



January 31 'Ski Plano' Event Tickets Available

Hundreds of school and community guests are anticipated to attend the Plano ISD Education Foundation's annual "Ski Plano" fundraising event from 6:30 to 11:00 p.m. at Southfork Ranch. To purchase tickets or a table, contact the Foundation at (469) 752-8272 or visit the Foundation online: foundation.pisd.edu.

Top 10 Reasons to Attend 'Ski Plano'

10. "An Extraordinary Evening on the Mountaintop" awaits. Plano's never glistened like this, and you won't want to miss out on the food and fun.
9. Dress casually in après-ski fashion, and attend the "coolest" benefit event in town.
8. Spend a Saturday evening with folks who are passionate about public education.
7. Enjoy J.R. Ewing's favorite lodge: Southfork Ranch, home of the famed "Dallas" TV series.
6. Put on your most comfy dancing shoes, and rock to the band that's back by popular demand, "Third Party Live."
5. Meet Brad Leland Williams, honorary emcee and "Buddy Garrity" star from the hit TV show "Friday Night Lights."
4. Root for your snowball in the popular "Snowball Avalanche Raffle." Spend just \$50/snowball or \$100/4 snowballs for a chance to win one of four fabulous prizes: a diamond watch, hot air balloon ride, Dell laptop computer or RoughRiders baseball game suite.
3. Bid on silent auction goodies like a flight to LA to sit on Dr. Phil's show, Dallas Mavs or Stars tickets, signed Jonas Brothers photo or makeup party at the Red Door Spa.
2. Look alive in the "Live Auction" and you just might win such items as a "Lexus Super Model Sampler" (drive a different Lexus every month for a year!) to a Ski Banff vacation to a Ladies Shopping Excursion in Canton, TX, to name a few.
1. Support the Plano ISD Education Foundation's programs for Plano ISD students, faculty & staff!

'I Am America'

Student Presentations, Videos & Awards Highlight Plano ISD's Annual MLK Tribute Event at Plano Centre



Plano East Senior High School speech students presented Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s, famous "I Have a Dream" speech in its entirety for event guests.

Dr. Myrtle Hightower (seated) was presented one of three lifetime achievement awards during the ceremony. Dee Sampson, human resources, made the presentation.



original letters to Dr. King were several elementary school students. Student participants also included the Plano Senior High School JROTC cadets and armed drill team, Williams High School sign language students and Plano East Senior High School Sound Invention. Starring in an "I Am America" video, and narrating a book by the same name authored by Charles R. Smith, Jr., were students from Head Start and Clark High School. The Plano Children's Chorale performed a live patriotic medley of songs to accompany the video. For full program details, photos and links to the event's streamed videos online, visit www.pisd.edu.

Individuals & Groups Honored for Diversity Leadership

Highlighting Plano ISD's annual MLK Tribute event held on January 22 at Plano Centre was the presentation of awards to students, faculty, staff and community leaders.

Presentations included the surprise announcement of "lifetime achievement" awards bestowed upon community leaders who have volunteered exemplary service to Plano ISD's diversity advocacy initiatives.

More individuals and groups than ever were nominated for this year's Eighth Annual Diversity Leadership Awards, sponsored by the Plano ISD Diversity Advocacy Committee. Winners were honored on stage with plaques presented by Dr. May Li, committee chair, and human resources division colleagues Jun Melvin, diversity and compensation director, and Dee Sampson, diversity coordinator.

Plano ISD's MLK Art Contest award winners were presented savings bonds from Legacy Bank by School Board President Lloyd "Skip" Jenkins and City of Plano Mayor Pro-tem Jean Allison.

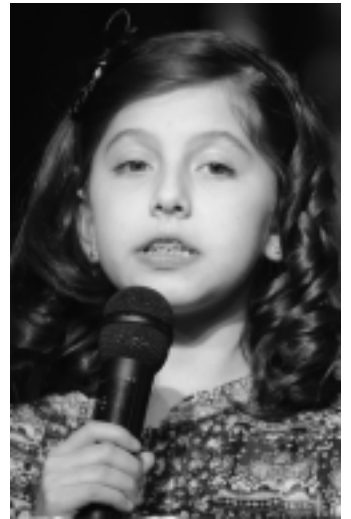
Plano ISD students beckoned a standing room only crowd to reflect on the dream of late civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., during the school district's annual tribute event to the life and legacy of Dr. King held on January 22 at Plano Centre.

