



## Schools Salute National Anthem September 14

On September 14, Plano ISD students and staff joined their peers across the United States in salute to the country's National Anthem. Kathy Kuddes, Plano ISD director of fine arts, noted that, "The second annual National



Students at Hunt Elementary School celebrated National Anthem Day with a school-wide chorus. Pictured are students in Trish Alway's first grade classroom.

Anthem Project represents an educational campaign to restore America's voice through music education."

The event, which is sponsored by The National Association for Music Education, resulted from a recent Harris Poll indicating that two out of three Americans do not know the words to "The Star-Spangled Banner," and that many are unaware of the historical events that inspired the penning of the song. The campaign aims to shine the spotlight on the importance of school music programs, as this is where most Americans learn the National Anthem and other patriotic songs. A list of Plano schools' activities may be viewed online at: [www.pisd.edu/news](http://www.pisd.edu/news).

## Plano ISD Celebrates 115 National Merit Semifinalists, Largest Number in School District's History

Dr. Doug Otto, Superintendent of Schools, announced this week that 115 senior students, the largest number in the district's history, have earned Semifinalist standing in the National Merit Scholarship Program.

"The district congratulates each of these scholastic champions," said Dr. Otto. "This is another measure that shows that the work of our students, teachers, parents and educational programs is a successful combination that enables our students to excel at high levels."

These academically talented students join approximately 16,000 students from across the U.S. as Semifinalists in the 52<sup>nd</sup> annual scholarship program. They now have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 8,200 scholarships worth \$33 million.

More than 1.4 million juniors in nearly 21,000 high schools entered the 2007 National Merit Program by taking the 2005 Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, which served as an initial screen of program entrants.

### Congratulations, National Merit Semifinalists!

**Plano East Senior High School** – Aaron B. Bumgarner, Jeremy Chao, Arhana Chattopadhyay, Meghali J. Chopra, Sonali N.Chopra, Lisa T. Do, Lauren A. Garofalo, Meha Goyal, Samantha M. Gribben, Shivani K. Gupta, Rashmi R. Kamath, Mimi Liu, Thomas F. Magbee, Julie C. Moczygomba, Nicole C. Oparaake, Ishwar Panneerselvam, Chris Patrick, David T. Quigley, Neha Satyanarayana, Ronak Shah, Sudip Singh, Janelle E. Teng, Bret Lamar Terry, Meera L. Venkataraman, Saipra Venkateswaran, Kayson Weng, Collin T. Zych

**Plano Senior High School** – Kailing Cai, Mengchen Cao, Kristen T. Carter, Jillian Catral, Vishal Chanani, Andrew T. Chang, Grace D. Chang, Ryan C. Chang, Jihai Chen, Felicity J. Cooper, Su Da, Aarthi S. Devanathan, Siyao M. Fan, David Gonzalez, Gabriel A. Ha, Jessica M. Hawkins, Michael H. Huang, Ye T. Huang, Bing H. Hui, Sheng Kuai, Amar S. Lakhian, M. Corey Lane, Ang Li, Richard Y. Li, Yin Liang, Melanie Lin, Calvin K. Liu, Christina A. Mosher, Lan-Anh Nguyen, Raahul Ramakrishnan, Amanda C. Sheu, Yini Shi, Peter Shih, Ruochen Sun, Ravi T. Sunkara, Catharine S. Thompson, Sophia W. Tsai, Jacqueline A. Tsay, Colin C. Vaz, Yuman Wang, Ziwei Xiang, Tianyi Xin, Louisa Xu, Dheeraj Yalamanchili, Lily Yan, Lulu E. Yan, Grace Yao, Nathan W. Yee, David Yen, Amy X. Zhang, Ning Zhang, Jeff Y. Zhao, Xinchun Zhao, Sunshine X. Zhou

**Plano West Senior High School** – Austin Ball, Elena Chen, Kenneth Chen, Christopher Collinsworth, Colin Crain, Morgan Dawer, Erin Dexter, Rong Fan, Tian Feng, Jennifer T. Fu, Benjamin Getson, Daniel Gonzalez, Michael Gunnels, Lisa Herrington, Ramon Ho, Kenan Ince, Danielle Koltz, Charles Lai, Suzanne Li, Xinlu Liu, Alexandru Marches, Andrew Mauney, Marin Mueller, Nnamdi Okoli, Linda Ou, Melanie Pribich, Akeel Rangwala, Hang Su, Joel Sun, Ross Taylor, Rachel Thompson, Felicia Tsao, Xin Wen, Andrew J. Wong

## Volunteer Faculty Members, Administrators Sought to Run for Election to District-Based Improvement Committee

Plano ISD is seeking faculty members and administrators to volunteer to run for election to the District-Based Improvement Committee. In compliance with Education Code 11.251, the committee's responsibilities include assisting the superintendent [or designee] in the development of the district improvement plan. The committee shall comprise 30 members, serving rotating terms, including teachers, parents, school and district administrators, business and community representatives.

