



Graduation 2009 Tickets to be Administered to Family & Friends

As employees, parents and families gather for the holidays, the senior high school principals and area assistant superintendents wish to share information that has been recently confirmed about the 2009 Plano ISD senior high school graduation commencement ceremonies. The events will be hosted on Monday, June 8, at the Dallas Convention Center, 650 S. Griffin Street in Dallas. While this will be a lovely facility at which to host graduates, it will be necessary to issue tickets for the admittance of family members and guests. The number of tickets issued will be based upon the number of graduates to be accommodated at the facility.

The ceremonies are scheduled as follows, including the number of tickets to be issued per graduate:

Plano East Senior High School
10:00 A.M., six (6) tickets

Plano West Senior High School
2:00 P.M., eight (8) tickets

Plano Senior High School
7:00 P.M., six (6) tickets

Additional details about this change in venue and ticketing system will be forthcoming in the spring semester.

Dateline

Friday, December 19
End of First Semester

December 22-January 2
Winter Break

Monday, January 5
Teacher Work Day

Tuesday, January 6
Classes Resume

Monday, January 19
MLK Holiday

Thursday, January 22
Plano ISD MLK Tribute
Event at Plano Centre

Saturday, January 31
Ski Plano 2009 at Southfork

Community Invited to January 22 MLK Tribute Event



Artwork by I-Jung Lin, 2nd Grade - Mathews Elementary School

The patriotic theme of "I Am America" will be showcased, as Plano ISD students celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at the school district's annual MLK Tribute event to be held from 7:00 to 8:15 p.m. on Thursday, January 22, 2009, at Plano Centre, with a 6:45 p.m. pre-program tribute to military service personnel related to Plano ISD employees.

Dr. King's "I Have a Dream," will be presented by Plano East speech students, a student chorus and wind ensemble. Elementary students will read their original letters to Dr. King. The event will also include a parade of nations, presentation of Diversity Leadership Awards and a video.

Photos of Military Service Men and Women Sought for MLK Event Video Tribute

The MLK event planning committee, chaired by Dr. Myrtle Hightower, is seeking photos of employees' family members who are serving or who have served in the United States Military for publication in a special video montage salute to service men and women, which will be shown during pre-program activities at the January 22 event. Employees may submit photos of service personnel (preferably in uniform) by Tuesday, January 6, to the Plano ISD Communications Department, c/o Barbara Monroe, 2700 W. 15th Street, Plano, TX 75075, or e-mail digital photos to Barbara.Monroe@pisd.edu. For information, contact Ms. Monroe via e-mail or phone at (469) 752-8099.



Plan to Attend 'Ski Plano' January 31 at Southfork Ranch to Enjoy 'An Extraordinary Evening on the Mountaintop'

Plano area citizens will enjoy "An Extraordinary Evening on the Mountaintop" at the 13th Annual "Ski Plano" fundraiser to benefit the Plano ISD Education Foundation. This year's event will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, January 31, at Southfork Ranch in Parker.

The "Ski Plano" Planning Committee, chaired by the Foundation's Lisa Raskin, encourages Plano ISD families to join together to purchase tables to attend the event. "Ski Plano is a tremendous event, offering something for everyone, with a casual flair," said Ms. Raskin. "Our guests and sponsors help us fund critical programs for our schools as the proceeds from 'Ski Plano' benefit our teachers and students."

"Ski Plano" information, including ticket requests, is available by calling (972) 248-8252 or by visiting the Education Foundation online at: foundation.pisd.edu.



Brad Leland

"Ski Plano" celebrity emcee will be Brad Leland, a 1973 graduate of Plano High School, who appeared in the movie "Friday Night Lights" in 2004 and currently co-stars in the acclaimed NBC-TV series of the same name. Leland has many movie credits including "Hancock," "Born on the Fourth of July," "The Patriot" and "The Ringer." He has appeared in dozens of TV roles including "Dallas," "Walker," "In the Heat of the Night," "North and South" and "Heaven and Hell."

