



## March 29 Recruitment Open House

Plano ISD, Ebby Halliday REALTORS and the Plano ISD Education Foundation invite all certified teachers, librarians and counselors to attend Plano ISD's:

**Recruitment Open House**  
8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
Saturday, March 29  
Murphy Middle School  
620 N. Murphy Road



### Online Registration

Pre-registration will be available through Feb. 29 on the district web site: [www.pisd.edu](http://www.pisd.edu). Applicants are asked to complete the online application and Teacher Insight Interview.

### New Requirements

Elementary applicants must be graduating from a Texas university to meet NCLB requirements. Out-of-state applicants must have at least one year of certified teaching experience.

### Open House Features

Administrators will be available from every Plano ISD school to discuss teaching opportunities.

Applicants will want to bring several copies of resumes, teaching certificate or college letter of anticipated completion.

Online curriculum planner demonstrations

Bus tours

Student art gallery and performances

### Feb. 11 Schedule

Monday, February 11, is a professional development day/student holiday. The training schedule is posted online at: [www.pisd.edu](http://www.pisd.edu).

## 2008-09 Plano ISD School Calendar

The Plano ISD Board of Trustees adopted the 2008-09 school calendar on February 5. The calendar includes the conclusion of fall semester exams prior to the winter break student/teacher holiday.

### First Semester

August 25 (Monday)	- First Day of Classes
September 1 (Monday)	- Labor Day (Student/Teacher Holiday)
October 17 (Friday)	- Parent/Teacher Conference Day (Student Holiday)
November 26-28	- Thanksgiving Holiday (Student /Teacher Holiday)
December 15-19	- Semester Exams (Grades 6-12)
December 19 (Friday)	- Last Day for Students
December 20 (Saturday)	- Teacher Work Day
December 22-January 2	- Winter Break (Student/Teacher Holiday)

### Second Semester

January 5 (Monday)	- Teacher Work Day (Student Holiday)
January 6 (Tuesday)	- Classes Resume (Students)
January 19 (Monday)	- Martin L. King, Jr., Birthday (Student/Teacher Holiday)
February 16 (Monday)	- Professional Development Day (Student Holiday)
March 16-20	- Spring Break (Student/Teacher Holiday)
April 10 (Friday)	- Student/Teacher Holiday
May 25 (Monday)	- Memorial Day (Student/Teacher Holiday)
June 1-4	- Semester Exams (Grades 6-12)
June 4 (Thursday)	- Last Day for Students
June 5 (Friday)	- Last Day for Teachers

Bad Weather Days – First: June 5, Second: June 8

## Plano ISD to Host State Academic Decathlon Competition

Plano West Senior High School will be the site of the 2008 State Academic Decathlon competition to be held the last weekend in February. During the three-day meet (Feb. 29 - March 2), 360 students, representing 40 academic decathlon teams from across the state of Texas, will compete for individual and team awards in several events. An awards ceremony will be held on March 2 at the host hotel Marriott at Legacy Town Center in Plano.

All three Plano senior high schools, which recently advanced from the regional contest, will compete at the state meet. At an early gathering of the state planning committee, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Doug Otto said, "The last time that Plano ISD hosted the state event was in the early 1990s. We once again look forward to this exciting opportunity to extend our hospitality and to showcase our school district. This is sure to be a first class tournament."

Benny Smith, recently retired Plano ISD administrator, is chairing the planning committee, which comprises Plano ISD administrators and members of the state academic decathlon office. Committee members are coordinating event details, including registration, individual and team events, testing, scoring, awards ceremony, volunteers, catering, transportation and photography.



The 2006-07 Plano Senior High School Academic Decathlon Team captured the state title and won fourth place at nationals.