Positions of faculty members and administrators on the committee are determined by election of their representative groups [elementary, middle, high/senior high, nonteaching district based professionals, and campus principals] from a slate of volunteers who have applied for a position on the committee.

Representatives shall serve staggered three-year terms. Vacancies to be filled on the committee are: four (4) elementary teachers, three (3) high/senior high school teachers, (1) one campus principal or non teaching professional (counselor), and four (4) nonteaching district based professionals.

Employees who are interested in volunteering to run for a position must complete the application below and submit it to the Office of the Associate Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, attention: Debra Bennett, no later than Friday, September 29. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number/Extension: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in filling one of the following open positions on the District-Based Improvement Committee in the following category: (check one)

- \_\_\_\_\_ Elementary classroom or special area teacher [including librarians]
- \_\_\_\_\_ High/senior high school classroom or special area teacher [including librarians]
- \_\_\_\_\_ Campus principals or nonteaching professional
- \_\_\_\_\_ Nonteaching district based professionals

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**Game Day Sponsor** for September 15 football action between Plano Senior High and Dallas Carter at Clark Stadium is Green Mountain Energy - [greenmountain.com](http://greenmountain.com). Tune into radio station 1190 AM and the Internet broadcast at: [k-12.pisd.edu/wcat](http://k-12.pisd.edu/wcat). Game Day Sponsor for the Plano East vs. Garland matchup at Kimbrough Stadium is *The Dallas Morning News* - [dallasnews.com](http://dallasnews.com) (no radio or Internet coverage).

## 'Major Mania' Sept. 19 for High School Students

All Plano ISD high school students are invited to attend "Major Mania" on Tuesday, September 19, at Plano West Senior High School. "The program is designed to offer students information on various college majors directly from the university professors that are teaching the subjects," explained PWSH Director of Counseling and Guidance Ann Raidt. "The intent is to encourage students to think about potential career paths." Faculty from top university programs will present information about such majors as:

Advertising  
Business  
Computer Science  
Engineering  
Hotel and Restaurant  
Management  
Music  
Pharmacy  
Psychology  
Physical Therapy  
Pre-med and Pre-dentistry  
Teaching  
Technology  
Theatre  
Science  
"Undecided" and more...

The program begins at 6:30 p.m. with a brief opening session in the Plano West auditorium. Students will then choose to attend two sessions at which area universities will present information on job forecasts for graduates in their related areas. Other topics will include: academic strengths needed for success in specific fields, courses typically required in the first two years of a normal degree plan in Texas, types of career paths to which specific degrees might lead and types of companies looking for specific degrees.

## 'Wolfpack Prowl' Fundraiser Sept. 16

Plano West Senior High School Band students and parents will be on the prowl the morning of Saturday, September 16, marching six miles through neighborhoods and shopping areas in west Plano to raise funds for the band and its activities. Persons making donations of \$50 or more will receive a mini-concert in their yard.

## District Digest

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

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## Kudos & News from Our Schools



### Best Pal in Texas for Deaf Education Students –

Jill Shepperd, Davis Elementary School principal, was honored recently by the Texas Association of Parents and Educators of the Deaf as the Outstanding Principal for Texas in 2006. She was presented with her award at the Statewide Conference for Educators of the Deaf in

Austin on July 24. Accomplishments noted were her interest in learning sign language, her understanding of parental decision-making in determining whether the student will be educated with speech only or with sign and speech, her flexibility with mainstreaming decisions, her acceptance of students with learning differences and the staff that comes with them, but most importantly, her ability to guide a Title I school with 50 deaf students to exemplary status.



Jill Shepperd



Anita Nance and Greta Lundgaard (l-r) at Beijing Normal University.

**Building Bridges in China** – Greta Lundgaard, Languages Other Than English (LOTE) coordinator, and Anita Nance, Jasper High School administrative intern, participated in the Chinese Bridge for American Schools Delegation this summer, with approximately 400 administrators from across the United States.

