



## Save the Date Ski Plano 2008

An elegant evening on the mountaintop

Saturday,  
January 26  
6:30 p.m.  
Southfork  
Ranch



Mark your calendar for this informal evening of faux snow, good food and great entertainment.

Silent & Live Auctions  
Avalanche Snowball Raffle

All benefiting the students, faculty, staff and schools of Plano ISD.

Presented by the Plano ISD Education Foundation  
[www.pisd.edu/about.us/foundation](http://www.pisd.edu/about.us/foundation)

## Plano ISD Education Foundation 'Grant Patrol' Surprises 112 Educators with \$68,600 in Grant Awards



Hickey Elementary School Teacher Jean Jones is ready to implement "FOSS Box Science," a hands-on project that will be filled with experiments, activities and technology-based lessons for these eager third grade learners.

The Plano ISD Education Foundation "Grant Patrol" made surprise visits to 36 schools on November 15 to present \$68,600 in 52 educator grant awards. Foundation members, sponsors, district staff and parent leaders presented the grants in person, arriving at schools in vehicles (and with drivers) provided courtesy of Park Place Lexus.

As part of the surprise visits, each honoree was presented a special badge proclaiming his/her selection as a 2007 grant recipient. Each grant winner's school was presented a banner for display throughout the year.

The Plano ISD Education Foundation Grants to Educators program is intended to help Plano ISD educators enhance instruction in schools and classrooms across the district. Earlier in the school year, teachers had the opportunity to complete applications for grants for programs for their classes, schools or joint programs at multiple schools.

This year's sponsors included Park Place Lexus, Nortel, Plano ISD Council of PTAs and ViewPoint Bank. Since the Foundation's

inception in 1993, more than \$400,000 has been awarded to Plano ISD teachers through the Grants to Educators program. In total, the Foundation has raised more than \$2.8 million to benefit Plano schools. Foundation president is Mary Jo Dean. Serving as this year's grants chairman was Wendell Sherrell. To read descriptions of winning grants, to view a photo gallery and to read more about the Foundation's programs and opportunities, go online to: [www.pisd.edu/about.us/foundation](http://www.pisd.edu/about.us/foundation).

## Armstrong Middle School Teacher Laurie Newby Captures State ATPE Secondary Educator of the Year Title

Teacher Laurie Newby says that she has always bought into the age old adage that every child *can* learn and *deserves* to learn. "But there is so much more to it than just that," explained the Armstrong Middle School ESL Department Head, who was recently named State Secondary Educator of the Year by the 111,000-member Association of Texas Professional Educators (ATPE).

"Everything that I feel about education can be summed up in this: every student should have a personal cheerleader to let them know that they are truly cared about, that they matter to someone, and they must have a vision that carries them beyond the four walls of my classroom or even our school," said Ms. Newby. "Each one of my students must know that I care *much more* than just what they learn in my classroom."



Dany Fleming

As department head, Ms. Newby ensures that each person hired for the team knows that the department is all about giving students and families the vision for a brighter future. "For so many of our students, education is about surviving - surviving in a world for eight hours a day where they are not comfortable with the language, much less the academic instruction in that language. I let my students know daily that they are my heroes, because they keep coming back, they keep trying and they don't give up," she said.

Ms. Newby was honored at the association's 27th annual conference held in Austin. Also recognized were Plano ISD's Dany Fleming, Weatherford Elementary School special education teacher and Plano ATPE's Elementary Educator of the Year state finalist, and Jennifer Ruth, Christie Elementary School literacy specialist and Plano ATPE finalist for a teaching excellence grant.



Laurie Newby (right) is pictured with Jerry Bonham, State ATPE vice-president.

## Bond Task Force Presents Interim Report to Trustees

The Bond 2008 Task Force presented its interim report to the Plano ISD Board of Trustees on November 20.

Phil Dyer, Task Force chairman, shared with trustees a financial overview, demographic information, facility tour results and related discussions and cost estimates for the following district needs:

- New Schools
- Renovations
- Instructional Needs
- Science & Fine Arts
- Safety and Security
- FANS
- Transportation

The report may be viewed on the district's Bond 2008 Web site, which includes links to several presentations and task force meeting minutes:

[www.pisd.edu/2008bond](http://www.pisd.edu/2008bond)

## 'Lottery Drawing' Upcoming for Employee Child Care Enrollment

A lottery drawing for enrollment in Plano ISD's new Employee Child Care Program will take place in February, 2008, one year prior to the program's official opening in January, 2009. Projected enrollment is 87 children for the program, which will be housed at 3901 Pebble Creek Court in Plano, located at Coit & Spring Creek Parkway (adjacent to Wal-Mart). All information regarding the drawing procedures will appear as a splash screen ("pop up" message) on district computers beginning January 7, 2008. The splash screen message will provide information about the lottery drawing, application and deadlines for the drawing. Names not drawn in the lottery will be placed on a waiting list.

## Professional Achievements

### Speech Coach Honored by Time Warner Cable

Zach Gautier, Jasper High School speech/debate coach, is among 15 teachers across the country to earn the prestigious 2007 Time Warner Cable Teacher Award, in the company's 18th annual educator recognition program.

Mr. Gautier's winning lesson, "100 Days to Change the World," involved his students' raising their voices to address the Crisis in Darfur during the last 100 days of the 2006-07 school year. Through simulation exercises, his students analyzed the government's role in resolving the conflict in Sudan. By partnering with relief organizations and raising awareness in the community and business world, students achieved a global perspective and became advocates for change.

