



Schimelpfenig NJHS Sponsor Captures Top National Award

"If you can tap into students' passions, they will take off running and amaze you," says Laura Mullen, Schimelpfenig Middle School National Junior Honor Society advisor, whose

passions for teaching and advising student leaders amazed judges who awarded her with the "2008

Edward Rynearson National Advisor of the Year Award" sponsored by the National Honor Society, National Junior Honor Society and the

National Association of Secondary School Principals. Ms. Mullen was awarded at the NHS/NJHS national conference held in October, 2008, in

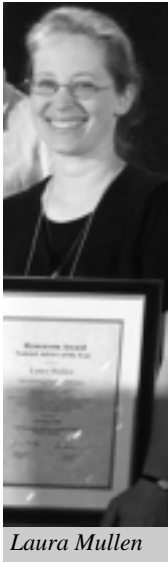
Orlando, Florida. She received \$500 and a plaque. The English department head and team leader has served as NJHS advisor at Schimelpfenig Middle School for 11 years. She has led students through a variety of projects that have benefited the school and communities, both local and around the globe.

These projects have included eighth grade NJHS members mentoring sixth grade students, schoolwide recycling and other environmental projects, food drives, book collections, hurricane relief and work at animal shelters. During her first few years as an advisor, Ms. Mullen said that she had to do a

lot of leg work to get local organizations to work with the school's 14 year old students. "Middle school students are an untapped resource in our community," she believes.

"They are not as busy with activities as high school students, so they have more time to give back to the community. And, they will work hard to make a difference in their community." One of her former student leaders, Adam Melson, said, "Ms. Mullen is an exceptional NJHS sponsor... What she has taught us will last in our minds and inspire us even as we are adults."

Read Ms. Mullen's full story online at: www.pisd.edu.



Laura Mullen

MLK Tribute ~ 'I Am America'

Student Performance of Famous 'I Have a Dream' Speech to Highlight Plano ISD January 22 Event at Plano Centre

The Plano ISD community will join together the evening of January 22 in celebration of the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., during the school district's annual MLK Tribute event to be held at Plano Centre, 2000 E. Spring Creek Parkway. The event, which is free and open to the public, will begin at 6:45 p.m. with a pre-program video tribute to military service men and women who are relatives of Plano ISD employees.

Highlighting the main program, to be held from 7:00 to 8:15 p.m., will be the performance of Dr. King's famous "I Have a Dream" speech by Plano East Senior High School speech students, mixed choir and wind ensemble. Students will weave music from the civil rights movement with the entire text of Dr. King's speech.

"I Am America" is the patriotic theme that will be featured throughout the program, which will showcase elementary students reading their original letters to Dr. King, a salute to veterans and current military personnel, a parade of nations with middle school students in traditional dress and a demonstration by the Plano Senior High School JROTC. Also on the agenda are the art awards, the Diversity Leadership Awards and a video with patriotic comments by students in the Head Start program as well as older students.

Dr. Myrtle Hightower, event chairwoman, said, "We are proud to showcase our talented Plano ISD students as we come together to celebrate the work of Dr. King and the diversity in our district and community. The event will be motivational and inspirational as well as entertaining for all members of the family."



Several hundred thousand people attended a march for jobs and freedom in Washington, D.C., on August 28, 1963, where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. Plano East Senior High School students will perform the entire speech at the school district's annual MLK tribute event.

Students & Staff Celebrate 'College & Career Week' January 12-16 with Guest Speakers and Special Events

Elias Thomas, a student at Barron Early Childhood School, wants to be a train conductor when he grows up. Across town at Beaty Early Childhood School, preschooler Melanie Guinto dreams of becoming a dancer. At Shepard Elementary School, students were inspired by teachers who performed a "Wizard of Oz"-themed assembly program to remind students that their teachers will accompany them along the path to success.

Students across Plano ISD dreamed about their futures during College & Career Week, January 12-16, an annual celebration that is the brainchild of Superintendent of Schools Dr. Doug Otto. The event encouraged students at all levels (prek-12) to

focus on colleges and careers. Faculty and staff members empowered students through interactive learning opportunities such as hosting special guest speakers and conducting "theme dress" days and emphasizing college and career choices through daily lessons.

Andrews Elementary School Counselor Marla Nunnally reported that students benefitted from hearing several guest speakers, including Plano ISD School Board Secretary Missy Bender, FC Dallas' Ray Burse, and other professionals in the fields of optics, telecommunications, engineer-



Elias Thomas
Barron ECS



Melanie Guinto, Beaty ECS



Teacher Teresa Horton of Shepard Elementary School's Citizenship Vertical Team joined teammates in delivering a "Wizard of Oz"-themed program to remind students that their teachers will help guide them along the path to success.

ing and radiology. Some middle schools hosted career days featuring guest speakers with a future focus. The annual district event is coordinated by the office of guidance and counseling. View more school reports and photos online at: www.pisd.edu.



Mothers and daughters participating in the Plano ISD KEYSS (Keeping Education Your Stepping Stone) Program attended a college preparation conference at Collin College sponsored by Destination College and Plano ISD Student and Family Services.

Fall 2009 Student Transfer Process

Parents who wish to request a transfer to a school outside of their residence's attendance zone (or to remain in a school if the family has moved out of the attendance area) must file a transfer application in the student services office, 2700 W. 15th Street, Plano, 75075, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. The application deadline is June 15, 2009, after which time no transfer requests will be accepted. Interested parents should apply in early January, as grade levels and campuses close when limits are reached. A \$50 transfer application fee is required at the time the request is filed. The fee may be waived for students with a letter confirming qualification for free or reduced lunch. More information is available online at www.pisd.edu or by calling the student services office at (469) 752-8124 or (469) 752-8021.

