich Teaching*, creating a rich classroom can bring amazing results. Using research as a basis for teaching shows a strong effect on classroom climate. **Five climate builders** are:

- 1) **Changing roles**; ask them questions that lead them to learn what it is they need to know.
- 2) **Show the students clear evidence of the high standards** you expect from them. When students see their peers work, **it inspires them**.
- 3) **Change the game** by reframing assignments or activities.
- 4) Make it **less about a grade and more about doing something spectacular**.
- 5) **Create ownership**. Without this, the class is always a teacher-run event.

Students must have a stake in the game and a reason to participate. Give them a sense of control over their daily experiences. **It has to become “our classroom”** and be an optimistic one.

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

JL

To: LARGENT, JAMES
Subject: RE: Supt Weekly 4/21/17

On Apr 21, 2017, at 6:32 AM, LARGENT, JAMES <JAMES.LARGENT@granburyisd.org> wrote:

Good Morning GISD,

- We had a special guest in GISD yesterday as **Hall of Fame QB Roger Staubach** visited GHS to visit in person with over a **hundred of our students** and many hundreds more via web conferencing. I was very impressed with our students as **they listened intently** to what he had to say, **asked great questions**, and **represented GISD very well**. As a person who grew up in the "**Staubach era**" it was a real honor for me to get to meet and visit with one of my childhood heroes. He was friendly, gracious, and just what you would expect (and hope) he would be. What an honor. And, for those wondering **why we didn't publicize this event**, we were under **strict orders from the NFL and the Pro Football Hall of Fame** not to do so. They wanted this to be a student event, not an adult/media event. Thanks to **Amy Wood and her staff**, and our **administrators** at all campuses for working behind the scenes with the Hall of Fame to make this happen.
- Our **administrator PLC** traveled to **AMS** this week to tour the **Outdoor Learning Center**. We had a great visit, saw AMS students working with elementary students, and got to witness the great interaction going on between our students from different grade levels. Thanks to **AMS for making this happen** and for the **students and staff who were involved**.
- Our **GHS Bands** had a **sweepstakes week** as we were rated Superior at the regional contest. Our band has quite a run of sweepstakes awards and always represent us very well at these contests. Congrats!
- Our **softball team** is in the playoffs after finishing 2nd place in district play. Congrats to **Coach Jayjohn, her staff**, and our players for their outstanding year and we look forward to the playoffs!
- Last night, we had our **employee banquet** where we recognized **years of service and employees of the year**. Thanks to **Wes Jones and our HR department** for putting on a great banquet. With their planning, we had an "**Academy Awards night**" with student entertainment, some good laughs,

and great food. It is always great to see employees **who have been in GISD for many years** being recognized, and to see employees **chosen by their peers as truly outstanding**. Congrats to all!

Legislative Update:

In a preliminary vote, **the House approved Rep. Dan Huberty's bill to inject \$1.6 billion into public schools and simplify complicated funding formulas**. Legislators must still take a final vote on the bill and the Senate and House will come together in a conference committee to come up with a compromise finance bill, as the Senate and House versions are very different. The House bill **increases the basic allotment, addresses transportation issues, offers new weights for students' with dyslexia and provides hardship grants** to districts affected by the **ASATR** (GISD is one of those districts affected). The bill **passed 134-16. Representative Lang was one of 16 representatives to vote against this bill.**

The Senate, approved SB 640 this week by a vote of **23-8**. This bill would allow children who are **home-schooled to participate in UIL activities** at public schools. Essentially, a home school student could show up at GISD and decide they want to be in our band or play athletics or do other UIL activities, but otherwise not attend our schools. They would not have any attendance requirements, no-pass-no play would not affect them, but we would allow them to show up and pick the activities they would like to take part in. **Groups associated with public schools are opposed to this measure** for the reasons I just stated. I have said this many times; I have **no problem with people who choose to home school their children or send them to private school**. That is their choice and I fully support that choice. But, **when they make that choice, they also make the choice to participate in private and home school activities**. I don't believe you should be able to choose the parts of our school you want to be a part of, but stay home for the parts you don't like. **Senator Birdwell was one of 23 Senators who supported this bill.**

Emails this week:

From Oak Woods: On behalf of **Oak Woods 5th grade students and teachers**, we would like to give **AMS a huge shout-out** for a wonderful day at the **AMS Outdoor Learning Center**. Your AMS students were very friendly and knowledgeable as we made our way through each **hands-on outdoor station**.

Thank you so much for having the day well-organized and fun. It was an experience that will likely make a lasting impression on our students. We would love to plan a visit each spring as a year-end review for STAAR Science.

From a Community Member: I wanted to say how wonderful and refreshing it was to see the effort being made to teach children the **importance of agriculture in our state**. What a great opportunity for our youth to have hands on experience in farming and ranching. I love the cooperation between **Baccus Elementary and the high school Ag Department**. What a great way to use resources we already have and volunteers from our community. A shout out to **Mrs. Davis at Baccus and Mrs. Overstreet from GHS** for their wonderful event.

From Mambrino: I just wanted to say a BIG thank you to **Officer Jones** for coming to hang out with first grade. The kids loved having him join us in our Easter egg hunt. They enjoyed showing him our new chicks. It **brightens the kids day when he stops in to say hi and see what they are learning**. Thank you for allowing him to hang out with First grade and make those **positive connections with our students**.

From Emma: I want to offer a huge **shout out** and "**thank you**" to **Stan Ore** and the **Technology Department** for taking care of our technology needs at Emma Roberson this week! Specifically, thank you for fixing my printer and for the work you did to make sure that my kids' learning and home practice opportunities with technology are optimized, realistic, and tailored to the specific needs of my specialized class. I appreciate the **problem solving, creativity, and proactivity** **GISD's Technology Department possesses!**

From AMS: Special thanks to **Bobby Ellingson and Britney Sparks** and the **GCA crew** for helping prepare for the **GISD employee banquet** last night. Great job!

From **Rich Teaching**, there are **two types of engagement**. The first is for **maintaining student energy**. You can modify any activity that seems too easy or too hard. Remember **you are the weather-maker in your classroom**. If you **sell the activity with enthusiasm** and have rapport with students, they'll give it a try. The other strategy is to **manage stress with de-stressors**. Too much and too little stress is ineffective for learning. Once you become more purposeful about **maintaining healthy student states and managing stress**, you'll have more time in your classroom because you'll spend **less time re-teaching and more time celebrating the learning**.

I hope you all have a great weekend and **GO PIRATES!!**

JL

Dr. James M. Largent

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MYERS, CHERIE

From: LARGENT, JAMES
Sent: Friday, April 28, 2017 10:48 AM
To: GISD-Staff
Subject: Supt weekly 4/28/17

Good Morning GISD, the crazy spring schedule for schools continues. Lots of goings on this week for sure, so grab a cup of coffee before you start reading:

- Yesterday, I visited **AES** as a **group of teachers from Burkburnett** came for a second trip to look at **how AES is implementing PBL**. They saw projects in various stages, heard from students, teachers and administrators and were very excited to get their program going. It is always great to see our staff **share ideas with other schools** around the state. **Thanks AES staff and students!**
- I had my final meeting with my **SSAC (student group)** this week. We discussed **future plans, college, prom, and a variety of other issues**. What great kids we have in Granbury and I am always **impressed and energized** after I meet with them.
- A couple of **district administrators** visited **GHS this week**. **This is what they reported:** **Upper Grand Hall**-every class was actively engaged in lessons; students working collaboratively and participating in the discussion; **Art Hall**-students working on projects and teachers facilitating the lessons; **Culinary-HEB** meat market director demonstrating how to cut up a chicken; **Auto Tech**-showing self-made videos of poor mechanics, very funny and applicable; **Dance**-demonstrated their dance production for tonight's show; **Aviation**-plane under construction; **Engineering**-the recycling of trash using marbles; students designing trains and rooms; **Lecture Hall**-being used by English department; **JROTC**-testing on military protocol; **Lunch** was smooth and quiet with counselors answering student's questions. Thanks to GHS for taking care of business and **keeping kids engaged!!**
- Our **boys golf team** has qualified for the **State Tournament!** They had a tough tournament in Rockwall, but played hard and fought off some really tough competition to finish 2nd in Regionals. Congrats to **Coach Ward and our players**. We look forward to watching them compete at the next level of competition.
- I attended our **softball playoff game last night** at Weatherford College. Our girls played hard but came up a little short against a good (and very fast) Mansfield Lake Ridge team. Congrats to **Coach Jayjohn and our players** on a great season. They **have come a**

long way in a short amount of time, and I think we will see our girls make regular playoff appearances for the foreseeable future.

- Our **baseball team** had a good win Tuesday vs. Cleburne and are still in the **playoff hunt**. Tonight's game against Seguin and a possible play-in game will determine whether or not we advance.
- **Speaking of baseball**, I got this news from **Weatherford College** this week. It is always great to **see our graduates are having success** at the next level: Weatherford College's **Landon Gray is the North Texas Junior College Athletic Conference Baseball Position Player of the Week** for April 16-22. The **freshman catcher from Granbury** had a **.571 batting average** last week with **three home runs, 11 RBI, five runs scored and five walks** to lead the Coyotes to a 4-0 record during that period. For the season, **Gray is hitting .363 with 53 hits, 38 RBI, five home runs in 146 at-bats**.

Legislative Update:

I got this from **TRS this week**. Retirement season is here and you may have employees planning their next big move. TRS wants you to know that the **health plans currently available to retirees may be different** by the time your employees retire. The 85th Texas Legislature is **considering legislation that could make significant changes to TRS-Care, the retiree health program**, to sustain the program for current and future retirees. TRS is closely monitoring legislative activity, and if any legislation passes that affects TRS health plans, TRS will communicate information to participants about their health plan options.

The House heard a couple of bills this week that would **restrict Districts of Innovation**, especially regarding the **school calendar**. This bill was led by the **tourism industry** and they want to make every school in the state have **uniform start and end dates**. One bill had financial and academic accountability standards before a school could even apply to be a DOI. We **hope we will be grandfathered**, since we have already completed the DOI process and it is supposed to be good for 5 years. We will see if this bill moves any further in the process and how this may affect us.

Lots of **great emails** this week:

From GHS: Congrats to GHS Bass teams. 5 teams competed at Regions this past weekend on Lake Palestine. 3 out of the 5 teams finished in the top 50% in standings. Those **3 teams**

qualified for the **State tournament** at Ray Roberts May 20-21. Congratulate them when you see them. It was a cold, windy and wet day on the lake.

From GMS: Shout OUT! **DUMAS and PAT** for making all that happen with **Roger Staubach!!** It was a great experience!! The students really enjoyed it and were very surprised!! They did *research, character values and traits, Hall of Fame values, and critical thinking to dig deeper to come up with some awesome questions!!! They also had to listen and fill out what they learned from this event!!!!* (VERY PROUD of this event!! Thank you!! Some of the students were asking to keep their research to do more digging, WINNING!!!!!!!!!! STUCO students are going to do an extension activity and write thank you letters to all involved! **HUGE THANK YOU TO ALLLLLLLLLLLLLLL of you**, who graciously let them go without knowing what in the world was going on!! #GMSROCKS

From Mambrino: I wanted to take a minute and recognize **three bus drivers** who went above and beyond the call of duty at our **Pre K/Kindergarten field trip**. **Ms. Betty, Daniel Linden, Tim Hayes**. They drove the buses with a **cheerful heart**. Loaded and unloaded coolers with **muscles of mercy**. Helped, participated and loved on babies as never before seen. When an emergency situation arrived, they eagerly jumped up and **came to our rescue**. **Way to go....just want you to know that they blessed us ALL!**

From AES: Just wanted to let you know how much we appreciate **Officer Patrick Jones**. He's been **very much a part of our campus**. He checks in with us often, he has been a **mystery reader** in some of our classes, and he has started **building a relationship as a mentor** with individual students. It's been **great having him a part of our campus and district**.

From GHS: I was one of the '**20 years of service**' recipients at the banquet last night and just want to say that **it was by far my favorite of all the banquets I've attended**. The food, the comradery, and the entertainment were all fabulous and I was especially proud of the **GHS representation by the Culinary Dept**. YUMM! But all the **touches of humor** that were incorporated throughout the evening **added so much fun** and made it **absolutely perfect**. So **"thank you" to HR** and for each of you for your part in making it such a wonderful event for GISD employees. Y'all have a great PIRATE day!

