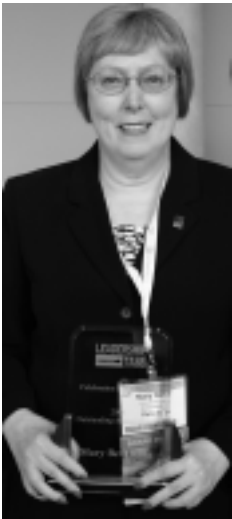




## School Trustee Honored by TASB for Exceptional Leadership

Trustee Mary Beth King was recently presented the 2008 Celebration of Leadership Award for outstanding alumni of Leadership TASB, a training program sponsored by the Texas Association of School Boards.



Mary Beth King was recognized with the 2008 TASB Celebration of Leadership Award.

Ms. King was nominated by Leadership TASB graduates for demonstrating exceptional leadership skills and contributing positively to her community and state. She is a 1997 graduate of the year-long TASB leadership development program.

### Leadership Service

Plano ISD Board of Trustees: elected to fifth term in 2007, elected by peers to serve as president from 2001 to 2005;  
TASB Board of Directors: member services chair, superintendent of the year committee chair, nominations committee member, federal relations network task force;  
North Texas Area Association of School Boards: president, vice-president and treasurer;  
Plano ISD Council of PTAs: president; Collin County United Way Board: vice-chair; Collin County MH/MR, chair; Collin College Foundation: member.

### Leadership Awards

Texas PTA Life Membership, Collin County Volunteer of the Year in Education, Plano Bar Association's Liberty Bell Award, Distinguished Leadership Award from Leadership Plano and the Community Leadership Association.

## Plano Regional Day School for the Deaf Program Captures International 'Alexander Graham Bell Award'



PRDSPD students (above) enjoyed an outing this year to local Arbor Hills Nature Preserve. Pictured are (foreground) Donald Hughes, and (back, l-r) Andres Nava, Alaina Litton and Cassandra Sanchez;

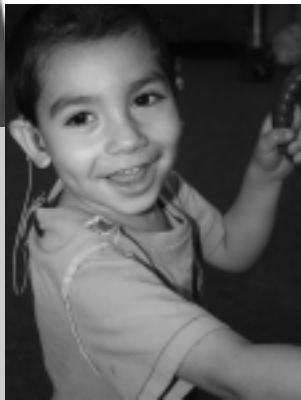
(Right) Student Jeremiah Vega's face says it all about the fun he had learning at Pearson Early Childhood School.

The Plano Regional Day School Program for the Deaf heard great news this year. The Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, an international organization, presented the Day School with its "2007 Program of the Year Award." Coordinator Marcia Crouch accepted the award at the AG Bell conference held in June in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The Regional Day School's efforts were recognized for focusing on oral communication. The program was selected based on its services in auditory-oral education and intervention to the deaf or hard of hearing and their families. Through the

program, parents of deaf students are given the option of communication mode. Students are taught using auditory-oral or total communication, which includes sign and speech.

There are fewer than 150 programs in the United States that focus on auditory-oral education, and Plano is one that has worked to improve teaching oral communication," said Judy Harrison, director of programs for the AG Bell Association. "The Regional Day School has made tremendous strides in providing strong auditory services."



Students in the Plano Regional Day School Program for the Deaf enjoyed the Arbor Hills Nature Preserve this year.

The Plano ISD program serves approximately 300 students from 16 school districts. Students are served in the least restrictive environment, which is determined by the ARD (Admission, Review, Dismissal) committee. Some students are served by itinerant deaf education teachers on the student's home campus, some are served by the deaf education parent advisor in the student's home, and some are served by a combination of regular education and deaf education teachers at these Plano ISD schools: Pearson Early Childhood School, Davis Elementary School, Haggard Middle School, Vines High School and Plano Senior High School.

