



Spring 2009 District Events

Details of the following district events can be found online at:
www.pisd.edu/calendar.

January

- 12 - Board Town Hall Meeting
- 19 - MLK B'Day Observance (Student/Teacher Holiday)
- 22 - MLK Tribute
- 31 - Ski Plano

February

- 2-6 - National School Counseling Week
- 16 - Professional Development Day (Student Holiday)
- 17 - PTA Life Banquet
- 25 - Elementary Early Release

March

- 2 - Read Across America and Texas Independence Day
- 2-6 - School Breakfast Week & Texas Public Schools Week: School Open Houses
- 2 - Early Childhoods
- 5 - High Schools
- 9 - Senior Highs
- 10 - Middle Schools
- 12 - Elementary Schools
- 13 - Elementary Early Release
- 16-20 - Spring Break
- 26 - PTA Presidents' and Principals' Luncheon
- 28 - Recruitment Open House
- 26, 28, 31 - Early Childhood Pre-registration
- 30 - Board Town Hall Meeting

April

- 2 - Children's Book Day
- 2 - Service/Retirement Event
- 2 & 3 - Kindergarten Pre-registration
- 10 - Student/Teacher Holiday
- 12-18 - National Library Week
- 12 - Drop Everything and Read
- 19-25 - Public School Volunteer and Administrative Professionals Week
- 22 - Admin. Professionals Day
- 25 - PSHS Prom

May

- 3-9 - Teacher Appreciation, Music Education and Child Nutrition Employee Week
- 5 - National Teacher Day
- 6 - School Nurse Day
- 7 - Teacher of the Year Gala
- 9 - School Board Election
- 13 - Elementary Early Release
- 16 - Plano West Prom
- 17-23 - Education Bosses' Week
- 21 - Trustee Awards Ceremony
- 23 - Plano East Prom
- 25 - Memorial Day (Student/Teacher Holiday)

June

- 4 - Last Day of School
- Elementary Early Release
- 5 - Last Day for Teachers
- 8 - Graduation, Dallas Convention Center: 10 a.m.-PESH; 2 p.m.-PWSH; 7 p.m.-PSHS

'Ski Plano' January 31 at Southfork Ranch

Planning Committee Announces 2009 Auction Items, Encourages Parents & Friends to Attend Event Together

The Plano ISD Education Foundation invites community members to don their favorite ski vests, winter sweaters and scarves and to join school district friends and family at Ski Plano 2009 for "An Extraordinary Evening on the Mountaintop" Saturday, January 31, at Southfork Ranch. The Ski Plano Planning Committee has gathered several luxury items to auction off at the annual fundraising event. The wintry fun will begin at 6:30 p.m., and event proceeds will directly benefit the students, faculty, staff and programs of Plano ISD.

Popular 'Avalanche Snowball Drop' Activity Promises Big Prizes for 4 Lucky Winners

Four lucky winners who purchase "snowballs" for the popular Avalanche Snowball Drop (\$50/snowball or \$100/4 snowballs) will claim these prizes, if their snowball is first to reach the finish line!

Prize #1
Diamond Michele Watch (value: \$1,545) Donated by Neiman Marcus Willow Bend

Prize #2
Hot Air Balloon Flight and Champagne Brunch for Two (value: price-less) Donated by *Plano Profile Magazine*

Prize #3
Dell Laptop Computer (value: \$1,000) Donated by Dell Computer Corp.

Prize #4
RoughRiders 2009 Game Luxury Suite for 20 guests, parking passes, food and beverages (value: \$1,350) Donated by Frisco RoughRiders Foundation

Parents & Friends to Double Their Fun by Purchasing 'Ski Plano' Tables Together

The Proud Parents of Murphy Middle School and Miller Elementary School will attend Ski Plano 2009 together to double their fun at the evening event. Tickets have also been purchased together by family and friends at Barksdale, Beverly, Hightower, Mitchell, Thomas and Wells elementary schools.

The Plano ISD Education Foundation encourages parents and friends to purchase these valuable tables early. The registration forms can be downloaded from the Foundation's Web site at: www.pisd.edu/about.us/foundation/ski.plano.shtml.

15th Annual Plano ISD Recruitment Open House Pre-Registration Underway: Event March 28 at Murphy M.S.

The Plano ISD Human Resources Division is currently pre-registering applicants for the district's 15th Annual Recruitment Open House to be held from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 28, at Murphy Middle School, 620 N. Murphy Road in Murphy. Administrators representing every Plano ISD campus will be present to talk with applicants about teaching opportunities in the school district at the event. Major event sponsors are Ebby Halliday REALTORS® in collaboration with the Plano ISD Education Foundation. Corporate sponsorships of this year's event are still available by calling the Foundation at 469-752-8272.

