



## 'Empowering Parents' Oct. 1 at Williams HS

Plano ISD parents are invited to a districtwide workshop, "Empowering Parents," to be held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 1, at Williams High School, 1717 17th Street in Plano. Attendees will hear from dynamic consultants Darlene V. Willis, Ph.D., and Martha Parham, who will give parents with children in grades PreK-12 important information to make educational decisions to ensure positive experiences for their students. Child care will be available. Dr. Willis and Ms. Parham are motivational speakers who empower parents and students to take control of their educational journey. Their presentations are interactive and incorporate music, poetry and statistics to further their message of college readiness. Earlier in the day, on October 1, all freshmen AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) students will hear from the speakers as will all school principals during their general meeting. For additional information about the evening workshop and the presenters, visit the district Web site at: [www.pisd.edu](http://www.pisd.edu).

### Dateline

#### September 18

Educator grants applicant workshop, if needed: 4:30 p.m. Admin. Bldg., Room 311

#### September 24

Educator Grants Due to Supervisors: [grants.pisd.edu](http://grants.pisd.edu)

Elementary Early Release at Noon (No ECS a.m. classes)

#### September 25

New date for Plano East vs. Plano football game; Location: Clark Stadium

#### October 1

"Empowering Parents," 6:30 p.m., Williams HS

#### October 2

End of First Six Weeks

#### October 5-11

Fire Prevention Week

View more details online: [www.pisd.edu/calendar](http://www.pisd.edu/calendar)

## 'Family Services Schools' Pilot Unique Programs to Support Students and Families at Three Campuses

On September 15, Jackson Elementary School faculty and staff skipped Monday night football in favor of launching a series of Monday evening educational meetings for Jackson families in need.

Jackson parents and students were met at the students' usual bus stops by Jackson staff members and were transported to Frankford Middle School by bus. Greeting families at Frankford were additional Jackson staff members who brought refreshments. The Jackson staff and other local community resource representatives spent the evening sharing information with families about a host of community services.

Jackson's meeting served as the first of its kind for a district-wide effort to support what Dr. Cathy Galloway, executive director of student and family services, calls "Family Services Schools." The three pilot campuses are Jackson, Meadows and Sigler elementary schools. Meadows and Sigler will launch similar programs at their campuses in October.



Jackson Elementary School faculty and staff greeted families attending a September 15 kick-off program. Pictured are students Steven and Adrian West with mom Maria (front, right) and Jackson staff (l-r) Patricia Hempstead, Eunice Lee, Kris Benson, Robyn Pitcock, Clarice Sayles, Barbara Kuwitzky and Sarah Liebel; and Student and Family Services Director Mark Allen and Executive Director Dr. Cathy Galloway.



Nancy Dansby with CHIPS (Children's Health Insurance Program) assisted the Sauz family, including baby Adoth, while the Rodriguez family waited its turn to learn more about the CHIPS program.

Mark Allen, student and family services director, said that Jackson Principal Kris Benson chose to first "meet the parents where they live." More than 100 family members attended this first meeting, including 52 parents, reported Ms. Benson, who said, "The parents were thrilled to have their questions answered, learn about community resources and to be asked about their needs. Many children came up to us the next day and said they 'loved last night at school'." Parents expressed a variety of needs, including assistance with English, family nutrition, computer skills, how to get around on DART, survivor skills (ex. how to open a checking account) and where the closest library is located. "We are thrilled that they expressed their needs, and we are fast at work in making plans to meet those needs," said Ms. Benson. "Our entire staff is dedicated to making all of our families feel they are an integral part of the Jackson community."



Jackson Principal Kris Benson greeted families who were bused to Frankford Middle School for the first in a series of family meetings scheduled this school year. "We welcome you and want you to stay involved, because you are an important part of our school," she told the approximately 100 program guests.