### 2008 State Academic Decathlon Planning Committee

Benny Smith, Director	Cathy Galloway	Cynthia Lee	John Schram
James Ashby	Jeff Gasaway	Kim Loftus	Karen Schultz
Roxanne Burleson	Mary Gorden	Nancy Long	Lisa Thibodeaux
Mike Collinsworth	Tamira Griffin	Patty Meyer	Janice Truitt
Glenn Davis	Randy Hayes	Verlene	Paul Weaver
Carol Doyle	Michelle Herndon	Michener-Reed	Jim Wohlgehagen
Linda Flack	Mary Hewett	Kim O'Bryon	Mike Yeager
Carla Ford-Rich	Carol Hoey	Karla Oliver	
Andrew Forrester	Mike Landingham		



### What is Academic Decathlon?

The Academic Decathlon includes high school students from all academic backgrounds. Each nine-member team consists of three A students, three B students and three C students who compete for awards in interview, essay, speech and written exams in music, art, language/literature, mathematics, economics, (social) science, and the Super Quiz. The final event is the Super Quiz relay featuring an assembly of student teams who compete in a question/answer format. For more information, go online to: [www.txacade.org](http://www.txacade.org)

### State Revises TAKS Test Schedule to Avoid March 4 Primary Voting

To alleviate security problems involved with administering the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) tests on the same day as primary voting in Texas (March 4, 2008), the Texas Education Agency has developed a revised testing calendar. As a result of the changes, no test administrations will occur on March 4. Plano ISD has posted its revised test schedule on the district website at: [www.pisd.edu/calendar](http://www.pisd.edu/calendar) (Select "Testing Schedule" link.)

## Board Briefs...

Trustees took the following action at their Feb. 5 meeting, in addition to approving Consent Agenda items.

### TBEC Honor Roll Schools

Trustees presented certificates to eight TBEC Honor Roll Schools: PSHS and PWSH; Clark, Jasper and Shepton high schools; Rice Middle School; and Mathews and Skaggs elementary schools.

### School Counselors Week

A resolution recognizing National School Counseling Week was read and adopted by trustees. Paul Weaver, director of guidance and counseling, introduced counselors who shared information about the college readiness program.

### AEIS Public Hearing/Report

James Ashby, director of assessment and accountability, presented the district's '06-07 Academic Excellence Indicator System report, which is available online at: [www.pisd.edu](http://www.pisd.edu).

### AVID Program Report

Kristin Anderson, AVID coordinator, updated trustees on the status of the Advancement Via Individual Determination program administered in secondary schools.

### 2008-09 Budget Report

Trustees heard a report from Richard Matkin, associate superintendent for business services, on changes in funding, enrollment projections, and tax revenue projections for the budget.

## Master's Degree Information Meeting

Teachers who have completed, or will have completed, two years in the district may elect to apply for the Plano ISD Master's Degree Program, beginning summer 2008. An overview of options, procedures for taking the GRE and time lines for applying to a university will be discussed at an informational meeting to be held from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 19, at the Administration Building, 2700 W. 15th Street. Attendance at one of the meetings is required for participation.

## 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)

## Professional Achievements & Honors



Teacher Phillip Stager (center) is pictured at a TWU award announcement ceremony with T. Boone Pickens and Jerry Jones.

**Plano West Educator Earns Prestigious Doctoral Scholarship** ~ Phillip Stager, Plano West Senior High School Spanish teacher, will be presented one of four prestigious scholarships by Texas Woman's University, during the Sixth Annual Virginia Chandler Dykes Leadership Award luncheon to be held on February 27 at The Belo Mansion and Pavilion.

Mr. Stager expects to complete his doctorate this fall. His research interests include the development and implementation of instructional strategies for diverse learners in foreign language settings and Spanish literacy development. His scholarship is sponsored by Geraldine "Tincy" Miller, past recipient of the Virginia Chandler Dykes Leadership Award. This year's recipient is T. Boone Pickens, legendary businessman and philanthropist.

Mr. Stager earned his bachelor's degree from Texas Tech University (magna cum laude) in Spanish and his master's degree in bilingual education from Southern Methodist University (summa cum laude). He taught in Lubbock for four years before joining the

Plano ISD staff in 2001. "I am amazed by the intense enthusiasm and unwavering commitment of Plano teachers and administrators to provide students with the highest quality education possible," said Mr. Stager, who added that he is fascinated by the diversity of learning styles among his students. Jane Pemberton, TWU Department of Teacher Education, said, "Mr. Stager demonstrates academic excellence, leadership and an eagerness to learn...He combines scholastic and community-based activities through innovative service."