## Community Forum Honors Academic Diversity Specialist

Plano ISD Academic Diversity Specialist Donna Hartman captured the "Educator of the Year" award presented on October 11 at the annual scholarship banquet of the Plano Community Forum, a local organization that supports cultural enrichment and educational opportunities.

"All kids want to be challenged," says Ms. Hartman, appointed to her role in the professional learning and advanced academics department in 2007. "If we set the bar high, they will reach for it. It is important that all children be challenged to do even more than they think they can."

Ms. Hartman's role, by its very nature, raises the bar for the school district, as the board of trustees has adopted the ongoing district initiative to "continue to develop, improve and maintain a guaranteed and viable curriculum that meets the needs of diverse learners." (continued on back)



Donna Hartman (center) enjoyed a recent visit to Teacher Rosie Potter's DISCOVER class at Weatherford Elementary School.

## Safety & Security Group Completes Three-Year Audit

Plano ISD's Safety & Security Department, under the direction of Mark Hinshaw, has completed an intensive three-year security audit of all district facilities, which was reported to the Plano ISD Board of Trustees on October 7 and submitted to the Texas School Safety Center in compliance with Texas Senate Bill 11, enacted in 2005.



*Safety & Security Department team: (back row, l-r) Ormie Melton, Bart Rosebure, Jesse Alvarez, Kris Gentz, Mark Hinshaw; (middle, l-r) Gary Holly, Sandra Tarell, Glenda Smitheart, James Fischette, Sharon Geminden, Phil Geminden; (floor, l-r) Charlette Gabriel and K-9 Chara, Emmett Smith and K-9 Gypsy.*

According to Mr. Hinshaw, safety and security staff and school administrators served on audit teams, conducting surveys of staff and students.

"We are grateful for the excellent teamwork of all staff who assisted," he said, noting that the three-year audit process begins again immediately.

### The Security Audit

The audit, which covers 317 safety and security points, "was not a far reaching task for our school district to complete, since we already have a comprehensive safety and security program that we could easily translate to the state's legally-prescribed documentation," stated Mr. Hinshaw. The safety audit covers school facility environments, visitor procedures, monitoring and surveillance, policies, procedures, drills and exercises. He told trustees that his group will continue to work with district departments to identify and address all issues related to the safety and security of the district's students, staff and property.

## District Digest

E-mail: [digest@pisd.edu](mailto:digest@pisd.edu)

Phone: (469) 752-8030

Website:

[www.pisd.edu/news](http://www.pisd.edu/news)

eNews listserv:

[www.pisd.edu/eNews.htm](http://www.pisd.edu/eNews.htm)

## Academic Diversity Specialist Honored by Community Forum

(Continued from front)... As academic diversity specialist, Donna Hartman oversees the DISCOVER program, currently offered at 15 elementary schools and targeting students who demonstrate the need for increased higher order thinking activities but are not currently identified for participation in the PACE (Plano Academic Creative Education) program. The goal of the program is to provide early intervention strategies that will lead to the highest possible academic placement for the students.

Ms. Hartman also plans and helps conduct evening and weekend meetings to inform parents of advanced academic opportunities available to students. These forums offer parents networking opportunities and a time to hear in-depth information about district programs and policies. She works closely with Discover teachers, gifted specialists, AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) coordinator, PTA members and other parents to continually assist in identification of a "talent pool" of students who represent diverse populations.

Educating the public about Plano ISD's commitment to the program is also among her welcome responsibilities. Last year, she has presented workshops for Plano ISD school principals entitled "How to Get Diverse Parents Involved," and she presented "How to Recruit and Retain Diverse Students," at the Texas Gifted and Talented Conference. Due to her passion for helping students achieve, Ms. Hartman has been tapped to serve on the board of directors for two national foundations: the Justin Blalock Foundation, headed by the former Plano East and Texas Longhorns football player and current Atlanta Falcon, and "Richie's Spirit Foundation," which honors late Plano Senior High School student Richie Herskowitz who struggled with cystic fibrosis.