From Mambrino: I wanted to tell and the **Pirate football team** thank you so much for **welcoming our students to school last Friday!** They loved having them welcome them to school and then dancing with them at our morning meeting. They truly felt as though they were in the presence of **"Rock Stars!"** These guys even stayed after all the fun to help me move our exercise bikes and set up our **"Readin', Ridin', Rithmetic"** room that we got from our grant. I am proud to see the **great leaders they are becoming** and love seeing our students be in awe of the older students. It truly gives them something to look up to. Thanks again to all of you! **I LOVE being a part of Pirate Nation!**

From GMS: Last week we had a mix-up with a bus that was scheduled for a student to be able to attend a field trip. I contacted **Leslie Gray** who quickly responded, **“It doesn’t matter how it happened, we’re going to fix it”**. We moved the student to the afternoon group and Leslie herself picked up the student and drove him to the field trip in Fort Worth. She was **professional, courteous, stayed calm, and exemplifies what GISD customer care should be.**

From GHS: I would like to express my gratitude for the yeoman’s service of **Cary VanLoh** over the past two weeks. We notified him of two problems—an almost complete loss of internet connectivity in only ONE ROOM on the English hallway and the dysfunction of the GHSStaff email distribution list. Since then, **he has practically camped out in the English hallway** with his fancy interference diving rod device monitoring the traffic on every channel of our Wi-fi and calling the engineers to identify and **SOLVE the problem!** Today, he’s back monitoring again and making sure it’s really fixed. On the email list, he sent innumerable test emails and worked with me to ensure that each of the English teachers was receiving the email while spending hours on the phone with Microsoft to figure out the problem. **GISD is blessed to have such diligent servant leaders like Cary!**

From GHS: I want to thank **Kevin Cummings, Randy Leach and Steve Thompson** for responding so quickly to a pesty (not pesky) problem I’ve been having. Their follow up has been such a comfort and I really appreciate their concern. Thank you so much!

From a Parent: I just want to say with a heart full of gratitude that **John Morgan and Stephanie Bosch** have helped shaped my boys into the young men they are becoming in a way that I could have never imagined. I am just so grateful to them both. Who would think playing a horn could teach so much. I have watched my boys grow in **discipline, dedication, commitment and achievement** within the contexts of their program. I was listening to the music on Tuesday night and I had tears rolling down my face because I felt **so grateful for them and our amazing school system.** They **both go above and beyond.** They reinforce all that we as parents work so hard to instill in our children. **For my boys, they have changed their lives.** I will always be **eternally grateful.**

From **Rich Teaching**, the effectiveness of activities or content blocks typically depend on **how well you prepare learners before you begin instruction.** Remember, **relevance is everything to students’ brains.** In short, **buy-in is priceless** for any learning activity, and **without it, even good activities will die.** Buy-in practically ensures the next task you do will work and the lesson will be more effective. How? **If the brain’s not buying, the brain’s, not changing.** When students buy in, they say, **“I want to learn this. It is important to**

me.” Become more purposeful about implementing set-up and buy-in, and you’ll get more chances to celebrate the learning.

I hope you all have a great weekend and **GO PIRATES!!**

JL

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MYERS, CHERIE

From: LARGENT, JAMES
Sent: Friday, May 5, 2017 12:01 PM
To: GISD-Staff
Subject: Supt Weekly 5/5/17
Attachments: 2017 Top 25 Employee Paragraphs.pdf

Good morning, GISD. We continue to have something going on every night of the week. This is a fun time of year for student recognition, awards, banquets, etc. And, we are in the middle of the testing season... So, please continue to keep your students engaged in learning, keep close supervision and remember that when students are having fun, actively engaged, and learning, there are very few problems. If you take away those elements, students become bored and unengaged, and they WILL start finding things to do, and they are not always positive.

A few things this week:

- Last night I attended the **Top 25 banquet**. This is one of my favorite events; one where our top 25 seniors are recognized for being **outstanding academic scholars**. The thing that makes this event really special is that each of the students **selects a person in their school career who has influenced them the most**. It is so impressive seeing who they chose. Last night, we had **kindergarten and elementary teachers, middle and high school teachers, coaches and counselors, a band director and retired teachers and administrators**. Truly a great cross-section of our district. Thanks to our **GEF** for putting on the great event and for **Lake Granbury Medical Center** for sponsoring the meal.
- This month is **Teacher Appreciation Month**. It is great that the event last night occurs during this month. As educators, you know it is almost impossible to score your impact. You don't produce great works of art or build buildings that last forever with your name on them. **You have an even greater impact**. You are part of **shaping the lives of the hundreds of students** you will work with over the course of a career. And, **you WILL have an impact** on them, one way or the other. **I hope that each of you strives** to have the type impact that those 25 staff members who were recognized last night has had on their students. **They are true life changers**.
- **Attached to this email**, are the paragraphs **written by our students** about the person they chose. I would urge you to take some time to read what students say about our staff and the truly **life-changing impact they have had on them**. These are really worth reading and as you do, **you will see some common themes**. They taught me **life lessons**, they took a **personal interest** in me, they **picked me up when I was down**, they

never gave up on me, they had high expectations, they made class fun, but expected us to learn, etc. You can take their comments, piece them together, and you will have the perfect educator. Please take the time to read the attachment.

- I stopped in at **prom** for a brief time last Saturday. All of you would have been **impressed with our students, the supervision, the venue, and the great time our kids were having.** Sometimes we hear negative things about our kids, **mostly from people who have never been in our school or around our kids.** I can tell you that I wish all of those naysayers could go in and watch our 600+ students as they enjoyed time with their friends, were dressed in formals, and had a great night. **Everyone would have been proud of how this group represented GISD!**
- Our **Pirate baseball team** will be in action tonight in the **first round of the playoffs.** **Game 1** will be **at home, tonight at 7:30 against Waxahachie.** Tomorrow we will travel to Waxahachie for game 2 and 3 (if needed).
- Thanks to **Atyka Ditto and our entire district** for working with the **GMS StuCo** to send needed supplies, money, and putting together a **blood drive** for the people in **Canton, TX.** I am sure you will hear more about this and see more pictures related to this outstanding show of support for the Canton community.

Legislative Update: This week, the legislature made a lot of progress, especially in the **House where they passed several bills** of interest to us. **HB 463** was approved that would make the Individual Graduation Committees (IGC) **permanent.** **HB 22 revised the A-F system.** Even though most educators do not believe in the system at all, if we are going to have a system that gives us a letter grade, we should at least have one that makes sense and can be measured. **HB 22** moves us closer to that. **HB 1776 removes the US History EOC and replaces it with the US Citizenship exam.** **HB 515 is a test reduction bill that we really like.** It will **reduce state testing to no more than is required by the Federal Government.** **HB 2442** cleans up the “minutes bill” from last session and clarifies some of the issues we found. Finally, **HB 3976** is a bill addressing TRS Care. It does **put some money into the TRS Care system** to help with the shortfall, but **TRS retirees are still likely to see an increase in premiums.** All of these had generally positive support from the education community and **while not perfect, they mostly do some good things.** Now, the Senate gets to look at these bills and vote. We will see how that goes... **Thus far, the House has been much more pro-education than the Senate.** The analogy is that **getting a bill actually passed is like watching sausage getting made...it isn't a pretty process.** We will continue to hope that the Senate will support these bills and others that are good for kids and educators.

Emails this week:

From District Staff: Happy School Lunch Hero Day... I would like to give a shout out to **all the cafeteria staff here at GISD!** Thank you all for everyone's hard work and dedication this year. We really appreciate you! **You are truly someone's Hero!**

From STARS/BTC: Thank you to **Nova Dea, GMS**, for coming over to help us out with a **BTC student in crisis**. **She made a HUGE difference** for this child and helped us to have insight to take care of him in the future. Thank you!

From GMS: So blessed to be a part of the drive for Canton! **HUGE shout out** to everyone who helped make this possible today! All the **students who loaded up** and brought in items at **EVERY campus!!** To the coaches who helped us **load the trailer**, just stopped by and offered their services, **Coach Winkleman and Zschiesche!** Thank you **Teri Call, from Emma**, volunteering for the Red Cross and taking some items! To **Brandon Duncan** for taking everything and volunteering his time!! **You guys are the greatest!!**

From **Rich Teaching**, **teaching is easy, but teaching well is tough**. It is a **consuming, soul-searching, and transformative process** that may make for an **awesome life at work**. Otherwise, your job is well, just a job. You know full well by now that it is possible to change students' attitudes, cognitive capacity, effort, and classroom behaviors. Think differently about how your brain works and how changes affect it.

I know your work is hard. I know there are obstacles with silly rules and crazy standards. But I also know that students need you very, very badly. The better you get, the more students will graduate job and college ready.

*I am going to finish up our book study this week. This book was a little more difficult for me to deliver via weekly snippets, because there is so much great content. But, there are a LOT of great ideas, direction, and research-based reasons for teaching in this book that I know would be beneficial to those of you who read it. If you are looking for a great book to focus your mindset and give you some great ideas as you look forward to next year, I would highly recommend it. **Poor Students, Rich Teaching; Mindsets for Change**, by Eric Jensen.*

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

JL

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MYERS, CHERIE

From: LARGENT, JAMES
Sent: Friday, May 12, 2017 9:18 AM
To: GISD-Staff
Subject: Supt Weekly 5/12/17
Attachments: The Contrast of Two Chambers May 2017.docx

Good Morning GISD, I hope you are all enjoying the nice weather and are having a great week.

- I know this was another **testing week** for a lot of you. Thanks for your **great supervision and attention to detail** as we administer these tests.
- **Nurse Appreciation Day** was Wednesday of this week. I hope all of you had a chance to go by and tell your nurse thanks for all they do for our kids. If not, today would be a good day.
- I had lunch with our **aviation mentors** this week. These folks have given of their time this entire school year working with our students in the aviation lab. The finished product will be a **fully functional RV 12 airplane!** I am sure you will see more information on this project in the coming weeks and months.
- I attended **GHS Biology classes** this week as the students were learning about **beekeeping and honey production** from our very own **Brian Caruthers**. Brian has gotten into this hobby and is very knowledgeable about the topic, the types of bees, the honey-making process, etc. Our students had lots of questions and it was a great class.
- On Thursday, I ate lunch at **"The Galley"** as our **culinary students** have begun the process of opening a diner that we hope will expand into a full-fledged restaurant run by our students. The service was great, food was delicious and everyone really enjoyed the experience. **Great job!**

Legislative Update: This is a bit of a lengthy update this week, but for those of you following this, it gives a good illustration of how legislation works and how amendments can disrupt what otherwise was considered a good bill.

CSHB 21: School Finance (We support HB 21 without the amendment)

Public education advocates were relieved to see that public education funding reform still had a chance! A **big surprise was revealed** when Chairman Taylor explained his committee

substitute for HB 21. He listed a couple of changes, but it was **the third change that woke up anyone who was dozing** or otherwise distracted. He announced that the **senate version of HB 21 would create an education savings account program (ESAs) for kids with disabilities**, who were in public school the year before in either Special Ed or had a 504 plan. Each student would receive 90% of the state M&O, 5% would go back to the school district, and the last 5% would fund a dyslexia allotment.

The **senate's voucher virus**, that some had pronounced dead, found a possible host in the school finance bill that public education advocates had embraced in its original form. **Knowing how desperate public schools are for a few more dollars, the senate figured maybe we could accept some vouchers if funding was dependent on it.** A long line of people quickly formed in the hearing room as **witnesses changed their position on the bill from "for" to "against."** **Prepared testimony in support of the house school finance fix quickly changed to condemnation of vouchers in any form.** Public education advocates were consistent in their opposition to this new provision, however some senators who have strongly opposed vouchers, seemed to show a softening for special ed vouchers in response to the horror stories that have been shared since the revelation of TEA's 8.5% special ed cap. These senators asked for promises from Chairman Taylor that the program wouldn't grow and he said that he intended for it to stay focused. Of course, **this is how vouchers have started in almost every voucher state and within a few years the programs always grow, whether or not they are successful for students.**

SB 2052 (Larry Taylor): Districts of Innovation and School Start Date (Even though GISD will be grandfathered for 5 years, we do not like this bill as it limits local control)
Senator Taylor introduced SB 2052, which would **change the law governing when school districts can begin instruction for students.** The bill would move the date from "not before the fourth Monday in August" to "not before the third Monday in August." The other major change this bill would make is to state that a **District of Innovation (DOI) cannot exempt itself from the uniform first day of instruction** going forward. **Existing DOIs would be grandfathered for the 5 years of their previously adopted DOI.** However, DOIs created after the implementation of the bill (if passed) and renewals of DOIs would be subject to this rule. So, if you have a DOI that exempts your district from the uniform start date, you can keep that exemption until you need to renew. If you haven't already created a DOI and don't complete that process before this bill becomes law, then you will not be able to exempt your district from the uniform start date. The bill is still pending in committee, and we will let you know when and if it moves forward.

SB 7 (Bettencourt/ Ken King): Inappropriate Student Teacher Relationships (This is a bill we support, but some of the wording in the actual bill is vague, which is concerning)
Earlier this week, SB 7, the bill **expanding and strengthening penalties on superintendents and principals** who don't report **allegations of inappropriate teacher-student relationships,**

passed unanimously on third reading in the Texas House of Representatives. This bill had already passed unanimously in the Texas Senate and **will almost certainly be signed into law by the governor**. The version of the bill passed into law expands reporting requirements and penalties to include principals (in addition to superintendents), private schools, and covers relationships between teachers and students in their own or any other district. A purposeful lack of reporting to SBEC would result in a state jail felony, and unintentional lack of reporting within 7 business days would result in a fine up to \$10,000. **Several amendments were adopted** into the final version of the bill including:

- a. Requiring the **school board to notify the parent** or guardian of a student with whom educator misconduct was alleged.
- b. Requiring a **pre-employment affidavit** for an applicant to work at an ISD, DOI, open-enrollment charter, ESC, or shared service arrangement disclosing whether the applicant has ever been charged with, adjudicated for, or been convicted of having an inappropriate relationship with a minor.
- c. **Disallowing the collection of a pension for a teacher convicted** of an improper relationship. An amendment to that amendment gives a judge the discretion to award the pension to the family of the convicted party.

