



## October 18 Community Forum on 'Substance Abuse Trends'

The Collin County Substance Abuse Coalition and Plano West Senior High School will present a free community forum on drug and alcohol awareness at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 18, in the auditorium at Plano West. Parents and students are invited to attend the program that will cover current substance abuse trends and facts.

**"Plano ISD is dedicated to increasing drug awareness for our community. We believe education plays a vital role in achieving this goal. This forum will be informative and timely, and we urge students, parents and other citizens to attend."**

– Jennifer Barker, west cluster substance abuse coordinator

A mock teen bedroom with hidden drug paraphernalia will be on exhibit as a tool to teach parents how to search a bedroom and the significance of the information that they may find. The Plano ISD Student Services Department is planning similar forums at other district campuses during the school year as well as parent awareness programs related to specific drug trends.

## Trustees Kick Off Five-Year Strategic Planning Effort

The Plano ISD Board of Trustees conducted its first strategic planning focus group session on October 16 at the Sockwell Center, to be followed by eight identified focus groups and to conclude with a report for final review and approval in January, 2008.

## Nearly 100 Seniors Named Semifinalists in National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Program

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Doug Otto is proud to recognize nearly 100 senior students who have earned Semifinalist standing in the 2008 National Merit Scholarship Program.

These academically gifted students join approximately 16,000 of their peers from across the United States as Semifinalists in the 53rd annual scholarship program. They now have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 8,200 scholarships worth \$34 million.

To be considered for a Merit Scholarship award, Semifinalists must advance to Finalist level by fulfilling several requirements. About 90 percent of the Semifinalists are expected to attain Finalist standing, and approximately half of the Finalists will be selected as Merit Scholarship winners, earning the Merit Scholar title.

More than 1.4 million juniors in nearly 21,000 high schools entered the 2008 National Merit Program by taking the 2006 Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, which served as the initial screen of program entrants.

### Congratulations, National Merit Semifinalists!

**Plano East Senior High School** – Amy Aughinbaugh, Divya Bhamidipati, Caitlin Billings, Asta Feng, Stuti Ghiya, Kyle Higbee, Ryan Hrbacek, Helen Kerwin, David Liu, Mark Lu, Niharika Mallepally, Navid Najafian, Reema Pau, Catherine Regan, Rebecca Rego, Margaret Richmond, Zachary Ritter, Samantha Sterling, Benjamin Tsao, Thanh Vo, Diana Weng, Joann Weng, Jenna Zhu, Jodi Zik

**Plano Senior High School** – Samina Abdulali, Meghan Bragers, Christina Chang, Joey Cheng, Abigail Chu, Christopher Cutlip, Diana Dao, Martin Fan, Corey Gomon, Roy Griffiths, Wilson Gu, Allison Harris, Howard He, Kim Hsu, Alexander Huang, Aasheesh Kanwar, Anastasia Konstans, Scarlett Lee, Theresa Lii, Wen Lu, Mitchell Miller, Mason Mohanna, Cindy Pan, Melissa Pan, David Pham, Sandhya Ramesh, Gita Rao, Sloane Simmons, Yang Su, Michael Tseggay, Joann Weng, Yunren Weng, Patricia Wright, Lu Zhang, Shimeng Zhang, Dana Zhao, Kevin Zhu

**Plano West Senior High School** – Alexandra Barton, Stephen Bayer, Brooke Blomquist, Hector Chen, Jack Chen, Susie Choi, Maret Delf, Alice Fa, Deborah Houg, William Hurst, Jason Jea, Courtney Kauffman, Kane Kuo, Emily Lai, Wei Hua Liu, Kristy Luk, Isabelle Malouf, Allison McCartney, Jonathan Myers, Lara Nichols, Jeffrey Peng, Alexandra Reynolds, Jonathan Shie, Simran Singh, Stephanie Stoughton, Richard Swan, Lindsay Tomson, Amita Vempati, Ryan Vik, James Wallace, Elizabeth Welch, Samuel Wilson, Mitchell Wong, Michael Wu, Jonathan Yu, Michael Yu, Yanqiu Zheng, Yu Feng Zou

## Wells Music Specialist Tours Southwest Asia with Band

Shonda Winkler spent her summer vacation tooting her own horn...for U.S. military troops and villagers on three continents.

