



Happy 100th Birthday, Mrs. Skaggs!

Mary Alice Skaggs, namesake of Skaggs Elementary School, will celebrate her 100th birthday among fellow educators, family, friends and dignitaries during a special reception to be held from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 22, at Settlers Ridge Care Center, 1280 Settlers Ridge Road in Celina.



Mary Alice Skaggs is pictured at the "Living Legends" banquet with Michelle Moses-Meeks, Skaggs Elementary teacher.

Mrs. Skaggs was born in Celina, raised in Dallas and earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from Austin College in Sherman. She taught high school English, journalism and economics for 31 years in Plano ISD, where she was the first teacher to hold a master's degree.

Among her many honors was being named 1958 Teacher of the Year by the Texas Federation of Women's Clubs. She received a career achievement award in 1968 from the Plano Business and Professional Women's Club, and, during the school district's centennial celebration in 1998-99, she was named among Plano ISD's "100 Heroes."

Community Anticipates Honoring Top Educators at PISD Teacher of the Year Gala May 8 at Plano Centre

Just as the finest quality pearls are valued as something rare and admirable, Plano ISD educators will be reminded of their rare value as the greater community joins in celebrating its Teachers of the Year at an elegant evening gala to be held on Thursday, May 8, at Plano Centre. The gala theme, "String of Pearls," will feature musical entertainment from the big band era, video tributes, recognition of 69 Teacher of the Year and 61 Beginning Teacher of the Year nominees, and the surprise announcement of Excellence in Teaching award winners and the top two Elementary and Secondary Teachers of the Year.



Judging the experienced Teacher of the Year nominees were Marilyn Brooks (seated) and (standing, l-r) Jun Melvin, Ann Boswell, Beth Hubbard and Karen Schultz. Serving as judges for the Beginning Teacher of the Year awards were Jayne Cantwell, Deborah Jones and Yulya Bushnell (elementary); and Mark Briskman, Tom Salmon and Dr. Jim Wussow (secondary).

The Plano ISD Board of Trustees, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Doug Otto and Honorary Gala Chairwoman Loreta Hickey this week sent formal invitations announcing the May 8 gala to Teacher of the Year nominees, school principals, PTA presidents, district administrators, gala sponsors, elected officials and other community leaders. Some 1,400 guests are expected to attend the event.

The Plano ISD TV Studio was the location for the Teacher of the Year judging last month. Following panel interviews, judges selected Excellence in Teaching award winners. A separate panel of judges read the Beginning Teacher of the Year nomination packets and selected two Beginning Elementary and Secondary Teachers of the Year. All awards will be announced at the May 8 gala.

∞ string of ∞
PEARLS

14th Annual Teacher Recruitment Open House a Success

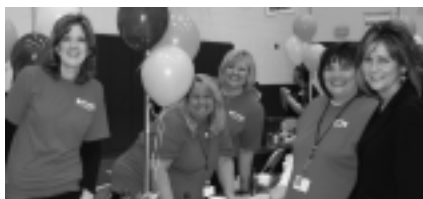
Plano ISD's 14th Annual Recruitment Open House was a huge success, reports Tamira Griffin, human resources executive director. The event was held on Saturday, March 29, at Murphy Middle School, with more than 900 applicants and 500 volunteers in attendance.

"As a result of the successful open house and the district's other recruiting efforts, we hope to fill all Plano ISD vacancies with only the most highly qualified teaching candidates," said Ms. Griffin.

Ebby Halliday Realtors, Home Team Mortgage and the Plano ISD Education Foundation sponsored the open house. Ms. Griffin said, "Through their financial support, we added special touches that demonstrate why Plano ISD has again earned the distinction of being named one of the Best Places to Work in the DFW metroplex."



Among the event's many hosts were HR teammates (above, l-r) Jun Melvin, Tamira Griffin and Dee Sampson, pictured with Trustee Lloyd Jenkins. The Recruitment Open House included interviews, curriculum demonstrations, bus tours and more.



**April 21-25 is National
School Volunteer Week,
Student Leadership
Week & Administrative
Professionals Week.
Plano ISD salutes these
outstanding groups!**

Board Briefs...

The Plano ISD Board of Trustees took the following action at their April 1 business meeting.

Oncor Electric Delivery and CLEAResult presented a check for \$26,880 to the district for participation in the Oncor SCORE program which rewards districts for modifications of HVAC and lighting systems that will ultimately save the district significant utility costs.

Trustees read a resolution in honor of National Library Week and presented it to Diane Lutz, director of the learning media department.

A resolution in honor of School Nurse Day was read and presented to Tamira Griffin, executive director of human resources.

Dr. Jim Wussow, executive director for secondary academic services and chair of the District Based Improvement Committee, presented the committee's response to district advisory committee reports presented to the board in 2007.

Karen McDonald, Plano East Senior High principal, and Theresa Biggs, International Baccalaureate (IB) coordinator, presented an update on the IB Program.

Associate Superintendent for Business Services Richard Matkin presented a budget report, including an overview of the debt service fund and area district comparison based on the previous year's actual general operating fund.

Trustees also adopted TASB Localized District Update 82 under second reading and Policy CFB(LOCAL) Accounting: Inventories under first reading.

Trustees removed from the agenda consideration and possible action to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent to send notice of proposed termination of a term contract teacher.

The board upheld the administrative recommendation regarding an employee appeal pursuant to Board Policy DFF (Local).

District Digest

E-mail: digest@pisd.edu

Phone: (469) 752-8030

Website:

www.pisd.edu/news

eNews listserv:

www.pisd.edu/eNews.htm

May 10 Bond Election ~ Questions & Answers

An ongoing series to inform employees about Plano ISD's \$490 million bond proposal.

Why are school buses included in this bond election?

