

# Plano ISD Education Foundation

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## Ski Plano Gets the Snowball Rolling

The Plano ISD Education Foundation kicked off its annual Ski Plano event with a "Gift Giving Party" attended by more than 75 guests at the home of Linda and Peter Raphael.

This first-ever kickoff party for the annual Ski Plano fundraiser was a way to raise donations for the event's impressive silent auction. Guests were asked to bring an item or gift certificate valued at \$50 or more, amassing a remarkable number of items such as restaurant gift cards, power tools, toys, home décor and much more.

The annual Ski Plano fundraising event is themed "Icy Hot," and will be held on January 30, 2010 at Southfork Ranch in Parker. Eight-hundred guests, including community leaders, school board members, teachers and Plano ISD administrators, will enjoy dinner, live music, an exclusive VIP reception for major underwriters and the Neiman Marcus "Avalanche" raffle. Guests will also have an opportunity to bid on one-of-a-kind live auction items like a Lexus sampler, dinner for 10 catered by Central Market and a shopping

## Program Spotlight

Thanks to a grant from the Plano ISD Education Foundation more than 700 students will receive scholarships for 5th grade camp.

Each year the Plano ISD offers 5th grade camp to all students. The camp is held over three days at the Collin County Adventure Camp. The camp features many lessons on environmental science, outdoor activities including archery, canoeing and fishing and offers many team building lessons.

spree from The Shops at Willow Bend, to name a few. Ski Plano is open to the public and sponsorship opportunities and [tickets are now available](#). Proceeds from the event benefit students and teachers of the Plano Independent School District.



Jennifer Misencik, Kurt Pimentel & Kim Gleeson



Peter and Linda Raphael

## STEM Partners Support Plano ISD Secondary Mathematics Initiatives

With generous support from leading area STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) focused corporations and foundations, the Plano Independent School District (Plano ISD) Education Foundation will complete funding this year for more than \$290,000 in district-approved initiatives to improve student performance in secondary mathematics education.

STEM organizations partnering with the Plano ISD Education Foundation and the school district are AEGON Direct Marketing, Inc., Boeing Company Charitable Trust, EDS Foundation, ExxonMobil Corporation, and Texas Instruments Incorporated.

To date, more than \$290,000 has been raised to fund the four-year, incremental transition of Algebra 1 instruction from the ninth grade of high school to the eighth grade of middle school.

Plano ISD is the only school district in Texas known to move Algebra 1 instruction down one grade level for all students through an incremental, four-year systemic change effort, ensuring greater student understanding of pre-algebra and Algebra 1 concepts, while laying the groundwork for ongoing student success. This is a replicable state and national model of instructional excellence.

AEGON Direct Marketing, Inc. and Texas Instruments each recently renewed a \$25,000 grant for the project, totaling their commitment for the systemic improvement effort to \$75,000 each. The Plano ISD Education Foundation has committed to securing a total of \$300,000 for the math initiatives.

"The Foundation greatly appreciates the support of these STEM corporations and foundations whose contributions are enabling Plano ISD to offer these mathematics initiatives for secondary students," said Beth Webb, president of the Board of Directors of the Plano ISD Foundation. "It is wonderful that these leading businesses in our community are playing such a vital role in helping Plano ISD students increase their comprehension of



"For many students this is their first time being away from home and in an outdoor setting. We are fortunate Plano ISD can provide this opportunity through the Outdoor School Program at Collin County Adventure Camp. It is a chance for students to interact with their teachers and friends and enhance their education by studying nature" said Brian Thomas, PISD Outdoor School Coordinator.



"The scholarships that are provided by the Foundation allow many of our students to attend Collin County Adventure Camp. Without the scholarships many of our students would not be able to attend due to the financial burden on the family. Most of our students do not have the financial resources to attend private camps. Collin County Adventure Camp is a special and once in a lifetime experience for our students where they gain science knowledge, social skills and independence" added Karen Noble, Principal at Mendenhall Elementary.

If you are interested in

mathematics principals."

Other parts of the initiatives funded by the STEM dollars have included hiring of a middle school math specialist, the production of customized online tools for pre-algebra and Algebra 1 teachers and videotaping of master teacher demonstrations of best practices.

