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Several businesses, schools and organizations have committed to supporting the Plano ISD Teacher of the Year Gala. Early thanks are extended to the following sponsors.

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2008 Plano ISD Teacher of the Year Nominees Selected by Peers for Recognition at May 8 Gala

Plano ISD Teachers of the Year will be honored the evening of Thursday, May 8, 2008, at Plano Centre, when nearly 1,400 educators, community leaders and sponsors gather for Plano ISD's Teacher of the Year Gala to celebrate teaching excellence. Teacher nominees, selected recently by their peers at each school, will be honored at the tribute dinner and awards ceremony. Plans for the gala are underway and being led by a committee of school district staff and community volunteers and co-chaired by Karla Oliver, executive director for government and community relations.

"The Teacher of the Year Gala is one of Plano ISD's most exciting events," noted Ms. Oliver who will join a group of district and community leaders to interview experienced teachers of the year and select Plano ISD's 2008 Elementary and Secondary Teachers of the Year. Winners will be announced at the gala.

Congratulations, 2008 Experienced Teachers of the Year!

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Kim Skipper - Aldridge | Julie Seymour - Davis | Juanita Hall - Mathews | Adelaide Rowden - Saigling |
| Hilary Atkinson - Andrews | David J. Houk - Dooley | Margie Flores - McCall | Kendall Allen, Jr. - Schell |
| Damaso Martinez - Armstrong | Martha Preston - Forman | Monica McCaffrey - Meadows | Laura Glenn - |
| Kelly Durrett - Barksdale | Cort Haynes - Frankford | Seema B. Shah - Memorial | Schimelpfenig |
| Nicole Cone - Barron | Mary Louise Easter - | Pat Archer - Mendenhall | Raquel Dixon - Shepard |
| Cindy Kellogg - Beaty | Gulledge | Janet S. Hahs White - Miller | Creed Hansen - Shepton |
| Melissa Bailey - Bethany | Floy Rorie - Haggard | Sherri Browning - Mitchell | Amber Alane Smith - |
| Stacey McAlister - Beverly | Donna Lam - Harrington | Ginger Williams - Murphy | Shiloh Center |
| Samantha Iliff - Bird | Louann Dunkle - Haun | Molly Twist - Pearson | Kelli Van Winkle - Sigler |
| Special Programs Center | Leslie Cotto - Head Start | Jennifer Bernabo - PESH | Janet Napoli - Skaggs |
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| Sarah Fischer - Bowman | Katie Brittain - Hendrick | Norval Lee Sykes - PWSH | Kellie Leehy - Thomas |
| Kris Hinds - Brinker | Melissa Patton - Hickey | Shelley Crowder - Razor | Trevor Dean - Vines |
| Sara Cyr - Carlisle | Hilary Lamb - Hightower | Elizabeth Cunningham - | Diana McMillan - |
| Rita Crow - Carpenter | Jennifer Schmitz - Huffman | Renner | Weatherford |
| Jeannie Morrison - Centennial | Benjamin Pirillo - Hughston | Caryn Crawshaw - Rice | Vicki Prouty - Wells |
| Janet Langford - Christie | Jessica Wilkinson - Hunt | Andrew Diewald - Robinson | Amber Evans - Williams |
| Nicole Vickerman - Clark | Kelly L. Musgrave - Jackson | Natalie Schellman - | Yvonne Bone - Wilson |
| Kathrine Ann Prentice - | Debra Nockels - Jasper | Rose Haggard | Tammy McCrary - Wyatt |
| Daffron | | | |

Congratulations, 2008 Beginning Teachers of the Year!