### Meadows Elementary School & Head Start "Rededication" September 21

The Plano ISD Board of Trustees welcomes the community to attend the "rededication" of Meadows Elementary School and the Head Start program at a ceremony to be held at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 21, at Meadows, 2800 18th Street in Plano. The school, which serves 500 students in grades K-5 and 150 Head Start students, recently underwent a full renovation with funds from the 2004 Plano ISD Bond Program. The original school, opened in 1963, was ultimately torn down this summer as the result of a two-year construction/renovation project to build a brand new facility. Bryan Bird is principal at Meadows, and Tina Hardison serves as Head Start administrator.



Head Start Hedgehogs



Meadows Bulldogs

## Board Briefs...

In addition to hearing a college-readiness report (see article at right), school trustees discussed the following topics at their September 16 work session:

### Legislative Priorities

Trustees and members of the superintendent's cabinet narrowed discussion topics and finalizing points for inclusion in a legislative platform to share with the school community. Headings are: recommended graduation plans, accountability, adequacy, capacity for growth and local control. Plano ISD officials will meet with state legislators regarding the platform in anticipation of the Texas Legislature's 81st Regular Session which begins on January 13, 2009. Plano ISD's legislative platform will be published in this newsletter and on the district Web site at: [www.pisd.edu](http://www.pisd.edu).

### STARS Schools Update

Trustees heard an update from Mike Collinsworth, east cluster area assistant superintendent, who shared annual statistics regarding student performance at the school district's six STAR schools: Hickey, McCall, Meadows, Memorial, Mendenhall and Forman elementary schools. The faculty at these campuses provide after-school and Saturday tutoring programs for students to help reinforce skills and as preparation for success on state-mandated TAKS exams. In addition to charts outlining student scores on the TAKS tests, Mr. Collinsworth's report included detailed "STAR Effect" charts: predictions of student success without the STAR program and actual student success due to the STAR program. The complete report may be viewed online at: [www.pisd.edu](http://www.pisd.edu).

### Correction

In the September 12 issue, we incorrectly reported that a new "Community Resources Directory" was developed by the Plano ISD Diversity Advocacy Committee. The organizing group was actually the Plano ISD Diversity Steering Committee.

## 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)

## College-Readiness Indicators Show Increases in All Aspects of Plano ISD's Preparatory Programs

### SAT, ACT, IB, AP, Concurrent Enrollment Participation & Scores Increase

Plano ISD senior high school students' scores on college entrance exams - Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) and American College Test (ACT) - increased significantly and far exceeded state and national averages in 2008. In addition, senior high school students took more Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) exams and concurrent enrollment classes in 2007-08. Also, at the high school level, the number of AP exams administered increased.

School trustees heard these and other indicators of Plano students' college readiness in a report presented at their September 16 work session by Paul Weaver, director of guidance and counseling. Read highlights here, and find the complete report online at: [www.pisd.edu](http://www.pisd.edu).

### 2007-2008 College Readiness Indicators

✓Plano students' overall composite SAT score increased by 12 points. The ACT composite score also increased. Scores on both SAT and ACT far exceeded state and national averages.

✓Number of senior high school students taking AP courses increased by 208 for a total of 2,864 students.

✓Number of AP tests administered at the senior high schools increased by 792 for a total of 7,784 tests.

✓Number of senior high school students who scored 3 or higher on AP tests increased from 72% to 78%.

✓Number students enrolled in AP courses at the high school level increased by 232 for a total of 1,082.

✓Number of AP tests given at the high schools increased by 277 for a total of 1,150.

✓Number of students participating in concurrent enrollment courses at senior high schools also increased. Students earned concurrent enrollment through Collin College in the following courses: US History, Government, Economics and English IV.

## Professional Achievements



L. Shuttlesworth

### Lynda Shuttlesworth Named Texas Elementary Counselor of the Year

Congratulations to Plano ISD Coordinator of Family Education and Guidance Services Lynda Shuttlesworth, who captured the 2008 Elementary Counselor of the Year Award to be presented by the Texas School Counselor Association at the group's annual professional growth conference on November 7 in Houston. Selected from among school counselors across the state for her dedication and contribution to the counseling profession, Ms. Shuttlesworth has 40 years of experience in public school education.

