



**March 10 Deadline**

**Retirement/  
Voluntary Separation  
& Award Nomination**

Monday, March 10, is the deadline for the following important recognitions related to Plano ISD's 43rd Annual "Salute to Service" event to be held the evening of April 17 at Southfork Ranch.

**Retirement**

In order to meet the deadline to be recognized at the event, eligible employees must notify the human resources department regarding their intent to retire or leave no later than Monday, March 10. Meeting this deadline will ensure recognition at the district celebration. Contact Margaret Bishop at extension 24756.

**Voluntary Separation**

To notify the district about voluntary separation, contact Vicki Pedini at ext. 28125. Employees voluntarily separating from the district with 15 years of experience or 20 years in public education, and who wish to be recognized at the April 17 event, must also contact Ms. Bishop at ext. 24756 no later than Monday, March 10.

**Superintendent's  
Service Award**

Dr. Doug Otto is seeking nominations through noon on Monday, March 10, for his Ninth Annual Superintendent's Service Award, which will be presented to members of the district's support staff at the April 17 district event. The nomination form may be downloaded from the following district website: [www.pisd.edu/superaward](http://www.pisd.edu/superaward)

**March 17-21**

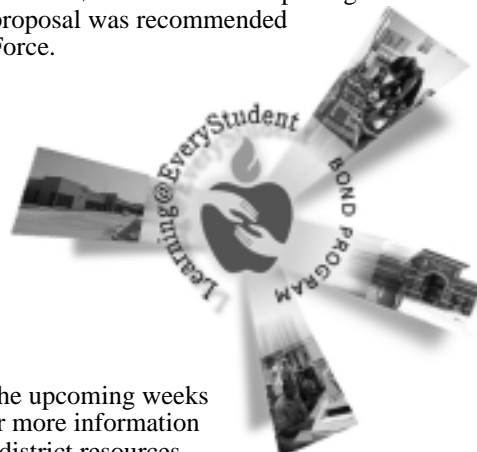
**Have a Safe  
& Relaxing  
Spring Break!**

**Bond Election 2008**

**Trustees to Present \$490 Million Bond Package to Voters on May 10 for Facility & Technology Needs**

On March 4, the Plano ISD Board of Trustees voted to present a \$490 million bond package to voters on a May 10, 2008, election ballot. The following proposal was recommended to trustees by the 2008 Facilities & Technology Study Task Force.

Pre-funded Projects	\$27,850,000
New Construction	\$140,855,112
20 year renovations	\$121,166,629
Additions and modifications	\$62,182,369
Capital Improvements / Instruction	\$10,497,000
Capital Improvements / Physical	\$25,203,500
Systems and compliance (47 sites)	\$36,154,394
Curriculum & Technology	\$66,090,996
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$490,000,000</b>



A series of articles will publish in *District Digest* during the upcoming weeks regarding details of the total \$490 million bond proposal. For more information about the bond election, please refer to the following school district resources.

Website - [www.pisd.edu](http://www.pisd.edu) Hotline - (469) 752-8010 E-mail - [askpisd@pisd.edu](mailto:askpisd@pisd.edu)

**Plano ISD Students & Coaches Recognized During Locally-Hosted 'Texas Academic Decathlon' Tournament**



**Awards & Honors**

*Highlights of Plano ISD awards follow. A complete list can be found online at: [www.pisd.edu](http://www.pisd.edu).*

**Plano East Senior High**

- 8 Team & Individual Medals
- 1st Place Super Quiz Relay Team
- 5th Place Overall Team
- Savannah Compton - Scholastic All-Around Individual High Scorer- Fourth Place

**Plano Senior High School**

- Sheila Kolb - Texas Academic Decathlon Coach of the Year
- 13 Team & Individual Medals
- 3rd Place Overall Team
- John Thompson - 1st Place Varsity Super Quiz High Scorer;
- 2nd Place Varsity High Scorer