Cable resources such as MTV and the Internet brought the genocide in Darfur into the classroom. Through the use of journaling and video creation, students documented the personal change that the project had on their lives.



Zach Gautier celebrated with wife Jennifer and son Micah.



Artwork by student Becky Aguilar

### Plano 2008 MLK Celebration

Mark your calendar now to attend these free Plano community events to be held in honor of the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

#### Saturday, January 19

10:00 a.m. Downtown Parade  
11:00 a.m. City Hall Program (Dr. A. Marcus Nelson), followed by Health Fair and 12:00 p.m. Free Luncheon at the Douglass Center

#### Sunday, January 20

7:00 p.m. - MLK All-Community Choir, Saint Andrew United Methodist Church

#### Monday, January 21

7:45 a.m. Community Leadership Breakfast / Panel Discussion, followed by Youth Forum, all at Collin County Community College Spring Creek Campus

#### Thursday, January 24

7:00 p.m. Plano ISD MLK Tribute, Plano Centre

Web Sites:

[www.pisd.edu](http://www.pisd.edu)  
[www.planomlk.org](http://www.planomlk.org)



### Wildcat Football Internet Broadcast

Hear a live Internet broadcast of the PSHS Wildcat Football playoff game against Skyline at Mesquite Memorial Stadium at 2:00 p.m. on December 8. Pregame show begins at 1:30 p.m. - <http://k-12.pisd.edu/schools/pshs/Radio/WCAT/football.htm>

### 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)



Kelly Faul

### Hedgcoxe Elementary School Teacher Wins Wal-Mart Award

Kelly Faul, Hedgcoxe Elementary School fifth grade teacher, was honored as Wal-Mart/Sam's Teacher of the Year on National Teacher Day 2007. In a surprise visit to the school, Wal-Mart representatives presented her with a \$1,000 school donation and a \$100 gift card. According to colleague (and award nominator) Vickie Grayson, "Kelly has a knack for knowing her students well. She has excellent knowledge of the instructional content, is committed to maximizing all students' opportunities to learn, exhibits care and respect for her students and demonstrates a team effort in assisting parents and teachers. She does all she can to inspire her students and spark their interest for academic and emotional growth."

### Beverly Centralized Structured Classroom Home to Maverick Teacher

Beverly Elementary School Teacher Stacey McAlister (pictured at right with student Dominique Spencer) won a 2007 Teacher Recognition Award from the Dallas Mavericks. She was among 10 Metroplex teachers to capture the honor, after being nominated by a Beverly family. Ms. McAlister is teacher/team leader of Beverly's Centralized Structured Classroom for students with autism. During a Dallas Mavericks game ceremony, Ms. McAlister was presented with a \$1,000 cash award and an additional \$1,000 school award.



## Notable Notes...

### Congratulations to these parents and grandparents:

❑ **Phyllis and Phil Stoup**, elementary social studies coordinator and Hendrick Middle School Texas History teacher, respectively, celebrated the birth of granddaughter **Paige** (6 lbs. 9 ozs.) on August 22. Proud parents are **Shelley and Gary Solka**. Shelley is a former speech pathologist at Jasper and Robinson.

❑ **Carrie O'Neal**, Haun Elementary ESL teacher, and her husband **Chad** welcomed their second child **Emily Ann** on October 11; **Melinda Bruno**, Boggess first grade teacher, announced the birth of daughter **Jordan Elizabeth** on October 12; and **Angie Kendrick**, Schimelpfenig Middle School English teacher, and her husband **Chris** welcomed **Reid Davis** on October 24.

❑ **Jennifer Ortega**, Thomas Elementary School art teacher, and her husband **Josh** became the proud parents of daughter **Jayla Rose** on October 25; **Susan Davis**, Barron Early Childhood School paraprofessional, welcomed grandson **Joshua Benjamin** on November 13. Proud parents are **Terra and Bobby Davis**; and **Natalie Swanick**, Brinker Elementary School ESL teacher, and her husband **Danny** became the proud parents of son **Nathan Daniel** on October 30.

❑ **Dawn McMillan**, Huffman Elementary School fifth grade teacher, and her husband **James** ushered in son **Ethan** on November 21; **Alisha Dettling**, Huffman special education aide, and her husband **Chad** welcomed son **Luke Henry** on November 22; and **Carrie Canaday**, Hunt Elementary School special education team leader, and her husband **Jason** announced the birth of daughter **Ava Mae** on November 23.



Richard, Henry, Daniel, Ms. Sepp, Robert, Vincent, Ariel, and the prospective homebuyers.

TBLA Officers donating the studs from the recent Fundraiser.

### Sympathy is extended to:

❑ **Karen Stewart**, Brinker Elementary secretary, whose mother **Marilyn Gadd** passed away on November 1; **Margie Spigelmyer**, Hunt Elementary special education teacher, whose mother **Marjorie Geurtz** died on October 21; and **Barbara Curtis**, superintendent's administrative assistant, whose brother **Kenneth Lewis** passed away on November 24.

*Shepton High School Future Business Leaders of America students and their Teacher Debra Sepp participated in the "Sign a Stud 2007" effort recently, raising nearly \$250 to assist Habitat for Humanity.*

### Thought for the Week:

*"Will you look back on life and say 'I wish I had' or 'I'm glad I did?'"*

~ Zig Ziglar