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Gena Garrison - Aldridge | Teri M. Miro - Daffron | Lisa Ricketts - Jasper | Laura Crook - Schell |
| Heidi Kendle - Andrews | Katee Brockhagen - Davis | Monica Alvarez - McCall | Yahaira Rodriguez - |
| Jamie Bell - Armstrong | Tanji Johnson - Dooley | Gina K. Duncan - Meadows | Schimelpfenig |
| Tat-Yu Sophia Si - Barksdale | Karin Leiva-Otzoy - Forman | Mayra Trejo - Memorial | Kylee Burwinkel - Shepard |
| Holly Elizabeth Mohrmann - | Allison Atchley - Frankford | Maria Del Pilar Arora - | Mia Biase - Shepton |
| Barron | Emily Hollingsworth - | Mendenhall | Kari Tolle - Sigler |
| Isabel Marquez - Beaty | Gulledge | Alison Staples - Miller | Catherine Taylor - Skaggs |
| Hue Troung - Beverly | Lori Greenho - Haggard | Amber Colberg - Mitchell | Hillary Brandise Leverton - |
| Pamela Tatum Hudson - | Linda Westenhiser - | Mark Fowler - Murphy | Stinson |
| Boggess | Harrington | Lynette Vanhorn - Pearson | Brian L. Pratt - Thomas |
| Juan Fernandez - Bowman | Tiffany Marie Alexander - | Jennifer Thorn - PESH | Mark Rudd - Vines |
| Marisa Petrucci - Brinker | Hendrick | Catherine Maggard - PSHS | Leah Williams - Weatherford |
| Kaycee Lockyer - Carlisle | Katie Bryan - Hickey | Melissa Collett - PWSH | Kathrin Basham - Wells |
| Joseph Elgie deLarios - | Kayla Kiser - Hightower | Lizzy Johnson - Razor | Sara McCarroll - Williams |
| Carpenter | Linda Aviles - Huffman | Christa Pezoulas - Renner | Donald Reaves - Wilson |
| Michelle R. Smith - Centennial | Laura Young - Hughston | Rob Chilton - Rice | Natalie Pullaro - Wyatt |
| Jennifer R. Altman - Christie | Jennifer Barron - Hunt | Kayla Gassiot - Robinson | |
| Lauren Reeves - Clark | Laurie F. Wallace - Jackson | Alisa Williams - Saigling | |

Each experienced teacher nominee will complete an essay question and be interviewed by a selection panel comprising administrators, teachers, parents and business and civic leaders, which will make the final selections for Plano ISD's Elementary and Secondary Teachers of the Year. The two winning candidates will be announced at the May 8 gala and will be recommended for participation in the Texas Teacher of the Year competition. Another panel of experts will review the written essays for the beginning teachers of the year and make recommendations for Plano ISD's Elementary and Secondary Beginning Teachers of the Year, who will also be announced at the May 8 gala.



Teacher of the Year Sponsorships Sought by Gala Planners

The Teacher of the Year Gala Planning Committee invites businesses and organizations to sponsor the May 8 gala. A contribution letter and agreement form may be downloaded from the district website at: www.pisd.edu/toty. Sponsors' generosity will be recognized in a gala printed program, on the district website and in district newsletters.

Board Briefs...

At their January 15 meeting, school trustees approved all consent agenda items and took the following action.

Autism Society Honor

Trustees were recognized by members of the Autism Society of Collin County during a presentation by PISD graduate Alvin Crofts.

2008-09 District Calendar

Karla Oliver, executive director for government and community relations, shared proposed calendars for next school year. Trustees requested that further options, in which semester exams conclude prior to winter break, be presented at their Feb. 5 board meeting.

TAKS Test Schedule

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Doug Otto shared information about the March TAKS testing and its conflict with the state's primary election voting to be conducted at several Plano schools. Since trustees met in January, the Texas Education Agency has revised the TAKS assessment schedule so that no tests are administered on March 4.

Family Services Expansion

Dr. Cathy Galloway, executive director of student and family services, presented a department update, outlining the establishment of a family services component to be woven through all aspects of existing services.

Staff Fingerprinting Law

Tamira Griffin, executive director of human resources, presented an update on the 80th Texas Legislature's Senate Bill 9 regarding national background checks for, and now fingerprinting of, district employees.

TASB Policy Update 81

Trustees adopted under second reading TASB Localized District Update 81.

School Board Meetings

Online Agenda: www.pisd.edu
Videotaped/Edited Meetings:

Cable Channel A31
Digital Channel 99
Verizon FIOS 33

8:00 p.m. - Mondays,
Wednesdays and Saturdays
Noon - Saturdays

District Digest

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Plano ISD School Trustees Honored as 'Super Heroes'



2007-08 Plano ISD Board of Trustees

Officers (seated, l-r) Lloyd "Skip" Jenkins, secretary; Duncan Webb, president; and Melody Timinsky, vice-president; (back row, l-r) John Muns, Mary Beth King, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Doug Otto, Missy Bender and Brad Shanklin.