"Ski Plano" is expected to attract 900 guests from the Plano ISD business, civic and school district communities. The evening's activities will include dinner, entertainment, dancing to the music of "Third Party Live," auctions, and Avalanche raffle. Prizes valued at more than \$50,000 have been donated by friends of Plano schools.



Superintendent of Schools Dr. Doug Otto and Foundation Representatives Ralph Stowe, president; Monica Shortino, executive director; and Lisa Raskin, Ski Plano chairwoman (l-r), invite the community to the Foundation's annual fundraiser benefitting Plano ISD students, staff and schools.

Board Briefs...

School trustees took the following action at their December 9 meeting.

Holiday Art Contest Finalist Recognitions

Trustees recognized student finalists in the Plano ISD Holiday Art Contest. Artwork can be viewed online at www.pisd.edu.

Teacher of the Year Recognition

Trustees honored Janet Napoli, Plano ISD 2008 Elementary Teacher of the Year, for being a state finalist for Texas Teacher of the Year. Ms. Napoli was presented a "Certificate of Honor" by trustees, after which she made comments to the board about her service as an educator in Plano schools.

Appointments

Superintendent Doug Otto introduced the following administrative appointments approved as part of the consent agenda: Suzanne Drotman, Human Resources coordinator; and Michele Loper, Barron Elementary School principal.

Visioning Institute Report

Superintendent Doug Otto made a presentation on the Public Education Visioning Institute, sponsored by the Texas Association of School Administrators. The board read and approved a resolution to support the premises in the report, which can be viewed in the board's online meeting agenda at www.pisd.edu.

NCLB Highly-Qualified Teachers Report

Tamira Griffin, executive director for human resources, presented the Public Report Regarding NCLB Highly Qualified Teachers. This report is also posted online at www.pisd.edu.

Policy Adoptions

Trustees adopted Policy CDA (LOCAL) Other Revenues: Investments under first and final reading and Policy FDB (LOCAL) Admissions: Intradistrict transfers and classroom assignments on first reading.

An edited version of the December 9 meeting can be viewed on Plano Time-Warner Cable Channel 99 and Verizon FIOS 33 at 8:00 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays and at noon on Saturday.

District Digest

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www.pisd.edu/eNews.htm

Plano ISD Students & Staff Lend 'Holiday Helping Hands'

Plano ISD's 54,000 students and 7,000 faculty and staff members generously collected food and gift items for hundreds of North Texas families in need this holiday season. The following campus reports are reflective of giving district wide. Read more "Holiday Helping Hands" briefs, and view photos on the district's Web site at: www.pisd.edu.

Vines High School NHS made 75 Linus Blankets for the Linus organization. * Stinson Elementary Student Council conducted a school-wide drive for gently-used toys, shoes and clothing to donate to Goodwill Industries of Dallas, Inc. * Sigler, Forman, McCall and Mendenhall staff delivered food from the LULAC holiday food drive to feed 2,000 D/FW families. Teachers, counselors, and community liaisons visited students in their homes to share



Andrews Elementary School Principal Toni Strickland and students celebrated the school meeting its goal to collect 1,000 canned food items for families.



their excitement. * Shepton High School NHS (pictured at left) adopted 27 families, while STAND, FCA, Bravo and FBLA also adopted families to make the holidays brighter for those in need. * Schimelpfenig Middle School NJHS and Student Council collected 1,800 cans for Plano Santas, 75 coats for students in need, adopted four families through Adopt-a-Family, and made snowmen coasters for school staff. * Among many activities at Plano East Senior High School,

Health Occupations Students of America and Medical Science students decorated 200 holiday gift bags for children at Scottish Rite hospital and filled them with arts and crafts items. Family, Career, & Community Leaders of America helped Hope's Door, a shelter for victims of domestic violence in Plano, by collecting personal hygiene products for more than 25 women.

Notable Notes...

