



School Board Candidate Forum on Cable TV

A taped version of the April 17 School Board Candidate Forum, sponsored by the Plano ISD Key Communicators, will air daily at 3:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. through the Saturday, May 13, school board election. The forum was held at the Plano ISD Administration Building and featured candidates running for a seat on the Plano ISD Board of Trustees in the May 13 election.

Place 6

*Melody Timinsky
Robert Canright

Place 7

Nathan Barbera
Missy Bender

*incumbent

General Election Early Voting

May 1-6 – 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
May 8-9 – 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Collin County Elections
Department, 2010 Redbud,
Suite 102 (McKinney)

Carpenter Park Recreation
Center, 6701 Coit Road

Christ United Methodist
Church, 3101 Coit Road

Christopher A. Parr Library
6200 Windhaven Parkway

Harrington Library
1501 18th Street

Municipal Complex, 206 N.
Murphy Road (Murphy)

Plano ISD Administrative
Center, 2700 W. 15th Street

Renner Frankford Library
6400 Frankford Rd. (Dallas)

Election Day - May 13

7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Polling places and precinct
assignments are posted at:
[www.pisd.edu/about.us/
board.of.trustees/
board.election.shtml](http://www.pisd.edu/about.us/board.of.trustees/board.election.shtml).

Hightower and Sigler Multilingual Educators Selected 2006 Metroplex Bilingual, ESL Teachers of the Year



Be Janet Teng (above) in Mexico during a fall 2005 Fulbright Scholar trip. María Márquez (right) captured the Plano ISD 2005 Elementary Teacher of the Year title.



Two award-winning Plano ISD educators – María Elena Márquez, Sigler Elementary School First Grade Bilingual Team Leader, and Be Janet Teng, Hightower Elementary School ESL teacher – captured 2006 Teacher of the Year Awards presented by BEAM (Bilingual Education Association of the Metroplex) at the group's annual conference held on April 8 at Plano West Senior High School.

Vangie Cortez, Plano ISD director of multilingual education, presented the awards to Ms. Márquez and Ms. Teng at the BEAM conference. She remarked, "These outstanding educators approach the teaching and learning process with a remarkable sense of responsibility and are guided in their actions by the deep-seated conviction that every student is important, that education matters and that one teacher can make a difference. Their daily work in the classroom is performed *con orgullo y excelencia* (with much pride and excellence)."

Ms. Márquez, who was crowned Plano ISD Elementary Teacher of the Year in May, 2005, was also honored by LULAC (League of United Latin American Citizens) for teaching excellence at its annual banquet held in October, 2005. Ms. Teng, Plano ISD's 2002 Elementary Teacher of the Year, was also recently named among 20 educators to *USA TODAY*'s "All-USA Teacher Team." Both educators hold students to high standards and assist parents as partners in their children's education.

Facility Services Manager Demonstrates Leadership in Paraprofessional Roles at School and District Offices

This is the second in a series of articles featuring Dr. Doug Otto's four Superintendent Service Award winners. Read more online at www.pisd.edu/news.

As office manager for Plano ISD's Facility Services Department, Karen Anderson supports the administration as well as the staff, "and ultimately the students," she said. In her role, she oversees office management in support of 100 facility services employees responsible for repair and maintenance of the school district's more than 75 buildings and grounds. Her philosophy? "You are primary when you call our office and need assistance," she said.



Tim Castilaw, director of facility services, said, "Karen is tireless in her efforts to deliver world-class performance...On numerous occasions she has provided expert advisement concerning budgeting procedures, business correspondence and fiscal planning. She is extremely loyal, ensuring that every dollar spent has one purpose in mind: to serve the children."

Ms. Anderson joined the Plano ISD staff in 1994 as a special education assistant at Shepton High School. She later assisted in the school's library and as office registrar. She moved to Huffman Elementary School in 1999, where she served as office manager through summer, 2005. In her role at Huffman, she was recognized by the PTA with the Star Leadership Award for supporting students by working with parents and coordinating staff requirements. Also, her principal presented Karen with leadership awards in 2003 and 2004. She has served as second vice-president of PEOPA (Plano Education Office/Paraprofessional Association) and coordinated several of its community service activities.



