



Plano ISD Staff Generously Supports United Way Campaign

Plano ISD faculty and staff recently contributed more than \$162,000 in the 2008 United Way Campaign. "Our employees once again offered their generous support of United Way partner agencies to help ensure that critical services are available to individuals and families in North Texas," said Karla Oliver, Plano ISD executive director for government and community relations. Special thanks are extended to all school and department campaign coordinators and to all contributing employees.

Goal Busters!

Elementary Schools

- *Aldridge *Hunt
- *Andrews Jackson
- Barksdale Mathews
- Beaty McCall
- *Bethany Meadows
- *Beverly Memorial
- Boggess Mendenhall
- Brinker Miller
- Carlisle *Mitchell
- Centennial Pearson
- *Christie Rasor
- *Daffron *Rose Haggard
- *Davis Saigling
- Dooley Schell
- Gulledge Shepard
- Harrington Sigler
- Haun *Skaggs
- *Hedgecoxe Stinson
- *Hightower Weatherford
- Huffman *Wells
- Hughston Wyatt

Middle Schools

- Armstrong Murphy
- Bowman Renner
- *Carpenter Rice
- Frankford Schimelpfenig
- Haggard Wilson
- Hendrick

High/Sr. High Schools

- *Jasper PSHS
- PESH *Shepton
- PWSH *Williams

Administrative Offices

Academic and Technology Services, *Athletics, Business Services, *Communications, Head Start, Human Resources, *Student Services, *Superintendent's Office, Special Programs *K-8, Special Programs 9-12

*150% or more over goal

Also generously contributing to the United Way Campaign were faculty and staff at: Barron, Clark, Facility Services, Forman, Hickey, Robinson, Thomas and Vines.

Head Start Program Found to be in 100% Compliance with Federal Standards for Student & Family Services

Move over, Michael Phelps. There's a new gold medalist in town. Plano ISD's Head Start program has captured a "Gold Certificate" for being in 100 percent compliance with 800 national standards, following a spring, 2008, federal audit.

Tina Hardison, Head Start administrator, and 28 Head Start teachers and support staff members were recognized for this achievement at the Plano ISD Board of Trustees' October 7 meeting.

"We do our best to stay in compliance with all standards 100 percent of the time," said Ms. Hardison. "Our program is only as successful as our school board, district leaders and community members allow. Their help is instrumental in our providing exemplary services."

Head Start serves approximately 150 students, ages three and four, and their families. The program is audited every three years against standards based upon topics such as early childhood development, mental and physical health, nutrition, family and community partnerships and program finances.

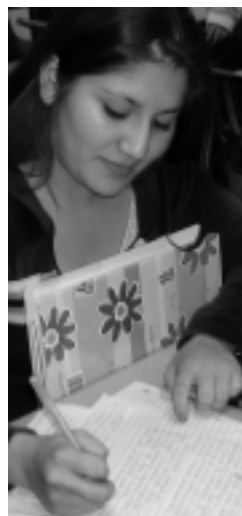
Head Start has been offered in Plano ISD since 1965, when the program was launched nationwide. Head Start is governed by a policy council, comprising parents and community members, and the Plano ISD Board of Trustees. Trustee Missy Bender currently serves as school board liaison to Head Start. Current trustees who have also served in this role are Skip Jenkins, Mary Beth King and Melody Timinsky.

The Head Start team has had much to celebrate this school year. In August, the program moved into brand new facilities, with the "rededication" of Meadows Elementary School, Head Start's headquarters. Originally constructed in 1963, Meadows underwent a complete renovation during the past two years as a project of the 2004 bond program. This school year, Head Start staff and students returned to the brand new building to enjoy all new classrooms, parent meeting areas and offices for its family services staff.



