



Holiday Art Contest Finalists Announced

Plano ISD and Webb & Webb Attorneys and Counselors at Law announced the finalists and winner of the 2007 Holiday Greeting Card Art Contest this week. Congratulations to the following artists:

Winner

Swetha Nelakanti
7th Grade, Robinson MS
Art Teacher: Kate Wallace

Finalists

Jason Pereira
2nd Grade, Aldridge Elem.
Art Teacher: Abigail Vega

Kristin Wiseman
9th Grade, Jasper HS
Art Teacher: Nancy Linn

Nicole Bryan
12th Grade, Plano West
Ad Design
Teacher: Kara Adams

The winner and finalists will be recognized by the Plano ISD Board of Trustees on December 11, each receiving certificates of achievement from the board and U.S. Savings Bonds from Duncan Webb, school board president and contest sponsor. The contest's top 40 works of art will be published on the district Web site throughout the holiday season: www.pisd.edu.

Schools Earn AP/IB Awards

Plano schools earned a total of \$176,612 in campus awards through TEA's Advanced Placement/International Baccalaureate Incentive Awards Program. The awards recognize and reward students, teachers and schools that demonstrate success in achieving advanced academic goals.

Plano East - \$40,133
Plano - \$55,275
Plano West - \$46,029
Clark HS - \$3,752
Jasper HS - \$10,452
Shepton HS - \$8,710
Vines HS - \$1,809
Williams HS - \$5,427
Armstrong MS - \$1,340
Bowman MS - \$2,345
Carpenter MS - \$603
Wilson MS - \$737

Plano ISD, Sci-Tech Discovery Center & Hi-TECCC Host Family Event Spotlighting High-Technology Careers

Students who attend Bowman and Armstrong Middle Schools and Williams High School and their families participated in a special evening spotlighting STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) careers during the evening of Monday, October 15, at Williams.

The Plano ISD family event was hosted by the Sci-Tech Discovery Center, Inc., and the High Technology Education Coalition of Collin County. HiTECCC members are Plano ISD, Collin College, the University of Texas at Dallas, Texas Instruments, Lockheed Martin, Nortel, Raytheon, Alcatel-Lucent, and Cisco. Sci-Tech Discovery Center, Inc., is a science, technology and math nonprofit initiative of the Junior League of Plano.



Sci-Tech Discovery Center Board President Laura Curran presented "Where in the World is GPS?"

Highlights of the evening included hands-on technology, science and math experiences, technology exhibits, and college scholarship and financial information. Activities were geared for students in middle school through the tenth grade and their parents. Elementary students had opportunities for involvement, while baby sitting services were provided at no charge for young children in the cafeteria.

Dinner was followed by a digital music program in the auditorium. Participants then chose from a variety of activities such as "The Color of Fireworks," "Fun with Air," "Crime Scene Investigations," career exploration, and technology exhibits. A drawing for door prizes was also held in the auditorium.



Raytheon's Michael Fasolino (above) demonstrated the "pac bot" to Bowman Middle School students. Jason Neidrich of Texas Instruments shared his passion for science and math with students at Armstrong.



Fully Accredited M.Ed. Degrees in Teacher Leadership from Lamar University Available at No Cost to Employees

Plano ISD is pleased to announce an instructionally focused academic partnership with Lamar University, which will offer district employees a high quality, fully accredited M.Ed. degree in Teacher Leadership at no cost to the employee. "The goal of this innovative partnership is to offer Plano ISD employees the opportunity to participate in a relevant master's degree program to enhance instructional effectiveness and leadership across the district," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Doug Otto. "I strongly encourage employees to seek more information about this program, as it is a key strategy to continue developing instructional excellence in the district, and it is a phenomenal benefit."

Interested employees must attend one of two information sessions to be eligible for the January launch:

November 13, 2007 - 4:30 p.m. at Sockwell Center, Austin/San Antonio Room
December 4, 2007 - 4:30 p.m. at Sockwell Center, Dallas Room

Jun Melvin, director of compensation and diversity, explained that, course work in the M.Ed. Teacher Leadership program is designed to expand and improve teaching strategies and enhance the ability to effectively manage instruction for diverse learners. The master's program includes 12 courses (36 credit hours) completed in 18 months. The five-week courses are accessed through the use of an advanced delivery system. Teachers can complete the degrees from the convenience of home.

Teachers already enrolled in one of the other master's degree options provided by Plano ISD will not be eligible to apply for the Lamar University program. Additionally, the same criteria that is in place for other master's degree options will apply. Teachers who have completed or will have completed two years of service in the school district and are currently not being paid by the school district as having an approved master's degree, may elect to apply for acceptance into the Lamar University program. Teachers that have not completed two years of service in the district are welcome to attend the information session; however, they will not be eligible to apply for acceptance into the program at this time.

Plano Santas Canned Food Drive Underway

Plano schools will participate in a canned food drive in conjunction with the Plano Santas, a group of local merchants and other civic and community leaders who provide assistance to more than 500 families in need each holiday season. Dates for schools to deliver canned food to the Santas Warehouse will be November 29 and 30. Additional information will be e-mailed soon to school principals regarding the "Adopt-a-Family" efforts which will be held in conjunction with the food drive.