**Plano West Senior High**

- Five Individual Medals

Plano ISD's three senior high schools competed February 29 through March 1 at the Texas Academic Decathlon tournament, hosted at Plano West Senior High School. A culminating awards ceremony was held on March 2 at the Marriott Plano at Legacy Town Center. Visit our website to view the complete **Academic Decathlon Photo Gallery ~ [www.pisd.edu](http://www.pisd.edu)**



*Plano East teammates are pictured with Principal Karen McDonald and Coaches Jan Molepske and Rex Howard.*



*Senator Florence Shapiro (left) and Jeff Bailey, Deputy Superintendent, were among the stage participants who presented medallions to hundreds of student winners.*



*Plano ISD Academic Decathlon Coaches are (left, l-r) Jan Molepske and Rex Howard, Plano East; Bill Borowicz and Sheila Kolb, Plano Senior High; and Bill Stone and Shawn Coryell, Plano West.*



*Kathy King, PWSH Principal (left), is pictured with Glenda and Benny Smith, State AcDec Tournament Director.*



*John Thompson, Plano Senior High School Academic Decathlon teammate, earned a total of eight medals for his individual and team efforts.*

## Dr. Myrtle Hightower Helps Kick Off Black History Month at Hunt Elementary

Dr. Myrtle Hightower, community leader and retired Plano ISD counselor, helped students at Hunt Elementary School kick off Black History Month in January. Dr. Hightower spoke to students at the all-school assemble about having a positive attitude and doing their best.



Dr. Hightower (right) is pictured with fourth grader Taylor York and Principal Linda Engelking. Taylor was among MLK Essay Contest winners who read their original letters at the school district's MLK Tribute held in January at Plano Centre.

Dear Dr. Martin Luther King,

I am writing this letter because I wanted to thank you because you helped white people and black people become friends. I appreciate how you worked so hard and even sacrificed your life so that the water fountain I drink from is now clean, fresh and sparkling. Where it used to be old, filthy and ragged. You helped us realize that playing with kids with different cultures and colors is so much more fun because you can learn more about other people. Playing with kids that are all alike can be boring. When you wrote in your speech "Let Freedom Ring" it changed so many people. Now I can go to school and receive the same education as anyone else. Because of you, I will let freedom sing in my heart by being kind and caring to everyone I meet. I want to sing of freedom to the top of my lungs. So loud that the whole world could hear me. And if we all let freedom sing, using all of our voices, in all of our languages, I know someone will hear us. Dr. King, I promise I will keep singing.

Love, Taylor

## 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)



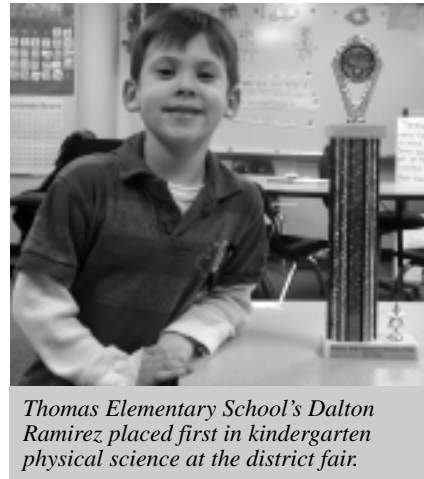
## Kudos & News from Our Schools

**Regional & District Elementary Science Fair Success Stories** ~ Plano students captured 54 of the awards that were presented at the North Dallas

Regional Elementary Science Fair, held in late February at the Garland Special Events Center, including two grand prize awards earned by Ben Walker, Miller Elementary School first grade student, and Lisa Michaels, Renner Middle School sixth grader.

Some 124 Plano ISD students qualified for the regional fair after winning grand prize at their campus or at the Plano District Elementary Science Fair. Sixteen Plano ISD students captured first place awards at the regional fair. The February 16 Plano ISD Elementary Science Fair spotlighted the talents of more than 300 young scientists who had earned first place or grand prize awards at their school fairs. A total of 7,264 elementary and sixth grade students participated in their building science fairs this year, competing in life science, physical science and Earth science, reported Ginger Britain, assistant director of elementary curriculum.