Newly-appointed coordinator in the district's student and family services department, Ms. Shuttlesworth served for six years as counselor at Thomas Elementary School, which serves more than 100 economically-disadvantaged and higher-need students. She has also served as counselor at Brinker and Forman elementary schools, as principal intern at seven elementary schools, and as a curriculum writer for the counseling department. She began her career in the Jenks, Oklahoma, public school system as a teacher, counselor and assistant principal. Her community service work includes serving as a facilitator and organizing meals for the local "Journey of Hope" grief support group.

**Jasper High School Teacher Named 2008 'Tech Titan' Finalist** ~ The Metroplex Technology Business Council, the largest technology trade organization in Texas, has named Patricia Kite, Jasper High School Honors Biology teacher, as a finalist in the "Tech Titan of the Future" high school-level competition, as part of the 8th Annual Tech Titans and Fast 50 Awards. The Tech Titan Awards recognize outstanding information technology organizations and individuals in the North Texas area who have made significant contributions to the industry during the past year. The 2008 Tech Titan Award winners will be revealed at the Tech Titans and Titan Fast 50 Awards gala event to be held at the Marriott Legacy Town Center in Plano on September 26. Read more about the event at: [www.metroplextbc.org/techtitans](http://www.metroplextbc.org/techtitans).

## Notable Notes...

### Best wishes to these newlywed employees:

☐Terri Worley, Rice Middle School choir director, became the bride of **Andrew Hamilton** on May 24; **Amy Eisenmann**, Saigling Elementary School first grade teacher, wed **Andrew Siefers** in June and **Lori Swann**, Saigling second grade teacher, married **Jim Reyes** in July; and **Molly Twist**, Pearson Early Childhood School speech-language pathologist, became the bride of **David Schulte** on August 2.

### Congratulations to these proud parents and grandparents:

☐**Sarena Edwards**, Rice Middle School eighth grade counselor, and her husband **Jeff Holt**, welcomed twin girls **Julia Mary Alice** and **Allison Carol** on July 21; and **Hannah Shorey**, Sigler Elementary School PACE teacher, welcomed her seventh grandchild **Tyler James** (7 lbs. 11 ozs.) on July 23. Proud parents are **Kara and John LuBow**.

☐**Jeremy Puckett**, Williams High School police liaison officer, and his wife **Misty** announced the recent birth of their daughter **Tinley** on August 11; **Jim Dunlap**, Holifield Science Learning Center Living Materials Center curator-instructor, and his wife **Peggy** welcomed granddaughter **Sophia Rose** on August 28. Proud parents are **Erin and Mike Martinez**; and **Leslie Meadows**, Weatherford Elementary School second grade teacher, and her husband **Brett** welcomed son **Jake Ryan** (6 lbs. 14 ozs.) on August 26.

☐**Jennifer Kelman**, Rose Hagar Elementary School kindergarten teacher, and her husband **Dana** welcomed daughter **Grace Ella** (7 lbs. 5 ozs.) recently; and **Judy Case**, financial services accounts payable specialist, is proud to announce the September 15 birth of her third grandchild **Jacob Duncan** (8 lbs. 5 ozs.).

### Sympathy is extended to the following employees:

☐**Judy Case**, financial services accounts payable specialist, whose mother **Viola Guest** passed away on June 19; **Maureen Watson**, Davis Elementary School special education teaching assistant, whose mother **Winnie McAndrews** of Davenport, Iowa, died on September 6.

### Thought for the Week:

"Every artist was first an amateur."

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

**UNIVERSITY READY**  
[ur.pisd.edu](http://ur.pisd.edu)

Parents and students can log on to Plano ISD's "University Ready" Web site to find vast resources and links related to college preparation. Career, academic, personal, financial and admissions readiness are featured on the site.