We will start seeing bills actually go the Governor's desk in the coming weeks. That is when we will know for sure which of these bills actually becomes law.

Emails this week:

From a community member: I wanted to send a shout out to our **GHS culinary arts dept.** for an **incredible luncheon** for the aerospace mentors today. Very impressive presentation, service and food!

From GMS: Everyone that I have talked to said they had a great time at **Dinosaur Valley!** Some of the *students said they have never seen a river, been hiking or been to this kind of park! They were asking when we were coming back next year!!* It was like *elementary excitement for our Middle Schoolers!* I want to give a **HUGE** shout out to all who helped pull it off! **The 6th grade team at GMS is AMAZING!!!!!!** Hughes, Ghiglieri, Futch, Logsdon, Hibbs, Mabery, Taylor, Moody, Broadus, Pina, and Robertson! You guys all stepped up and did whatever it took to make it great! Trudging through mud and water in the river, through bugs and heat... *I, Ditto, thank you so very much! I could not have done it without each and every one of you!!!* Thank you to Sheila McCarthy, Coach Greg McCarthy, Coach Gary Childs, Coach Bruce Stafford, Coach Jeremy Blowhowiak, Coach Jason Logsdon for driving our buses and volunteering their time for our students! Thank you **Jimmy Dawson** for allowing us to

borrow Greg! He was a hit! **Pat Yelverton, Kathy Currie, and Veronica Rios**, thank you all for everything you guys did to make this happen for our students!

We couldn't have done it without your help! Lastly, to **Ranger Jen and Ranger Reuben** for taking the time to teach our students about the park, safety, Indians, spears, alt-alt, dinosaurs, outdoors, and having lunch with them!! Ranger Jen said, ***"These kids are great! They listen and participate better than the other schools we have had! You guys are welcome back anytime!"***

I am releasing an **article today** related to the **contrast between the House and Senate** this session. You can find it attached to this email. Also, I would encourage you to read an article from the **Houston Chronicle** regarding legislation and the "voucher" debate. It was written by a **school board trustee** who is also the **parent of a disabled child**. You can find it here: <http://www.houstonchronicle.com/opinion/outlook/article/Tassin-Public-education-is-in-the-ring-again-11140226.php>

I hope you all have a great weekend. On a personal note, I will be going tomorrow to watch my **son graduate from Tarleton State University** with a **Business Management** degree. It seems like just yesterday he was walking across the stage at the FW Convention Center wearing the purple and **gold**. Time flies...

JL

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MYERS, CHERIE

From: LARGENT, JAMES
Sent: Friday, May 19, 2017 10:06 AM
To: GISD-Staff
Subject: Supt weekly 5/19/17

Good Morning GISD, As we get closer to the end of our year, we can all feel the restlessness of our students as they get excited about the summer. Please be diligent with your supervision and continue to engage our students. A few things this week:

- We met with the **CTE BEST team** this week, which is comprised of **local businesses** who are working with our kids to provide authentic learning opportunities to them. We had a presentation from our **aviation mentors** and a good discussion about future plans.
- I went out to **Mambrino** this week to meet with a **student who had written me a letter regarding our school calendar**. He was concerned that he would not be able to access our flex days to begin working on some of his "bucket list" items for the summer. I went out and had a nice discussion with he and his teacher, Mrs. Jackson, and we formulated a plan so that he could begin his bucket list if he did a few simple things. It is always fun to meet with our kids.
- While at **Mambrino**, I was able to step in and see the exciting **final matches of our district chess championship** that pits the 2nd and 3rd grade campus winners against each other. Chess is a great tool for our younger students to learn problem solving and critical thinking skills and it is fun to see them take the matches so seriously.
- I also made it out to **Brawner** to see their **PBL on animal habitat**, where students had created boards on a variety of animals that depicted their habitat, characteristics, food choices and other interesting facts.
- Finally, I was able to watch our **Pirate football** team in some morning drills as they are wrapping up spring training.
- Last night I attended the **senior awards program** as we awarded millions of dollars in scholarships and recognition for our soon-to-be graduates. It is always fun to hear the plans of our students and the hopes and dreams they have for themselves. I have no doubt that many of them will be very successful and you should all be proud to know that you played a part in their future.

Legislative Update:

Lt. Governor **Dan Patrick** held a press conference this week in response to a letter Speaker of the House Joe Straus sent to him regarding the two pieces of legislation the House needed to pass so they would not go into special session. The Lt. Governor specified that he had planned to “negotiate in private” but once the letter from the speaker to him was in the press, he decided to speak out. He **firmly disagreed with the speaker’s** notion that the Legislature should pass the budget and sunset bill and call it a day. He stated that SB 310, the “must-pass” sunset bill of state agencies is in “the hands of the Senate” and **they must see action in the House.**

Specifically, the Lt. Governor stated that **SB 2**, which deals with the city and county taxes, and **SB 6**, better known as the “bathroom bill,” **must pass the House.** The gauntlet was basically thrown down by the Lt. Governor and stated that although it is up to the governor to call and to decide which legislation to consider during a special, **he was willing to go to special if those two bills are not passed.** He then gave a quick summary of HB 21, the school finance bill, that differed from the bill voted out by the Senate Education Committee. **He stated that the Senate is willing to delay the implementation of A-F until 2019 “if” the House concurs with the Senate version of HB 21, which includes facility funding for charter schools (currently not in the bill) and education savings accounts for special education students.** He then reiterated that he will be willing to go to special session if SB 2 and SB 6 do not pass.

Per news reports, the **governor and the speaker have responded to this press conference.** Here are their responses:

Abbott spokesman John Wittman: “The Governor made clear yesterday that property tax reform and maintaining privacy in restrooms and locker rooms are legislative priorities that must be passed, and he believes both items can be achieved before the end of the regular session. The governor is grateful that the House has set the property tax bill to be heard on the floor tomorrow, and is making progress on privacy legislation. The governor will continue working with the House and Senate to conclude another successful legislative session.”

Speaker Joe Strauss: Governor Patrick’s **threat to force a special session unless he gets everything his way is regrettable**, and I hope that he reconsiders. The best way to end this session is to reach consensus on as many issues as we can. Nobody is going to get everything they want. But we can come together on many issues and end this session knowing that we have positively addressed priorities that matter to Texas.” Twelve days and nine hours more until sine die.

Who says we don’t have fun during session?

From a Parent: My children have attended Mambrino since 2012 and it has always been a **good school with a great staff and teachers**. When Mrs. Brown became principal the change was swift and immediate. **Mambrino went from a good school to an AMAZING one**. Not only was it very apparent the children were gaining so much more from their education experience, but the staff and teachers exceeded their great performance to become OUTSTANDING. The **mood of the school is always happy and positive** and I attribute that to Mrs. Brown's leadership skills and personality.

From Mambrino: Thanks to the **5th grade team** for having our 4th graders participate in Leadership Lessons yesterday. They came in today still talking about them and what they learned from the 5th graders. It has gotten them all excited to come to fifth grade and be the new leaders of the school. Thanks again for taking the time to work with our students.

From GMS: The **GMS band program** has never played on a **professional stage or attended a festival like this**. This is starting a **new tradition of excellence** for this program. I am so **beyond proud of these kids** and am amazed at how many challenges they have overcome this year. The stage was beautiful and the kids filled it with beautiful music. Have a great day!

From Emma Roberson: I just want to take a second to say that our **PE coach, Victor Sanchez, at Emma is the BEST!** He went above and beyond for our kiddos for Field Day. I can truly say it was one of the best ones we have had at Emma in a long time. He spent so many hours after school and on the weekends working to **make sure the kids had a blast**. It was so well organized and thought out. Thank you so much!

From Mambrino: Thank so much to **Cary VanLoh** for fixing my Chromebook. I appreciate all the trips out to Mambrino to try to figure out what was going on with it and all the time spent to solve the problem. I am truly thankful for a **technology department** committed to working hard for our students and staff.

From a Parent: My boys are finishing up their year at Acton Middle School. I have extended thanks to the **boys' coaches at AMS**, but I want to let you know too, my wife and I appreciate every investment the coaches at AMS made into our boys this past school year. **They had a great time representing their school in football, basketball, and track**. It was a joy to see them compete and have a tremendous amount of fun. I thank you too for your leadership, time and efforts. I hope you have a great summer.

I hope you all have a great weekend! **GO PIRATES!!**

JL

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GISD

MYERS, CHERIE

From: LARGENT, JAMES
Sent: Friday, May 26, 2017 9:33 AM
To: GISD-Staff
Subject: Supt Weekly 5/26/17

Good Morning GISD, I hope you are having a great week and I know a lot of your students are happy as this might be their last day of school, due to flex days.

- Regarding our **flex days**, please remember that these days are for **extending the classroom, small group instruction**, making up **attendance and incompletes**, and giving our students a good **push for the summer and any re-takes** they may have. This is our first time to do this, so we need to make sure these are **meaningful and productive days**.
- I am not going to report all our test scores in my weekly, as I know you will be getting detailed reports on all your scores. I do want to point out some **great news from our middle schools**. For those students who took **high school courses in middle school**, **100%** of students at **GMS** and **99%** of students at **AMS** passed the **End of Course exam in Algebra I**. For **End of Course English**, **97%** at **AMS** and **90%** at **GMS** passed the test. This represents about **200 students** out of the 500 or so in the 8th grade class who passed a high school end of course exam. The **bad news for us** (which also shows how unfair our rating system is) is that these **200 exemplary students do not "count"** as part of our 8th grade STAAR report. So, our 8th grade results will reflect only the remaining 300 students who took the STAAR test. The State should put an asterisk by these scores...
- Our **boys golf team** made another appearance at the **5A State Tournament** and finished in **7th place overall**. That is a great finish for a really young team. I think we may be a regular at this tournament for the next few year.
- I attended the **AES Writer's Café** this week, where the **5th graders** had created themes in each classroom, and students from other grades came through, read their books and had a great experience with the "big kids."
- The choir started a new tradition this year by having an **end of year banquet**. It was well-planned, the kids had a good time, and everyone appreciated **Ms. Fisher and Mr. Doss** for their hard work this year.

- Our **GMS 6th graders** created an **ecosystem for their PBL**. They have an entire classroom set up, **from rainforests to the desert**, with different species of **animals, fish, and plants**. They did a good job and different classes from around the school came in for a tour.

Legislative update:

With just three days remaining until the 85th legislative session must adjourn sine die, Texas legislators are still slogging their way through bills that would **fund state government** for the next two years, **dictate bathroom use for transgender students**, **roll back municipal property tax increases**, **relax voter identification requirements** and **control the religious affiliation of foster parents**.

Legislators **have already rejected more money for public schools** and **taxpayer-funded vouchers** for Special Education students.

If the Legislature doesn't satisfactorily address the issues that Governor Greg Abbott and Lt. Governor Dan Patrick consider to be important before its mandatory adjournment at midnight next Monday, May 29, then a **special session could begin as early as next Tuesday**.

I will add that **in my opinion, this session has been a real embarrassment**, as the entire **state budget, public education**, and **many, many bills that would have been good for Texans**, have been **hijacked by the Lt. Governor**. **He has controlled the Senate**, and other than a very few members, they have followed lock-step in whatever he has told them to do.

As I have asked many times, and will reiterate today; will this finally be the session that will bring public educators to the polls to **vote for pro-public education candidates**? Only time will tell...

Emails this week:

From a Parent: I wanted to take a minute to brag on **Holli Moore at Oak Woods**. She is always a welcoming presence in the drop-off line every morning when I take my daughter to school. She keeps it **swift and safe**, and she's **always smiling!!** She does a fantastic job on campus, and we are grateful to have her!

From GHS: The Health Inspector visited the Culinary Arts department today for our last inspection of the year. We passed with a 100! She was disappointed not to get to see the kids in action, but she was very impressed with our level of sanitation and organization in the area.

From Baccus: I wanted to let you know that we had several guest speakers in Mrs. Gonzalez and Mrs. Briggs classes this week in order to kick off our PBL “My Future Looks Bright!” We had Wes Jones from HR come speak to our students about what he looks for when hiring. We also had several people from the “Speakers Bureau” list that the district provided. I cannot tell you how impressed we have been with those speakers. Our students have learned so much from them all. We had Award-Winning Author – Peggy Freeman, Former television reporter and producer – Maureen Jones-Griffin, Korean War Veteran and Artist – J.C. Campbell, and DPS Task Force Officer – Mike Webb in our classroom. Thank you for providing us with such a rich and wonderful list of people who are willing to assist us in educating our children

From a Parent: Thanks to Mrs. Lambert for a job well done! I couldn’t have been more proud of having my student in Granbury schools last night, as the entire other side of her family was sitting on the front row to watch. The kindergarten graduation ceremony was beautiful, the music program was outstanding, and the props in the gym for photos were adorable! Thanks for all the hard work!!!

From Parent: “Thank you! Thank you! We couldn’t of gotten a better teacher! The 2 months Leshia Coker of Emma had my son was the best experience in a public school system we have had!”