"All certified teachers, counselors, librarians and other education professionals are invited to attend the district open house," noted Tamira Griffin, executive director of human resources. Regarding the approxi-

Pre-Register by February 20 at www.pisd.edu

The following documents must be submitted by February 20 to secure pre-registration for the recruitment open house.

- ▶ Online Teacher Insight Interview
- ▶ Online Employment Application
- ▶ Recruitment Open House Registration Form
- ▶ Verification of certification (a copy of teaching certification), Texas university letter of completion statement of eligibility for an alternative program.
- ▶ Highly Qualified documentation for No Child Left Behind.

Live Auction Items Preview

Lexus Super Model Sampler - Drive a different Lexus every month of the year. Park Place Lexus

Nick & Sam's Chef Samir Dhurandhar will prepare dinner for 8 in your home.

Willow Bend Shopping Extravaganza
\$2,000 gift card, limousine transportation and lunch for 4 at Mariposa. The Shops at Willow Bend

Golf Around Town - Enjoy golf with friends at some of the area's top courses, including TPC at Craig Ranch, Bent Tree Country Club, Prestonwood Country Club and Cowboys Club.

Sonoma Wine Country Extravaganza
Private tour and tastings of three wineries, chauffeur, four-night suite and airfare for two.

Central Market's Executive Chef will prepare dinner for 10 guests in your home.

Party on Center Field - Saturday access to either Clark or Kimbrough stadiums and football jersey from high school of choice. Plano ISD Athletic Department

Ski Banff - Four-night suite stay with airfare for four at the Fairmont Banff Springs resort.

Ladies: Shop Canton

Two-night stay for up to six ladies at Cedar Creek Lake (Feb. 27-March 1, 2009): shopping map, shopping cart for each guest and gift card for food and wine. Donated by Kari and Mark Rabe and Lisa and Mark Raskin

mately 900 applicants who attended last year's fair, Ms. Griffin said, "We saw some of the strongest Highly Qualified candidates in the market." According to Becky Wussow, director of human resource services, Plano ISD has employed approximately 30 percent of its teaching staff from candidates who participate in the open house. For details regarding the open house, including answers to frequently-asked questions and pre-registration applications and forms, visit www.pisd.edu/employment.

SB 9 Mandates Fingerprinting of Employees & Subs

The 80th Texas Legislature's Senate Bill 9 (SB 9) mandated that the Texas Education Agency (TEA) acquire criminal history reports on three employee groups: 1) all certified educators who are currently employed, 2) all substitutes, and 3) all non-certified employees hired after January 1, 2008.

In addition, SB 9 created a criminal history clearinghouse to facilitate access to criminal history information and provide updates on any subsequent criminal history activity. Under SB 9, during the time period January 1, 2008, until September 1, 2011, TEA will systematically contact school districts to

submit information about all employees and substitutes, some of whom will then be required to be fingerprinted.

Plano ISD's Human Resources Division anticipates receiving official notification on or about January 29, 2009. After Plano ISD submits the required database to the state, district employees who hold SBEC certifications and all substitutes (regardless of whether or not they are certified) will be required to complete the fingerprint process within 80 days. Answers to frequently-asked questions regarding the law can be found on Plano ISD's Web site home page at: www.pisd.edu.

January 12 Town Hall Meeting

The Plano ISD Board of Trustees and Superintendent of Schools Dr. Doug Otto will host a town hall meeting from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. on Monday,

January 12, at Mathews Elementary School, 7500 Marchman Way, in Plano. Superintendent Otto will present details of the district's "2009 Legislative Priorities" and the Public Education Visioning Institute Report, "Creating a New Vision for Public Education in Texas." The forum will also provide the public with the opportunity for informal conversation with school trustees.

District Digest

E-mail: digest@pisd.edu

Phone: (469) 752-8030

Website:

www.pisd.edu/news

eNews listserv:

www.pisd.edu/eNews.htm

High School AVID Students Demo 'Roadtrip Nation' Pilot Curriculum for RTN & AVID State and National Officials

"It all started with four friends and one dilemma: 'What do I want to do with my life?' Fresh out of college and unsure about the career paths in front of them, they were determined to expose themselves to more than just the traditional life roads. They hopped in an old RV, painted it green, and hit the road to talk with inspiring people from all walks of life to find out how they came to do what they love for a living." ~Roadtrip Nation



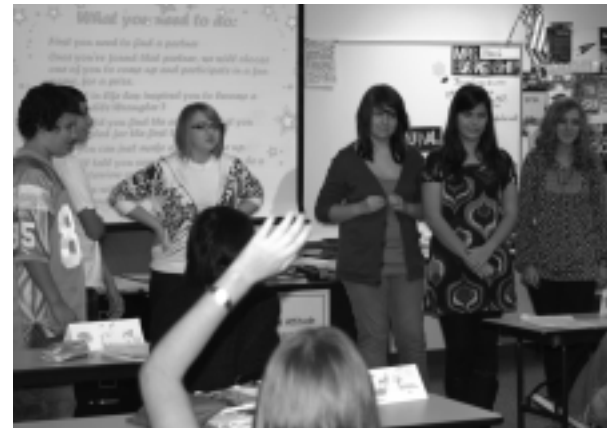
Shepton AVID students discussed the Road Trip Nation pilot curriculum with their instructor Gina Blankenship and RTN Outreach Director Brian McAllister.

