

Plano ISD Education Foundation

February/2011

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Program Spotlight

Dallas Cowboys' Felix Jones joined Wells Elementary School students and staff in the fight against hunger during a SLANT 45 event sponsored in part by the Plano ISD Education Foundation, Bank of America, Big Thought and more. SLANT 45 events have been held in several Plano schools this fall.

The Plano ISD Education Foundation partnered with title sponsor Bank of America, which conducted food drives involving 210 fourth and fifth grade students, including students at Mitchell and Wells elementary schools in Plano ISD.

Foundation Ski Plano Event Nets Nearly \$200,000 For PISD Teachers and Students

The Plano ISD Education Foundation is pleased to announce that its 15th Annual Ski Plano fundraiser raised nearly \$200,000 for programs which will benefit Plano ISD students and staff.



[Watch the Ski Plano 2011 video which features event guests including \(pictured above\) James Muns, W.T. Greer and Doug Otto.](#) 

Ski Plano Chair Joa Muns, Co-Chair Rebecca Egelston-Caso and the Ski Plano Committee hosted more than 800 supporters of Plano ISD joined the Education Foundation during Ski Plano: "An Extraordinary Evening on the Mountaintop" held on January 29 at Southfork Ranch.

Ski Plano Co-Chairs Rebecca Egelston-Caso and Joa Muns are pictured with W.T. Greer, Plano graduate and event emcee.

Guests enjoyed the evening's activities including a seated dinner and dancing to the music of Mars Hill. Other entertainment included the live auction, the silent auction, and the one-of-a-kind Avalanche raffle.

Ski Plano offered an evening of fun and games with a definite purpose -- to focus attention on the community's opportunities to support academic achievement for all Plano ISD students through support of the Foundation.

"Ski Plano is one of the largest events in Collin County," said Chair Joa Muns. "It is a casual and fun event that is enjoyable for everyone. More importantly, it provides funds for important programs that help enhance the education of all children."

Singer and songwriter W. T. Greer, a 1981 graduate of Plano Senior High School, performed songs and serve as emcee. His work, which has been heard around the world, is synonymous with class and romance and he is known as the Nat King Cole of the new generation.



Through "Hunger No More," an initiative of the SLANT 45 campaign (SLANT stands for "Service Learning Adventures of North Texas"), the students helped decorate and stuff lunch bags for Meals on Wheels clients. They also participated in fun exercise classes designed to teach students that taking care of others starts with taking care of themselves.

On hand in Plano schools to help instruct student exercise classes and support the project, and with the support of Bank of America, were Dallas Cowboys running back Felix Jones (Wells Elementary School) and former Dallas Cowboy defensive tackle Russell Maryland (Mitchell Elementary). [View Mitchell Video...](#) [View Wells Video.](#)

Thrill of the Grill 5K
Save the Date

Its spring time in Texas and there is no better way to enjoy the weather and the outdoors than to grab some friends and family to come out for a morning run and then some sizzle on the grill. Oh yes, it's the 3rd annual Central Market Thrill of the Grill 5K benefiting The Plano ISD Education Foundation. This year's event will be on Saturday, April 30, 2011. [Register today or sign up to volunteer.](#)





Custer's Last Band performed opening music at Ski Plano.

The evening's activities featured opening music by Custer's Last Band, a seated dinner, dancing to the music of Mars Hill and silent and live auctions. Several generous guests were lucky winners of these auction items.

Sampling of Live Auction Items

- **Park Place Lexus Super Model Sampler:** Drive a different Lexus every month for a year!
- **Tickets for two to Super Bowl XLV on February 6 at Cowboy Stadium:** Tickets for two to four different VIP Super Bowl parties; Dinner for two at The Place and Avanti's; autographed quarterback jersey from one of the teams.
- **"Dancing with the Stars":** Two VIP tickets to a live taping in celebrity guest section (Spring 2011), plus three night hotel stay in Los Angeles and airfare for two.
- **Game night in the Capital One Suite for Dallas Stars vs. Minnesota Wild:** March 11, 2011, including 18 tickets, food, beverages and Platinum parking passes.
- **Be a winner at the 2011 ESPY Awards in Los Angeles:** Tickets for two with three night hotel stay and airfare for two.
- **Willow Bend Shopping Extravaganza:** \$3,000 gift card, limousine transportation and lunch for four at Mariposa.
- **Napa Country Getaway:** Private tours, chauffeur, three nights hotel stay at Meritage Resort & Spa, train excursion and airfare for two.
- **Italian Dinner for 12 at Maggiano's Little Italy**

Silent Auction Items: Hundreds of silent auction items were available to browse and bid on at the Ski Plano event.