From a Parent: Thank you for an amazing Kindergarten year for (my student) at Emma! She has enjoyed every minute of it. The sleep over last week was a blast, and graduation was super fun! Thank you.

I want to recognize Mrs. Anderson at Emma as being a ROCK STAR teacher! (My student) had her for 1st grade, and I was thrilled that they had the opportunity to have her as well. She’s an incredible teacher who is so passionate about her kids. Both of my kids are strong readers, and I truly believe that Mrs. Anderson has had a huge hand in instilling a love for reading and learning. Her way of teaching helps them to learn in a fun way. I would love to clone her!

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

JL

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MYERS, CHERIE

From: LARGENT, JAMES
Sent: Friday, June 2, 2017 11:21 AM
To: GISD-Staff
Subject: Supt Weekly 6/2/17

Good Morning, GISD. I hope you had a great week. This is **my last official weekly of the school year**, and I hope it has been a source of good information for you. I enjoy putting it out each week and sharing my views, some of the highlights, classroom visits, and the positive emails I receive each week. Just a few things this week:

- The **culmination of everything we do in GISD is GHS and STARS graduation**. That is the reason we all have jobs, and why we work from Pre-K-12 to **prepare students for life**. We graduated over 20 students Tuesday night from STARS. Last night, we graduated 400+ students at TCU, and both were great nights. Thanks to all our staff members who were there working, coordinating, making sure people were in the right place, etc. Special thanks to **AP Tammy Clark**, as coordinating the GHS graduation is one of her **"other duties as assigned,"** ha. But, it went off without a hitch last night, and it is always a special night for me to shake every graduate's hand and wish them well. I also had a proud **Dad moment** as I got to present my daughter with her GHS diploma as well.
- After the Governor has **signed all the bills**, called any **special sessions**, and lawyers have a chance to see **what it "really" means**, we will send out some additional **legislative updates** on areas that affect us. So, stay tuned over the summer, and I will try to send out information periodically.
- Reminder that we will have our traditional **Summer Launch, today at 2:00 in the GHS Auditorium**. We will have a good time!

Legislative Update:

From the School Coalition: This quote sums up the 85th regular session of the Texas Legislature... "It's absurd that 'bathroom bills' have taken on greater urgency than fixing our school finance system." Speaker Joe Straus, R-San Antonio, made that observation, as the

85th legislative session was drawing to a close, telling Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick, R-Houston, that the House would no longer negotiate on legislation that restricts transgender Texans' use of bathrooms.

After several days of sputtering, on-again, off-again attempts at negotiations, legislators finally threw-up their hands—and let die—the **House bill that would have pumped an additional \$1.6 billion into Texas public schools, all because of the insistence of Lieutenant Governor Patrick that the legislation also include a student voucher provision.** The original House Bill 21, filed by House Public Education Committee Chair Dan Huberty, R-Humble, **would have infused an additional \$1.6 billion** into the state's public schools, and **overhauled various antiquated and inequitable school funding formulas.** When the bill arrived across the Capitol rotunda, **Senate Education Committee Chair Larry Taylor, F-Friendswood, reduced the school funding to just \$530 million—and at the insistence of Lieutenant Governor Patrick—added the deal-breaker: a student voucher scheme.**

State Capitol observers generally agree that **Lieutenant Governor Patrick allowed the school-funding bill to die** in the Senate—by added the Special Ed voucher proposal—in retaliation for **Speaker Straus and the Texas House opposing a transgender “bathroom bill.”**

It is funny how politics works, and it is a real shame that some good legislation that would have helped **millions of public school students** was put to death over a **political stance and voucher scheme** that would have affected less than 1% of students.

Emails this week:

From BTC: BTC would like to thank **Patti Sanderson, Dale Hunt, Dina Carlton, Paula Cabral, Beth McCauley, Kristen Baldrige, Gloria Click, Dawn Bradley, Kelly Been, and Wendy Flynn** for all their efforts in making sure freshman are passing Algebra I, all finals were delivered, media lessons were completed correctly, Spanish was learned, and all seniors graduated. **The team effort is very appreciated!**

From Transportation: I have to share one of the **coolest stories of this school year.** One of our campuses has a student that has been blind since birth. He has a **true love for rap music.** One day while waiting to go into school he was asking the bus driver about the other bus drivers. His driver said we have several different drivers but one in particular is **Cowboy Roy.** (The student) wanted to know why his name was Cowboy Roy and the other driver said “because he wears a cowboy hat every day.” (The student) took it upon himself to make a **VERY cute rap song about Cowboy Roy.** The driver shared the story with Cowboy Roy. We

actually pulled the bus video and watched him sing his song about Cowboy Roy on the bus. If this wasn't enough, today **Roy Alexander (Cowboy Roy)** took one of his own personal hats and gave it to (the student). How much is that smile worth?? **We are certainly proud of our Cowboy Roy!!**

Final Thoughts:

The email above is a great example of the fact that **every employee in GISD is important**. There is **no one person or position any more important than any other**. I am proud that we have a lot of employees like Roy, who go above and beyond just "doing their job" and are **truly impacting the lives of our students in a positive way**. It does not matter what your position, you can find ways to impact students on a daily basis. Just these **simple acts of kindness, compassion, and loving kids** is what all of us should come to work for each day.

I hope all of you have a great summer. We have closed out another **very successful year** and I already look forward to what **challenges and opportunities** lie ahead. Please **be safe this summer, take care of yourself, your family and friends, and take some time to "recharge your batteries."**

Thanks again for all you do every day for the children of Granbury ISD. **You give every child a chance for success, something to look forward to each day, and someone they know who cares about them**. We are in the **life-changing business**, and I continue to believe that **we work in the most important profession on the planet; educating our future**.

Have a great summer!

JL

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BARNES, FAITH

8-18-17

From: LARGENT, JAMES
Sent: Friday, August 18, 2017 9:39 AM
To: GISD-Staff
Subject: Supt Weekly 8/18/17

Good Morning GISD!

First, thanks to a **great start to our school year!** We are off and running and things have gone very smoothly. This does not happen by itself. It takes much time and planning to have a great opening, and it also takes a great staff to implement the plan. So, thanks to all of you for what you have done to get us started in such a positive way. I was able to make it to every campus on Wednesday and I was amazed at how quickly everything looked just like a normal day of school with our 7,000 Pirates. **Plans, processes, and preparation works!!**

For those of you who are **new to GISD**, I try to send out a **weekly email each Friday**. In it, I will mention some **thoughts of the week**, things to **focus on**, and maybe some things I have seen on my **campus visits**. I also include portions of **positive emails** I receive throughout the week and will begin an **e-book study**, where we will go through a book or two throughout the year.

Please know that this is **not meant to be a comprehensive GISD newsletter or event calendar**, so don't be upset if I fail to mention a particular activity or event that you think is really important. **Jeff Meador, our communications director**, does a great job of getting out information on all GISD activities. If you have special activities going on at your campus or in your classroom, please send me an email and I will do my best to come by.

Legislative update:

The special session is over and a severely watered down school bill was passed this week. Our legislature spent a whole lot of time in the regular and special sessions on what I call "nonsense bills" and not nearly enough time on bills that would truly have made a difference in the lives of Texans. Here is how the **Texas Association of Community Schools** described it:

"I am sad, disappointed, and above all, I am angry. Chairman (House Public Education Committee) Dan Huberty is disappointed, and the 5.4 million students in Texas public schools, their parents, the taxpayers who fund the schools, and the 700,000 Texans working in Texas public schools should be angry too. The Texas Senate shortchanged our kids again and **we should be outraged all the way to the voting booth.**"

At convocation, I mentioned the group **Texans for Public Education**. Here is their website. <https://www.texansforpubliceducation.com/> If you go down the home page about half way, there is a button that says **"Our Ratings."** Below that, there is button that says **"House Ratings 2017."** By clicking on this, you will find how each member of the House voted on key education bills. My understanding is that **Senate and State Board of Education ratings will come later.** This group is bipartisan, not affiliated with any political party and you can see that there are R's and D's who are labeled as friendly and unfriendly to public education, based on how they vote in Austin. Like I said at convocation, it **does not matter what our elected officials say, what they post, or how many pictures with kids they take. What matters is how they vote on bills that affect public education.** I would encourage you to **connect with this group, follow them on Facebook, send the group's information to everyone you know, etc.** But, please do not post messages or send emails using your GISD accounts. You can certainly do this on your private email or social media pages as much as you want after school hours. In fact, it is encouraged!

Emails this week:

From District staff: I just want to let you know how impressed I was with **Mr. Ross and all of his staff** at registration tonight. Their willingness to help and assist parents is to be commended. They exhibited the **patience of Job**. A special shoutout to **Aimme Tolleson, Steven Weeks and Rebecca Weeks**. I witnessed all three of these people go **above and beyond for multiple families**, visiting with them, showing them around and making them feel comfortable in a new school. It was a **great night at GHS. Proud to be a Pirate!**

From District staff: During the summer, the **admin building didn't have anyone to translate.** I **called the high school numerous times** this summer and **Miriam Hughes** was always polite and **more than willing to help me.** This was essential in providing **good customer service to parents.** Even though she was busy, she took the time to help and had a positive attitude!

From a Parent: I want to send a huge shout out to **Anna Roe and the Acton Elementary staff.** We recently made the decision to move our family here and my three boys reluctantly left the only school they've ever known. With 833 students, it would be so easy for them to get lost in the mix of a new school, but **AES staff went above and beyond** to find ways to make sure they were comfortable and having a great first day. My oldest came home and said, **"Mom, Mrs. Roe made me feel like I was the most important new student in the world."** And, I have no doubt that every other new student to the school felt exactly the same way. Words cannot express how grateful I am for **Anna and her staff's superhuman abilities.** I'm very **proud to have three of the newest pirates in Pirate Nation.**

From District Staff: Thanks to the **MANY** folks that stepped in and helped with convocation! **Amy Bush** in **Support Services** is next to none on any project! She has always been so willing to help in any way! **Patti Sanderson** is an **amazing problem solver** to ensure that things work well in the high school building! **Dwight Butler, Randy Leach, Wes Jones, and Ron Holmgreen** can mix some pancakes! They met me at **5am to begin the preparations** for our pancake breakfast and then jumped in on any other task as well! **Ruth Mordecai, Devin Thomas, Trisha Suitt, Cherie Myers, and Faith Barnes** stepped in without being asked to support anyway that they could. All of them ended up serving our faculty for the entire breakfast. Our **admin team is the BEST anywhere!** They all came to support and greet everyone as they walked in the doors. I appreciate the hospitality and servant hearts of all of them! The big finale.....**JC Campbell, Jerry Ables, and the Lion's Club.** There were several of the club members that were here at **5am as well to begin cooking for 900 people.** There are no words to tell them how much I appreciate them! **HEB also met us on Sunday afternoon to deliver items** for our breakfast. **They never fail to support us in lots of different events.** **Johnny Rositas** did an outstanding job of introducing our speaker for the students in the afternoon. He also was willing to step in and support the afternoon event. Thanks to **all coaches and sponsors for bringing their students to the afternoon production.** I think you summarized it well, **we are so blessed and fortunate to get to work for these incredible kids and this community.**

I will leave you with a **few thoughts** as we begin a new school year together. Do not forget that **you WILL make an impact** on every student you come in contact with this year. Do whatever it takes to make sure it is a **positive impact!** Go out of your way each day to try to **bring a smile to someone who needs it.** You never know when that one **positive word, compliment, or short conversation** can turn a bad day into a good one. **Gossip and negative talk** has no place in a **professional, caring, friendly, work environment.** Do whatever it takes to **make your classroom, office, or work environment an inviting and positive place to be.** As Confucius said, **"Find a job you love and you will never have to work a day in your life."** I hope all of you are doing what you love, and I look forward to this being the **Best Year Ever!**

Enjoy your weekend and we will see you back on Monday.

Go Pirates!!

JL

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BARNES, FAITH

8-25-17

From: LARGENT, JAMES
Sent: Friday, August 25, 2017 10:20 AM
To: GISD-Staff
Subject: Supt Weekly 8/25/17

Good Morning GISD, I hope you have had an enjoyable week of school and all of you are off to a great start! A few things:

- Our **Marine Corps JROTC unit at Granbury High School** has been named a **Naval Honor School for the fourth year in a row**. There are only a limited number of units in the country who get this designation, and we are so proud of this group. With leadership from **Lt. Col. Casey and 1st Sgt. Rositas**, our MJROTC program makes us proud! They represent GISD all over our community in a **very positive way** and I hear great compliments about them out in the community. Congrats to this great example of our GISD students!
- We are about to begin the great **Texas tradition of Friday night football** games. Our Pirates have a **scrimmage tonight in Stephenville**, then we will begin our regular season next week. Friday night football brings out so many different groups other than football, that it is **truly a showcase of talent for all our students**. **Athletes, band, cheer, dance, student council**, and many other groups are actively involved in Friday nights. We are **looking for a great year from all the different teams and organizations that make GISD so great**.
- I spent the morning at **Mambrino**, where they were celebrating the **20th "birthday" of the campus**. Many **former teachers, principals, and staff** were on hand to talk to our students and enjoy a time of fellowship. It was fun to see them all together having a good time sharing memories. **Happy Birthday, Mambrino!**
- Our **Granbury Education Foundation** board met yesterday. We are excited about the new year and the **opportunity to award thousands of dollars in classroom grants**. Make sure you **submit your grant application by the deadline** and please make sure to **follow the directions** for submissions. Also, **if you are interested** in participating in the **payroll deduction program**, where half of the money goes back to your campus, you can **check with you campus principal or a GEF member** on how to do that.

