



Gala Sponsors Support Teachers of the Year

Several businesses, schools and organizations have committed to supporting Plano ISD's Teacher of the Year nominees. In addition to these confirmed sponsors, several local businesses have donated gift certificates for a variety of services.

Monetary Gifts

Associate's Degree - \$2,500

Plano ISD Education Foundation

Dean's List- \$1,000

Dyna-Mist

Engineered Air Balance Co., Inc.
Presbyterian Hospital of Plano
W.R.A. Architects, Inc

Friends- \$500

Berger Engineering Company
Core Construction
Corgan Schools
McCreary Creek Estates
Northside at Legacy Apartments
Starling Richardson
Construction, Inc.

Table Sponsors- \$450

Andrews Elementary School
Andrews PTA
Barksdale PTA
Beverly Elementary School
Brinker Elementary School
Centennial Elementary School
Centennial PTA
Clark PTSA
Daffron PTA
Dooley Elementary School
Haggard PTA
Hickey PTA
Hightower Elementary School
Hendrick PTA
Mathews PTA
Plano East Panthers, Inc. PTSA
Razor Elementary School
Robinson Middle School
Robinson PTA
Shepton PTSA
Vines High School
Vines PTSA
Weatherford PTA
Wilson PTA
Wolf Den PTSA & Plano West
Senior High School

Monetary Gifts - Up to \$499

Beaty Early Childhood School
Dave and Gail Stelter
Rodenbaugh's Appliance Outlet
Southwest Awards

Gifts In-Kind

\$2,000 to \$9,999

Gleneagles Country Club
Plano Community Theatre

\$500 to \$1,999

A Nails Place
Curves
Jostens
Smiley's Studio, Inc.

\$200 to \$499

1st International Bank
Capital Advantage

Plano ISD 2009 Teacher of the Year Nominees Selected by Peers for Recognition at May 7 Gala

Plano ISD Teachers of the Year will be honored the evening of Thursday, May 7, 2009, at Plano Centre, when approximately 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 Karla Oliver, executive director for government and community relations, community volunteers and staff.

"The Teacher of the Year Gala is one of Plano ISD's most exciting events," noted Ms. Oliver. "We look forward to joining the community in celebrating and rewarding educational excellence." The experienced teacher nominees will be interviewed this month by a group of district and community leaders who will select Plano ISD's 2009 Elementary and Secondary Teachers of the Year. Winners will be announced at the gala.

Congratulations, 2009 Experienced Teachers of the Year!

Lani Adams – Aldridge

Jennifer Bonfessuto –
Andrews

Tim Bui - Armstrong

Christy Smith – Barksdale

Jane Cina – Barron

Kimberly Becton – Beaty

Cynthia Jane Graham –

Bethany

Paige O'Kelley – Beverly

Buffy Edenkrans – Boggess

Brenda Johnson – Bowman

Jackie Lynn – Brinker

Rhonda Miller – Carlisle

Anthony Spear – Carpenter

Julie Arend – Centennial

Farideh Ghahremaninia –
Christie

Linda Grant – Clark

Paula Díaz – Daffron

Jilynn Wall – Davis

Toni Kneedler – Dooley

Elia M. Soto – Forman

Karyn Wynne – Frankford

Erica White – Gulledge

Sandi Kosharek – Haggard

Matt Endsley – Haggard

Lisa Veteto – Harrington

Lujean Pardoe – Haun

Carmen Ramos – Head Start

Amy Robbins – Hedgcoxe

Adrienne Cates – Hendrick

Peggy Billingsley – Hickey

Christina A. Weaver –

Hightower

Shauna Bhattacharya –

Huffman

Susan Sayed – Hughston

Lisa Garner – Hunt

Christy Thurston Wilson –

Jackson

Stephany Wall – Jasper

Elizabeth Hunter-Dowd –
Mathews

Kathy Wright – McCall

Jessica Pagán – Meadows

Christy Pine – Memorial

Beth Renshaw – Mendenhall

Sandra Trisch Wilson –

Miller

Cyndy Spangrud – Mitchell

Brian Henson – Murphy

Rachel A. Page – Pearson

Kathy Witcher – PESH

Aimée Noelle Ratliff –

PSHS

Alan Greider – PWSH

Peggy Bridge – Razor

Kim Gunnels – Renner

Leah Cook – Rice

Lisa Harp – Robinson

Barbara Spicer – Saigling

Sherri Dent – Schell

Tina Marie Mehl –

Schimelpfenig

Paula Niece – Shepard

Fran Cowherd – Shepton

Hannah Shorey – Sigler

Katy Blake – Skaggs

Keisha Benton –

Special Programs 9-12

Julie Thrift – Stinson

Amy Moore – Thomas

Pam Clark – Vines

Bethany Haas – Weatherford

Shonda Winkler – Wells

Catherine Gaschen –

Williams

Whitney Evans – Wilson

Kristin Moore – Wyatt

Congratulations, 2009 Beginning Teachers of the Year!

