



## Science Teachers Earn Toyota Awards

Outstanding Plano ISD high school and middle school teachers captured 14 of 20 Toyota Teacher Awards presented at this spring's Beal Bank Dallas Regional Science and Engineering Fair. Plano teachers were cited for the success of their students whose projects earned six of the fair's eight grand prize awards. Plano students represented 73% of their peers who advanced to the state fair where they captured 10 first place trophies and 22 second and third place awards. Three Plano students qualified for the international fair to be held in May in Atlanta. Linda Flack, secondary science coordinator, announces the following teacher award recipients.

**Middle School Teachers**  
Caryn Craw Shaw - Rice  
Libby Griffin - Haggard  
Kathryn Harvey - Haggard  
Deborah Johnston - Schimelpfenig

Vicki Kutscherousky - Robinson  
Eileen Quinn - Rice  
Susan Rose - Frankford  
Nancy Saari - Renner

**High School Teachers**  
Cathy Bambenek - Clark  
Washka Desai - Williams  
Lindsay Ray - PWSH  
Theresa Reeves - Clark  
Deanna Shea - Shepton  
Karen Shepherd - PSHS

## School Board Candidate Forum Airing on Cable TV

Tune in to Plano ISD Cable TV at 1:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. daily to view a 90-minute school board candidate forum, which was taped on April 14 and hosted by the Plano ISD Key Communicators and Council of PTAs. Cable channels are: Plano and Richardson Time-Warner Cable A-31, Digital Cable 99 and Verizon FIOS 33.

The 8:00 p.m. airing of the candidate forum will follow the school board meeting programming on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays.

## Superintendent Presents Ninth Annual Service Awards to Four Employees Whose Work Exceeds Expectations

Dr. Doug Otto has presented his Ninth Annual Superintendent's Service Award to four outstanding support staff members whose effort and commitment rise above and beyond expectations.

Two managers of food and nutritional services - Anastasia (Sissy) Cox and Debra Lewis, FANS managers at Christie and Centennial elementary schools, respectively - received awards, as did Tammy Jaggi, Thomas Elementary teaching assistant, and Maurice Tyson, distribution services processor.

Read more about these award winners on our district website: [www.pisd.edu](http://www.pisd.edu).



Tammy Jaggi, Sissy Cox, Maurice Tyson and Debra Lewis (l-r) were honored at Plano ISD's 46th Annual "Salute to Service" employee service and retirement banquet held on April 17 at Southfork Ranch.



### Centennial FANS Manager Helps Students Make Healthy Choices

Debra Lewis distinguishes herself by incorporating creative and interesting projects to promote health and wellness among the students at Centennial Elementary School. "I am most proud of the interaction that I have with the children through the 'Student and Parent Involvement Program,'" she said. Some of her goals met this year were the "Kindergarten Kitchen Tour," Student Council "taste testers" and lessons for students in third grade classes and the after-school program. For her "incredible work ethic and vibrant personality," Principal Jason Myatt and the Centennial Staff presented Ms. Lewis with the school's "Caring Heart Award" last year. "She represents the quality of character...that Plano ISD proudly honors," said Mr. Myatt.

### Thomas Elementary Teaching Assistant Has Special Gift with Students

Tammy Jaggi's love of Thomas Elementary began as a parent volunteer when her own three sons attended the school. "Once she became a special education paraprofessional, it became immediately apparent that she has a special gift," noted her award nominators Principal Lynn Swanson and Teachers Marci Probus and Kay Caillier. During her six years as a special education teaching assistant at Thomas, Ms. Jaggi has twice been named Employee of the Month. "To work with a child who has no eye contact and to have him or her joking and laughing with you by the end of the year is the greatest feeling on earth," said Ms. Jaggi, who is pursuing her teaching degree. "She sees beyond the challenges and recognizes each child's potential," said her teammates. "With Tammy's insight and support, her students are able to successfully interact with their grade level peers." Examples of her award-winning professionalism include attending teacher training and incorporating training skills into daily schedules for children, promoting environmental awareness at the school and in the greater Thomas community, and serving as a Habitat for Humanity volunteer.



### Employee Inspired Preschool Students' Mr. Tyson's Truck Video

A 25-year veteran employee of Plano schools, Maurice Tyson started his career as a custodian at Saigling Elementary, where he worked for 15 years and helped create the school's "We Care, We Share, We Shine" clean campus crew. There, he taught students to take pride in their school environment. In his current role as a distribution processor, Mr. Tyson continues to teach students, serving as a "great example of the district's belief statement that, 'Excellence in public education is best achieved through shared vision,'" noted his supervisor David Shelton. Beaty Early Childhood School students have been so inspired by Mr. Tyson's lessons about the process of mail delivery that they have created a special video entitled *Mr. Tyson's Truck*. "Community spirit is not just something he talks about," said Mr. Shelton. "He lives it."

