



## Superintendent's Service Award Nominations Due February 26

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Doug Otto is currently accepting nominations through February 26 for his 10th Annual Superintendent's Service Award program.

The superintendent's prestigious award recognizes members of the Plano ISD support staff whose dedication, commitment and effort rise above and beyond expectations. Eligible nominees include paraprofessionals, CTAs, library assistants, technology support and several employee classifications in FANS, transportation, warehouse, purchasing and facility services. All nominees will be honored at Plano ISD's 44th Annual Service and Retirement Event to be held at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 2, 2009, at Southfork Ranch. Surprise award presentations will be made by Superintendent Otto the evening of the event. Also to be honored at the event will be employees with 15, 20, 25, 30 and 35 years of service as well as employees who are retiring/voluntarily separating from the district. To download the "Superintendent's Service Award" nomination form and read more about the event, visit this district Web site: [www.pisd.edu/superaward](http://www.pisd.edu/superaward).

### Parenting Class Series 'Weathering the Economic Storm'

Plano ISD's Family Education and Guidance Services announces a new parenting class series, "Weathering the Economic Storm," to be held from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. on Thursdays, February 19 and 26 and March 5 and 12, at the Bird Education Center, 1300 19th Street in Plano. Parents will explore such topics as coping with change and loss, stress in the family and maintaining family values. For a complete list of class offerings and topics, visit this online site: [www.pisd.edu/about.us/departments/familyservices.shtml](http://www.pisd.edu/about.us/departments/familyservices.shtml).

### A Valentine Story

## School Nursing Couple's Love for Children Contagious

Alice and Steve Lindner, Plano ISD's first-ever married nursing couple, brought their health care skills to North Texas four years ago, following the birth of their grandson, Tyler, a student at Hunt Elementary School. The duo relocated from Temple, Texas, a smaller town than their native Houston, where they met, married, put one another through nursing school and worked for many years. Life changed for the Lindners with Tyler's birth, as they quickly decided to move north, back to a big city, to share in his life milestones.

Alice, who is currently serving in her second year as the nurse at Aldridge Elementary School, joined the Plano ISD family upon moving to the area. She first taught clinical rotation and medical science at Plano Senior High School, worked as a Camp Tejas nurse, then substituted at Aldridge before joining the staff full time. Steve is enjoying his first year as the nurse at Pearson Early Childhood School, following nursing work with geriatric Alzheimer's patients at the Medical Center of McKinney. The only male on the Pearson staff, he said Principal Dr. Cheri Izbicki begins morning announcements with, "Good morning, ladies...and Steve."

The Lindners kindly agreed to share their passions for school nursing (and one another) with the "District Digest" readership in this special valentine report.

#### Aldridge Nurse Alice Lindner

#### Why did you choose a career in school nursing?

One of the great things about being a nurse is that there are a million areas in which you can work.

I've worked in cardiac care, psychiatric nursing, clinical research, as a certified sexual assault nurse examiner and in women's health. School nursing is the best!

**What is one of the funniest things a student has ever said to you?** Once, a kindergartener asked me how often I wet my pants.

**What is the best advice that you can give other school nurses?** Keep smiling. There's not a day that goes by that I'm not laughing. Children are a hoot. And the staff at Aldridge is amazing.

**What do most people not know about you?** I'm a great cook.

**What would you like to say to Steve on Valentine's Day?** Would you be my valentine for another 30 years?



#### Pearson Nurse Steve Lindner

#### Why did you choose a career in school nursing?

I first decided that pediatric nursing was a good fit for me when I worked in an MRI department at a

hospital. Working with children in critical care was sometimes sad, sometimes happy, but always rewarding.

**What is one of the funniest things a student has ever said to you?** Every day, when I walk down the school halls, the kids say "Hello, Nurstie!" (That's their version of my name, "Nurse Steve.")

**What is the best advice that you can give other school nurses?** Since this is my first few months, I would say, "Just hang in there." It gets very busy, and, "Remember that the kids are most important."

