



## Spring 2008 District Events

### January

- 14 - School Board Town Hall Meeting, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., Bird Education Center
- 17 - Elementary Early Release
- 18 - Teacher Planning Day (Student Holiday)
- 21 - MLK B'Day Observance (Student/Teacher Holiday)
- 24 - MLK Tribute Event, 7:00 p.m., Plano Centre
- 26 - Ski Plano, 6:30 p.m., Southfork Ranch

### February

- 4-8 - National School Counseling Week
- 11 - Professional Development Day (Student Holiday)
- 26 - PTA Life Member Banquet, 6 p.m., Plano Centre
- 29 - Elementary Early Release

### March

- 2 - Read Across America and Texas Independence Day
- 3-7 - National School Breakfast Week
- School Open Houses
- 3 - Senior Highs
- 4 - Middle Schools
- 6 - High Schools
- 10 - Early Childhoods
- 13 - Elementary Schools
- 17-21 - Spring Break
- 27 - PTA Presidents' and Principals' Luncheon
- 29 - Plano ISD Recruitment Open House, 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Murphy M.S.
- 27, 29, April 1 - Early Childhood Preregistration
- 29 - Plano East Prom

### April

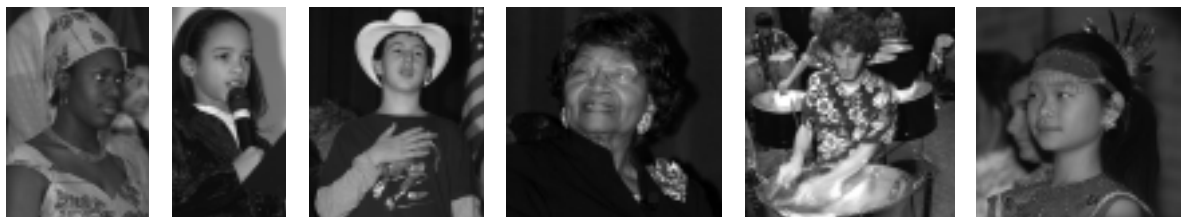
- 2 - Children's Book Day
- 3-4 - Kindergarten Preregistration
- 14-18 - National Library Week
- 17 - Service/Retirement Event, 5:00 p.m., Southfork Ranch
- 21-25 - Public School Volunteer and Administrative Professionals Week
- 23 - Administrative Professionals Day
- 26 - PSHS Prom

### May

- 1-7 - P.E. and Sports Week
- 5-9 - Teacher Appreciation & Child Nutrition Employee Appreciation Week
- 6 - National Teacher Day
- 7 - School Nurse Day
- 8 - Teacher of the Year Gala, 6:30 p.m., Plano Centre
- 10 - Election (School Board and School Bond)
- 17 - PWSH Prom
- 18-24 - National Educational Bosses' Week
- 26 - Memorial Day (Student/Teacher Holiday)

### June

- 4 - Last Day of School
- Elementary Early Release
- 6 - Last Day for Teachers
- 10 - Graduation, Reunion Arena: 10 a.m.-PWSH; 2 p.m.-PSHS; 7 p.m.-PESH



### Save the Date ~ January 24 at Plano Centre

## Community Invited to Plano ISD's Annual MLK Tribute



Superintendent of School Dr. Doug Otto and Community Leader Dr. Myrtle Hightower (pictured, left and above center, respectively) will be among the emcees of Plano ISD's Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Tribute, "Let Freedom Sing!" to be celebrated at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 24, at Plano Centre, 2000 East Spring Creek Parkway.

"Plano ISD and the Plano community are extremely unique in planning an outstanding week-long celebration of the birth of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., each year" said Dr. Otto. "With the support and vision of Chairwoman Dr. Myrtle Hightower, Plano ISD's tribute to Dr. King is a grand celebration showcasing our students' talent and rekindling the flame of unity in our community that was envisioned by Dr. King for the world."

This year's music, dramatic presentations, tributes, awards and military salute will highlight the theme "Let Freedom Sing." The event is free and open to the public. Additional community participation will be among the highlights of this year's tribute event, as invited members of the community will sing with students on stage. Additional community members will be recognized during a salute to armed forces.

Featured student entertainers will include Plano ISD middle school students in a Procession of Nations, the Plano West Senior High School Wind Ensemble and Choir, the Plano Children's Chorale and Early Childhood School students who will assist in an "America" video tribute.