In 2000, legislation was passed to allow districts to buy school buses through the issuance of bonds. This allows the district to capitalize a large expenditure and avoid paying an additional 30% of the cost to recapture. The district has a need for 60 new buses over the next four years and other capital needs related to transportation, totaling \$7.8 million.

Are there district wide capital projects included in this bond?

The bond proposal includes \$13.4 million for these district wide capital projects: • Food and nutritional services - replacement of obsolete equipment. • Bird Center – parking lot renovation. • Energy efficient lighting - retrofit lighting that has an estimated three year payback to the general fund. • Water conservation irrigation upgrades (technological) that have an estimated four-year payback to the general fund. • Athletics – anticipated upgrades and capital needs over the next four years. • District wide projects - annual requests that traditionally are funded through the Maintenance and Operation Fund.

What happened to the monies provided in past bond elections?

With the support of voters in the passage of the 2000, 2003 and 2004 bond programs, Plano ISD has implemented: • Full-day kindergarten, with the addition of facilities at each elementary school. • Construction of a new middle school, six new elementary schools, three early childhood schools and a new stadium. • The largest renovation in our history, with 10 campuses receiving major 20-year renovations in the 2000 bond, and an additional nine campuses undergoing major renovation in the Bond 2004 initiative. Also included in the 2004 bond were improvements to Clark Stadium and the Williams Field House.

Website - www.pisd.edu

eNews - elist.pisd.edu

Hotline - (469) 752-8010

Speakers - To schedule, call (469) 752-8147.



"The Facilities and Technology Task Force met for five months to study the needs of the district and then prioritized a list to present to the Plano ISD Board of Trustees.

We analyzed the need for new construction, facilities renovations, technology upgrades and curriculum enhancements, safety and security issues, and transportation. The task force feels that this bond proposal reflects the excellence in education that our citizens want for our school children."

~ Phil Dyer, Bond Task Force Chair

Guinn Center Educator Earns H-E-B Excellence Award

Tracey King, English I and II teacher, remedial GED instructor and mentor to students at the Larry D. Guinn Special Programs Center, has been selected among four North Texas area educators as a finalist in the H-E-B Excellence in Education Awards Program for Texas educators. Ms. King learned of her status as a "2008 Rising Star" when H-E-B representatives visited her classroom bearing balloons, cake, flowers and two \$1,000 checks - one for her and one for her school.

This is the second time H-E-B has awarded Ms. King through the Excellence program. She was also awarded in 2006. Ms. King was selected as a finalist based upon her exceptional promise as an outstanding educator with less than 10 years experience. She is now eligible to compete against other Texas educators for two \$5,000 cash prizes: one for her and one for her school. Winners will be announced at a May 4 dinner in Houston, where Ms. King will be recognized, after participating in a personal interview before a panel of judges.

Ms. King holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Simmons College in Boston, MA. Prior to joining the Guinn Center staff in 2005, she taught at Boston Public Schools' Brighton High School.



Tracey King instructs high school students at the Guinn Special Programs Center.

Notable Notes...

Congratulations to these proud parents and grandparents:

❑Christie Elementary's **Sherri Magbee**, parent liaison, welcomed grandson **Graysen Bennett** on December 14. Proud parents are **Brooke and Andy Miller**; and Christie's **Elizabeth Griffin**, literacy specialist, and her husband **Landon** welcomed son **Mateo William** on December 29; Schell Elementary first grade teacher **Liz Adams** and her husband **Jarid** announced the February 26 birth of daughter **Reece Abigail** (7lbs 14ozs);

❑**Becky Bailey**, Wyatt literacy specialist, welcomed granddaughter **Camryn Lynn**, daughter of **Ashley and Dan Jackson** of Frisco, on April 3; **Katie Isbell**, Barksdale kindergarten teacher, and her husband **Tyler** welcomed daughter **Grace Kathleen** on April 4; **Bibs Toney**, Haun first grade teacher, proudly announced the birth of grandson **Brendan Noah** (8 lbs 15ozs) on April 8. Proud parents are **Dana and Ryan Barth**.

❑**Diana and Bert McMillan**, Weatherford second grade teacher and Jackson PE teacher, respectively, welcomed daughter **Adelynn Reese** on April 14. Proud grandfather is **Eddie McMillan**, Weatherford first grade teacher; **Whitney Watkins**, Meadows second grade teacher, and her husband **Chris** welcomed daughter **Leighton Harper** (7 lbs) on April 8.

❑Schimelpfenig staff welcomed these new babies recently: **Angie Kendrick**, English teacher: son **Reid Davis**; Principal **Olga Sanchez-Grosscup**: grandson **Landen Thomas Johnson**; **Helen Howell**, registrar: granddaughters **Jacquelin Hana** and **Bridget Naomi**; and **Carol Campbell**, librarian: grandson **Braden**.

Sympathy is extended to the following employees:

❑**Marty Melson**, Renner teacher/coach, whose father **Lloyd Melson** died in March; Centennial CTA **Vallery Daniel** whose mother **Jean Moore** died on March 4; **Debbie Chenault**, Boggess library media specialist, whose father-in-law **Bob Emerson Chenault** died on March 24; **Guillermina Arreguin**, FANS, whose brother **Gustavo Medina** died on March 28; **Janet Felts**, Gullidge librarian, whose mother **Edith Ferguson** died on April 7; **Kelly Froemming**, Wells PACE teacher, whose father **Judd Froemming** died recently; **Pam Rand**, Dooley CTA, whose mother **Margaret Rand** of Melbourne, FL, died on April 8; and **Teresa Stevenson**, Weatherford kindergarten teacher, whose mother died on April 14.

Thought for the Week:

"Keep your face always toward the sunshine - and shadows will fall behind you." ~Walt Whitman