Coordinating and attending the student demonstrations were Plano ISD's Susan Modisette, director of secondary curriculum and instruction, and Kristin Anderson, AVID coordinator, who stated, "In AVID, we strive to expose our students to myriad career opportunities. RTN does this in a unique way by allowing students to hear from individuals in a variety of careers and by challenging students to explore their own pathways."

Following the RTN visit, Shepton and Vines AVID students hit the road to conduct their own local interviews. They recorded their exposure to vastly-diverse professionals, including Dr. David Genecov, team physician who assisted in the separation of cojoined Egyptian twins, to professional skateboarder Mike Crum. Shepton AVID Teacher Gina Blankenship said that the experience proved to be a "catalyst for her students to explore and follow their own passions." AVID Teacher Traci Borsattino at Vines said her students "are already thinking about what path will get them to their happy endings." Vines Student Juan Navarro said that, among his lessons learned is, "Failure is not game over."

Today, Roadtrip Nation (RTN) has evolved into a PBS series, three books, an online community and a student movement. A recent road trip brought Brian McAllister, RTN director of outreach, to Plano ISD and the classrooms of Shepton and Vines high schools' AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) students. He and his colleagues joined state and national AVID officials in viewing student demonstrations of RTN's pilot curriculum, which encourages students to explore options for their futures.

AVID students at Shepton and Vines hosted Mr. McAllister and his RTN colleagues Bernardo Pantoja and Chrystal Heintz and AVID's Eileen Friou, Texas director; Steven Baratee, assistant director of marketing and communications; and Rob Gira, executive vice president of national programs.



Shepton AVID students demonstrated their use of the Road Trip Nation pilot curriculum for RTN and AVID national visitors and Plano ISD administrators.

TBEC Honor Roll Schools Awarded at State Ceremony



Honor Roll School representatives accepting awards on behalf of their schools were (l-r) Rice Middle School Assistant Principal Chris Glasscock and Principal Gail Stelter, Skaggs Elementary School Counselor Regina Carpenter and Principal Mary Ann Bargmann, Mathews Elementary School Teacher Juanita Hall and Principal Jane Ball, West Cluster Assistant Superintendent Patty Meyer, Jasper High School Principal Jeff Gasaway, Central Cluster Assistant Superintendent Roxanne Burlison, and Jasper Assistant Principal Anita Nance.

Four Plano ISD schools were honored recently by the Texas Business and Education Coalition (TBEC) for excellence in education during a state recognition ceremony held in San Antonio.

Honored were Mathews and Skaggs elementary schools, Rice Middle School and Jasper High School, who each made the list of TBEC Honor Roll Schools for the third consecutive year in 2008.

TBEC analyzes three years of performance data each year for every public school in Texas. Honor roll schools are identified for having a high percentage of students meeting state standards on every TAKS test for three consecutive years and for having the highest percentage of students performing at the most rigorous standard - commended - in every subject.

Notable Notes...

Congratulations to these parents and grandparents:

□ **Lenora Huffington**, Rice Middle School special education teacher, and her husband **Monty** welcomed granddaughter **Alane Marie** (6 lbs. 6 ozs.) on November 26. Proud parents are **Rachel and Randy Griffin**; Hunt Elementary School Counselor **Pamela Bell** welcomed grandchild **Landon Neill Allums** (7 lbs. 7 ozs.) on November 29; **Jamin Austin**, Frankford Middle School PE coach, and his wife **April** announced the December 9 birth of daughter **Jaycie**; and Jasper High School's **Leslie Berends**, social studies teacher, welcomed son **Anthony Charles, Jr.**, (5 lbs. 13 ozs.) on December 10, and **Dianis Craig**, Spanish teacher, announced the birth of daughter **Kristyn Marian** (5 lbs. 13 ozs.) on December 18.

Sympathy is extended to these current and former employees:

□ **David Kraft**, Jasper HS science teacher, and his wife **Victoria** on the passing of his father **Dennis** in November; Hendrick MS's **Cheryl Jones**, Skills for Living teacher, whose grandmother **Elsie Gurley** died recently; and **Sally Villani**, counselor, whose mother-in-law **Mildred Villani** died recently; and Skaggs Elementary's **Kim Beattie**, second grade teacher, who lost her stepmother **Nancy Schaufelberger** recently, and **Karen Lee**, fifth grade team leader, whose grandmother **Woe Nam Lee** died recently.

Thought for the Week:

"Celebrate what you've accomplished, but raise the bar a little higher each time you succeed." ~Mia Hamm