The event will also feature elementary students reading their original and inspired letters to Dr. King, a tribute to the late Plano civic leader Ben Thomas and presentation of annual awards to students who won Plano ISD's MLK Art Contest and to individuals and groups who are winners of Diversity Leadership Awards, which will be presented by Plano ISD's Diversity Advocacy Committee. Vines High School Student Council and Plano Senior High School Student Government leaders will serve as event greeters.

For more information about the Plano ISD Martin Luther King, Jr., Tribute, visit [www.pisd.edu](http://www.pisd.edu).

### 2008 Plano ISD Martin Luther King, Jr., Tribute Planning Committee

Dr. Myrtle Hightower, Chairwoman	Mike Collinsworth Vangie Cortez Louise W. Davis	Bill Gilkison Mary Gorden Renee Harris	Karen Lantz Nancy Long Jun Melvin	Polly Schlosser Earl Simpkins Travis Smith
Mark Allen Jeff Bailey Mary Ann Bargmann Roxanne Burleson	Libby DeLeon Dr. Christie Duke Carla Ford-Rich Jeff Gasaway	Jim Hirsch Lucia Jenz Syrinithnia Jones Kathy Kuddes	Patty Meyer Jason Myatt Karla Oliver Dr. Doug Otto	Phyllis Stoup Janice Truitt Susie Vaughan Arthur Young



### Education Foundation Invites You to Have a Snowy Ball at Ski Plano!

Ski Plano Chair Pandora Richie, Superintendent Dr. Doug Otto and Immediate Past-Chair Beth Webb (below, l-r) invite the community to attend the Plano ISD Education Foundation's fund-raising gala. Guests will don sweaters and scarves and gather at Southfork Ranch, which will be transformed into a wintry ski lodge. The Foundation expects to raise more than \$200,000 at the annual event, a heartwarming fact for Plano ISD students and teachers who benefit from Foundation programming.



**Date** ~ Saturday, January 26, 2008

**Time** ~ 6:30 to 11:00 p.m.

**Location** ~ Southfork Ranch, 3700 Hogge Road, Parker

**Features** ~ Cool Beverages, Hors d'oeuvres, Dinner, Dancing, Live Music, Live and Silent Auctions, Avalanche Raffle

**Attire** ~ Winter Casual

**Reservations** ~ Requested by January 18, 2008

**Tickets** ~ \$100 per person

**Sponsorships Available** ~ \$1,250 to \$25,000

**Information** ~ (972) 248-8252 / [www.pisd.edu/skiplano](http://www.pisd.edu/skiplano)



**March 29  
PISD Recruitment  
Open House  
Registration Underway**

On Saturday, March 29, administrators representing every campus in Plano ISD will be present to meet and talk with applicants about teaching opportunities during Plano ISD's Annual Recruitment Open House to be held from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Murphy Middle School. All certified teachers, administrators, librarians and counselors are invited to preregister by February 29 online at: [www.pisd.edu/employment](http://www.pisd.edu/employment).

*Pictured above: Latrice Sherrell, Plano East Senior High School sub-school principal, interviewed a teaching applicant at the 2007 Recruitment Open House.*

**Pre-Retirement  
Seminar March 1  
Register by Feb. 23**

Plano ISD employees who are planning to retire within the next five years are invited to attend a pre-retirement seminar from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 1, at the Plano ISD Administration Building, 2700 W. 15th Street, first floor board room. Representatives and topics will include: Teacher Retirement System of Texas ~ information/benefits, Social Security Administration ~ Medicare benefits, and Credit Union of Texas ~ financial planning. RSVP by February 23 to: Rebecca Hunter (972) 347-1878 ([hunter2405@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hunter2405@sbcglobal.net)) or Mary Pfeiffer (972) 424-2757 ([mpfeiff@verizon.net](mailto:mpfeiff@verizon.net))

**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)

**Students and Staff Celebrate 'College & Career Week'**

Students and staff across Plano schools celebrated the district's second-annual "College and Career Week" on January 7-11.

The district's 53,000 students and 7,000 employees rooted for their favorite colleges and universities, while students dreamed of future careers and college planning.

According to Paul Weaver, director of counseling and guidance, the special week-long celebration is among many programs and activities focused on college-readiness. Following are district wide efforts.