Ms. Hartman and her husband Michael and son Jordan have called Plano home for 13 years. During that time, she opened Skaggs Elementary School as a fifth grade teacher, and she has served as a gifted specialist at Saigling and Wells elementary schools.



*Donna Hartman commented to a DISCOVER student at Weatherford Elementary School, during a show-and-tell lesson in which students shared about items from home that represent them.*

## Clark HS Team Leader Honored by World Affairs Council

Nicole Vickerman, Clark High School World Geography Team Leader, has been honored as runner up for the "International Educator" award by the Dallas/Ft. Worth World Affairs Council. She was recognized at the Council's awards luncheon held in September, which featured Author Thomas Friedman, *New York Times* columnist and Pulitzer Prize winner.

Clark High School's 2008 Teacher of the Year, and a Plano ISD 2008 Excellence in Teaching Award winner, Ms. Vickerman said, "As a product of Plano schools, I am one of many teachers who returned to teach where we learned. The one thing that all my favorite teachers had in common was their enthusiasm. They were fascinated by their subject and found joy in sharing it with their students."

Ms. Vickerman started the Clark Junior World Affairs Council, whose 2007-08 student members met the ambassador of South Africa and attended a Save Darfur event sponsored by the World Affairs Council that featured an HBO documentary and several distinguished speakers. Her group organized a Red Hand Day event at Clark in cooperation with the UN to bring awareness to the issue of child soldiers. This year, she took students to hear Thomas Friedman speak about his book "Hot, Flat and Crowded" and Sashi Tharoor speak on his book "The Elephant, the Tiger and the Cell Phone." In addition, her students are planning to compete in the World Affairs Council's International Essay Contest and World Quest. Her own involvement with the Council includes presenting curriculum as part of its World in Transition program as well as a "fantastic, amazing, wonderful trip to Turkey this summer," she said. Ms. Vickerman has worked since 2002 to overhaul the district's World Geography curriculum with a focus on TEKS and long term comprehension. Since 2004, she has served on the Pre-AP/IH (Advanced Placement/International Honors) World Geography Curriculum Committee, which created the first unified Pre-AP curriculum for Plano ISD. "Teaching is not a job; it is a personality trait, and I hope I am to my students what my best teachers were to me," said Ms. Vickerman. Read more online at: [www.pisd.edu](http://www.pisd.edu).



*Nicole Vickerman*



*Nicole Vickerman started the Clark High School Junior World Affairs Council, whose members educate others about international issues. Pictured are members of the school's 2007-08 World Quest competition team.*

## Notable Notes...

### Congratulations, parents and grandparents:

Wells Elementary School staff members **Amanda Viavattene**, first grade teacher, and her husband **Trent** announced the birth of son **Riley Sullivan** (7 lbs. 15 ozs.) on September 19, and **Cory Balch**, physical education teacher, and his wife **Alana** announced the birth of son **Myles Rylan** (8.5 lbs.) on October 7; and **Jamie McClendon**, Bethany Elementary School fourth grade teacher, welcomed daughter **Raelee Sue** on October 6.

### Sympathy is extended to these current and former employees:

Terri Persson, Beaty Early Childhood School teaching assistant, whose mother **Arline Miller** died on September 24; **Dr. H. Wayne Hendrick**, retired Plano ISD superintendent of schools, whose wife **Elizabeth** passed away on October 11; **Cathy Reagan**, Schimelpfenig Middle School sixth grade math teacher, whose sister-in-law **Tina Shaw** died on October 11; **Paula McCurry**, Weatherford Elementary School PASAR site manager, whose mother **Lou Rene Lynch** passed away on October 14; and **Kyle Lockhart**, Bethany Elementary School fifth grade teacher, whose grandmother died recently.

### Thought for the Week:

*"Within every child's brain is a mind teeming with ideas and dreams and abilities unrealized."*

-Dr. Ben Carson

