



Early Voting Continues Through May 6

Early voting in the May 10 school bond and school board elections is currently underway and will continue through Tuesday, May 6. Information about both the facilities and technology bond proposal and the school board candidates is available on the district website at: www.pisd.edu.

Remaining Dates to Vote Early

May 2 & 3
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
May 5 & 6
7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Early Voting Locations

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

Carpenter Park Recreation
Center, 6701 Coit Road

Christopher A. Parr Library,
6200 Windhaven Parkway

Collin County Community
College, 2800 East
Spring Creek Parkway

Haggard Library
2501 Coit Road

Harrington Library
1501 18th Street

Murphy Municipal
Complex, 206 N. Murphy
Road (Murphy)

Plano ISD Administration
Center, 2700 W. 15th Street

Renner Frankford Library, 6400
Frankford Rd. (Dallas)

Bond Election Ballot Language

Look for the following
language on the May 10
election ballot regarding the
Plano ISD bond proposal:

*“The issuance of bonds in
the amount of \$490,000,000
for the construction,
renovation, acquisition and
equipment of school build-
ings, the purchase of
necessary sites for future
school buildings and the
purchase of new school
buses, and the levying of the
tax in payment thereof.”*

Plano ISD 2008-09 School Year Calendar

The Plano ISD Board of Trustees has approved elementary early release days, which have been added to the 2008-09 school year calendar. This calendar is also available on the school district website in various formats, including “printer-friendly” (English and Spanish), “at-a-glance” and a “month-by-month” listing of special days, weeks and events. To access the online calendars, visit this web address: www.pisd.edu/calendar.

First Semester

August 25 (Monday) First Day of Classes
September 1 (Monday) Labor Day
(Student/Teacher Holiday)
September 24 (Wednesday) ■ Elementary Early Release
October 16 (Thursday) ◆ Elementary Early Release
October 17 (Friday) Parent/Teacher Conference
Day (Student Holiday)
November 12 (Wednesday) ■ Elementary Early Release
November 26-28 Thanksgiving Holiday
(Student /Teacher Holiday)
December 16-19 Semester Exams (Grades 6-12)
December 19 (Friday) Last Day for Students
◆ Elementary Early Release
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)
February 25 (Wednesday) ■ Elementary Early Release
March 13 (Friday) ◆ Elementary Early Release
March 16-20 Spring Break
(Student/Teacher Holiday)
April 10 (Friday) Student/Teacher Holiday
May 13 (Wednesday) ■ Elementary Early Release
May 25 (Monday) Memorial Day
(Student/Teacher Holiday)
Semester Exams (Grades 6-12)
June 1-4 Last Day for Students
June 4 (Thursday) ◆ Elementary Early Release
June 5 (Friday) Last Day for Teachers

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

Elementary Early Release - 12:00 p.m. dismissal

■ Teacher professional development / Early childhood a.m. sessions will not meet.
◆ Teacher record keeping / Early childhood p.m. sessions will not meet.

May 10 Election: Polling Places & Precinct Assignments

Polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on election day, Saturday, May 10.