Sarah Riordan – Andrews

Cynthia Cantrell – Armstrong

Ashleigh Rosiles – Barksdale

Suzette Rupp – Barron

Kim Turney – Beaty

Kim Nithiananda – Bethany

Katie Bohannon – Beverly

Dina Dean – Boggess

Shawn Haag – Bowman

Kayla Chaumont – Brinker

Kimberly Thomas – Carlisle

Thanh Duc Nguyen – Carpenter

Priya Subramanian –

Centennial

Tiffany Anderson – Christie

Courtney Eaton – Clark

Katie Johnson – Daffron

Angie McGee – Davis

Catherine Alvarez – Dooley

Ericka Montañez – Forman

Krystle Paolini – Frankford

Leah Black – Gulledge

Kathryn Womack – Haggard

Meaghan Dougherty –

Haggard

Martha Teague – Harrington

Abby Cramer – Haun

Flor De Maria Alvarez –

Head Start

Jereko V. Lovett – Hendrick

Aspen Bischoff – Hickey

Stephanie Ross – Hightower

Julia Thomas – Hughston

Elizabeth Hatten – Hunt

Ashley Ohl – Jackson

Mandy Mathews – Jasper

Teresa Calaza – Mathews

Stacy M. Hensley – McCall

Stephanie Connors –

Meadows

Indira Curtis – Memorial

Wendy Miller – Mendenhall

Tracy L. Liedl – Miller

Lindsey "Molly" Taylor –

Mitchell

Sue Mick – Murphy

Holly Thomas – PESH

Lauren Moffett – PSHS

Rochelle L. Vaughn – PWSH

Carla B. Merritt – Razor

Erin Allred – Renner

Paige Bresnahan – Rice

Monique Perkins-Stinchcomb

– Robinson

Kerry Stiles – Saigling

Lindsey Aune – Schell

Jeff Butler – Schimelpfenig

Kristen S. Grassi – Shepton

Tiffany Marie Newsome –

Sigler

Rachel Perez – Skaggs

Josh Rodriguez –

Special Programs K-8

– Stinson

Adrianna Martinez Goodland

Ashley Spear – Thomas

Brad Bailey – Vines

Lindsey M. Hernandez –

Williams

Nate Jacobs – Wilson

Amber Randle – Wyatt

Teacher of the Year Selection Process – Experienced nominees will be interviewed by a selection panel comprising administrators, teachers, parents and other leaders, who 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 7 gala and will be recommended for the Texas Teacher of the Year competition. A separate panel of judges will review written essays of the beginning teacher nominees and make recommendations for Plano ISD's Elementary and Secondary Beginning Teachers of the Year, who will also be announced at the gala.



Teacher of the Year Sponsorship Information Available Online

The Teacher of the Year Gala Planning Committee invites businesses and organizations to sponsor the 2009 Teacher of the Year Program. A contribution letter and agreement form are posted on the district Web site at: www.pisd.edu/toty. Sponsors' generosity will be recognized in the gala printed program, district publications/website and through event publicity.

March 2 Deadline for Recognition at District Event

Retirement / Voluntary Separation

Plano ISD is honored to recognize retirees at the annual service pin/retirement event to be held at 5:00 p.m. on April 2 at Southfork Ranch. A retiree who would like to be an honoree at the April 2 event should complete these four steps by the March 2 deadline.

1. Submit written letter of notification to your principal or department supervisor.
2. Complete the separation form that is available from your office manager and have your principal/supervisor sign this form.
3. Submit a copy of the notification letter that you sent to your principal/supervisor AND the completed separation form (with principal/supervisor signature) to Vicki Pedini in the Human Resources Department. Ms. Pedini's extension is 28125.
4. Complete the 2008-09 Plano ISD Retiree/Voluntary Separation Form. This form should be obtained from Margaret Bishop in the Benefits and Risk Management Department and returned to her by March 2. Ms. Bishop's extension is 24756.

Ms. Bishop compiles the list of retirees who have completed this process and provides the names of the honorees to the Plano ISD Communications Department for recognition. The deadline for completion of the above process in order to be recognized at the school district event is March 2.

Dateline

February 2-6
Ntl. School Counseling Week
Thursday, February 12
End of Fourth Six Weeks
Monday, February 16
Professional Development Day/Student Holiday
Tuesday, February 17
Plano ISD Council of PTAs Life Membership Banquet, 6:30 p.m., Plano Centre

District Digest

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Phone: (469) 752-8030
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www.pisd.edu/news
eNews listserv:
www.pisd.edu/eNews.htm

National School Counseling Week February 2-6

Counselors 'Make a Difference' Daily for 54,000 Students

Plano ISD's 153 counselors are "Making a Difference" in the lives of 54,000 students each day on 68 school campuses. For their dedication, and in honor of National School Counseling Week, February 2-6, these school leaders will be recognized at the February 3 meeting of the Plano ISD Board of Trustees.