Best wishes to the following newlywed employees:

□ **Janet Smith**, Stinson Elementary School third grade teacher, became the bride of **Larry Kaelin** on September 25; **Aaron Stark**, Aldridge Elementary School third grade teacher, and **Danielle Crawford**, McCall Elementary School first grade teacher, were married on November 15; **Kristi Casse**, Daffron Elementary School ES assistant, married **Jamar Washington** on August 9; and **Erica Stewart**, Bethany Elementary School ESL teacher, became the bride of **Ryan Tusant** on November 1.

Congratulations to these parents and grandparents:

□ **Leigh Kennon**, Mitchell fifth grade team leader, and her husband **Kevin** welcomed **Reagan Abigail** (6 lbs. 14 ozs.) on October 7; and **Michelle Byrd**, Murphy reading teacher, and her husband **Paul** welcomed son **Aiden Paul** (9 lbs. 3 ozs.) on August 11.

□ **Paula Vargas**, Miller FANS, and her husband **Luis** welcomed daughter **Lisa Aubrey** on October 22; **Amber Willis**, Miller kindergarten teacher, and her husband **Ken** welcomed daughter **Kynlee Teagan** (5 lbs. 15.4 ozs.) on October 27; and **Sarah Fromhold**, Wells kindergarten teacher, and her husband **Eric** welcomed daughter **Leah Claire** (9 lbs.) on October 28.

□ **Angela Austin**, counselor at Miller and McCall, and her husband **Dwane**, special programs assistant principal, announced the November 2 birth of daughter **Aniyah Addison**; and **Elisa Jasper**, Beaty speech-language pathologist, and her husband **Matt** welcomed son **Austin Barrett** (4 lbs. 6 ozs.) on November 7.

□ **Hendrick Middle School's Emma Vizcaino**, Spanish teacher, and her husband **Rodrigo** welcomed daughter **Natalia** on November 20; **Connie Stanton**, sixth grade language arts teacher, and her husband **Jimmy**, welcomed son **Stone Cash** (8 lbs. 3 ozs.) on November 26; and **Katie Brittian**, principal intern, and her husband **Steve** announced the birth of daughter **Sarah Noel** (7 lbs. 7 ozs.) on December 11.

□ **Mardi Scarbrough**, Daffron kindergarten teacher, welcomed granddaughter **Hailey Ann** (7 lbs. 10 ozs.) on November 21. Parents are **Kim and Joey Perry**. Grandmother **Barbara Bennie**, Williams attendance clerk, welcomed **Madelynn** (6 lbs. 9 ozs.) on November 18. Parents are **Brooke and Kheang Eung**.

□ **Cledean Jones**, Guinn Special Programs attendance clerk, welcomed granddaughter **Brooke Michelle** (7 lbs. 13 ozs.) on November 20. Parents are **Jennifer and Chris Gerlich**; and **Gloria Pienaar**, Renner Spanish teacher, and her husband **Ernst** welcomed son **Tristan** (6 lbs. 14 ozs.) on November 26.

Sympathy is extended to these current and former employees:

□ **Jo Skelton**, Plano Regional Day School Program for the Deaf itinerant teacher, whose mother **Jean Skelton** of Temple passed away on October 25; Bethany Elementary School staff members **Jill Stewart**, nurse, whose step-mother **Betty Elliston** died on November 2, and **Mona Lisee**, CTA, whose mother **Jeannine Leblanc** died on November 6.

□ **Schimelpfenig Middle School's Lynette Simmons**, special education teacher, whose sister **Bernice Routt** died on November 2, and **Linda Vetter**, math teacher, whose father-in-law **Harold Vetter** died on November 11; **Donna Landreth**, Plano West Senior High School counselor, whose father died on November 5; **Tami Jent**, Plano East Senior High School secretary to the associate principal for student activities, whose husband **Bob** died on December 16.

Thought for the Week:

"A good teacher is like a candle - it consumes itself to light the way for others."

~Anonymous