Hightower Memorializes School Namesake

Hightower Elementary School hosted a memorial dedication on April 7 celebrating the life of school namesake John Freeman Hightower (1915 - 2005). Guests included Dr. Myrtle Nash Hightower, wife of the late Mr. Hightower and retired Plano ISD administrator (pictured at right), Hightower Principal Mariea Sprott, Mayor Pat Evans, and other school and city leaders. At the ceremony, a bronze bench in memory of Mr. Hightower was unveiled by Hightower Teacher of the Year Amanda McElyea. A memorial plaque was presented by T.J. Johnson of the Hightower Foundation. Throughout his career in Plano ISD, Mr. Hightower touched the lives of students in many capacities, including as a counselor, director of special services and coordinator of ethnic relations, prior to his retirement.



Staff Transfer Requests Due in Early May

Based on several factors, including 95% support from the Plano Principals Association, the human resources division announces new deadlines for teachers and other support professionals to apply for transfers. To be on the district transfer list, staff members must make requests by May 8. Deadline for lateral transfers will be May 12. These deadlines, which do not apply to paraprofessionals, auxiliary and central administration staff, will provide school principals with knowledge of requests before the school year ends and provide employees with information about their transfer status prior to summer. Employees can find transfer information, forms and contact information at: inside.pisd/hr/services/TransferRequest.shtml.

Elementary Schools to Host Senior Reunions



Plano ISD elementary schools will host "senior reunions" during the month of May for Class of 2006 graduates. The reunions provide a time for classmates to reminisce with high school friends, teachers and staff members about elementary school days and share their plans for the future. A list of reunions is online at: www.pisd.edu/news.

Asian American Festival May 7

The 3rd Annual Asian American Heritage Festival will be held from 12:00 to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 7, in Downtown Plano's Haggard Park. The free event will include lion dances, songs, arts and crafts, ethnic food, a fashion show and more. Visit: AsianAmericanHeritage.org

District Digest

E-mail: digest@pisd.edu

Phone: (469) 752-8030

Website:

www.pisd.edu/news

eNews listserv:

www.pisd.edu/eNews.htm



Retirement Receptions

Colleagues and friends of retiring employees are invited to mark their calendars to attend the following receptions to be hosted at retirees' work sites. An updated list of receptions is maintained on our district web site at: www.pisd.edu/news.

Administration – Kay Anderson and Sue Jepsen - May 5 at 3:30 p.m.; Dick Theford - May 17 at 3:30 p.m. **Beverly** – Glenda Smith - May 15 from 4 to 6 p.m. **Bogges** – Jane Wylie and Mariann Pirkle - May 5, 3:30 to 5 p.m. **Carlisle** – Jane Hellman and Susie Hanneman - May 16 at 3:30 p.m. **Christie** – Linda Norsworthy - May 8 from 3:30 to 5 p.m. **Daffron** – Mary Pettit - May 9 from 4 to 6 p.m. **Harrington** – Thelma White - April 24 from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. **Hedgcoxe** – Sue Chappell - May 15 from 4 to 5:30 p.m. **Hendrick** – Kathy Keenan, Elaine Templeton and Lester Kimbriel - May 3 from 4 to 6 p.m. **Mathews** – Monica Carr Wilson - May 16 from 3 to 5 p.m. **Meadows** – Nadia Tudor - May 17 from 3 to 5 p.m. **Memorial** – Louise W. Davis - April 25 from 4 to 6 p.m. **Plano East** – Roger Ezell and Marty Taylor - May 16 at 4:30 p.m. **Rice** – Carol Johnson - May 16 from 4 to 6 p.m. **Schimelpfenig** – Janet Flynn, Robin Poydence, Linda Pedigo, Jill Shafer and Peggy Stinson - May 3 at 3:45 p.m. **Sigler** – Kathy Wallace - May 4 from 4 to 5:30 p.m. **Williams** – Jorge Morales, Sally Everett and Diana Williamson - May 24 from 3 to 5 p.m.