**What do most people not know about you?** I'm a fanatical football fan.

**What would you like to say to Alice on Valentine's Day?** I'm gonna love you forever.

## Plano ISD Education Foundation Annual Employee Contribution Campaign Underway Through February 25



Faculty members serving as campaign coordinators at their schools and pictured at the Foundation's employee contribution campaign kick-off meeting include (l-r) Jana Prince, Gullede Elementary; Sandra LupPlace and Kristie Fulbright, Hunt Elementary; and LaSonjah Ribak, Christie Elementary.

The Plano ISD Education Foundation announces its annual employee contribution campaign, "Touch the Heart of a Child," which is underway through February 25. Foundation President Ralph Stow reported that, "In 2008, the employees of Plano ISD made the most significant contribution to the Foundation, validating the importance of the support the school district Foundation provides Plano schools."

Monica Shortino, Foundation executive director, confirmed that, in last year's campaign, more than 3,300 faculty and staff members made a collective donation to the Foundation of nearly \$116,000. This year's goal is \$115,000.

"The Foundation appreciates the contributions and support of employees and looks forward to another successful campaign," she said.

During the 2007-08 school year, the Foundation raised \$1.1 million in private donations to support quality education in Plano schools. Contributions were made possible through its annual "Ski Plano"

gala benefit, the employee contribution campaign, a parent/community fund drive and gifts from corporations, foundations and individuals. As a result, more than \$900,000 was gifted to Plano ISD for priority programs that enhance student learning; ensure all students are college ready; recruit, retain and recognize the very best teachers; and support the role of parents and families in student learning.

For more information about the employee contribution campaign, talk to your school's campaign coordinator. To learn more about the Foundation's programming, visit this online site: [foundation.pisd.edu](http://foundation.pisd.edu).



Artist Dana Proulx-Willis

## Foundation Teams with Arts to Engage Young Learners

The youngest learners in Plano ISD are engaged in visual and performing arts activities as a result of a generous grant that is funding the "Wolf Trap" program. The

Plano Arts and Cultural Endowment, in partnership with the Plano ISD Education Foundation, has donated a

\$10,000 grant for the second year to support the program for three- and four-year-old

students who attend Plano ISD's three early childhood schools (Barron, Beaty and Pearson) and the Head Start

program. Wolf Trap, a program developed by the Kennedy Center and administered by Big Thought in the

Dallas area, provides artist teachers who work with an early childhood teacher and his/her students for several

weeks to incorporate visual art, music, theatre and/or dance to enhance curriculum.

The program aims to train early childhood educators in the use of performing arts techniques and strategies that

help young children learn basic literacy, social and academic skills and concepts.

Wolf Trap promotes reading readiness and literacy through multi-week residencies which

use drama, music and movement to teach basic skills. Artists and teachers partner to create, refine and

assess lesson effectiveness.

## Feb. 16 Professional Development Day

Schedules for elementary, secondary and special education professional development sessions to be held Monday, February 16, are posted online at: [www.pisd.edu/calendar](http://www.pisd.edu/calendar).

## District Digest

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# Plano ISD Students Shine in Recent Competitions



## Academic Decathlon Teams Advance to State Competition

Plano ISD's three senior high schools will advance to the State Academic Decathlon meet to be held in late February in Houston, following their outstanding showing at the regional event held recently in Rockwall. Plano Senior High School won the regional event for the sixth consecutive year, besting a hard-charging Rockwall High School by nearly 1,200 points and capturing 37 individual medals and 27 team medals. PSHS's Maria Zhu was the meet's overall leading scorer. Plano East Senior High School placed second at the regional event, earning 17 individual awards and three team awards. Plano West Senior High School teammates earned advancement to state and boasted a perfect speech score among its seven individual awards. The Academic Decathlon® is a 10-event scholastic competition. Each high school enters a team of nine students: 3 "A" or honor students, 3 "B" or scholastic students, and 3 "C" or varsity students. Congratulations to these academically talented students and their dedicated coaches: Sheila Kolb and Bill Borowicz, PSHS; Jan Molepske and Rex Howard, Plano East; and Shawn Coryell, PWSH. For the full story, list of medals and team photos, visit the district Web site: [www.pisd.edu](http://www.pisd.edu).