Hughston Elementary School PACE Specialist Wins 97.5 KLAQ Radio's 'Teacher of the Month' Award

Lisa Wellborn, Hughston Elementary School PACE (Plano Academic and Creative Education) specialist, was honored as 97.5 KLAQ Radio Teacher of the Month in



October, 2008. She was selected by the station's judges from a pool of local teacher nominees for her educational philosophy, innovation and dedication to students and learning. As a winner, Ms. Wellborn joined KLAQ Hosts "B" and Carrie on their morning show. She also received \$500 and an award plaque.

Nominated by Principal Luanne Collins and Literacy Specialist Ann Gray, Ms. Wellborn is described as a teacher who knows that children love to have fun, so her classroom is filled with a menagerie of bright colors and decorative learning tools indicative of active learning. "It is not unusual to see Lisa welcome her students wearing an Abe Lincoln hat or an electric name tag or playing lively music that matches the



Lisa Wellborn

theme of instruction for the day," said Ms. Collins and Ms. Gray. "Her high energy gives synergy to learning and transcends to a consistently high success rate in her students' academic achievement."

In May, 97.5 KLAQ will host a Teacher of the Year Banquet in which all monthly winners and their families will be invited. One teacher, who best embodies the qualities of a tremendous educator, will be chosen as the Teacher of the Year. That person will receive an additional \$500 and an all-inclusive trip for two.

Plano ISD Teachers Participate in MacDill AFB 'Bosslift'

A team of Plano ISD educators was hosted in November, 2008, by Colonel David McMinn, commander of the 136th Air Wing, Texas Air National Guard, at MacDill Air Force Base in Florida, where they received a close up view of the U.S. Air Force and Air National Guard in action. Nominated by Shonda Winkler, Wells Elementary School music specialist and Air Force Reserves sergeant, the team participated in the "bosslift" at MacDill, which is home to the Air Force's Air Mobility Command, provider of aeromedical evacuations, combat support, aerial refueling and priority airlift operations in support of military operations worldwide. Highlights of the tour included a visit to the U.S. Central Command Headquarters, observing service members identifying and diffusing improvised explosive devices, watching military security canines in operation, and visiting the Air Forces' largest Navy responsible for patrolling U.S. coasts.



Susan McDonald (left), Jackson Elementary School music specialist, is pictured flying in the cockpit of Air Wing's C-130 Hercules to Florida. The Plano ISD teaching team, including (l-r) Susan McDonald, Carol Jones, Kenny Allen, Sue Melton and Gwen Baumann, are pictured at the central command center with Lt. Rebecca Heyse.



Making Resources Available for People with Disabilities

Saturday, February 7

1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Garland Special Events Center,
4999 Naaman Forest Blvd.,
Garland 75040

More than 70 exhibitors

Fun activities for kids

Free and open to the public

Sponsors: The Arc of Dallas;
Region 10 ECS; the Plano,
Garland, Mesquite and Richard-

son ISDs; and City of Dallas

Contact The Arc: (214) 634-9810

Notable Notes...

☐ Congratulations to **Helen Nygaard**, Plano Family Literacy adult and parent educator, who recently received her Parent Education Certification from the University of Minnesota; and to **Romilio Archila**, Shiloh Center custodian, who was sworn in as a U.S. Citizen on November 10, 2008.

Best wishes to the following newlywed employees:

☐ **Jenny Owen**, Memorial Elementary School fourth grade teacher, wed **Nick Kubiak** on November 29; **Stacey Gartrell**, Beaty ECS counselor, became the bride of **George Mecca** on December 13; **Robin Williams**, Rose Haggar Elementary School principal, became the bride of **Adrian Garcia** on December 27; and **Katie Corbett**, Hendrick Middle School band teacher, married **Nathan Lewis** on January 3.

Congratulations to these parents and grandparents:

☐ **Melody McKee**, Bethany art specialist, welcomed granddaughter **Berkley Kate Benefield** (6 lbs. 7 ozs.) on November 26; **Teri Coker**, Skaggs special ed. teacher, is the proud adoptive mother of daughter **Chloe**; Hughston's **Aime Traynor**, special ed. teacher, and her husband **Chris** welcomed son **Christopher Ryan** (6 lbs. 6 ozs.) on December 12; and **Mary Ann Bargmann**, Skaggs principal, is the proud grandmother of **Sarah Abigail** born on December 15.

☐ **Jesse Mitchell**, Hickey special ed. teacher, and **Zach Mitchell**, Dooley fifth grade teacher, are proud to announce the birth of their daughter **Sophia Marie** born on December 16. Proud grandmother is **Leslie Schroeder**, instructional support specialist; and **Cynthia Escobedo**, Daffron third grade teacher, and her husband **Raul** welcomed daughter **Isabella** (7 lbs. 9 ozs.) on December 17.



Sympathy is extended to the following employees:

☐ **Anna Allman**, financial services bookkeeper, whose brother **Robert Krotz** died on December 31; Bowman FANS employees who lost loved ones on January 13: **Nelly Pena** lost father-in-law **Mario Pacheco** and **Deborah Fullerton** lost her uncle **Mike Fletcher**; and to **Carol and Bill Borowicz**, Renner and PSHS teachers, respectively, on the recent passing of Bill's mother **Pat Borowicz** of Austin.

Thought for the Week:

"We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit."

~Aristotle

District Digest

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