Plano ISD Head Start students celebrate their program's national "Gold Certificate." Photo: Sally Barden

Middle School AP Spanish Program Supports 400 Students in Taking National Exam for College Credit



More than 400 eighth grade students at five middle schools have taken the Advanced Placement (AP) Spanish Language Exam, as participants in Plano ISD's Middle School AP Spanish program, achieving an 85 percent eligibility rate for college credit. Greta Lundgaard, foreign language coordinator, presented these and other statistics to school trustees at their October 7 meeting.

"Plano ISD launched the Middle School AP Spanish program in 2004 to increase academic achievement of native or heritage Spanish speakers," said Ms. Lundgaard. "The program offers traditionally lower-performing students with means to engage in accelerated, rigorous courses and AP tests in a nonthreatening environment."

The program emphasizes development of academic language, study skills, critical reading, critical and analytical writing and thinking processes required to demonstrate achievement on the AP exam. The program's students have also demonstrated success on the state-mandated TAKS tests regardless of their CogAT or MAP scores," said Ms. Lundgaard. "The program offers evidence of good habits of mind, student and teacher efficacy and increased development of cognitive abilities." The program has also resulted in increased numbers of Hispanic students enrolling in high school honors and pre-AP courses and even more extra-curriculum courses. Read more about this program online at: www.pisd.edu.

Plano ISD Rates 'Superior' in State Accountability System



The Texas Education Agency took a close look at Plano ISD's financial accountability and budget data and gave the district its highest rating of "Superior Achievement" for the fifth consecutive year.

The Schools FIRST (Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas) rating is based upon an analysis of staff and student data and budgetary and actual financial data for school year 2006-07 and fiscal year ending June 30, 2007. The rating indicates that Plano ISD is accountable not

only for student learning, but also for achieving those results cost effectively and efficiently. A superior rating is the highest given to all districts that score between 75 to 85. Plano ISD achieved the highest total score of 85 on all 24 indicators. Richard Matkin serves as associate superintendent for business services, overseeing the school district's financial services department, which is under the executive direction of Linda Madon. School trustees conducted a public hearing regarding the Schools FIRST rating at their October 7 meeting.



The Plano ISD Board of Trustees introduced its use of "BoardBook" for the Oct. 7 school board meeting agenda. The online tool combines customer-friendly navigation with improved agenda compiling, posting and distribution.

In addition to actions featured on page one of this newsletter, trustees approved all consent agenda items and took the following actions at their October 7 meeting.

2009 Health Plan

Trustees approved the 2009 Plano ISD Employee Health Plan, with funding of \$259 per employee/month enrolled in a medical plan and \$150 per employee/month enrolled in a non-medical alternate plan, as included in the 2008-09 approved budget. Read details of the plan on the "Current Agenda" of the school board's Web site: www.pisd.edu/about.us/board_of_trustees/meetings_minutes.shtml.

Enrollment Report

Trustees heard an enrollment report from Richard Matkin, associate superintendent for business services. He noted that, after having a decline in enrollment in 2006, the district increased by 1.1% in 2007 and by another 1.5% in 2008. The majority of the growth is in the middle schools and senior high schools. He said that, the increased enrollment, if maintained throughout the year, will result in an additional \$2.6 million in target revenue funding.

Policy Adoptions

Trustees adopted these policies on second reading: TASB Localized Policy Manual Update 83; CPAB (Local) Office Communications: Mail and Delivery; EHDE (Local) Extended Instructional Programs: Distance Learning; and GE (Local) Relations with Parent Organizations.

Administrative Appointment

Dr. Doug Otto, superintendent of schools, announced the following administrative appointment: Antoine Spencer, assistant principal at Armstrong Middle School.

District Digest

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Foundation Launches Community Honor Roll Campaign

"I Love Plano ISD" yard signs will soon dot the landscapes at homes and businesses throughout the school district as part of the Community Honor Roll Campaign sponsored by Plano ISD and the Plano ISD Education Foundation.

The Community Honor Roll campaign allows the Foundation to fund priority programs in Plano ISD for which tax dollars are not available. The Foundation seeks to create community awareness by providing yard signs for all donors who contribute \$100 or more.