### Murphy Middle School PACE Teacher Captures Leadership Award

~ Donna Jenkins, Murphy Middle School PACE (Plano Academic Creative Education) teacher, will be presented the 2007 Mary Jon and J.P. Bryan Leadership in Education Award, sponsored by the Texas State Historical Association, at the organization's annual meeting on March 6 in Corpus Christi. The presentation will include a \$5,000 monetary award. Ms. Jenkins distinguished herself from a field of nominees through her service to students and fellow teachers. With 35 years of experience in education, she has made a significant impact on the lives of numerous students, consistently sponsoring programs in advanced academics to foster a love of history and social studies.

**Plano ISD Counseling Department Leads Southwestern Regional Forum** ~ Paul Weaver, director of counseling and guidance, served as chair of the College Board's Southwestern Regional Council and chair of the Southwestern Regional Forum, which was held in late January in Frisco. Plano ISD counselors who presented at the forum included Tracy Stafford, Plano West, and Cynthia Williams, Plano East, who led a session entitled "Connecting Historically Black Colleges and Universities to Southwestern Regional Counselors and Students." Plano East Senior High School Counselors Jana Hancock, Joyce Kackley and Cynthia Williams presented "Exploring College Opportunities for First-Generation and ESOL Students."

**Election to State Textbook Coordinators Board** ~ Melanie Kelley, secondary academic services special assignments coordinator, was recently elected to the Textbook Coordinators of Texas (TCAT) board, at the annual textbook coordinators conference held in San Antonio. She will serve on the State Board of Education's committee for TCAT during the three-year term.

## Summer School Employment Opportunities

Applicants interested in teaching positions in grades 9-12 in Plano ISD's "Summer Opportunities for Learning Program" are required to attend a meeting at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, February 25, at Plano Senior High School-Lecture Hall, 2200 Independence Pkwy. In addition to teaching and teaching assistant positions, summer employment is also available in transportation and food service. Applications must be submitted online by March 25. All employees will be notified of the availability of the online summer application soon, upon a computer login "pop up" screen. Also on February 25, special education services will host a summer job fair from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the Plano ISD Administration Building-first floor board room, 2700 W. 15th Street. Applicants will meet with team leaders regarding opportunities to work with Camp Tejas, Strategic Reading and Extended School Year Services. They will also learn how to complete the online application and required interest survey.



## Notable Notes...

### Best wishes are extended to the following newlyweds:

❑ Theresa Hogan, Jasper High School mathematics teacher, wed Nathan Rieber over winter break; Shereen Wussow, Jackson Elementary kindergarten bilingual teacher, became the bride of Josh Orensten on January 19. Proud parents of the bride are Becky and Jim Wussow, human resources and academic services departments, respectively; and Stephanie Drawe, Davis Elementary kindergarten teacher, who became the bride of Mark Godfrey on February 2.

### Congratulations to these proud parents and grandparents:

❑ Dooley Elementary School's Ramona Cartwright, counselor, and her husband Phil welcomed grandson Michael Garrett (7 lbs. 4 ozs.), born December 13 to proud parents Melissa and Michael Oliver, and Amy White, third grade teacher, and her husband Glen announced the birth of daughter Charlie Rose (7 lbs. 11 ozs.) on January 7; Stinson Elementary School's Jeanette Bauer welcomed granddaughter Avery Michaela Gray, Janet Smith welcomed grandson Cooper Ayden Wenzel, and Debbie Thompson welcomed grandson Talen Thompson Crump.



### Sympathy is extended to the following employees:

❑ Sherry Brown, Hendrick Middle School choir director, whose mother Melba Goodwin died in December; Rhonda Creed, Beaty Early Childhood School administrative assistant, whose father Ken Garrey died on January 21. Granddaughter is Ashley Creed, Boggess Elementary School kindergarten teacher, and daughter-in-law is Kristi Garrey, district occupational therapist.

❑ Randall Chaddick, Jasper High School assistant principal, whose mother Katherine Chaddick, a 1938 Plano graduate, died on February 1; and Smitty Minton, Clark Stadium, and Kathy Minton, Plano East FANS manager, whose sister and aunt, respectively, Mary Minton of Gunter, died on February 2.

### Thought for the Week:

*"Memories of our lives, of our works and our deeds will continue in others."* ~Rosa Parks