Legislative Update:

There is not a lot to report right now from the legislature, but I do want to reiterate to all of you that you really need to **make sure you are registered to vote**. The **next election is November 7th** and the **last day to register to vote is October 10th, 2017**. If you are not registered or moved here from another location and need to change your information, you can go here <https://webservices.sos.state.tx.us/vrapp/index.asp> We need to **create a culture of encouraging civic participation** at every possible opportunity, and a **commitment to vote in every election**. The only way you can vote is if you are registered! Here's to **strengthening our communities and our democracy!**

Emails this week:

From a Parent: Just wanted share.... A family member came to school to have lunch with my daughter today. She offered to bring her anything she wanted...even Chic-Fila (her favorite) and she told her no, that **she loves her tray lunch** and told her she should eat a tray lunch also, because **it was the best place to eat in town!** Tell your Emma Roberson staff they come highly recommended 😊

From Emma Roberson: I just want to brag on **Menielle Donahoo**. She was an absolute angel on the first day of school and jumped right in to help. We can't thank her enough for the **support and love she showed the pre-k students at Emma that were struggling with their first day of school ever!** Thank you, Menielle! Happy Friday!

From District Staff: A huge shout out to **Donna Dumas and GMS** for a **great start to AVID!!** What an incredible team working together to **make a difference for kids!** Her coordination of the program is spot on! Way to start a year of the **college going culture!!**

From a visiting team: I attended the **GHS volleyball tournament** you hosted and I wanted to let you know **how nice your parking lot attendants were**. They went out of their way to ask how we were doing and help us get across the street at your busy time! Please pass this along to them and your campus principal. Thanks!

From Emma Roberson: This morning, **Mr. Timmons from the maintenance department** bragged on our campus!! He said that he was here doing inspections before school started and **every teacher and staff that he saw spoke to him and offered help if he needed it**. Y'all are the best and I love working with you!! Happy Friday!!

From District Staff: **Debbie Johnson** is a great role model and mentor. She went **above and beyond this summer to help draft and issue several bids and renewals**. Moreover, because school started early this year, she **worked tirelessly to make the awarded vendor list**

available to all campuses the same day that the board approved them. In addition, during the financial training day for campus secretaries, she **compiled the most important laws and regulations in a presentation** that made it entertaining and enjoyable for everyone to understand.

From Transportation: Stacie Brown and Staff at Mambrino are the best! I would like to thank them for **loading the buses without one incident** the first week of school. All **buses were loaded in less than 10 minutes** everyday! The Mambrino staff is amazing!

I hope you all are settling into your routines, have exciting lessons ready to go each day, and are enjoying your students! Have a great weekend and **GO PIRATES!!**

JL

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BARNES, FAITH

9-1-17

From: LARGENT, JAMES
Sent: Friday, September 1, 2017 11:46 AM
To: GISD-Staff
Subject: Supt Weekly 09/01/17
Attachments: IMG_0326.jpg

Good Morning GISD, I hope you are wrapping up another good week.

- As I continue my campus visits, I am so **impressed with the excitement I see**. Classes are **busy, kids are having fun learning**, and things are **orderly and going well**. Thanks to all of you for **keeping the focus on the classroom, our curriculum, and learning!**
- We are hearing some great things from our new **AVID programs at AMS and GMS**. There are many things AVID teaches that certainly **can transfer over to all classrooms**. By starting in one grade level and growing the program that way, we will be adding the influence of the program one grade level at a time. Another by-product of a great program like this, is teachers from all across our district will begin using these strategies and impacting kids who are not even in the program. I look forward to see the fruits of this great program and **we are off to a wonderful start!**
- Congrats to the **Pirate Football Team** for their big victory defeating Western Hills, 58-6! We are off to a great start!

Hurricane/flooding:

I want to spend a minute discussing the **hurricane and flooding situation** on our coast. Many of area, the flooding is like nothing they have ever seen. **I have attached a picture** of one of my friend's elementary principal at one of the local schools. Another friend I have in the same area has said that probably 50% of his staff have lost their homes as well. He does not know when they will be devastated thousands and thousands of people.

I am proud that all of our campuses are doing something to help with the cause. We have camp other local efforts. I know that Houston is receiving the most attention, and rightly so, but **please** know when they plan to open school and we will try to put together a **trailer full of supplies, for** coming weeks.

The efforts of people all over the country means a lot to them and they definitely feel the support

Emails this week:

From an 11th grade student at GHS: Thanks to **Mrs. Porter at Emma Roberson** for having an impact on my life. Thank you so much. **You are the one teacher who got me interested in school. I don't know where I would be without your guidance.** I hope that teaching at Emma Roberson has impacted you as much as it has impacted me. Love

From GMS: Just wanted to say a special word of thanks to **Coach McCoy**. Jason goes above and beyond almost daily when he walks his students to lunch. He **stays, gives up his own time, and makes his way around the cafeteria** to talk to his students and **build positive relationships**. **Thanks Coach, for going the extra mile!**

From a Parent: Thank you for all you do!!! It has only been 2 weeks but (my student) is so excited with school at (**Oak Woods**) this year. She came home last night and pulled out her optional work and sat down. She **did not want to stop until she did it all**. Then, she **read me the short stories** in the back. She took her time and sounded out the words as she went. I am so proud of my little rockstar. **Thank you again for all you do!!!**

From Baccus: I would just like to thank the **Technology Department** for always being so kind and efficient! My classroom projector remote decided to "retire" this summer without letting me know. We requested a work order and **Debbie King** came over to give me a new remote. When she realized that remote was not going to work either and that my projector was on its last leg, she made arrangements to come back and replace it for me during my conference..... in the same day! I honestly don't know what I would have done if it had gone out on me! Her **proactive approach and friendly personality**, not only resolved the remote issue, but also ensured that my students will continue to have **uninterrupted access to our Smartboard and Elmo!** Thank you so much for all you do!!

From GMS: I just want to brag on the great job that **Donna Dumas** is doing with and for our **AVID students and the AVID program** on our campus. It is **amazing the transformation that is taking place**. Now 6th grade and 8th grade teachers want to be trained and want to be using **the notebook and planners**. We told them to be patient as we will soon be an AVID Campus! **This is incredible and exciting to watch!** Donna has definitely lit a fire at GMS and is changing our culture!

I hope you enjoy your weekend, and since we are off to such a great start, **go ahead and take Monday off!**

JL

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9-8-17

From: LARGENT, JAMES
Sent: Friday, September 8, 2017 11:58 AM
To: GISD-Staff
Subject: Supt Weekly 9/8/17

Good Morning, GISD. I hope you are enjoying the cool mornings and look forward to a great weekend. A few things:

- Thanks to all of you who are continuing to help with relief efforts for hurricane Harvey victims. Several of our groups have actually made state and national news. Our students made WFAA news last week. You can see the link here <http://www.wfaa.com/weather/harvey/students-in-grandbury-write-uplifting-letters-to-houston/469832179> Also, our AMS staff member, **Coach Marissa Banda**, and **her students** were featured on the **Red Cross blog page**. You can read the blog and find a video link here. <https://redcrossdfw.wordpress.com/2017/09/05/comforting-words/> I know there are many other efforts going on and please know that **you are making a difference** in the lives of people who have a long recovery ahead.
- Tonight, we have our **first home football game**, which means there will be a lot of excitement around our stadium this evening. It should be a great night to **showcase the talents of many of our student groups** who help make **Friday nights special in Texas**.
- I have heard many people around the district say that this year has started as if we just picked up where we left off last year. I can tell in my campus visits that there is a great **culture of learning and support going on in GISD** and it does not go unnoticed. Thanks to all of you for what you do each day to cultivate this environment. The key is to **keep it up on days when things don't seem to go exactly like you planned**. Remember that every day, **you get to decide what kind of day you will have**. And, remember that our students are counting on you to make sure it is a good day!

Emails this week:

From AMS: At last night's scrimmage, I was so amazed at the actions of the **AMS Cheerleaders, and Mrs. Lane**. They cheered for the entire scrimmage, and then **picked up trash in the bleachers**. Just thought I would share with you what a great job they were doing. **AMS Proud!**

From District Staff: I just want to say again how much we **LOVE** the enthusiasm Tracy Logsdon at Oak Woods has shown for **Nearpod** and for spreading that enthusiasm to her entire campus! The **presentation she planned & delivered yesterday was above & beyond** what any trainers in the district have done because it was a ***real, classroom* testimonial!** I know the children in her classes are just soaking it up like sponges.

From AES: I just wanted to give a shout out to our **amazing bus driver today, Timothy Hayes.** We had a **2nd grade field trip** for our service project out in Rancho Brazos today, and **he was the best!** He was so much fun and the **kids loved him.** He played fun music for us and when the bus came to a complete stop at the school, we all had a dance party. **Never seen a bus driver with such “sweet” moves before!!!!** He was awesome and **it was the best day!!!**

From Brawner: I just want to say that we are so blessed to have **Jodie McClintock, Menielle Donahoo, and Jeff Meador** at Granbury ISD. **They all went “above and beyond” to help me with a technology issue.** They worked well beyond school hours and gave me constant feedback. They were so positive and eager to help. **I can’t say enough about their customer service!**

From a Parent: I wanted to compliment **Timothy Hayes.** This year, my children have told me their bus driver is kind and nice. Tim also went out of the way to stop after my kids and husband were waiting in the rain a couple of times. So, I wanted to **thank Tim for doing an amazing job.** It is a relief that my **children look forward to riding the bus.** I also **appreciate seeing kindness enacted toward them** (in the midst of what has to be a tough job) and not just expected of them. **Thank you for all you do.**

From GHS: **Steve Ward** does **amazing things with his PE Life Skills class.** He really makes their day and you can tell **he enjoys teaching these kids.** They have a lot of fun. I stop and watch his class all the time on my way to class. **He is truly inspirational!**

From Brawner: I wanted to let you know how **thankful we are** for the guidance we have received from the **Curriculum Department!** They have been available and open to all of our questions, wishes, and needs!

I hope to **see all of you at Pirate Stadium tonight,** have a great weekend, and **GO PIRATES!!**

JL

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BARNES, FAITH

9-15-17

From: LARGENT, JAMES
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2017 10:55 AM
To: GISD-Staff
Subject: Supt weekly 9/15/17

Good Morning, GISD. I hope you are having another great week and it is hard to believe that next week ends our first six week! A few things:

- A reminder that **GEF grants are due next Friday**. Please make sure to **carefully follow the instructions** for submitting your innovative grants. We are **anxious to see what you come up with** this year and the GEF is **anxious to fund it for you!!**
- Our **sports teams are off to great starts** in their seasons. **Volleyball** is undefeated in district play, **tennis** only has one loss, **cross country** is doing well in their meets and our **football team** is 2-0 with a big game tonight against Springtown. I hope all of you will take the time to support our kids and your colleagues as they move through their seasons.
- I attended the **Texas Association of Community Schools** conference last weekend. In every presentation, we were **inspired by educators and encouraged to share stories of how public education is changing students' lives for the better**. There are as many of these stories as there are students in our public schools, but these aren't the stories being shouted from the rooftops for all to hear. Instead, **wealthy "reformers" are spreading a false narrative about how public education is failing our kids**. Their goal is **to demonize and destroy public education** and it is working. We must do everything we can to share all the great things we are doing in public education classroom, fields, stages, and in our community.
- I will be speaking at the **Chamber of Commerce luncheon** today and you can bet I will be sharing many of the great things you are doing every day in our schools. Business leaders and community members will be in attendance and they love hearing about the great work going on in GISD. **I am so proud to work alongside each of you and to have the opportunity to share your stories.**

Voting info:

From time to time, I will direct you to **websites or organizations that support public schools**. Today I want to introduce you again to **Texas Educators Vote**. It can be found at <http://texaseducatorsvote.com/>

On this site, you can take an oath to vote in every election, get information on registering to vote if you have not, and there are key resources at the bottom of the page that may be of interest to you.

I cannot overemphasize the importance of taking a few minutes to **research candidates, and vote in every election. Ninety percent (90%) of elections in Texas are won in the March primary and Texas has the worst voter turnout of any state in the nation.** If you combine school employees and retired school employees, there are over 1.2 million of us. If we would just vote, politicians would represent US, and ask US what they could do to help us. As it is, **they do not even give us a seat at the table. Please don't go another election without voting.** We have a **school board and city council election** coming up in November. Make sure your voice is heard at the ballot box.

Emails:

From Oak Woods: Oh, if only the world could be run as efficiently and friendly as the **technology department!** Huge shout out to your peeps! I may have **mentioned an issue to Jodie** I was having with logging my "littles" on the Chrome books for I-station. Well, leave it to Jodi, she took that issue back to technology and **Mike Cullers** and all his wonder has made it **EXTREMELY** easy to log my peeps in now! I cannot thank you and your team enough for all you do for GISD! **You continue to ROCK ! TGIF friends!**

From a parent: I was **SO impressed with the morning assembly today. Brawner is a happy school!** I wanted to stay all day. The **enthusiasm that the staff showed was so impressive.** As with any move, we were apprehensive about switching schools, but **our boys have been so embraced by the wonderful people at Brawner and Emma.** Thank you for welcoming us with open arms! Have a great weekend and Go Pirates!