The Plano ISD Education Foundation is currently building its next public/private partnership for a science improvement initiative with the Plano ISD and will begin fundraising in the fall for a program start date of 2009-2010.

## Get a Jump on the Holiday Season!

The Plano ISD Education Foundation partnered with the Plano ISD "Season of Harmony" Holiday Greeting Card Art Contest this year. The Plano ISD student winning this year's artwork competition will not only be the official 2009 holiday greeting card for the Plano ISD but will be available to the public for purchase to raise funds for Plano ISD priority projects such as educator grants, middle school math programs, 5th grade camp scholarships and many more.

The holiday donation cards make a great gift for co-workers, friends, clients and family. Each card will include a special acknowledgment that a gift has been made in their honor to support Plano ISD. [Place your order today.](#)



*Artwork by student Rachel Lee, Robinson Middle School, was among the 2008 judges' picks.*

sending a child to camp you may [donate today](#) or to learn more about this wonderful program please contact the Foundation office at 469/752-8272.

### Event Spotlight

Charity Through Art (CHAART) Foundation invites you to "Seven Wonders of the World" a unique dance ballet depicting stories of love and war behind the Birth of Seven Wonders. The event benefits the Plano ISD Education Foundation and three other local charities. The ballet will be on November 22 at 4 PM at Granville Arts Center in Garland. Come enjoy a wonderful student performance and support the Plano ISD Education Foundation. Tickets and information: 972-208-1012 or email [chaartfoundation@yahoo.com](mailto:chaartfoundation@yahoo.com) or visit [www.chaartfoundation.org](http://www.chaartfoundation.org). Tickets are \$10.

### Special Thanks to Volunteers

The Plano ISD Education Foundation wishes to thank the volunteers who participated last month at the Plano Balloon Festival and the Grants to Educators Judges.

#### Volunteers:

Robin Joseph-Williams,  
Karla Oliver, Lesley  
Range-Stanton, Debby  
Spitzer

#### Judges:

Rick Dunham, Caitlen  
Hamilton, Hannah Shorey,  
Gretchen Abner, Robin  
Joseph-Williams, Sherry  
K. Cassidy, Shonda  
Winkler, Sue Story, Mark  
Ball, Danelle Parker,  
Karyn Wynne, Lynn  
McCoy, Kyle Walters,

# SKI PLANO

## *Save the Date* 2010

Benefiting the students, faculty, staff and schools of Plano ISD

*Live Auction* Saturday, January 30, 2010  
6:30 p.m.

*Silent Auction* Southfork Ranch

*Live Band* Parker, Texas

Now accepting sponsors  
For more information, call 214-783-2339 or visit [www.pisd.edu/foundation](http://www.pisd.edu/foundation)

Thanh Nguyen, Meryl Evans, Mark Rudd, Windon Chau, Paula Diaz, Dana Bilbray, Sue Kay, Brian Henson, Michele Carey-Dave, Becky Fenn, Pamela Clark, Jan Barber, Kathy Smith, Cara Mendelsohn, Vincent Lin, and Louann Dunkle.



Doing Good One Search or One Purchase At A Time!

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## "I Love Plano ISD" Campaign Continues

Last year, "I Love Plano ISD" yard signs began appearing at homes and businesses throughout the district as part of the Plano ISD Education Foundation's Community Honor Roll Campaign. 400 signs were delivered to donors contributing \$100 or more to initiatives supporting the Plano Independent School District.



*Jasper High School staff display signs*

"This year, we hope to increase the number of signs displayed in the community by more than fifty percent," said Monica Shortino, executive director of the Plano ISD Education Foundation. "As the needs of the district continue to grow and state funding remains flat, it is critical that the community joins with the district in the common effort to continue providing top-notch education to Plano students."

The Community Honor Roll Campaign focuses on district needs for which tax dollars are not available. Enrichment programs such as additional mathematics, science and technology instruction, educator grants, fifth grade camp scholarships, programs to fill achievement gaps and many others will be sustained by these funds. The Foundation raised more than \$1 million last year through community support, all of which stayed within the district.

The Foundation kicked off the campaign at school open houses across the district and mailing brochures to Plano residents and business owners to garner their support. [The signs may also be purchased online.](#)

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