Superintendent Applauds Advisory Committee Members, Provides Legislative Update During Recognition Breakfast



Superintendent of Schools Dr. Doug Otto commended members of several district advisory committees for their dedication to support the mission of Plano schools. "You are willing to be that 'essential piece' to complete the picture of Plano ISD - to ask, 'How can we make every child the best, no matter what his/her innate abilities?,'" he said during the district's April 20 Advisory Committee Breakfast. "We have a remarkable school district, thanks to a community of courageous men and women like you who are involved in our educational system and share their talents and resources to benefit students."

Dr. Otto's address to the group of district administrators, school personnel and community and business leaders, focused on the Texas Legislature's Special Session on School Finance currently underway in Austin. He reinforced Plano ISD's priorities for legislators, which focus on property tax relief and allowing schools to have meaningful discretion in setting budgets. "\$146 million is going out of Plano ISD in recapture payments to the state, roughly 34% of taxes collected to support education in Plano," he emphasized. "Had the Texas Coalition of Schools not filed suit in 2001 against the state for its school funding system, there would be no tax reform." Read PISD's priorities for the legislative special session online at: www.pisd.edu/news.



Notable Notes...

Congratulations to these proud parents and grandparents:

□ **Alicia McCaffrey**, Frankford Middle School math teacher, and her husband **Patrick** who welcomed son **Preston Blake** on February 7; **Megan McKelvey**, Beverly third grade teacher, and husband **Adam** on the birth of daughter **Mycah Grace** on February 8; **Karen and Mike Stanton**, Jasper High School English teachers, welcomed daughter **Jillian Hope** (7 lbs. 5 ½ ozs.) on February 11. Proud grandmother is **Mary Stanton**, Plano Senior High School English teacher; **David Kraft**, Jasper science teacher, and his wife **Vicki** welcomed a new baby boy **Connor Louis** (7 lbs.) on February 11; **Ruth Stover**, Jasper English teacher, welcomed granddaughter **McKenzie** (8 lbs. 4 ozs.) on February 13; and **Kelli Tisdale**, Schimelpfenig Middle School counselor, and husband **Bo** welcomed daughter **Ella Rose** (6 lbs. 15.2 oz.) on February 13.

□ **Becky Garrett**, Sockwell Center building manager, and her husband **Merlin** welcomed grandson **Jacob Walker** (8 lbs.) on February 15. Proud parents are **Jennifer and John Darling**; Daffron Elementary School's **Kristi LaViolette**, fifth grade teacher, and her husband **Stephen** welcomed daughter **Abigail Regan** (7lbs. 4 ozs.) on February 18; **Romy Paulson**, Daffron fourth grade teacher, and husband **Andy** welcomed daughter **Josie Kate** (7 lbs. 1 oz.) on February 16; **Sally Merla**, Bowman Middle School reading teacher, became the proud grandmother of **Cason Avery** (6 lbs. 9 ozs.) on February 22. Proud parents are **Celeste Merla and Tim Canaday**.



Sympathy is extended to the following employees:

□ **Lynn Simmons**, Plano Senior High educational technology teacher, whose mother **Wanda Simmons** died on December 23; **Melissa Galvan**, Wilson Middle School language arts teacher, who lost her uncle **Roland Galvan** on December 25 and grandfather **Joe Galvan** on January 12; **Victoria Elwood**, Haggard Middle School English teacher, whose father died on January 6; **Stan Entrekina**, Plano East Senior High CTA, whose father **Charles Entrekina** died on January 7; **Staff, students and parents** at Andrews Elementary who lost FANS Employee **Yun-Min (Ivy) Hu** on January 7; and **Ali Chase**, Bowman Middle School counselor, whose father **Harry Chase** died on January 9.

□ **Robin Poydence**, Schimelpfenig Middle School science teacher, whose mother **Virginia W. Neel**, died on January 30; **Lynette Clay**, Bowman Middle School special education paraprofessional, whose father **Leonard Clay** died on January 30; **RosaLinda Jackson**, Bowman special education paraprofessional, whose brother **Martin Lopez** died on February 15; and **Karen Ferrito**, Wilson band teacher, whose father-in-law **Peter Ferrito** passed away on January 14.

Thought for the Week:

"Setting an example is not the main means of influencing another, it is the only means."

–Albert Einstein