From a parent: I wanted to say a huge thank you to you and the **football boys that were at Oakwoods School this morning (Friday Sept 8th).** My son started peewee football for the first time this year as a 5th grader. He is pretty small and has been struggling with being a good football player. This morning at drop off **the boys were so nice and encouraging to him.** You could see the excitement on his face. When he came home he told me how nice they were to him and encouraging. Pumped him up matching the big boys on game day today. Please **pass this on to the boys they made his day, his week, better yet his year!**

Thank you for coaching/leading these boys as positive role models for the younger kids. Have A Blessed Day!

From District staff: I thought the HS counselors did a great job last night on the senior presentation at Open House. They presented very organized and pertinent information.

From a Parent: Good morning! I just wanted to give you a big thank you! He is an all-star reader because of the methods your practiced. He started this year reading at a 2nd grade level and won an award in his class for best speller yesterday. Thank you so much!

From GHS: I spoke with the mom of a Senior that moved here this year. As you know it can be very hard for students to transition to a new school where they do not know anyone, especially for their Senior year. This mom raved about how great it has been for her daughter. She emphasized how nice everybody is and how GHS students went out of their way to make their daughter feel welcome. She bragged on some of the Stowaways as they invited her to eat with them on the first day of school. Then the mom continued to rave about Diane Craig and the Stowaway program as her daughter was allowed to try out and how they have taken her in. Her daughter loves Stowaways, loves GHS, and that has made mom thrilled. The daughter said she wished all of her high school years were here with us!! So a shout out to GHS staff & students – keep up the good work.

From District Staff: I wanted to give a shout out to GMS Staff and the Transportation Department! We held a staffing on a student who is having some behavioral difficulties at school and on the bus. We had over 12 staff members at the staffing that all contributed greatly and were all working together as a team to come up with strategies to help this student succeed and feel valued! Brian Caruthers and Tracy Wiegref from transportation also attended and shared valuable information. They even came up with their own incentive program on the bus to help manage the student's behavior. It is so wonderful to see staff members who genuinely care about our students and are willing to go above and beyond. It is a pleasure to work with such amazing, caring, and passionate people!

One story from this weekend from my friend Kevin Brown at Alamo Heights: Dr. Brown told the story of a disengaged student (Eric) who was waiting to turn 16 to drop out of school. While waiting for that day to come, Eric enrolled in a new innovative course called Rocketry. The students were told that they would design and build a rocket that would travel faster than the speed of sound. Eric and his teammates learned calculus, physics, and other engineering skills in order to achieve their goal, not because it was on a standardized test or because someone made them. The final product was a 600-pound rocket that they launched from the White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico. It traveled three times the speed of sound and

higher than commercial airplanes fly. Eric stayed in school, went to college, got an internship at NASA, and after his sophomore year was offered a job at NASA when he graduates. If that isn't a public school success story, I don't know what is.

These stories are happening every day in GISD and in every school in Texas. We just have to make sure we get those stories out to our public!

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

JL

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BARNES, FAITH

Sept 22

To: LARGENT, JAMES
Subject: RE: Supt weekly 9/22/17

From: LARGENT, JAMES
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:06 AM
To: GISD-Staff <everyone@granburyisd.org>
Subject: Supt weekly 9/22/17

Good Morning GISD. I hope you are all wrapping up the end of our first six weeks with all your students doing well. A few items this week:

- The **GHS drumline** competed in the **HEB Drumline Contest** this past Saturday with some of the best drumlines in the DFW area. The PDL **finished in 3rd place** and earned the '**Best Bass Drum Line**' award in their category! They **represented GHS & GISD in a very positive way** all day long. Congrats to our percussion team.
- **Melinda Rose, Spanish teacher at GHS**, was selected as the **95.9 Ranch Teacher of the Week**. She was surprised in class with a plaque as well as numerous gift cards and was announced on The Ranch radio this week. **Congrats Melinda!** You can find the link here: <http://www.959theranch.com/ranch-teacher-of-the-week-mrs-rose/>
- Our **F1 team is now in Malaysia**. I am so proud of these kids and **proud that they are literally able to travel the world** through a program at our school. **Really cool!**
- Please **think about alternatives** before you **print or make copies**. Our **printing, paper, and printer cartridge costs are getting excessive**. Look for alternate ways to test, have students take notes, and otherwise do classwork without having to print everything. We have **lots of options available** to you, and if you need ideas, please contact our **technology or curriculum department for help** or ideas on how to get what you need from your students without the time, cost, and hassle of printing everything. I am not saying some printing and copying is not necessary, but I do know there are many other ways to get this done that are **more efficient, don't kill trees, and doesn't cost as much**.
- We seem to be having more reports of **pest problems** (insects, rodents, spiders, etc.) in our schools; more so than in years past. Please know that we are working with our **pest control company** and our local **IPM coordinator** to address this issue. There are

state laws that preclude us from just spraying everything every 3-4 months like they used to. I won't go into all the details, but basically the law only allows us to spray an area if there is a problem that can't be handled any other way. **Pests come in our buildings for food, water, and shelter.** Without them, they won't stay anywhere long. **We need to make sure that food is not left out on tables, in desk drawers, break rooms, etc. without being in a sealed container.** If you are seeing a problem, make sure to report it to your campus contact and they will turn in a work order. If a few days go by and you continue to see multiple pests, turn it in again. And, make sure you **check your work areas, drawers, etc. to insure there is no food source that is causing the problem.** We can make this situation much better, but we will need your help. Thanks.

Big week for emails:

From a Parent: I am a proud mother of a 2017 Granbury graduate and former MCJROTC Cadet. Today was one of the proudest moments of my life as a mother and a Veteran. I **watched my son become a United States Marine.** It wasn't until he joined the Granbury MCJROTC that he knew being a Marine was his calling. The **influence that Lieutenant Colonel Casey and 1st Sgt Rositas** has had on my son through their program has been amazing. Their example of **Marine Corp values and discipline**, allowed my son to go through Marine Corp Boot Camp with a clear advantage. It goes without saying, the **Granbury MCJROTC is without question an outstanding program and an incredible asset to our high school and our town.**

From AMS: A big shout out to **Malarie Gill & her Teen Leadership classes.** We often spend time in class talking about current events, and how to handle certain situations. As leadership students, we have **focused on how we can be servant leaders.** After much discussion, as a group, **we are sponsoring a few Hurricane Harvey "Spirit" days**, if you will, with Mr. Dawson's approval! **We will use the funds we raised to adopt one and hopefully 2 classrooms** to help them get a start on supplies needed for their classes!! The fundraisers were amazing! We raised over \$750 to adopt classrooms.

From AES: A huge shout out and thank you to **Jodie McClintock** who popped her head in to our third grade reading meeting just to say hi... **And dove right in**, helping us find an awesome **Nearpod lesson** to go with what we were planning! She also noticed that one of us was having an email issue and **stepped right in to get it resolved!** She is **welcome to come say "hi" to us anytime!** Such a servant's heart!!

From GHS: I wanted to send a huge thank you to our **IT team** and especially to **Carol Rasberry.** Twice in as many weeks, I've had technical problems with my document camera, and she has come to my rescue. Both times, she responded while I was still teaching and worked on my

class computer in front of the students, remotely, on-screen. It didn't take long for the students to realize what we, the teachers, have been talking about in relation to computer security. **My "repair" work became a live demonstration** of how easy it is for things to be seen by people **not even in our building**, and that **computer security is alive and well in GISD**. **Yes, the problem was fixed... again.**

From Emma: **Ms. Barbara Burnham**, more affectionately known as **Ms. B here at Emma**. She is one of our **selfless life skills aids** and has been on our campus for 11 years. Every single time I pass her in the hall **she calls me by name and inquiries about my day or my family or just says hi**. Ms. B came to me one day last week as she often does and asked me what I would choose as my favorite candy. **Ms. B is always conducting surveys among the staff**, usually resulting in valuable yet silly randomness that helps to make connections within the building, so I thought little of it. This morning she came to me and expressed her gratitude and love for me and presented me with my favorite, dark chocolate! **What a blessing and beacon of light and love! My life is better for knowing Ms. B and our student's lives are as well!**

From a Parent: Just wanted to take a minute and share what kind of impact **Mrs. Shannon Sanchez at Acton Elementary** has had on my kindergarten student. You know you are really impacting a little life for learning when **she comes home and pretends to be Mrs. Sanchez**. She is **eager to learn and enthusiastic** that Mrs. Sanchez is the one teaching her to read. To top it off, **she asked yesterday if Mrs. Sanchez could still see her and give her hugs when she is in 1st-5th grade**. I know sometimes teaching, especially kindergarten, can seem like a thankless job. **I just wanted Mrs. Sanchez to know how thankful our family is for her and the love of learning she is planting/growing in our child!**

Email of the week. Sometimes it is the simplest things that mean the most...

From GHS: A Veteran who served in Vietnam cried today because a Stowaway thanked him for his service so she could have freedoms today. He shared that **no one has ever welcomed him home or ever thanked him**. Broke my heart.

I hope you are able to use this afternoon and Monday to finish grades, evaluate data and be prepared for another successful six weeks. Have a great weekend and **GO PIRATES!**

JL

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BARNES, FAITH

9-28-17

From: LARGENT, JAMES
Sent: Friday, September 29, 2017 9:00 AM
To: GISD-Staff
Subject: Supt weekly 9/29/17

Good Morning GISD. I hope you are enjoying another great week in the district and it is good to see a little rain. A few things:

- Thanks to everyone for all the **Homecoming festivities** this week. I know we have had dress up days, fundraisers, a great parade, fireworks show, etc. We had a big turnout Monday and the **best floats ever!** So, thanks to all of you who worked on those and put on a nice parade.
- **Tonight, you can wrap up homecoming week** by supporting our **volleyball team at 5:30**, then heading to the stadium to watch our **football team in their district opener** against Burleson.
- I know many of you have helped with the Harvey recovery. I want to give a special shout-out to **Anna Roe** and the **AES team** for going **over and above in helping victims of Harvey**. They **"adopted" an elementary campus in Houston**, raised funds and went down last weekend to help them get prepared for school. Jeff Meador wrote a nice, detailed article about their trip that I hope you will read. What a **great way to share the Granbury spirit** in another part of our state that is hurting. **Great job!**
- Congrats to our own **Coach Tammy Clark** for being named the **Vice Chairman of the volleyball committee of the Texas Girls Coaches Association**. We are extremely lucky to have a coach leading our volleyball program who has the respect and admiration of her peers and leadership in the TGCA. Texas has by far the best women's athletic organization in the USA and to be honored by them is an amazing feat. **Great job Tammy!**
- For those of you who are reading closely, I have **4 reserved seats in the VIP section** for the game tonight. If interested, reply to this email with **"I Love our Pirates"** in the subject area and they are yours. When they are gone, I will send another email out with **Tickets are Gone** in the subject area.
- **Congrats to Sarah Cave from Emma Roberson** as she was named **Teacher of the Week by 95.3 K-HITS**. She received over \$150 in gifts from K-HITS and was **featured on their morning show** where her nomination letter from her student was read. **Mrs. Cave is an**

amazing teacher and we are proud to have her at Emma Roberson. **Congratulations Mrs. Cave!**

- We are getting close to the **best community fund raiser around!** The **Granbury Education Foundation** is gearing up for our **annual 50 Fellas Foodfest**. We have a great night planned and remember that **all funds raised go back into GISD classrooms!!** If you have never been to this event, it is a very low key, but high quality, social event. No program, speakers, or anything formal. It is just a night to eat great food and visit with friends. Due to the tremendous response in past years, we are **limiting sales this year to the first 700**. If you are interested in tickets, you can find them here: <http://www.granburyisd.org/50fellas>

Emails this week:

From a parent: I want to thank **Mrs. Woodyard at GHS** for knowing her students personally and taking the initiative to **contact their parent** when something doesn't seem normal for them. At the end of the grading period, Mrs. Woodyard **noticed an irregularity in my student's grade**. She **took the time to call us so the situation could be fixed** before it went on his permanent record. Your **personal interest** in my child inspires him to work harder in your class.

From GMS: I want to let you know how proud I was to walk with the **GMS Football Players** last night in the **Homecoming Parade** and to observe many of them taking such **pride in being a Pirate**. The players should be commended and acknowledge for their behavior and Pride they took as Pirates. The **players chanted, cheered and high five** most every person along the way. I watched as players took the time to stop and ask the **younger students along the route "YOU GOING TO BE A PIRATE?"**. They would run to every little child and hand them the candy instead of throwing it when they knew the children couldn't catch it and high five them. It was a **great day to be a GMS Pirate** and proud of the pride the athletes showed along the parade route to the stadium...