District fair results included grand prize winners Katherine Sperry, Skaggs Elementary School; John Anderson, Miller Elementary; and Sam Jackson, Murphy Middle School. The high point participation awards went to Hickey and Thomas elementary schools and Bowman Middle School. High point winning schools were Skaggs Elementary School and Murphy Middle School.



Thomas Elementary School's Dalton Ramirez placed first in kindergarten physical science at the district fair.



Amy Chyao is pictured (second from left) with fellow middle school winners of the Plano ISD Spelling Bee (l-r) Mitchell Powell and Shannon Wan, Robinson Middle School, and Michele Myong, Murphy Middle School.

### Three-Time County Spelling Bee Champion ~

Plano ISD's Amy Chyao captured the Collin County Spelling Bee championship for the third consecutive year on February 21, advancing to the regional spelling bee which will be held on March 15 and televised on WFAA TV.

The Murphy Middle School eighth grade student won the county and state spellings bees in 2006 and 2007, advancing to compete at the national bees.

This year, district spelling bee winners included elementary school students Madeline Keck, Beverly, and Aakash Pattabi, Barksdale, both fifth graders; and middle school students Amy Chyao and Michele Myong, Murphy; and Mitchell Powell and Shannon Wan, Robinson.

### Employee Day Care Announces First Enrollees ~

The Plano ISD Student Services Department has announced that 92 children of district employees have been selected in a lottery drawing to be the first young enrollees in the Plano ISD Employee Child Care Program. The day care will open January, 2009, at 3901 Pebble Creek Court in Plano (southeast corner of Spring Creek and Coit).

Arlene Carnes, PASAR After-School Program director, conducted the drawing. She reported that the day care center will be staffed by 23 employees who will undergo licensure training and who will present the school district's prekindergarten curriculum to the center's three- and four-year-old children. Stacie Kaeuper will serve as day care center director. A wait list application for the day care center is available online at: [www.pisd.edu/staff/child.care](http://www.pisd.edu/staff/child.care).



Arlene Carnes (right) with (l-r) Randi Weaver and Rosa Handy at the Spring Creek Center.

## Notable Notes...

### Congratulations to these newlyweds and proud parents and grandparents:

Frankford Middle School newlyweds **Meg Conner**, language arts teacher, became the bride of **Trey Pyka** on September 15, and **Ashley Cummings**, science teacher, wed **Sean Harris** on December 31. Frankford's **Karl Gscheidle**, math teacher, and his wife **Anna** welcomed son **Karl Mikal** on January 2.

**Julie Christian**, Saigling fourth grade team leader, and her husband **Kevin** became proud parents of daughter **Natalie Paige** (7 lbs. 7 ozs.) on December 20; and **Kathy Minton**, Plano East FANS, and **Smitty Minton**, Clark Stadium, welcomed grandson and great-grandson, respectively, **Dominic Alexander Yeldell** (8 lbs. 9 ozs.) on February 29; **Trish Mahoney**, Daffron Elementary fifth grade teacher, and her husband **Ed** welcomed son **Thomas Edward IV** (8 lbs. 12 ozs.) on March 4; and **Fannysteen Mays**, Thomas Elementary special education team leader, and her husband **Cedric** became the proud parents of son **Jayden Thomas** (8 lbs. 7 ozs.) on March 5.



John Kramer, Hedgcoxe Elementary School PE coach (center), was inducted recently into the Montana State University at Billings Athletic Hall of Fame. He was a member of the men's gymnastics team from 1984-88 and is one of the most decorated men's gymnasts in the school's history, capturing a Gymnast of the Year title for earning national medals in contests including floor exercise, vault, and horizontal and parallel bars.

### Thought for the Week:

*"If you would thoroughly know anything, teach it to others."*

~Tyron Edwards