| Voting Location | Address | Precinct Assignment |
|------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| Aldridge Elementary School | 720 Pleasant Valley Lane, Richardson 75080 | 48, 55 |
| Armstrong Middle School | 3805 Timberline Drive, Plano 75074 | 52, 61, 68, 103, 141 |
| Bentwood Trail Presbyterian Church | 6000 Bentwood Trail, Dallas 75252 | 73, 88, 115 |
| Bethany Elementary School | 2418 Micarta Drive, Plano 75025 | 34, 107, 119, 121, 135 |
| Bowman Middle School | 2501 Jupiter Road, Plano 75074 | 23, 46, 47, 50, 51, 152, 158 |
| Brinker Elementary School | 3800 John Clark Parkway, Plano 75093 | 90, 109, 116, 123, 137 |
| Carpenter Middle School | 1501 Cross Bend Road, Plano 75023 | 21, 54, 62, 66 |
| Haggard Middle School | 2401 Westside Drive, Plano 75075 | 15, 19, 53, 65, 70, 71 |
| Hendrick Middle School | 7400 Red River Drive, Plano 75025 | 58, 77, 91, 130 |
| Hickey Elementary School | 4100 Coldwater Creek, Plano 75074 | 41, 60 |
| Hughston Elementary School | 2601 Cross Bend Road, Plano 75023 | 31, 32, 63, 76 |
| Miller Elementary School | 5651 Coventry Drive, Richardson 75082 | 94, 125, 144 |
| Mitchell Elementary School | 4223 Briargrove Lane, Dallas 75287 | 24, 84, 132 |
| Murphy Municipal Complex | 206 N. Murphy Road, Murphy 75094 | 25, 159 |
| Renner Frankford Library | 6400 Frankford Road, Dallas 75252 | 74, 79, 142 |
| Richardson Police Sub-station | 2003 E. Renner Road, Richardson 75082 | 78, 110 |
| Robinson Middle School | 6701 Preston Meadow Drive, Plano 75024 | 14, 81, 86, 89, 108, 112, 124 |
| Rose Haggard Elementary School | 17820 Campbell Road, Dallas 75252 | 36, 104, 136 |
| Schimelpfenig Middle School | 2400 Maumelle Drive, Plano 75023 | 64, 69 |
| Shepton High School | 5505 Plano Parkway, Plano 75093 | 28, 75, 105, 143 |
| Thomas Elementary School | 6537 Blue Ridge Trail, Plano 75023 | 39, 85 |
| Wilson Middle School | 1001 Custer Road, Plano 75075 | 26, 49, 67, 72, 138 |

Plano ISD School Board Candidates' Forum on Cable TV

Candidates are running for Place 4 and Place 5 on the school board. To view a 90-minute candidates' forum that was hosted on April 14 by the Plano ISD Key Communicators and Plano ISD Council of PTAs, tune in to Plano ISD Cable TV at 1:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. daily. (The 8:00 p.m. airing follows school board meetings on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays.) Cable channels are: Plano and Richardson Time-Warner Cable A-31, Digital Cable 99 and Verizon FIOS 33.

Bond Election Information

Website - www.pisd.edu
Hotline - (469) 752-8010
E-mail - askpisd@pisd.edu
eNews - elist.pisd.edu
Speakers - To schedule,
call (469) 752-8147.

Retirement Receptions

In addition to retirement receptions published in last week's *District Digest*, the following celebrations are also planned. Please visit the school district website for an updated list: www.pisd.edu.

Gale Vaughan and Kathy Yonts

Gulledge Elementary School
May 20 - 4:00 to 5:30 p.m.

Susan Martin

Haun Elementary School
May 27 - 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Julie Lebovitz

Miller Elementary School
May 28 - 3:15 to 5:00 p.m.

Karen Michael

Wyatt Elementary School
May 28 - 3:30 to 5:00 p.m.

Jack Worsham

Guinn Center
May 29 (new date)
4:30 to 6:30 p.m.



News & Kudos from Our Schools

2008 BEAM Para-Professional of the Year

Norma Hoe, Armstrong Middle School English as a Second Language teaching assistant, captured the 2008 BEAM (Bilingual Education Association of the Metroplex) Para-professional of the Year award. She was honored at BEAM's April 5 conference held in Mansfield. "In our school, the most important role of our para-professionals is to assist our students in being successful," said colleague Laurie Newby. "Ms. Norma works on a daily basis with some of our most challenging students...Since she is an immigrant herself, she can readily relate to the struggles that some students are going through...Her students' growth is phenomenal." Described as "resourceful, creative and solution-oriented," by colleague Poonam Garg, Ms. Hoe has excellent written and verbal communication skills. She calls parents, translates letters for them, assists in parent conferences and during open houses and the Saturday store, and works with TAKS Math Club students who meet before and after school.



Norma Hoe

Graduate Stefan Block Shares His Newly-Published Book With PSHS Honors Classes



Stefan Block (left) and Jonathon King, PSHS 2000 grads and Intel Science Talent Search national finalists, reunited with their former teacher Karen Shepherd in Boston earlier this year. Ms. Shepherd said that she was fortunate to reunite with nine former honors students during her trip to the American Junior Academy of Sciences meeting.