From Oak Woods: I just wanted to tell you how awesome **Trisha Suitt** is! She worked with us Monday on getting us organized and ready for Guided Reading in our classrooms! She showed us many, many resources we can use. She **gave us great ideas for whatever question we threw at her!** As we worked with our team, she walked around, giving us tremendous help as we planned on how to **incorporate Guided Reading in our daily schedule**. The afternoon was productive and **we left feeling so much better about not only Guided Reading, but our**

ELA curriculum overall. It was a pleasure to work with Trisha, so knowledgeable and eager to help! **Oak Woods always looks forward to time spent with her!**

From AMS: A big shout out to **Anna Roe and Karla Willmeth** for coming to the AMS Pep Rally, and introducing **Jax Madrigal** to our entire AMS Student Body. Our students got to meet Jax and have the opportunity to purchase **“Coach to Cure MD”** T-Shirts in support of research toward his **Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy disease!** What a great time our kids had with Jax, so Thanks to AES for supporting this wonderful family!

From GHS: I just wanted to give a shout out to **Aimee Tolleson, Becky Strain and Jayme Duckett** for helping me to figure out a way to **help a Spanish speaking student.** I have a fairly new to the US student in one of my math classes, and the on-line textbooks that were purchased do not have ANY language accommodations available for us to use. This **student is doing really well despite the language barrier.** For the past two weeks, the both **Aimee and Becky were tireless** in trying to get through to the textbook publisher (who were less than accommodating to us). Then **Jayme came along with the idea of using Google translate,** which looks like it is going to work. Anyway, thanks to these 3 professionals...I think we have a working solution that will help to resolve the language barrier in our on-line textbooks!!!!

From District Staff: Special Thanks to **Jincy Ross and Brawner Intermediate staff** for hosting the **Principal walks** this month! It was great to see their students in action with **“flexible seating”** in the classroom and **“makerspace” activities** in the Library. Great job and thanks for your wonderful hospitality.

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

JL

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BARNES, FAITH

10-6-17

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

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BARNES, FAITH

10-13-17

From: LARGENT, JAMES
Sent: Friday, October 13, 2017 8:01 AM
To: GISD-Staff
Subject: Supt Weekly 10/13/17

Good Morning GISD,

I am seeing and hearing great things about our schools as I go out to campuses and in the community. Thanks to all of you for your work each day to help each of our students reach their potential. A few things this week:

- I spoke with a **retired teacher group** this week and they were **raving about all the things going on in GISD**. Times have changed quite a bit since they were in the classroom and we had a good discussion about some of those changes. From curriculum, to facilities, to CTE, they were very impressed with what we are doing in GISD.
- For **Teen Read Week**, I spent a period with **Mrs. Couto's 8th grade class** reading scary stories. We talked about what I read on a normal basis, but I think they preferred me reading scary stories to them as opposed to reading about **school research, leadership, or golf...** We had a good time and read some good short stories.
- As many of you may have read, it is **our duty to make sure our students register to vote** when they turn 18. It has been reported **statewide that only 14% of high schools have followed the law** regarding this. In case you are ever asked, **we are one of the 14% who makes sure our kids are registered!** **Mr. Ross, working through our social studies classes**, distributes voter registration forms, collects them, and delivers them to the county election clerk. He has turned in a steady stream of voter registrations this year. **Thanks to Mr. Ross and GHS** for making sure our kids are registered voters, and **thanks to our teachers for continuing to build a culture of voting in GISD**.
- Our **MJROTC rifle team** is hosting our **first home match today at GHS**. If you have an opportunity, stop by and watch the competition.
- **Volleyball and football** are in Joshua tonight for **key district matchups**.

Political News:

You know that in my position, I **cannot advocate for any particular political candidates** via school email, while on "school time" or while doing my job as superintendent. But, I **can share factual information with you** regarding candidates, races, etc. This week, I want to inform you that Lt. Gov. **Dan Patrick has an opponent** in the **Republican Primary** in March. **Scott Milder** is the **founder of Friends of Texas Public Schools**, and is a city council member in Rockwall. It is **also factual for me to say** that there are **1.3 million educators and retired educators** in Texas, and **one would need about 700,000 votes in the Primary** to win a statewide race like Lt. Gov. I trust that you will **learn about all the candidates** in the important races coming up and **vote for the person you feel best represents your interests**. I also hope you will make sure to tell everyone you know **via your personal email accounts, social media sites, and word of mouth, and that you will make sure they VOTE!**

That is all...

A LOT of emails this week:

From GHS: Thank you so much to all who came out to volunteer and help with the **Cross Country Race for the Loot** last Friday! **Administrators, Teachers, coaches, and community people** who helped on the course, **ROTC for presenting the colors, Soccer kids** for cheering them on, **Swim kids** for making signs, and **maintenance** for helping set up and take down the course. **Thanks again to everyone**, the help is very much appreciated and we couldn't pull it off without you!

From a Parent: First and foremost, I want to commend you and GISD for hiring someone of **Mr. Robert Herrera's caliber**. Coming from a corporate background, it's been exciting to see leadership come into Baccus with a **multiyear vision**. I know firsthand the **issues that come with change**. I've overheard teachers speak of Mr. Robert's **high expectations and "game-changer" mentality**. As a parent, I'm **overjoyed to know that Robert takes both expectations and accountability very seriously**. I'm a firm believer of **"Tone at the Top" mentality**, and he exemplifies that in every way. From the **"I can, I will, I matter"** to the **"Got GRIT"** campaigns, I've personally seen how those **have influenced my own son's life in a positive way** via confidence and respect for others. **Creating school spirit at a young age can only enhance the GISD camaraderie for years to come**. I feel **Baccus Elementary** is moving in a **positive and healthy direction!**

From GHS: **Connie Jesko** tirelessly works with our **Education and Training students**. She **organizes elementary teaching opportunities** for the practicum students, and monitors on-

sight to keep up-to-date with what her students are teaching. She helps them develop lesson plans in class then present to the students. She **works with technology** so her students are confident in their use of district technology. She encourages each student to achieve their individual potential. **AND she is an amazing, encouraging, and positive colleague... every day.**

From GHS: Kristen Titus teaches 6 different preps. She is **always smiling and willing to lend a helping hand**. As an advisor for **Student Council and FCCLA**, she is able to divide her time yet **always be upbeat and excited for the opportunity to work with students**.

From Admin: I have four tickets to next week's 50 Fellas Foodfest. The 1st teacher and 1st support staff member who responds with **I Love GEF** in the subject line will get two tickets each (a \$120 value). I will send an email that says tix are gone when they are claimed.

From District Staff: All of technology does a wonderful job, but the **tech help desk** is a service that is a **daily life saver**. To have someone always available you can call when things aren't right and them walk you through it or take over and solve your problem is phenomenal. All of the employees in technology take turns and **it's a service that is very appreciated**. **Thanks Tech Help Desk for all you do.**

From GHS: Brianne Langdon is a second year teacher... but you'd never know it! She creates **innovative, real-world lessons that engage and encourage her students**. She is unafraid to tackle new and challenging recipes with high school students. She **seeks out business people** in the Culinary industry to teach and educate our students. **She is amazing!**

From GHS: Paula Cabral one of the inclusion support teachers at Granbury High School is an **awesome individual, colleague, and teacher**. She **goes above and beyond to help her students**. She goes out of her way to help any student in the classroom feel successful at whatever they are doing. She is like a mother hen to her kiddos. She is such a help to her colleagues as well. **We are lucky to have her.**

From Oak Woods: I wanted to give a huge thank you to **Pam Eudaley** for all her help today. When we had a crisis happening in two rooms, she immediately asked what she could do to help. Thank you for asking **how you could be helpful and staying with us until everything was calm again!**

From GHS: The Family Consumer Science program is varied and multi-leveled. Working with this caliber of educators, **our students are receiving real-world lessons** and information on a daily basis. These teachers use **compassion, humor, empathy**, and a dash of sass to reach even the most bored student. **I am honored to work with them.**

BARNES, FAITH

10-20-17

From: LARGENT, JAMES
Sent: Friday, October 20, 2017 11:04 AM
To: GISD-Staff
Subject: Supt weekly 10/20/17
Attachments: Voter Guide PBL School Board 2017.pdf; Voter Guide PBL City Council 2017.pdf

Good Morning GISD, I hope you have enjoyed these cool mornings this week. It has been a nice change and I love the Fall weather.

- We have some **exciting news to share!** Plans are in the works for the first annual **#Teach4Gr8ness Rally** hosted by Granbury ISD, **June 4 & 5, 2018**. Don't plan your summer vacation until after this event because you won't want to miss the **line-up of BIG TIME innovative educators** who have agreed to come. Our own teachers will be presenting their innovative strategies, too! **Save the date! June 4 & 5, 2018**
- Yesterday, I delivered a nice Granbury donation to our friends in Sour Lake, Texas, who I told you about a few weeks ago. I delivered **\$2,345** to them from **GISD Admin employees, Acton Elementary, GHS Student Council** and a very generous donation from **DanCar Energy Construction**. They will be able to **outfit their entire PE department with supplies** and will have some money for **teacher supplies** as well. Thanks to all of you who donated, and to all of your thoughts and prayers to those in the Gulf coast area. They are rebuilding and their spirits are up, and this while about **65% of their staff is still displaced**, waiting on insurance, construction crews, etc.
- You will be receiving an **important message from our business office** regarding new **TRS system** requirements for employee identification. **This will impact your check**, so please make sure to **read it carefully and note the deadlines**.
- Tomorrow is a big day. Beginning at **9:00 at the airport**, we will be officially unveiling our **RV-12 student-built airplane**. Then, tomorrow night, the annual **50 Fellas Foodfest** will be held at the fairgrounds. I hope you are able to make one or both of these events.

Voting Information:

Early voting begins next Monday through November 3rd. Please mark your calendar NOW for the day you plan to go vote. Let's make sure 100% of school employees vote in this, and every election...

Cindy Leatherman and her students in Dual Credit U.S. Government have taken the culture of voting to a new level. They have created their first Voter's Guide for our local races (school board and city council candidates). They did a very professional job and you can see their questions of candidates at either of these websites: <https://goo.gl/q7ip4X> or <https://gisddcgovvotersguide.wixsite.com/gisd-dc-gov-vg> Click on the link and go to the top left hand corner for the voter's guide. I have also attached the pdf version to this email.

When you go early vote, you will also be voting on **constitutional amendments**. For an explanation of these amendments, you can go the Secretary of States website here: <https://www.votetexas.gov/voting/constitutional-amendments/2017-constitutional-amendment-explanatory-statements.html>

What day next week will you vote? Go ahead and **put it on your calendar**.

Emails this week:

From AMS: I want to highlight **Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Pullano, and Mrs. McKamey** for the **ELA Book Tasting** that they had for their classes in the Library this past week! They had **menus, napkins, tablecloths, and even snacks for the students!** The students were able to look over books of different genres and critique that type of book in that genre. I believe it opened their eyes to a new wealth of reading material they had not considered. The more we can get our students to read, the better off they will be now and in the future! Way to go ladies! And a big "Thank you!" to **Mrs. Callihan** for her assistance with the **Book Tasting!**

From GHS: I would like to recognize **Allison Allen**. She is one of the hardest workers I have ever met. She is an **amazing role model for teachers and students** as well as **everyone's cheerleader!** She is always the first to offer help and offer an encouraging word. Words cannot express what a phenomenal teacher and person Mrs. Allen is. She **goes above and beyond for her students, coworkers, FCCLA, the Culinary department, and her CTE classes. Thank you Allison for all that you do and all that you are!**

From a Parent: I wanted to share how much I appreciate **Megan Guidry at GMS** for caring so deeply about her students. She has such a wonderful way of listening to and sharing with her students. She takes the time to give them such wise advice on how to handle situations, and it and truly makes a difference in their lives EVERY DAY. I feel **so blessed to have her in my**

child's life. She and so many others at GMS are why I am proud that my child is a GISD Pirate!

From GHS: Thank you all SOOOO much for an **awesome day with 5th graders!** I saw so many great moments today. You have prepared your students well and they were amazing with the littles. Also, thanks so much to those who covered overflow GHS students during your conference so that we didn't have to get ONE sub – not even ONE!! Thank you for your **servant hearts and willingness to be a GREAT TEAM** member! We couldn't pull this off without the help of **Michelle and Kimberly!!**

From Oak Woods: The 5th grade teachers wanted to give a shout out to **Cami Gilbert, Mitzi Johnson** and **Lissa Oliver** for their hard work with the 5th graders on their **music program, "Off Their Rockers."** The students really took ownership, and were proud to put on an entertaining show!

From GHS: Thanks to **Carol Rasberry** in Technology for her **swift and pleasant help!** I had an issue with technology in my classroom and she was there in minutes and easily rectified the problem. Thanks so much.

From District Staff: Since this is anonymous, I will admit that while my husband was out of town this week, **I ran out of gas** on my way to work. I wanted to give a shout out to **Coach Butler** who dropped what he was doing to come and help me. It is employees like this that **go out of their way to help, even when it is not required, that makes GISD a special place.**

From **Commitment to Excellence:**

-Discovery is seeing what everybody else has seen, and thinking what nobody else has thought. ~Albert-Szent-Gyorgi

-In his later years, Pablo Picasso was not allowed to roam an art gallery unattended, for he had previously been discovered in the act of trying to improve on one of his old masterpieces. ~Anonymous

- For those of you speed readers looking for fifty fellas tickets, click on the link and fill out the form before 1:00 today to be entered into a drawing for 3 individual tickets! We will notify the winners by email around 2:00 this afternoon. If you don't get an email by 3:00, thanks for playing! <https://goo.gl/forms/kSaQctUKowMD8DWj1> ~J. Largent

-The superior man is modest in his speech but exceeds in his actions. ~Confucius

Have a great weekend and **GO PIRATES** and **ASTROS** (it worked last Friday)...