The seven members of the Plano ISD Board of Trustees have "special vision" and "super commitment to excellence," students reminded them at their January 15 meeting. Trustees were honored during School Board Recognition Month, which was celebrated across the state of Texas in January.

Students from Jasper High School and Beverly, Weatherford and Wyatt elementary schools honored the board on behalf of the district's 53,000 students and 7,000 employees. The recognition followed a dinner provided by Plano ISD's Association of Texas Professional Educators.

Trustees took center stage, as students presented super hero-themed recognitions. Jasper students served as emcees, while students from Beverly presented a skit. Weatherford students presented trustees with one-of-a-kind super hero t-shirts bearing their photos, and Wyatt students performed a super hero rap.

State Honors Shepard and Wells Elementary Schools for Earning National NCLB ~ Blue Ribbon Recognition



Above: Wells Elementary School representatives Stefanie Ramos, principal (holding award) and Sonia Collins, counselor (second from left) are pictured with (l-r) State Education Commissioner Robert Scott, State Board of Education's Don McElroy and Plano ISD's Roxanne Burlison, area assistant superintendent for central cluster schools, and Dr. Doug Otto, superintendent of schools.

Right: (l-r) Shepard Elementary School's Mary Spickler, principal, and Sara Gibbs, fourth grade teacher, are pictured with Plano ISD Central Cluster Area Assistant Superintendent Roxanne Burlison and Deputy Superintendent Jeff Bailey.

Wells and Shepard elementary schools were honored on January 28 during the Texas Association of School Administrators' Mid-Winter Conference in Austin for having achieved recognition in the U.S. Department of Education's No Child Left Behind ~ Blue Ribbon School awards program. Wells was recognized for capturing the 2007 national award, and Shepard was honored for its 2008 state nomination. Blue Ribbon Schools are outstanding examples of student achievement and educator excellence.



Notable Notes...

❑ Best wishes to newlywed **Ann Cooper**, Miller Elementary School fifth grade teacher, who became the bride of **Mark Jezek** on December 28.

Congratulations to these proud parents and their relatives:

❑ **Amy Novotny**, Plano West Senior High School special education aide, and her husband **Matthew** announced the birth of son **Ethan** (8 lbs. 1 oz.) on October 25. Proud uncle is **Michael Novotny**, Jasper High School principal; Jasper speech teacher **Zach Gautier** and his wife **Jennifer** became the proud parents of son **Caleb Matthew** (7 lbs. 2 oz.) on January 7, and Jasper special education assistant **Holley Equez** and her husband **Olvis** announced the birth of their son **Olvis "Ollie"** born in early January.

❑ **Tiffani Makahilahila**, Wilson Middle School Title 1 math teacher, and her husband **Keoki** welcomed their second daughter **Kamaile Lynn** on November 19; **Kathleen White**, Haggard Middle School sixth grade teacher, and her husband **Rob** announced the birth of daughter **Tatum Elizabeth** (7 lbs. 1 oz.) on January 15. Proud aunt is **Carrie Stock**, Wilson Middle School eighth grade English teacher; **Surehka Patel**, Miller Elementary fifth grade teacher, and her husband **Jitesh** welcomed new son **Dylan** last fall.

Sympathy is extended to the following employees:

❑ **Janie Gilkison**, Shepton High School medical science teacher, whose father **William Rehschuh** of Manhattan, Kansas, died on December 21. He was also father-in-law to **Bill Gilkison**, communications department TV studio producer; and sympathy to **Annie Pierce**, telecommunications, and **John Pierce**, Jasper High School art teacher, whose husband and father, respectively, **John Pierce** died on December 22.

❑ **Linda Bryant**, Miller Elementary School librarian, whose mother **Louise Harbor Bryant** of Dyersburg, Tennessee, passed away on January 4; **Mary Gorden**, communications department specialist, whose father **Alfred "Al" Richard Schriefer** of Corsicana died on January 14; **Stacie Spencer**, Plano West Senior High School special education aide, whose grandmother passed away recently; and **Edith Sosa**, Huffman Elementary School FANS manager, whose father-in-law died on January 30.

Thought for the Week:

"When there's only one race, and that's mankind, we shall be free."

-Garth Brooks