



Plano ISD 2009-2010 School Year Calendar

The Plano ISD Board of Trustees adopted the following 2009-2010 school district calendar on February 3. The calendar complies with Texas Education Code "First Day of Instruction" law mandating a start date of no earlier than the fourth Monday in August.

First Semester

August 24

First Day of Classes

September 7

Labor Day
(Student/Teacher Holiday)

October 16

Parent/Teacher Conference
Day (Student Holiday)

November 25-27

Thanksgiving Holiday
(Student/Teacher Holiday)

December 18

Last Day for Students

December 21

- **January 1**
Winter Break
(Student/Teacher Holiday)

Second Semester

January 4

Teacher Work Day
(Student Holiday)

January 5

Classes Resume

January 18

Martin L. King, Jr.
Birthday Observance
(Student/Teacher Holiday)

February 15

Professional Development
Day (Student Holiday)

March 15-19

Spring Break
(Student/Teacher Holiday)

April 2

(Student/Teacher Holiday)

May 31

Memorial Day
(Student/Teacher Holiday)

June 3

Last Day for Students

Calendar details can be found on the district Web site at: www.pisd.edu/calendar.

'Ski Plano 2009' Breaks Fundraising Records!

The Plano ISD Education Foundation has announced that its January 31 Ski Plano fundraising gala netted \$200,000 for the Foundation's programs in support of Plano schools. "An Extraordinary Evening on the Mountaintop" was enjoyed by a record 800 guests who dined, danced, mingled with friends and bid on silent and live auction items as they broke fundraising records for the Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to generate private support for priority Plano ISD projects for which tax dollars are not available.



Superintendent Doug Otto and wife Bobbi are pictured with Sharon and David McCall. Mr. McCall, whose law firm served as \$25,000 Aspen Sponsor, has signed on again as lead sponsor for Ski Plano 2010.

A committee of volunteers, led by Foundation Director Lisa Raskin, coordinated the evening's festivities. Fabulous auction items and raffle prizes were purchased and won throughout the evening, including a "Lexus Sampler Package," which will find successful bidders Kathi and Kevin Rupp enjoying driving a different luxury vehicle each month for a year compliments of Park Place Lexus.

To view the Ski Plano event photo gallery and to read about the Foundation's ongoing programs and investment options, visit the Plano ISD Web site at: www.pisd.edu.



(Above) Brian Jensen, emcee; Lisa Raskin, Ski Plano chair; Brad Leland Williams, honorary chair; and Karla Oliver, executive director for government and community relations.



(Far Left) PBK Architects' Sylvia Avery and Wayne Reynaud celebrated a successful bid on a Troy Aikman signed helmet.



(Left) Ralph Stow, Plano ISD Education Foundation president, shared with guests that, in 2008 alone, the Foundation raised more than \$1 million for Plano schools.

(Near Right) "Friends of Miller Elementary and Murphy Middle School," who purchased a Ski Plano table together, included Bonnie Shea and Denise Hickey.



(Far Right) Sharon Hirsch won a random drawing for a \$1,000 shopping spree at The Shops at Willow Bend, in Ski Plano's new teddy bear raffle. She is pictured with husband Jim Hirsch, associate superintendent for academic and technology services.



(Left) Ski Plano guests boogied to the sounds of "Third Party," back by popular demand for its fourth Ski Plano gig. (Middle) Plano ISD staffers Dennis Langevin, Hendrick Middle School, on bass and Kyle Jenkins, Mitchell Elementary School, on drums performed with friends Marcus Hunley on sax and Mike Springer on piano as "Classic Jazz," while guests arrived for the Ski Plano event. (Right) This couple with Corgan Schools enjoyed browsing silent auction items, including fine art, jewelry, signed sports memorabilia, home decor, gift baskets and much more.

Board Briefs...

School trustees took the following action at their February 3 meeting.

Counselor Recognition
Secretary Missy Bender read a resolution in honor of National School Counseling Week. Paul Weaver, director of guidance and counseling, accepted the resolution and presented a counseling program report.

School Board Election
Karla Oliver, executive director for government and community relations, provided information regarding the order, notice and joint election agreement for the May 9, 2009, Trustee Election. Places 6 and 7, held by Melody Timinsky and Missy Bender, respectively, will be on the May 9 ballot. Trustees approved all documents pertaining to the election.

2009-10 School Calendar
Karla Oliver shared information about features of the 2009-10 proposed school calendar presented at the January 20 board meeting for review. The board approved the 2009-10 calendar (published in this newsletter).

AEIS Report Hearing
James Ashby, director of assessment and accountability, presented the Plano ISD annual performance report as required by state statute. Copies of the report will be available on the district Web site and in public libraries and the superintendent's office by February 13.

'Creative Studio' Projects
Jim Hirsch, associate superintendent for academic and technology services, provided an overview of a variety of "Creative Studio" projects within the academic and technology services division. The primary focus of study with each project is supporting the board's mission to provide opportunities for the development of "21st Century Learning Skills" with students.