"Plano ISD is the cornerstone of the community and continues to bring people and businesses to Plano. It is in all our interest to ensure its success," said Beth Webb, Foundation chair of development. Ralph Stow serves as the Foundation's 2008-09 president.

For more information about the campaign and the Plano ISD Education Foundation, visit this Web site: foundation.pisd.edu.



Plano ISD Education Foundation Executive Director Monica Shortino (left), Foundation Directors Beth Webb and Ralph Stow and Superintendent of Schools Dr. Doug Otto are pictured with "I Love Plano ISD" campaign signs.

Saigling Elementary School Proclaims 'Mayor Evans Day'



Mayor Pat Evans answered questions from eager learners at Saigling Elementary School recently.

Children at Saigling Elementary School learned first-hand how city government works with the help of former teacher Plano Mayor Pat Evans. Through the district's integrated curriculum, third grade students have been learning about how systems work.

Students have learned that Saigling is its own community working together toward one goal, stressing the importance of being a lifelong learner. Students learned from Mayor Evans that city council members are elected by the citizens of Plano and that their job is to listen to the people of Plano to make improvements.

Mayor Evans explained the process it took to bring Muehlenbeck Center, Plano's newest recreation center, to reality.

Saigling proclaimed September 25, 2008, Mayor Pat Evans Day at the school. Mayor Evans was presented a "key to the school" by third grade students Chloe Fackler, who read the proclamation, Shanel Bramschreiber and Benjamin Juan.

Notable Notes...

Best wishes to the following newlyweds:

❑ **Amanda Patterson**, Plano East Senior High School swim coach/Rasor Elementary P.E. instructor, who became the bride of **Marc Valentini** on July 12; **Christal Boddy**, Weatherford Elementary School ESL/Title I Reading teacher, who wed **Justice Rutanhira** on October 2; and **Ha Nguyen**, Miller Elementary second grade teacher, who will marry **Joseph Lobo** on October 11.

Congratulations, parents and grandparents:

❑ **Angie Helenberger**, Haggard Middle School English teacher and AVID coordinator, and her husband **Brad** welcomed daughter **Scout Adelyn** (7 lbs. 6 ozs.) on July 15; and **Teresa Caterisano**, Head Start clerk, and her husband **Paul** announced the birth of daughter **Isabella** (7 lbs. 14 ozs.) on August 1.

❑ **Chika Hoskins**, music teacher at Miller and Schell elementary schools, and her husband **Jeff** welcomed son **William Yoshinaka** (8 lbs. 7.5 ozs.) on September 24; and **Ben Porter**, Beverly Elementary School music specialist, and his wife **Candice** welcomed daughter **Sophia Candice** (7 lbs. 13 ozs.) on September 25.

❑ **Tammy and Clint Fielding**, Wyatt Elementary special education and fifth grade teachers, respectively, welcomed son **Carter James** on October 1; and **Dennise Schuler**, Beaty ECS librarian, proudly announces the October 4 birth of her first grandchild **Addison Ann Sewell**.

Sympathy is extended to these employees:

❑ **Anita Corenblieth**, Rasor Elementary School counselor, whose mother **Shirley Barasch** died on October 3; and **Lori Kring**, special education assistive technology audiologist, whose grandfather **George Crain** died on September 28.

Thought for the Week:

"Kids: they dance before they learn there is anything that isn't music."

~William Stafford



Barron Baby Boom

Barron Early Childhood School staff members pose proudly with their little ones and little ones to be: (seated, l-r) Cassidi and Sophie Beracochea; Holly and Oliver Mohrmann, (Proud Principal Dr. Elaine Schmidt), Jessi and Dublin Harkins, Misty and Nathaniel Olguin; (standing, l-r) Mona Jackson; Nicole and Emma Cone, Aina and Charlotte Carruth; and Monica Gonzalez, who welcomed Mia Jasmine on October 1.