

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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