The program was sponsored in part by Hanban, China's Office of Chinese Language Council International and the College Board. Participants met with Chinese education leaders and visited provinces to learn about the culture, language and ways to bring Chinese language programs to U.S. schools. After four days of school visits and a reception at the Great Hall of The People in Beijing, Ms. Lundgaard visited Shanghai and schools there, and Ms. Nance visited Henan Province and schools there.

Plano ISD started its Chinese language program in 2004, and this fall debuts the Chinese 3 Honors course. Plano senior high schools will administer the Advanced Placement Chinese Language and Culture Exam in May, 2008.

## Notable Notes...

### Best wishes to the following newlyweds:

□ **Sarah Wiggins**, deaf education kindergarten teacher, wed **Eric Fromhold** on April 29; **Rochelle Smith**, Vines High School ESL team leader, wed **Michael Carter** on June 3. Rochelle's mother **Anita Smith** teaches fourth grade at Memorial Elementary; and **Laura Giles**, former special education team leader at Rose Haggard Elementary and current student achievement for west cluster schools, married **Dan Morgan** on September 1.

### Congratulations to these proud parents and grandparents:

□ **Kara and Jeff Gasaway**, Frankford Middle School social studies teacher, and Plano East Senior High associate principal, respectively, welcomed son **Hayden** (7 lbs. 6 ozs.) on June 30; **Sue Loomis**, Dooley Elementary principal, and husband **Ken** welcomed grandchild **Noah Parker** (6 lbs. 10 ozs.) on July 6. Proud parents are **Luke and Erin Dreiling**. Proud aunts are **Angie Loomis**, Beaty Early Childhood School, and **Erika Loomis**, Andrews Elementary School.

□ **Benny Logan**, transportation department safety trainer, announced the birth of grandson **Noah Andrew** (8 lbs. 6 ozs.), born on August 16 to proud parents **Joshua and Michelle Fallen**; Frankford Middle School Counselor **Maren Garza** and her husband **Scott** welcomed daughter **Madalyn Ann** (6 lbs. 7 ozs.) on August 17; **Kelly Mercer**, Plano West math teacher and coach, and wife **Natalie** welcomed their second daughter **Adyson Michelle** on September 2.

### Sympathy is extended to the following employees:

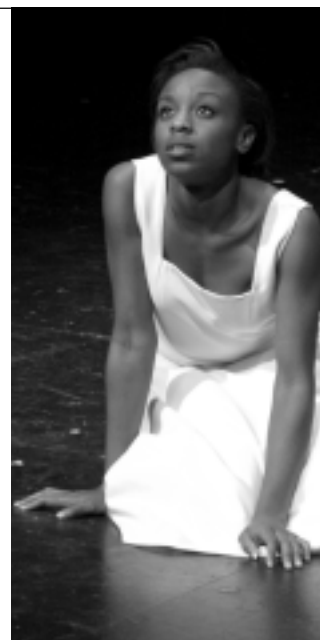
□ **Chris Marquez**, special education assistant at Murphy Middle School, whose mother **Susan Hidas** passed away on March 17; **Betty Teufel**, human resources coordinator, who lost her mother **Sybil Jordan** on July 7 and her father **O.L. Jordan** in October, 2005; Haggard Middle School PASP/AVID teacher **Angela Helenberger** whose stepmother **Cindy Rohde** died on August 3; and **David Bagley**, Haggard Middle School eighth grade history teacher, whose stepfather **Charles Cox** died on August 7.

## Meet Ozi Akagha - Class of 2006

On Broadway is where Ozi Akagha pictures herself in the future. "Working with others, I hope to create opportunities for the underprivileged. I will succeed at breaking barriers," she said. Ozi's dreams took shape while she attended Memorial Elementary, Bowman Middle School and Williams High School, before landing on stage at Plano East Senior High School, where she served as class president. Her final curtain call as a student in Plano schools brought her a "State Actress of the Year" award, when she and the cast and crew of Director Lisa Hale's production of "The Marriage of Bette and Boo" captured first place in the State UIL One-Act Play Theatre Contest in May. Following her stellar performance in Austin, Ozi took to the podium at Reunion Arena in Dallas to address her graduating class. "Be patient," said told her peers. "Have dreams and goals, and always leave your options open."



Ozi auditioned with the Meadows School of Art to attend the dual-admissions theatre program at SMU. She said that Plano schools prepared her well for the rigors of college classes. She enjoys listening to music, hanging out with friends and playing volleyball.



### Thought for the Week:

"Just like moons and like suns, with the certainty of tides, just like hopes springing high, still I'll rise."

—from "Still I Rise" by Maya Angelou