As a member of the U.S. Central Command Air Forces Expeditionary Band "Thunder Roll," the Wells Elementary School music specialist joined fellow band mates to perform 25 shows in 37-days in six countries. She returned to Plano in August "jet lagged and just in time for 'meet the teacher' night at Wells," she said.



Wells students and staff welcomed Shonda home in August.

"The pace was breakneck and physically challenging due to the desert conditions, long travel hours and loading and unloading 3,000 pounds of equipment twice a day," said Ms. Winkler. "The folks based there were ecstatic about our appearances."

The band traveled to the Horn of Africa to fulfill the outreach and diplomacy objectives of their mission. In Djibouti the band visited an African orphanage where they helped feed the children and give them some much needed attention and affection. The objective was to develop a trust between Americans and village citizens.



(Above) Tsgt. Shonda Winkler and "Thunder Roll" band mates (l-r) Msgt. Mark Bruehl (Midland, TX), Capt. Jeff Mathews (Natchitoches, LA), and Msgt. John Cornichionne (Savannah, Georgia) are pictured in the village of Hol Hol in the Horn of Africa.

(Below) Ms. Winkler enjoyed greeting and sharing boxes of school supplies with village children.





Plano ISD Board of Trustees invites you to a celebration dedicating

A.R. Schell, Jr., Elementary School  
5301 E. Renner Road  
Richardson, TX 75082

7:00 p.m.  
Thursday, November 8, 2007

Reception and tours to follow.

### Employee Discounts from 60+ Vendors on 'inside.pisd'

Plano ISD employees can visit the school district's Intranet Web site: *inside.pisd* from any district networked computer to search for huge savings from more than 60 area vendors. You'll find these savings today:

Half-price tickets to Dallas Stars hockey games.

Wireless savings plans from AT&T, Sprint and Verizon.

20% discount at Bennigan's restaurants.

Cash incentive program from Ebby Halliday Realtors.

Special membership rates at 24 Hour Fitness and Gold's Gym.

### Friday Night Football - Oct. 19

**Plano West vs. Allen**  
Clark Stadium - 7:30 p.m.  
Radio: 990 AM  
Internet: k-12.pisd.edu/WPAK

**Plano East at Berkner**  
Wildcat/Ram Stadium  
7:30 p.m.

**Plano Senior High at Wylie**  
Pirate Stadium - 7:30 p.m.  
Radio: 1160 AM

Game day Sponsor:  
Baylor Scoliosis Center  
(972) 985-2797

### 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)

## Plano ISD Staff Donates Nearly \$160,000 to United Way

Faculty and staff in Plano ISD's 68 schools and all service departments raised more than \$159,000 for the 2007 United Way campaign, signifying the largest employee drive in Collin County. "Our employees once again gave generously to this annual campaign," reported Karla Oliver, Plano ISD executive director for government and community relations and United Way campaign chair. "Our school and department campaign coordinators are to be commended for sharing information with employees about the many local United Way agencies which benefit from our employees' generous support." United Way is a national network of more than 1,300 locally governed organizations that works to create lasting positive changes in people's lives.

### United Way Goal Busters!

#### Elementary Schools

Aldridge  
Andrews  
Barksdale  
Barron ECS  
Beaty ECS  
Bethany  
Bogges  
Centennial  
Christie  
Daffron  
Davis  
Dooley  
Forman  
Gulledge  
Haun  
Hedgcoxe  
Hightower  
Huffman

Hughston  
Hunt  
Jackson  
Mathews  
McCall  
Memorial  
Mendenhall  
Mitchell  
Pearson ECS  
Razor  
Rose Haggard  
Saigling  
Schell  
Shepard  
Stinson  
Weatherford  
Wells

#### Middle Schools

Bowman  
Carpenter  
Frankford  
Haggard  
Hendrick  
Murphy  
Rice  
Robinson  
Schimelpfenig

#### High Schools

Jasper  
Shepton  
Vines

#### Senior High Schools

Plano East  
Plano  
Plano West

#### Other Programs

Special Programs (9-12)  
Head Start

**Service Departments** – Academic Services (Curriculum, Outdoor Learning Center, Assessment, Itinerant Special Education, Inst. Technology); Business Services: (Finance, PASAR, Admin. Facilities); Communications; Human Resources; Student Services: (Family Literacy, PPE, School-Age Parent Program); Superintendent's Office and Area Assistant Superintendent's Office; Technology; Athletics; Auxiliary Services: (Food and Nutritional Services, Distribution Services, Transportation, Purchasing, Facility Services)