**Pre K – 6th Grades**  
College Awareness Lessons

**7th Grade** ~ College Ed awareness curriculum, Kuder Career Assessment, MyRoad career/college package (cost), Duke Talent Search, AVID Program (Advancement Via Individual Determination)

**8th Grade**  
Academic Conferences, Kuder, MyRoad, AVID

**9th Grade** ~ College Ed, Financial Planning Seminar, AVID, TOPCAT

**10th Grade** ~ PSAT provided by

PISD, MyRoad - free with the PSAT/NMSQT, My College QuickStart - free with PSAT/NMSQT, AP Potential - identify AP students free with PSAT/NMSQT, Individual Academic Conferences, "Off to College" Classroom Presentations, Financial Planning Seminar, TOPCAT, AVID

**11th Grade** ~ PSAT/NMSQT (cost), MyRoad - free with the PSAT/NMSQT, My College QuickStart - free with PSAT/NMSQT, AP Potential - identify AP students free with PSAT/NMSQT, Official SAT Online Course, Individual Academic Conferences - College Informational Books, "Off To College" Classroom Guidance, College Nights, Financial Aid Parent Meetings, Major Mania, Community College/Certificate Open House, Concurrent Enrollment Parent Informational Meetings, High Scorer Meeting - based on PSAT/NMSQT, AVID (2008-2009)

**12th Grade** ~ MyRoad - free for taking the PSAT/NMSQT, My College QuickStart - free with PSAT/NMSQT, AP Potential - identify AP students free with PSAT/NMSQT, Official SAT Online Course, College Nights, Financial Aid Parent Meetings, Senior Meetings - Review of Academic Conferences - College Informational Books, Classroom Guidance, National Merit Finalists Announced - based on PSAT/NMSQT, National Achievement Finalists Announced - based on PSAT/NMSQT, National Hispanic Scholars Announced - based on PSAT/NMSQT, AVID (2009-2010)



*Wells Elementary School kindergarten students (above) and Team Leader Angela Kelamis enjoyed College and Career Week 2008 by supporting their favorite universities, while pre-school students at Beaty Early Childhood School (below) made wishes about what they want to be when they grow up. Pictured (l-r) are Shawn, Alondra, Jack and Jerome.*



**Notable Notes...**

Best wishes to **Michelle Silverman**, Daffron Elementary School special education teacher, who became the bride of **Michael Salzman**, Dallas ISD math teacher, on November 17.

**Congratulations to these parents and grandparents:**

Bogges Elementary School's **Anna Vargas**, special education assistant, announce the recent birth of daughter **Analice** (5 lbs. 14 ozs.), and **Harold White**, P.E. teacher and Plano East JV girls soccer coach, welcomed daughter **Larina** on October 26; Deaf Education Interpreter **Donie Bishop** and her husband **Don** welcomed grandson **Dallas**, born on November 6 to proud parents **Jana and Clint Bishop**; **Jennifer Bonfessuto**, Andrews Elementary School ESL teacher, and her husband **Dave** welcomed son **Nico** on November 13; and **Janice Truitt**, visual art coordinator, and her husband **Brent Truitt**, Murphy Middle School social studies teacher, announce the birth of their first grandchild **Leo**, born on December 19 to proud parents **Manali and Luke Truitt** of Plano. **Helen Jones**, Hightower Elementary School FANS manager, became the proud grandmother of **Alexis Jaden**, (8 lbs. 5 ozs.) on December 18; **Kyla Ahnemman**, Skaggs Elementary School fourth grade teacher, and her husband **Rob** became the proud parents of son **Blaine Robert** (6 lbs. 7 ozs.) on December 22. Proud grandmother is **Nancy Ahnemann**, Barksdale Elementary School secretary; and **Mary Hewett**, instructional technology executive director, and her husband **Ron** became proud grandparents of **Madeline "Maddie" Lee** (8 lbs. 15 ozs.), born on December 27 to proud parents **Jen and Greg Hewett** of Austin.



**Sympathy is extended to the following employees:**

**Pamela Murray**, Barksdale Elementary School principal, whose husband **Dan** died on December 19; to **Tracy Franco**, Plano Senior High School associate principal of curriculum and instruction, and husband **Jim** whose mother-in-law and mother, respectively, **Maggie Franco** passed away on December 27 in El Paso; and to **Annie Pierce**, telecommunications Call Pilot assistant, whose husband **John** died during winter break.

**Flu Vaccine Available** ~ Flu season often peaks during January, February and March. Flu shots are still available for all full time and part-time employees as well as substitutes. Employees are encouraged to call extension 26391 for an appointment.

**Thought for the Week:**

*"Whatever your life's work is, do it well. A man should do his job so well that the living, the dead, and the unborn could do it no better."*

~Martin Luther King, Jr.