The board will adopt a resolution and hear an update led by Paul Weaver, director of counseling and guidance, regarding the program's three strands - academic success, college and career awareness and personal and social growth. Co-presenting will be Counselors Marla Nunally, Andrews Elementary School, and Bruce Richardson, Plano Senior High School.

In addition to serving as testing coordinators on their campuses, school counselors provide the following services.

2008-09 Counseling Program Highlights

Some 300 guidance lessons are taught by elementary school counselors. ♦ 200 parents are contacted by middle school counselors addressing their students' transition to middle school. ♦ 7,434 conferences are conducted by high school and senior high school counselors with 10th and 11th graders.



♦ 4,208 four-year plans will be developed for eighth graders and guided by school counselors. ♦ 250 colleges and universities participated in the largest College Nights in D/FW held at Plano schools in the fall. ♦ Topics taught or guided by counselors include:

personal safety	motivation to achieve
decision-making skills	bullying prevention
college/career awareness	dating violence prevention
CollegeEd prep	college admissions
credit verification	changing families
newcomer issues	study skills

Jan Moody, Clark High School counselor, is pictured guiding a recent student academic conference.



Harriet Kelley, Shepard Elementary School counselor, led a "Wizard of Oz"-themed program in January to inspire students regarding paths to college/career success.

Plano ISD Master's Degree Information Meeting February 17

Teachers who have completed, or will have completed, two current consecutive years in the school district, and who do not already hold a master's degree, may elect to apply for the Plano ISD Master's Degree Program beginning summer of 2009. An information meeting will be held from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 17, at the Plano ISD Administration Building, 2700 W. 15th Street, for teachers interested in the program. Discussions will include an overview of options, procedures for taking the GRE and time lines for applying to a university. Attendance at one of the meetings is required for participation in the program.

Notable Notes...

Congratulations to these parents and grandparents:

□ Sara Cyr, Carlisle Elementary School fourth grade teacher, and her husband **Jeremy** welcomed son **Jackson Keith** (7 lbs. 2 ozs.) on December 16; **Phyllis and Phil Stoup**, elementary social studies coordinator and Hendrick Middle School social studies teacher, respectively, welcomed their sixth grandchild **Sydney Anne** on January 7. Proud parents are **Carrie Stevens**, former Plano ISD substance abuse specialist, and her husband **Kyle**.

□ **Justin Nelson**, McCall Elementary School PE teacher, and his wife **Carlyn** welcomed daughter **Presley Elaine** (7 lbs. 6 ozs.) on January 9; and **Courtney and Russell Sanders**, Christie and Forman elementary school third grade teachers, respectively, welcomed daughter **Emerson Grace** (7 lbs. 5 ozs.) on January 13. Proud grandparents are **Roger Sanders**, Special Programs Center K-8 middle school team leader, and his wife **Julie**. Proud aunt is **Ashley Sanders**, Special Programs Center K-8 kindergarten and first grade teacher.

□ Rice Middle School behavior support teachers who welcomed sons recently are **Burney Roberts** and his wife **Ginger** who welcomed **Lincoln Ellis** (8 lbs. 13 ozs.) on January 14, and **Leah Cook** and her husband **Max** who welcomed **Andrew William** (5 lbs. 10 ozs.) on January 16; **Jennifer Quinones**, Wyatt Elementary School music teacher, and her husband **Jorge** welcomed son **Nicholas Joseph** (6 lbs. 6 ozs.) on January 15.

□ **Jennifer McFarland**, Thomas Elementary School first grade teacher, and her husband **Joshua** became the proud parents of son **Kellen Quinn** (8 lbs. 1 oz.) on January 21; **Lorig Topalian**, Frankford Middle School Spanish teacher, and her husband **Ish** welcomed son **Nicholas Alishan** on January 21; and **Amy Adams**, Stinson Elementary School first grade teacher, and her husband **James** announced the birth of daughter **Audrey Elizabeth** (8 lbs. 6 ozs.) on January 22.

Sympathy is extended to the following employees:

□ **Beth Milinsky**, Robinson Middle School social studies teacher, whose father **Bernard Milinsky** died on November 16, and Robinson Band Director **Kimberly Hernandez** whose grandmother **Delphia Ingram** died on January 2; and **Pat Stevens**, Schimelpfenig Middle School coach, whose sister **Emma Delores Sloan** of North Carolina passed away recently.

□ **Debbie Hutchison**, Vines High School health teacher and coach, whose brother **Dennis "Gator" Hutchison** died on January 10; **Amy LeClair**, Jasper High School social studies teacher, whose nephew **Ryan Cook** died on January 18; and **Janet White**, Miller Elementary School second grade teacher, whose sister **Kathy Hahs** died on January 19.

Thought for the Week:

"Education is not the piling on of learning, information, data, facts, skills or abilities - that's training or instruction - but is rather making visible what is hidden as a seed."

~Thomas Moore