The theme "I Am America" was showcased through student performances and the presentation of awards for winners of Plano ISD's annual MLK art contest, diversity leadership awards and lifetime achievement awards.

Kicking off the event was a video tribute to military personnel who are relatives of Plano ISD employees and city dignitaries. During a patriotic opening ceremony, middle school students formed a "parade of nations," wearing outfits that represented their native countries.

Introducing program events were emcees Dr. Doug Otto, superintendent of schools; Dr. Myrtle Hightower, MLK program chair; Karla Oliver, executive director for government and community relations; and Dr. May Li, Plano ISD Diversity Advocacy Committee chair.

Headlining the student performances were Plano East Senior High School speech students, mixed choir and wind ensemble who presented Dr. King's famous "I Have a Dream" speech. Reading their



Guests were moved by readings of original letters to Dr. King by students including Brooke Benjamin, Jackson Elementary.

MLK Tribute Event Awards Presentations

Lifetime Achievement ~ Dr. Jana Flowers, Mr. Sam McPherson and Dr. Myrtle Hightower

Diversity Leadership ~ Adriana Veytia, Mitchell Elementary; Carolina Williams and Elizabeth Griffin, Davis and Christie Elementary Schools; Cindy Woods and the Williams High School Multicultural Club; and the Beverly Elementary School ESL Department

Honorable Mentions: Susie Vaughan, Beaty ECS; Stinson PTA Multicultural Committee and Jackson Elementary School Family Services Team

MLK Art Contest ~ Katie Mainville, Christie Elementary; Irania Lopez Salinas, Bowman MS; Jiae Azad, Williams HS; Marti Weaver, PWSH

Read more about these winners online at www.pisd.edu.

Board Briefs...

School trustees took the following action at their January 20 meeting:

Board Recognitions

Karla Oliver, executive director for government and community relations, shared information about School Board Recognition Month. Students from Williams High School and Beverly, Brinker, Daffron, Davis, Forman, Hunt, Rasor, Skaggs and Stinson elementary schools participated in a board tribute.

The Autism Society of Collin County made a presentation to the school board.

Area Assistant Superintendents Roxanne Burtleson and Patty Meyer recognized Mathews and Skaggs Elementary Schools, Rice Middle School and Jasper High School who were recently honored by the Texas Business and Education Coalition as "TBEC Honor Roll Schools." Board Vice-President Brad Shanklin presented certificates to the honored schools.

Trustees dismissed a personnel grievance.

Reduction in Force

The administration presented items for trustees to consider and possible action regarding authorization of a reduction in force. The board approved the following employment areas to be affected by the reduction in force: curriculum-elementary advanced academics, and library and media services-elementary library services.

2009-10 School Calendar

Karla Oliver shared information about the features of the proposed calendar for 2009-10. The start date of August 24 has been proposed for consideration.

Legislative Report

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Doug Otto presented a legislative report to the board.

Policy Adoptions

The board adopted Policy FDB (Local) Admissions: Intradistrict Transfers and Classroom Assignments on second reading, and Policy EEJC (Local) Individualized Learning: Correspondence Courses on first reading.

District Digest

E-mail: digest@pisd.edu

Phone: (469) 752-8030

Website:

www.pisd.edu/news

eNews listserv:

www.pisd.edu/eNews.htm

News & Kudos



Gypsy Moves On ~ Director Mark Hinshaw and the Plano ISD Safety and Security Department "paws"ed on January 16 to host a retirement reception in honor of Gypsy, the district's contraband detection dog. Gypsy has retired following nine years of dedicated service to Plano ISD. Charlotte Gabriel, K-9 unit handler, coordinated the farewell reception held at the school district's administration building

and attended by several guests, including Superintendent of Schools Dr. Doug Otto and Trustees Missy Bender and Lloyd "Skip" Jenkins. Gypsy is one of two specially-trained canines who are owned by the school district. Chara, a yellow lab who is not retiring, is an explosives detection canine. Gypsy has turned over her leash to successor Kaki, another yellow lab who attended Gypsy's reception with handler Emmett Smith on her first official day of duty. The canines participate in classroom demonstrations for students.



Gypsy bid farewell to her Plano ISD family this month.



Principal Mary Ann Bargmann addressed 100 Skaggs parents at the school's "Community Circles" event.