Plano Senior High School Academic Decathlon teammates captured the school's sixth consecutive regional title.

## Plano ISD Fine Arts Students Selected to Perform at TMEA State Convention

### Plano Schools Win State Honor Orchestra Title for 12th Consecutive Year

Four Plano ISD musical groups earned coveted spots to perform at this week's Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) state convention in San Antonio: Plano East Senior High School Chamber Orchestra, Plano Senior High School Symphony Orchestra, Plano Senior High A Cappella Women's Chorus and Robinson Middle School Orchestra. This marks the 12th consecutive year and the 14th time that Plano ISD has had the winning TMEA High School Honor Orchestra. There are four categories in the competition, and Plano ISD orchestras won three of the categories. Congratulations to these outstanding musicians and their award-winning directors: Betsy Thomas, Plano East orchestra; Brian Coatney, PSHS orchestra, and Jeremy Kondrat, PSHS band; Derrick Brookins and Christopher W. Ahrens; PSHS choir; and Mary Havenstrite, Robinson orchestra. Also performing at TMEA will be 62 Plano ISD students, representing all high school campuses, who earned positions in this year's coveted all-state music groups. Read more online at: [www.pisd.edu](http://www.pisd.edu).

## Student Researchers Advance to National Science & Humanities Symposium

### Secondary District Science Fair Largest Ever with 413 Competing Students

Students Edward Strecker, Shepton High School, and Jean Shiao, Plano Senior High School, will advance to the National Junior Science and Humanities Symposium to be held in late April in Colorado, following their award-winning oral research presentations delivered at the Texas symposium. Sponsored by the U.S. Military, the competition has two qualifying levels, oral and poster presentations. An additional three Plano ISD students advanced to the final round in oral presentation, and three Plano ISD students earned monetary awards for their schools in poster display sessions. A full list of award winners is posted online at [www.pisd.edu](http://www.pisd.edu).

In related news, Plano ISD held its largest secondary district science fair on February 3, with 335 projects entered by 413 students. Linda Flack, secondary science coordinator, reported that every secondary campus had students place at the fair. "Judges were very complimentary about projects and the excellent interviews with students," she said. Congratulations to the following grand prize winners: Megna Murali, Rice Middle School (junior division) with the project "Swimming Seashells," and to Ryan Alexander, Clark High School (senior division) with "Gone With the Windmills." Winning the "Children's Young Research Award" from Children's Medical Center was Tess Michaels, Shepton High School, with "Diet and Longevity." See the complete awards list online at: [www.pisd.edu](http://www.pisd.edu). The state science fair will be held in March.

**DATE CORRECTION - March 7 Retirement Seminar** ~ Plano ISD employees and their spouses are invited to attend a retirement seminar to be held from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 7, at the Plano ISD Administration Building, 2700 W. 15th Street. Speakers will be from the Teacher Retirement System of Texas, Social Security Administration, Texas Retired Teachers Association and Texans Credit Union. To reserve a seat, contact Carolyn Sterling via e-mail [csterli@yahoo.com](mailto:csterli@yahoo.com) or phone (972) 881-9007 or Phyllis Pell at [ppell13@tx.rr.com](mailto:ppell13@tx.rr.com) or phone (972) 424-5427.

## Notable Notes...

### Congratulations to the following parents:

☐ **Geralyn Hendrick**, Saigling Elementary kindergarten teacher, and her husband **Jim** became the proud parents of daughter **Audrey Grace** (7 lbs.) on February 9.



### Sympathy is extended to the following employees:

☐ **Margie and George King**, Hendrick Middle School counselor, and Bowman Middle School principal, respectively, upon the death of George's mother **Ethel "Sissy" King**.

☐ **Sheila Spencer**, Hendrick principal, whose aunt **Vida Williams** died recently; **Elizabeth Bennett**, Hendrick science teacher, whose grandfather **James Shearer** died recently; and to **Pat Stevens**, Schimelpfenig Middle School coach, whose sister **Ruthelma Love** of North Carolina died recently.

### Thought for the Week:

*"The good life is inspired by love and guided by knowledge."*

**-Bertrand Russell**