JL

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From GHS: I just wanted to share a huge thank you for everyone at the Admin building that helped out in **hosting a group of over 200 students for the PSAT test**. I can't tell you how many individuals went out of their way to check on things or ask if they could help in anyway. **The Admin staff was definitely a great host!** Everyone was very gracious and the testing went smoothly. So thanks to everyone who allowed us to invade, we really appreciate the hospitality. A special thanks to **Cherie Myers** who helped rearrange tables and chairs with us, and **even Dwight Butler** got to help move things around. ☺ Also, thanks to our **maintenance group** for moving the tables and tarps over from GHS and to **transportation** for moving the kids efficiently. Thanks for sharing kindness!! The biggest kick was when the **11th graders walked in and saw how their old Crossland 9th grade center has changed**. **They were so impressed**. Thanks again for everything, I love to see when **everyone pitches in to help out the kids**.

From a substitute teacher: Special thanks to **Pat Yelverton** and the **staff at Granbury Middle School** for providing an **encouraging and helpful environment for our substitute teachers**. I appreciate the **extra effort** to make the substitute teachers feel welcome at their campus!

Email of the week:

From a Parent: I want to thank you and the others involved for bringing **AVID to GISD**. Our daughter is in the AVID program at GMS. **I can hardly say enough wonderful things about this program. Mrs. Dumas is doing a wonderful job!** My child has **more confidence, focus and drive**. Yes, her **grades have improved**. However, this program is **reinforcing so much more...the art of organization, the value of academic reflection, how to build on her strengths and the importance of goals**. Furthermore, AVID is **helping her understand and "fix" where she struggles**. As a parent, you work to instill self-esteem, self-worth, confidence and motivation in your child. We are so grateful that the **AVID program, along with the GMS staff**, is helping ensure our daughter's success and **reinforcing the foundation on which she has been raised**.

For my first **e-book study** this year, I am going to start with a simple book of quotations, called **"Commitment to Excellence."** It has some really nice quotes that make you think about your job and life in general. Enjoy!

*-I am a big believer in the **mirror test**. All that matters is if you can look in the mirror and honestly tell the person you see there, that **you've done your best**. ~John Mckay*

*-Many of life's failures are men who did not realize **how close they were** to success **when they gave up**. ~Anonymous*

*-Anybody who accepts **mediocrity**—in school, on the job, in life—is a person who **compromises**, and when the leader compromises, the whole organization compromises. ~Charles Knight*

*-Far better it is to **dare mighty things**, to **win glorious triumphs**, even though checkered with failure, than to take rank with **those poor spirits** who neither **enjoy nor suffer much**, because **they live in the grey twilight** that knows neither victory nor defeat. ~Theodore Roosevelt*

Have a great weekend. Go **PIRATES...** and **ASTROS!!**

JL

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BARNES, FAITH

10-27-17

From: LARGENT, JAMES
Sent: Friday, October 27, 2017 8:46 AM
To: GISD-Staff
Subject: Supt weekly 10/27/17

Good Morning GISD. Wow, what a busy week! So many great things happening in GISD, it is hard to keep up or attend everything. A few details:

- Remember about **EARLY VOTING**. It ends next week. I would urge you all to **get the "facts" about candidates** and vote for the person you believe best represents you.
- Our **STARS HS students**, under the direction of **Rhonda Naylor** have been doing some great work with our veterans. They recently attended the **WWII glider pilots reunion**, where they interviewed some of the veterans and **got to fly in a C47**. In addition, they have **audio taped interviews** that have been accepted into the **Library of Congress**. What a great project for our students to **honor these veterans** with a project that **will be preserved forever** in our **national archives**. **Great job!**
- We had a great **community event last Saturday** to unveil the airplane our students built. If you haven't seen the news clip on our airplane project, I have included it here: <http://www.nbcdfw.com/news/local/Granbury-HS-Students-Build-Plane-Prepare-for-Flight-Dallas-Fort-Worth-451873403.html>
- The **50 Fellas Foodfest** was yet another great event supporting all of you! We had raised **\$92,000 before the doors even opened**, so I don't know what the final number will be. But, all of this money will go **directly to GISD classrooms**. We look forward to announcing those grant winners soon. **Thanks to all the volunteer cooks** and the **great Granbury Education Foundation volunteers** who made this event happen.
- This past Saturday, **20 of our GMS Choir students** went and auditioned **against 1000 other students** for a place in the **Region 30 Honor Choirs**. I am proud to say that **11 of our students were selected** to be a part of one of the choirs. Great job and way to represent GISD!
- The **GHS Band** will be at the **Area marching contest** tomorrow at 1:30 at Birdville ISD's stadium. Good luck to them as they continue their quest to make it to the State competition.

- Thanks to **Pastors for Texas Schools** for coming to Granbury and doing an event on Monday. People in attendance heard lots of **facts about the constitution, democracy, what a republic looks like**, and how **local churches can (and do) work in our schools**. Thanks to those of you who made the event. I hope you will share the information with everyone you know.
- Congrats to **volleyball** for making it into the **playoffs once again!**
- The **Pirate football** team has a huge game tonight at **Centennial** with **playoff implications**.

Emails this week:

From ERES: We would like to thank the **Pecan Women's Club** for their monetary donation as well as school supplies for our students. I was honored to speak in front of an outstanding group of women and tell them all about the **amazing school I'm blessed to lead**. There are so many Pecan citizens in GISD, I wanted you all to know what a giving community you live in.

From ERES: **AMS Outdoor Learning Center** was amazing! Shout out to **Scott Carpenter and Jeremy Scott**, along with **all of their students** who instructed our little Pirates in some hands on, engaging activities. We had a hard time convincing our kids that it was time to go back to Emma Roberson. It was an adventure that only they were fortunate enough to experience because they attend GISD.

From District Staff: I would like to send a shout out to all staff in our **special education department**, they are indeed very "special" folks that are very, **skilled, social, sincere, and supportive!** They are great cooks as well! Thank you for all you do!

From Silent Wings Museum: The Silent Wings Museum **very much appreciates the effort of STARS HS and your colleagues** to make this opportunity available to both the students and the veterans. The students got some really great information from the veterans and did a stellar job. They obviously put a lot of effort into preparing for and conducting the interviews. They were great and a **real credit to your school!** It was wonderful to see the **students at the reunion interacting with the veterans**, their families and the members of the **WWII Glider Pilots Association**. Preserving these stories is a major goal of the WWIIGPA and by extension the Silent Wings Museum.

From ERES: Thank you to **Mark Weeks** and his theater arts students for hosting a wonderful learning experience for some of our kindergarten students. The **VIP treatment and backstage**

view of how a GHS theater performance works **was thrilling!** They were so excited - we may have several **future thespians on our hands!**

From GMS: I just want to give a **HUGE shoutout to Coach Gill** for being amazing. I needed help in a pinch yesterday and he didn't hesitate to step up. We had MS band night and he drove our trailer full of equipment up to the high school so that I was able to walk with our students to GHS. **Coach Gill, you made my life less stressful** yesterday and I appreciate you so very much! And **thank you Coach McCoy** for being willing to step up as well to drive Gill back to GMS to get his car. **You guys rock!**

From AES: We had the most **AMAZING** day at the Acton Middle School Outdoor Learning Center!! Our 4th graders **could not stop talking about it...**not just one part of it, but every single station! I couldn't believe the **amount of knowledge the AMS 7th and 8th graders had** who were leading the stations. The vocabulary they used and the higher level questions they asked our kids was incredible. As a writing teacher, I was **THRILLED** with the amount of writing that was incorporated into the Science lessons. It was awesome!! When we got back to school, our students created Google Slides writing about what they learned and loved at the OLC. **AES wants to thank AMS for the hard work they put into the OLC!** We are so lucky such an incredible place is right down the road!

From **Commitment to Excellence:**

*-To **do the right thing**, at the right time, in the right way; to do some things better than they ever were done before; to eliminate errors; to know both sides of the question; to be courteous; to **be an example**; to work for the love of work; to anticipate requirements; to develop resources; to recognize no impediments; to master circumstances; to act from reason rather than rule; to be **satisfied with nothing short of perfection**. ~Marshall Field & Company*

*-Happy are those who **dream dreams** and are willing to **pay the price** to make them come true. ~Anonymous*

*-**Enthusiasm** is the mother of effort, and without it, **nothing great** was ever achieved. ~Ralph Waldo Emerson*

Have a great weekend and **GO PIRATES...and ASTROS** (I'm going to do this one more time...)

JL

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From: LARGENT, JAMES
Sent: Friday, November 3, 2017 9:21 AM
To: GISD-Staff
Subject: Supt Weekly 11/3/17

Good Morning GISD. Is it really November? Wow, time flies... A few things this morning:

- Today is the **last day to early vote**. Please, if you have not done so yet, **GO VOTE today!** **We must** create a culture where every person running for office knows that all **1000 employees of GISD WILL VOTE**. Do not think your vote doesn't matter or that "your" candidate has nothing to worry about. That mindset has caused many "sure thing" candidates to wake up the day after an election loss finding out that their biggest supporters did not even take the 3 minutes it takes to vote.
- The events of the past week, involving one of our staff members, make it important for me to remind you about the District's policy regarding **employee standards of conduct**, found here: [https://pol.tasb.org/Policy/Download/669?filename=DH\(LOCAL\).pdf](https://pol.tasb.org/Policy/Download/669?filename=DH(LOCAL).pdf) This includes guidance regarding the use of electronic communications with students. Please review this policy to be sure you have a clear understanding of your responsibilities. If you have any questions, contact your supervisor.
- Monday night, I was invited to participate in **Tarleton State University's Town Hall**. This was a great event where small groups of students are put in a room with a practitioner on a topic they have been researching. My group had researched school funding, and the students had learned as much as they could about the topic. We had a nice discussion, and I was energized with how engaging they were with me. Tarleton is doing good work and putting out some very capable students.
- Yesterday, our **principal PLC team** spent the morning at **GMS**. We went into classrooms for our **new AVID program** and visited **other classrooms** on campus **doing some innovative things**. I am proud of all the things the staff and students at **GMS** are doing to improve their culture and prepare our students for success. The shift in mindset is very obvious when talking to staff and students. Great job **GMS**!
- **Emma Roberson** students gathered together in the shape of a key to celebrate this year's theme "**Your future is key so stay drug free.**" We entered the contest and are hoping to win \$1,000 and an Ipad for our school. We **need as many votes as possible** to win. Everyone can **vote at least once per day starting November 3rd until November 17th**. The link is: <http://wshe.es/GORZrNdX>. We want to give a shout out and a huge

thanks to **Green Fox Marketing** for coming to our school to take the picture with their drone.

- Thanks to the **staff members at Mambrino and Brawner** for the **luncheons this week**. Both were great, and we **very much appreciate your thoughtfulness** in doing this.
- Congrats to our **volleyball team** on another **playoff year**. We came up a little short this week, but we have a **young team** and I know the best is yet to come from this group.
- Tonight is our **last home football game**, as we take on Cleburne. Please come out and support our **seniors, players, Stowaways, band, cheerleaders, student council, MJROTC**, and other groups that make **Friday nights in Texas** really special.

Emails this week:

From AMS: My daughter has never, ever LOVED a class like she loves **Mr. Morgan's music class**. She's one of those "always happy" personalities, but will also always be an excellent "book" student. Math/ science...no sweat! But MUSIC.....She talks and **talks and talks about his class**. Thank you all so much for educating our children. **You don't hear it enough**. This week **you handled a situation at your school with quick action and decisiveness** and I thank you for that. **Mr. Morgan, your jokes and antics** make these kids laugh so **please keep it up**. **Whatever you're doing is making a difference and keeping learning fun!**

From a substitute: I just wanted to pass along some kind words about our kids and our school. **Hallway behavior here at Brawner is just DELIGHTFUL!** I tell other schools that **it can be done because Brawner does it!**

From a staff member: GISD had a **great presence at ESC11 STEAM Carnival** last week. **7 AMS students** facilitated multiple activities and presented to 200+ students and teachers at time. The **F1 team** showcased their program and accomplishments. **2nd graders from Emma** showed the older students the basics of coding by teaching them to use Beebots, Cubelets and Code.org. The whole **front area of ESC11** was dedicated to the different **Art programs in Granbury**. **Mrs. Baldrige and her AV Production students** put together a video that played all three days <https://goo.gl/Qky22G>. If any teachers want their art projects to be a part of next year's video, they can be uploaded all year to <https://goo.gl/QYRN33>. **Almost every GISD school sent students on a field trip to STEAM Carnival** and displayed excellent behavior.

From GHS: I could not be more PROUD of the **CTE staff and for your amazing hospitality today**. I repeatedly heard how hospitable and kind the staff was to our guests. They were so