### Award-Winning FANS Employee Serves Plano Schools for 28 Years

Anastasia (Sissy) Cox said that the best thing about work is feeling loved and appreciated. "I want to take care of all my students and make their day brighter," said the longtime food service manager, who has spent most of 28 years in Plano ISD at Christie Elementary School. She has also managed food operations at Carpenter and Robinson middle schools and at Hughston and Mathews elementary schools. She is most proud of increasing sales at Christie, mentoring Christie students and volunteering in several capacities at school events. For her efforts, she has earned the school's Comet Award, Squeaky Clean Award and Pump Up the Volume Award, and she has been twice nominated for the Superintendent's Service Award. "Her outstanding service exemplifies her dedication to public service," said Principal Emelia Ahmed.



# Retirement Receptions

It's time to salute retiring colleagues for their dedicated service to Plano schools. Mark your calendars for these upcoming receptions, and please visit the district website for an updated list: [www.pisd.edu](http://www.pisd.edu).

**Barbara McCoy**  
Sigler Elementary  
May 12 - 4 to 6 p.m.

**Margie Eldridge**  
**Vicki Prouty**  
Wells Elementary  
May 13 - 3:30 to 5 p.m.

**Nancy Nickell**  
Shiloh, Special Education  
May 13 - 3:30 to 5 p.m.

**Nancy Giles**  
**Nancy Taylor**  
**Debbie Trimble**  
**Peggy Widlund**  
Bowman Middle School  
May 14 - 4-5:30 p.m.

**Kitty Schieck**  
Jackson Elementary  
May 19 - 3:30 to 5 p.m.

**Jack Worsham**  
Guinn Center  
May 20 - 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

**Hannah Montgomery**  
**Becky Sullivan**  
Carlisle Elementary  
May 20 - 3:30 p.m.

**Marty Conroy**  
Special Education (Shiloh)  
May 21 - 3:30 to 5 p.m.

**Joyce Bernie & Candy Case**  
Schimelpfenig Middle School  
May 22 - 3:45 p.m.

**Twila Gass**  
Rice Middle School  
May 22 - 4 to 5:30 p.m.

**Lundy Forbes**  
Rose Haggard Elementary  
May 22 - 3 to 5 p.m.

**Debbi Arnold**  
**Barbara Caravella**  
**Diane Gammons**  
**Jeanne Shilstone**  
Mendenhall Elementary  
May 29 - 4 p.m.

**Cyndy Pierson**  
Plano West Senior High  
May 30 - 3 to 5:30 p.m.

## Senior Reunions

Also posted on the district website is a list of senior reunions to be hosted by elementary schools: [www.pisd.edu](http://www.pisd.edu).

## District Digest

E-mail: [digest@pisd.edu](mailto:digest@pisd.edu)

Phone: (469) 752-8030

Website:

[www.pisd.edu/news](http://www.pisd.edu/news)

eNews listserv:

[www.pisd.edu/eNews.htm](http://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.

**What will this bond election cost me?** It is estimated that the 2008 bonds will increase the tax rate over the course of the replacement schedule by no more than eight cents over the life of the bonds.

**How will this affect my tax bill if I am a senior citizen over 65?** There will be no impact since taxes are frozen on homes of those 65 years of age and older. The average current home value in Plano ISD is \$257,900. Based on that current value, the increase to the tax bill will average \$33 to \$45 annually for five years then start to decline.

**How does PISD's tax rate compare to other districts in the metroplex?**

PISD has one of the lowest tax rates in the metroplex. We have managed to maintain a low tax rate even though we've had to send funds back to the state. This has been accomplished through very conservative budgeting and by staying below the administrative cost ratio recommended by the state.

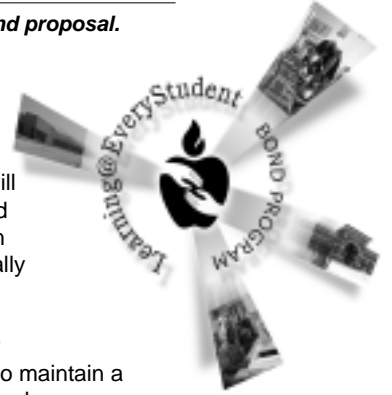
**When does early voting begin?** Early voting begins April 28 and continues through May 6 at several locations. Find complete voting information on the Plano ISD website at: [www.pisd.edu/2008bond](http://www.pisd.edu/2008bond).