New This Year: Guests whose bidder number was on line five of a bid sheet were entered into a drawing for a Dell Inspiron 14R Netbook computer. The lucky winners were Al and Marce Hernandez. Guests also enjoyed playing the game "Heads or Tails" with one person winning two Southwest Airlines tickets. The lucky winner was Sheri Steele.

Grants to Educators program at work in the classroom. . .

Dear Plano ISD Education Foundation Members,

I wanted to give you an update on our grant, Math R.U.L.E.S.

We sent out a request for help to the parents of Aldridge, and in a short while, we had 19 parent volunteers lined up and ready to assist. One of our volunteers offered to lead the project, and she certainly has the organizational skills of a project manager.

Our incredible parent volunteers have started to bind the game booklets. Game cards have already been cut and put into labeled bags. Our basic supplies are here, and we are waiting on just a few more of the math manipulatives to arrive. A logo was created, and the backpacks have arrived from the printer.

I have taken some pictures throughout the process, and our lead volunteer is keeping my camera to continue taking pictures as the parents work throughout the school day. I will send a copy of our photographs logging our journey from our idea to our finished "product." Obviously and most importantly, we are excited for the backpacks to be ready for student use!

It is amazing to see the teamwork in our school as our vision becomes a reality.

On behalf of Aldridge and the Math Vertical Team,

Sheri Steele won the "Heads or Tails" fundraiser..

The firm of Gay, McCall, Isaacks, Gordon and Roberts returned as the Aspen Sponsor. James and Betty Muns served as Sun Valley sponsors. Vail Sponsors were Capital One; Texas Instruments; Innovative Solutions for Education; and Abernathy, Roeder, Boyd and Price, P.C. and Verizon.

thank you again for believing in our project.

Julie Stanley
Aldridge Elementary
1st grade
Math Vertical Team
Leader

Raise Money While You Shop

Kroger customers can now earn money for the Foundation with each purchase. Simply print the [form](#) and bring it with you to your next visit and begin supporting the Foundation.

Community Honor Roll



SAVE *the* DATE



PLANO
Independent School District

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Race to Nowhere

JOIN *the* CONVERSATION ON
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21 at 7:00 PM

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and

WILLIAMS HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM
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at WWW.PISD.EDU/RACETONOWHERE

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Plano Independent School District and the Plano ISD Education Foundation invite you to join this national conversation about student learning. Limited seating will be available for this February 21 local event. Reservations are required. Visit the [Plano ISD website](#) for an online registration form, which is coming soon. With your attendance, you will be invited to join an ongoing dialogue.

Students Attend Overnight Science Camp: Special Thanks to Encana Oil & Gas

Thanks to a recent \$15,000 donation by Encana Oil & Gas (USA), Inc., to the Plano ISD Education Foundation, More than 3,500 Plano ISD 5th grade students packed their bags and headed off for Collin County Adventure Camp this fall.

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Have you joined the Community Honor Roll? The ever increasing public school budget crisis will make community support imperative in continuing the educational excellence we have come to expect. Show your support today at www.pisd.edu/foundation. All donations over \$50 receive an

"I Love Plano ISD" sign.

young people. Thanks to a recent \$15,000 donation by Encana Oil & Gas (USA), Inc., the [Plano ISD Education Foundation](#) was able to underwrite 900 student scholarships.



Students at Collin County
Adventure Camp

Collin County Adventure Camp hosts a long-standing overnight environmental science instructional camp for students in the Plano ISD, which offers 5th grade students two-and-a-half days of experiential learning at a nature center.

"For many students, this is their first time being away from home and in an outdoor setting. We are fortunate Plano ISD can provide this opportunity through the Outdoor School Program at Collin County Adventure Camp," said Brian Thomas, camp coordinator.

"It is a chance for students to interact with their teachers and friends and enhance their education by studying in an outdoor classroom."

"With an increasing economically disadvantaged student population in our schools and community, many families can no longer afford to pay for fee-based camps," said Monica Shortino, executive director of the Plano ISD Education Foundation. "In PISD, more than 25 percent of students are on the free or reduced lunch plan. We are thankful for Encana's support which enables students the continued opportunity for this enriching program."



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