**Special thanks to additional participants** – Beverly, Brinker, Carlisle, Harrington, Hickey, Meadows, Miller, Sigler, Skaggs, Thomas, Wyatt, Armstrong, Renner, Wilson, Clark, Williams, Special Programs (K-8)

## Notable Notes...

### Professional Achievements & Recognitions:



**B. McCain**

□ **Barbara McCain**, Plano East Senior High School speech teacher, has earned kudos at the state and national levels. She was named the 2006-07 Texas Speech Teacher of the Year by the state speech teachers association. And, in May, she was presented with the Outstanding Speech, Debate and Theatre Educator Award for the southwest region of the National Federation of State High Schools Association. Coaching at six different high schools in the Lone Star State, Ms. McCain has 31 years of experience to share with her students. She has coached four state champions in her career and teams that have earned significant top state honors. A member of the National Forensic League since 1989, and a "double diamond" coach, Ms. McCain has served her state and national organizations in several leadership capacities.

□ **Kristin Taylor**, Jasper High School social studies teacher, spent six weeks studying throughout Russia and Poland this summer. One of only 16 teachers in the United States selected for the 2007 Fulbright-Hays Seminars Abroad Program, she traveled to Moscow, St. Petersburg, Krakow and Wroclaw, visiting educational institutions and hearing lectures on current political developments, literature, education, history and culture.



*Plano ISD Chinese Teachers (l-r) Alex Na, Andrea Harwell, Xinyan Liu and Yang Li attended a U.S. Department of Education "Teacher 2 Teacher" workshop in July in San Diego, CA. Discussions focused on assessment, technology, lesson planning, art, music, and building student competency.*

### Congratulations to these proud parents and grandparents:

□ Jackson Elementary's **Jennifer Negron**, speech teacher, and her husband **B.T.** welcomed **Reid Phillip** on May 2; **Lisa Silverthorn**, kindergarten teacher, and her husband **Scott** welcomed **Stella Marie** on May 10; **Alisha Balak**, first grade teacher, and her husband **Chris** welcomed **Carter Christopher** on May 15; and **Olivia deSantiago**, kindergarten teacher, and her husband **George** welcomed twins **Richard Maximillian** and **Scarlett Belle** on June 13.

□ Barksdale Elementary's **Pennye Murphy**, Barksdale's nurse, welcomed grandson **Colton** on July 12. Parents are **Jenny and Jack Conley**; **Erica Goodlin**, 3rd grade teacher at Barksdale, and husband **Brian** welcomed their second son, **Colin Matthew**, on July 17. **Keisha McKnight**, first grade teacher at Barksdale Elementary, and husband **George** welcomed son **Kade** on October 10.

□ Memorial Elementary's **Jill Gipson**, CTA, and her husband **Robert** welcomed grandson **Sean Robert** on March 27. Proud parents are **Regan and Stephen Burkett** of Milwaukee, WI.; and **Betty Koonce**, librarian, welcomed grandson **Edison Henry** on May 5. Proud parents are **Brian and Yvette Lewis** of Madison, MS.

### Sympathy is extended to the following employees:

□ **Mike Landingham**, Plano West assistant principal, whose brother **Lenny** passed away in July; **June Andringa**, Gulledge secretary, whose nephew **Samuel Santilli** died on July 24; **Mara Balladares**, Sigler office manager, whose son **Sammy** passed away late July; **Mindy Johnson**, Armstrong office manager, whose father **James McCoy** died on August 11.

□ **Phyllis Stoup**, elementary social Studies coordinator, and **Phil Stoup**, Hendrick social studies teacher, on the passing of father and father-in-law, respectively, **Sam Rosenfield** on August 27. **Kathleen Braffman**, Razor literacy specialist, whose mother, **Doreen Shirley Rau**, died on August 30; **Neelima Sing**, Renner science teacher, whose father-in-law **Salam Singh** passed away on Sept. 16 in India.

□ **Friends of Johnnie Spies**, retired Plano Senior High teacher and counselor (1965-'91), who died recently, and **Elise Gold**, Plano ISD Council of PTAs president, who died on August 10.

### Thought for the Week:

*"Hope is a waking dream."*

~Aristotle