**Website** - [www.pisd.edu](http://www.pisd.edu)

**eNews** - [elist.pisd.edu](mailto:elist.pisd.edu)

**Hotline** - (469) 752-8010

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



## EDS Credit Union Hosts Breakfast for Top Teachers



*Ann Aston and Ginger Williams, Murphy*



*Jeff Bailey, Deputy Superintendent*

Teacher of the Year and Beginning Teacher of the Year nominees began their week as celebrities at an April 21 invitation-only breakfast held at Reflections on Spring Creek and hosted by EDS Credit Union. Teachers and their school principals enjoyed a breakfast buffet, and teachers had their keepsake portraits made with Superintendent of Schools Dr. Doug Otto and Plano ISD School Trustees. Members of the superintendent's cabinet were also on hand to celebrate.

A photo gallery of the breakfast celebration can be viewed on the Plano ISD website at: [www.pisd.edu](http://www.pisd.edu).

Deputy Superintendent Jeff Bailey greeted guests and introduced EDS Credit Union representatives Shirley Cohen,

April McEvoy, Teresa Judie and Eddie Hernandez. He also recognized Plano ISD 2007 Teacher of the Year Beth Hubbard, Aldridge Elementary School third grade team leader, and Beginning Teachers of the Year Elizabeth Kruep, Bethany Elementary School fourth grade teacher, and Miguel Lopez, Williams High School English as a Second Language math teacher.

Mr. Bailey also introduced guests to Mrs. Loreta Hickey, Teacher of the Year honorary chair. Namesake of Hickey Elementary School in Plano, she served Plano schools for 40 years as a home economics teacher (1952-68). During that time, she captured the Secondary Teacher of the Year title. She later served as vocational education supervisor and director (1968-91) and as interim assistant superintendent ('91-92).

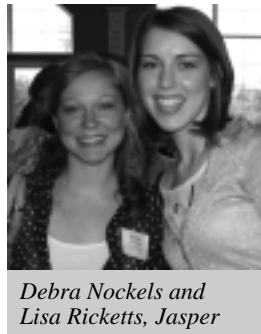
During her retirement, Ms. Hickey has served as president of the Plano Retired Teachers Association and Texas Retired Teachers Association, District 10, and as a member of the state association's board.



*Janet Langford and Emelia Ahmed, Christie*



*Meadows Teacher Gina Duncan with Dr. Doug Otto and Brad Shanklin.*



*Debra Nockels and Lisa Ricketts, Jasper*



*Teachers and principals enjoyed a delicious buffet at Reflections.*

## Notable Notes...

### Congratulations to these proud parents and grandparents:

Robinson teachers who welcomed daughters recently: **Vicki Kutcherousky** welcomed **Reese Jamison** on February 21; **Jennifer Reinhard** welcomed **Madeline Faith** on March 16; **Kenya Evans** welcomed **Chandler Paige** on March 29; and **Kate Wallace** welcomed **Nora Claire** on April 18; **Gretchen McComic**, Davis first grade team leader, and her husband **Ira** welcomed grandson **Brayden Greer** on April 12. Proud parents are **Sally and Andy McComic**; **Jamie Dunkle**, Carlisle kindergarten teacher, and **Chris Dunkle**, Aldridge and Hughston assistant principal, welcomed son **Caleb Seth** (8lbs 1oz) on March 12. Proud grandmother is **Louann Dunkle**, Haun fourth grade teacher; **Linda Nguyen**, Boggess special education teacher, and her husband announced the birth of son **Troy** (7 lbs) on April 4; **Katie Isbell**, Barksdale kindergarten teacher, and her husband **Tyler** welcomed daughter **Grace Kathleen** on April 4; **Joyce and Jonathan Sonnier**, McCall special education assistant and Clark HS foreign language teacher, respectively, welcomed son **Orlando** (7lbs 9ozs) on April 17; **Jan Gerick**, elementary curriculum specialist, announced the birth of granddaughter **Avery Jewel Hood** (8lbs 8 ozs) on April 17. Proud parents are **Jennifer and Chris Hood** of Dallas.

### Sympathy is extended to the following employees:

**David Mendoza**, Schell special education assistant, whose mother **Ruth Mendoza** passed away on March 22; Gullidge Elementary School's **Janet Felts**, librarian, whose mother **Edith Ferguson** died on April 7, and **Kathy Tripp**, second grade teacher, whose mother **Rita Virginia Kilveon** died on April 21; and **Nancy Lusby**, Schimelpfenig nurse, who lost her father **Lewis Lowe** recently.

### Thought for the Week:

*"It is not the years in your life but the life in your years that counts."* ~Adlai Stevenson