Legislative Update
Superintendent Doug Otto provided a legislative report regarding the Texas Legislature's 81st regular session underway in Austin.

Policy Adoptions
Trustees adopted Policy EEJC (LOCAL) Individualized Learning: Correspondence Courses on second reading, and EED (LOCAL) Instructional Arrangements: Student Schedules on first reading.

The complete agenda is posted on the district Web site at: www.pisd.edu.

News & Kudos from Our Schools



Superintendent Helps Create New Vision for Public Education

Dr. Doug Otto, superintendent of schools, has presented at several recent district meetings the Public Education Visioning Institute's report "Creating a New Vision for Public Education in Texas." The institute consists of a group of 35 public school superintendents in Texas whose goal is to help make Texas public schools better for students by engaging this digital generation of students, moving towards accountability that inspires and gaining more local control for the education of students. The institute describes six guiding principles for all new education legislation which will elevate the education system for Texas students. At its December meeting, the Plano ISD Board of Trustees adopted a resolution in support of the report, agreeing that new learning standards must be applied for a new era and that standards should focus on development of the whole person, tapping curiosity and imagination, and providing opportunities for all talents to be cultivated, nurtured and valued. The report can be viewed online at: www.tasanet.org/files/visionsing/visionsingfinal.pdf.



Plano ISD Computers@Home representatives and Head Start parents include: (front l-r) Patricia Duran (Head Start family services manager); Nancy Medina, parent; Clara Jackson, instructional technology specialist; and Linda Ayers, parent; (back row, l-r) Michael Drake, technical support assistant; Jason Luttrell, deployment assistant; and Latifi McCloud, parent.

Sixty 'Head Start' Families Benefit from Computers@Home Program

Plano ISD's Head Start program families are the recent recipients of computer hardware, software and training through Plano ISD's Computers@Home program. Two sessions for families were held this school year at the Head Start campus, with 60 families receiving computers. The Computers@Home Head Start program is offered in English and Spanish and managed by Patricia Duran, family services manager.

The instructional technology department delivers the computers to campuses and assists with training. The program is free to all eligible students and is designed to increase academic achievement.

For more information, visit this Web site: k-12.pisd.edu/computers@home.

Wyatt Elementary School Staff Knits Scarves for Special Olympics Participants

Wyatt Elementary School staff members recently knit scarves for participants of the 2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games, which are underway through February 13 in Idaho. Sixteen scarves were made in blue and white to match the Special Olympics logo. The games will feature approximately 3,000 athletes from more than 100 countries and 6,000 volunteers.



February 28 Retirement Seminar ~ Plano ISD employees are invited to a retirement seminar to be held from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 28, 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 esterli@yahoo.com or phone (972) 881-9007 or Phyllis Pell at ppell3@tx.rr.com or phone (972) 424-5427.

Notable Notes...

Congratulations to these parents and grandparents:

□ Nancy Havens, Hedgcoxe Elementary School fourth grade teacher, is the proud grandmother of twins **Noah and Jake**, born on October 9 to proud parents **Carrie and Bart Tinsley**, and **Reaghan Leigh**, born on January 28 to proud parents **Nikki and Ronnie Havens**.

□ Vines High School's **Kristi Wittman**, chemistry teacher, and her husband **Jerrod** welcomed son **Corbin Bradie** (7 lbs. 3 ozs.) on November 13, and **Margie Walther**, receptionist, and her husband **Jimmy** welcomed granddaughter **Molly Iris** (6 lbs. 13 ozs.) on December 28. Molly's proud parents are **Jennifer and Ryan Ackels**.

□ **Chris Mogan**, Shepton High School academic specialist, and his wife **Christine**, former Plano West Senior High School science teacher, welcomed son **Hunter Douglas** (6 lbs. 15 ozs.) on January 22; and **Sarah Krueger**, Hughston Elementary School art teacher, and her husband **Jeff** became the proud parents of son **Cole Lincoln** (8 lbs. 3 ozs.) on January 29.

Sympathy is extended to the following employees:

□ Vines High School employees whose loved ones died recently: **Debbie Hutchison**, volleyball/softball coach and health teacher, on the loss of her brother **Dennis**; **Amy Branson**, math teacher, whose grandfather died; and **Jeri Wolfe**, office manager, on the death of her grandmother; and **Michelle Spence**, Schell Elementary School special education assistant, whose father **Arthur Songer** died on January 19.

□ **Lenora Young**, Stinson Elementary fifth grade teacher, whose mother **Colleen Young** passed away on January 21; **Jenny Young**, eSchool secretary, whose father-in-law **Ed Rousseau** died on January 27; **Libby Griffin**, Haggard Middle School science teacher, whose mother-in-law **Frances Griffin Davis** died on January 30; and **Ali Chase**, Bowman Middle School counselor, whose mother **MaryEllen Chase** died on January 31.

Thought for the Week:

"The teacher who is indeed wise does not bid you to enter the house of his wisdom but rather leads you to the threshold of your mind."

~Kahlil Gibran