Plano Senior High School Graduate Stefan Merrill Block addressed several Honors English classes at his alma mater in mid-April, reading excerpts and answering questions about his newly-published book "The Story of Forgetting," based upon Alzheimer's disease and inspired by his family's experiences with the disorder.

Teachers Marsha Cawthon, Honors English IV and World of Ideas, and Karen Shepherd, Science Department Chair, hosted Stefan's visit to Plano Senior High.

Stefan is a 2004 Washington University, St. Louis, graduate and current resident of Brooklyn, New York. His first novel, published through Random House, contains intertwined narratives of characters Abel Haggard, an elderly man living in the Dallas suburbs, and Seth Waller, an Austin teenager, and the story of Isidora—an edenic fantasy world free from the sorrows of remembrance. Though neither knows of the other's existence, Abel and Seth are linked by a dual legacy: the disease that destroys the memories of those they love.



August Open House Planned for Camp Goers and Families

More than 500 fourth grade students and their parents attended an April 27 open house to tour the Collin County Adventure Camp. Plano ISD Outdoor School Coordinator Brian Thomas reports that an additional open house will be conducted in August. Interested persons can check the district website calendar, where the date will be posted: www.pisd.edu/calendar. The camp website address is: www.collincountyadventurecamp.org.

Students Learn to Live Green on Earth Day

On Earth Day, April 22, students and teachers throughout Plano schools celebrated their love of the Earth. At Thomas Elementary, students walked or biked to school, packed waste free lunches, wore green and picked up trash around the school grounds during recess. The Thomas Texans also participated in an unusual hat contest with hats made totally from recyclable materials. Cardboard boxes, plastic bottles, cans and junk mail were just a few items used to create the hats. Many sported environmental messages. Memorial Elementary students celebrated Earth Day with a trash art contest.

Memorial Elementary Teachers (l-r) Leslie Nichols and Evie Tomlinson, and students (middle row, l-r) Joey Thomson, Alitzel Gutierrez, Kenya Renteria, Alejandra Alanis; (bottom row, l-r) Anna Greer and Ricardo Alanis.



Valuable Volunteers . . . Andrews Elementary hosted 100 parent volunteers during an appreciation luncheon to celebrate National Public School Volunteer Week. Pictured (l-r) Deborah Azar, Shilpi Bhardwaj, Rajshree Ramki and Aarthi Narayanan.

Notable Notes...

Congratulations to proud parents:

□ **Aina Carruth**, Barron counselor and PPCD teacher, and her husband **Caleb** welcomed daughter **Charlotte Marie** (7.5 lbs) on March 24, and **Cassidi Beracochea**, bilingual PPCD teacher, and her husband **Juan** welcomed daughter **Sophie Diane** (8.11 lbs) on February 8.

□ **Eryn Bywaters Gradig**, educational diagnostician, and her husband **Tony** welcomed daughter **Megan** (7lbs 8ozs) on February 19; and Miller first grade teacher **Heather Marek** and her husband **Scott** welcomed daughter **Sadie Elizabeth** (8 lbs 7 ozs) on February 28.

□ **Valerie Thompson**, Miller third grade teacher, and her husband **John** welcomed son **John Ryan** (8lbs 14ozs) on April 10.

Sympathy is extended to the following employees:

□ **Ricki Hart**, Boggess third grade teacher, whose brother **Roger Klein** of Earleville, Maryland, died on March 8; **Renee Rucker**, Gulledge Elementary principal, whose grandmother **Mary Bell Ashford** died on April 13; and **Sally Wientjes**, financial services accountant, whose father **John Rydalch** died on April 29.

Thought for the Week:

"When I approach a child, he inspires in me two sentiments; tenderness for what he is, and respect for what he may become."

~Louis Pasteur

May 5-9 is National Teacher Appreciation Week and Child Nutrition Employee Appreciation Week. Plano ISD salutes its teachers and FANS employees!

District Digest

E-mail: digest@pisd.edu

Phone: (469) 752-8030

Website:

www.pisd.edu/news

eNews listserv:

www.pisd.edu/eNews.htm