Principal Mary Ann Bargmann addressed 100 Skaggs parents at the school's "Community Circles" event. Cultural diversity was the main course at a dinner hosted recently by Mary Ann Bargmann, principal at Skaggs Elementary School. The school initiative featured a multi-cultural discussion with 130 parents. "With so much diversity and so much commonality, the room looked like a meeting of the United Nations," commented Ms. Bargmann, who said that Skaggs families hail from several nations, including China, India, Japan, Canada, Pakistan, Korea, Philippines, Greece, Germany, Italy, UK, Ireland and others. The school population is 70 percent Asian and equal amounts Hispanic, African American and Caucasian. In her address to parents, Ms. Bargmann highlighted the event's key purpose to help build a greater community, while recognizing diversity and identifying commonalities. Parents conversed during the dinner, which featured food dishes from around the world, while children participated in fun activities. "All participants agreed that the learning experience created opportunities to appreciate the diversity around them," reported Ms. Bargmann. The initiative was organized with the Plano ISD Diversity Steering Committee. The school is planning to host similar events in the future.



Thomas Elementary Campers Recycle ~ Thomas Elementary School teachers and students showed their dedication to the environment at Collin County Adventure Camp by collected their recyclable trash in clear bags and bringing it back to school to be disposed of properly. Brian Thomas, district outdoor school coordinator, congratulated Thomas for this innovative recycling initiative.

Thomas recyclers Devin Tippett, Sandra Youseff and Astrid Hernandez, Patrick Colombo, Marquax Permin and Ray Hernandez.

Summer School Employment Applications Sought ~ Plano ISD employees are invited to apply online for the school district's Summer Opportunities for Learning program. When the online application is available, district employees will be notified by a computer splash screen (pop-up) when they log on to their desktops. All applicants interested in teaching positions for grades 9-12 are required to attend an information meeting regarding the summer program to be held at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 25, in the lecture hall at Plano Senior High School. In addition to teaching and teaching assistant positions, summer school opportunities are available in transportation and food service positions. All applications must be submitted through the online application process by March 27. For additional information about summer school employment, e-mail summer@pisd.edu.



Notable Notes...

Congratulations to these parents and grandparents:

□ **Kay Caillier**, Thomas Elementary School reading support employee, announced the birth of grandson **Brayden Kyle Baker** (3 lbs.) on December 3; **Tracy Hernandez**, Aldridge Elementary School secretary, and her husband **Daniel** welcomed son **Daniel Matthew** (6 lbs. 15 ozs.) on December 23; **Sarah Oldham**, Barksdale Elementary School special education teacher, and her husband **Jarod** announced the birth of twin daughters **Ann Elizabeth** (3 lbs. 4 ozs.) and **Emily Jane** (1 lbs. 15 ozs.) on December 31.

□ **Katie Wright**, Memorial Elementary School first grade co-team leader, and her husband **Josh** welcomed son **Clark Lee** (7 lbs. 6 ozs.) on January 9; **Melanie Merton**, Thomas Elementary third grade teacher, and her husband **Charlie** became the proud parents of son **Charles "Chas"** (10 lbs. 3 ozs.) on January 12; **Aime Traynor**, Hughston Elementary School special education teacher, and her husband **Chris** welcomed son **Christopher Ryan** (6 lbs. 6 ozs.) on January 12. Proud grandmother is **Barbara West**, Saigling Elementary School office manager, and proud aunt is **Jennifer Howe**, Saigling literacy specialist.

Sympathy is extended to the following employees:

□ **Becky Schucany**, Stinson Elementary School special education teacher, whose father **Robert Adams** died recently; **Leigh Anne Fields**, Renner Middle School social studies teacher, whose grandfather **Johnson Fields** of El Paso passed away recently; and **Jamie Maschek**, Mathews Elementary School PACE teacher, whose mother **Katie H. Lucas** died on December 22.

□ **Diana Wetzel**, Boggess Elementary School fourth grade teacher, whose grandmother **Myra Harris** died recently; and to Miller Elementary School's **Jennifer Bero**, principal, whose father-in-law **Terry Bero** died on January 16, and **Melissa Standeford**, special education assistant, whose father **Sam Walker** died recently.

Thought for the Week:

"The time is always right to do what is right."

~Martin Luther King, Jr.