Holiday Tour of Homes Benefits Scholarship Fund

The American Association of University Women and the Plano Retired Teachers Association will host the 30th Annual Holiday Tour of Homes from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 17, and Sunday, November 18 (rain or shine). The event will feature four spectacular homes dressed in holiday finery by several area designers. Tour tickets are \$15 in advance or \$17 at homes. Proceeds benefit scholarship funds for AAUW and PRTA. Visit the following Web site for photos, the home tour map and ticket outlets: aauwplanocc.org.

Friday Night Football - Nov. 2

Plano vs. Plano East
Clark Stadium - 7:30 p.m.
Radio: 990 AM
Internet: k-12.pisd.edu/WCAT

Plano West at Wylie
Pirate Stadium - 7:30 p.m.
Radio: 1160 AM

Game Day Sponsor:
Associated Orthopedics
and Sports Medicine
www.aosmdfw.com

District Digest

E-mail: digest@pisd.edu
Phone: (469) 752-8030
Website:
www.pisd.edu/news
eNews listserv:
www.pisd.edu/eNews.htm

Kudos & News from Our Schools



TBEC Honor Roll Schools – Congratulations to the following Plano ISD schools who made the 2007 TBEC Honor Roll: Plano Senior High School, Plano West Senior High School; Clark, Jasper and Shepton high schools; Rice Middle School; and Mathews and Skaggs elementary schools. Annually, the Texas Business and Education Coalition (TBEC) announces the select group of honor roll schools, which represent less than five percent of the state's 8,000 schools.

The honor roll is the most prestigious award for sustained academic excellence in Texas. Schools recognized have demonstrated three years of consistent, high performance in all subjects compared to other schools serving similar student populations. Honor roll schools were recognized on October 22 in Austin at an awards reception and dinner. For more information, visit www.tbec.org.



Lone Star Cup – Plano West Senior High School was awarded the prestigious Texas Dodge Dealers Lone Star Cup during a kickoff announcement at the October 5 varsity football game. The award recognizes five high schools - one in each UIL classification.

On hand for the presentation were (l-r) PWSH Principal Kathy King; Bill Moss of the Huffines dealership; Mike Hughes, PWSH athletic director; Dr. Doug Otto, superintendent of schools; and Cliff Odenwald, UIL associate athletic director and former Plano ISD athletic director.

Memorial Elementary Teacher Recognized by Office Max – Reggi Smith, Special Education Teacher and Team Leader at Memorial Elementary, was nominated by Wendy DeSpain, her principal, in Office Max's "A Day Made Better" program which recognizes teachers who are making a difference in the lives of students. Ms. Smith was honored during an October 2 surprise assembly at Memorial where Office Max of McKinney announced the donation of teaching supplies, a printer, a digital camera, a rolling cart and a new office chair for Ms. Smith.

Memorial added to the celebration by declaring October 2 "Reggi Smith Day" and noting it with special treats for her all day and a week of front row parking. "She was surprised and full of joy," reported Principal DeSpain. "Her family, in addition to her teaching team and students were present to share in her honorary recognition."



Reggi Smith is pictured with (back row, l-r) Tim Merideth, Matt Line and Alba Hatcher of Office Max and Memorial Principal Wendy DeSpain.

Notable Notes...

Congratulations to these proud parents and grandparents:

❑ **Janet Cobb**, Davis Elementary secretary, and her husband **Charlie** welcomed their first granddaughter **Ella Renee** on September 23. Proud parents are **Ashley and Gueric de Coligny** of Honolulu, Hawaii; **Amra Sayed**, Boggess Elementary speech pathologist, and her husband welcomed daughter **Amina Sayed Farshori** on September 30; **Kathy Manning**, Aldridge kindergarten teacher, announced the birth of grandson **Caleb Carter** on September 26 to proud parents **Jeff and Michelle Manning** of Waco. Caleb's Great Aunt **Beth Cluff** teaches first grade at Wyatt; **Kathy Lenoir**, Aldridge kindergarten teacher, and her husband **Billy** welcomed **Ashley Elizabeth** on October 1.

❑ **Gretchen Tubbs**, Schell Elementary counselor, and her husband **Trey** announced the birth of son "Stone" **Stanley Ivon Tubbs IV** on October 4; **Karen Nelson**, Rasor Elementary librarian, and husband **Jeremy** are the proud parents of **George Bradley**, born on October 6; **Marcia Crouch**, deaf education coordinator, welcomed granddaughter **Madison Elaine** on October 11. Proud mother is **Meredith McKenna**, former Forman Elementary teacher.



Hightower Elementary School Principal Mariea Sprott (seated, left) and teachers participated in the Race for the Cure on October 20 in support of survivors on staff.

Sympathy is extended to employees:

❑ **Peggy Billingsley**, Hickey Elementary, whose mother **Susie M. Grant** died October 11 and uncle **E. D. McWilliams** died October 18.

❑ **Ken Nicholson**, Plano East Agriculture Science coordinator, **Julie Nicholson**, Hickey Elementary Title I Math Specialist, and **Zada Nicholson**, FANS, whose grandmother, grandmother-in-law, and mother-in-law, respectively, **Edna Earl Nicholson**, retired Plano ISD FANS, passed away on October 19.

❑ **Mary Marks**, Hightower kindergarten teacher, whose father **Samuel Barker** died last spring; and **Logan Platt**, Shiloh Deployment Center, whose wife of 54 years **Betty** passed away on October 26.

Thought for the Week:

"When inspiration does not come to me, I go half way to meet it."

~Sigmund Freud