

For immediate release:

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Plano ISD Education Foundation Grant Patrol surprises 120 teachers with \$68,000 in grants

Plano, Texas, November 13, 2009—The Plano ISD Education Foundation’s “Grant Patrol” made surprise visits to 120 teachers in their classrooms on Thursday, November 12, to present 54 grants totaling \$68,000 to fund innovative instructional programs. Foundation Board members, sponsors, district staff and parent leaders presented the grants in person, arriving at schools in vehicles provided courtesy of Park Place Lexus.

Plano ISD Education Foundation Board President Beth Webb said, “The Foundation is pleased to assist our teachers by funding important programs they have planned to enhance student learning in their classrooms. The Grants to Educators program is one of the best ways that private dollars can support outstanding classroom instruction by educators across Plano ISD.”

This year’s grant program was chaired by Foundation Director Rick Dunham. Volunteer judges included Foundation Board Members Mr. Dunham, Robin Joseph-Williams, Kyle Walters, Sue Kay, Windon Chau and Mark Ball; seven community volunteers from the Plano ISD Council of PTAs; Plano ISD Teachers of the Year and Excellence in Teaching awardees; and Plano ISD curriculum staff.

Funding for the grants program comes from the following generous sponsors: Park Place Lexus, Plano ISD Council of PTAs, the Andrea-Mennen Family Foundation and the Texas Muslim Women’s Foundation. Central Market Plano provided breakfast and lunch to Grant Patrol participants. Since the Foundation’s inception more than \$527,000 has been awarded to Plano ISD teachers through the Grants to Educators program.

The Plano ISD Education Foundation celebrates its sixteenth year of operation, having raised almost \$5 million to benefit Plano schools. The Plano ISD Education Foundation is a 501(c) (3) organization that funds priority programs identified by the school district for which tax dollars are not available. Programs funded by the Foundation enhance student learning; recruit, retain and recognize the very best teachers; or address critical needs of students and families so that all students can be successful.

Congratulations Grant Winners!

- **Beverly Elementary School**, *IC My World*, \$1183.04 - Carole West, Rachel Emmer, Stacey Scott, Allison Bitter
- **(3 Grants) Bowman Middle School**, *Soccer to Student Success*, \$1500 - Karen Rahe and Adrian Rodriguez; *After School Art*, \$350 - Daniel Zock and *Robotics and Beyond*, \$1450 - Adrian Rodriguez
- **Brinker Elementary School**, *Buddies*, \$350 - Alaina Cordina, Debra LaGassa, MariAnn Gattelarо and Alaina Cordina
- **(6 Grants) Carpenter Middle School**, *Education in a "Flash"*, \$1300 - Elisabeth Nye; *Cowboys Boys and Girls Soccer Team*, \$1300 - Rodrigo Hurtado, Chrissi Cawthon and Joe Delarios; *"Reading Counts at Carpenter Middle School"*, \$1500 - Carol Valdez, Kimberly Seale and Lynn Jorgensen; *"Reading Suits Me"*, \$1300 - Kimberly Seale; *A Classroom "School Store" to Encourage Middle School Math Students to be Successful*, \$1000 - Barbara Lye and Kerry Babin; and *Audio Book Library*, \$1150 - Chrissi Cawthon, Megan McSherry and Lisa Scott
- **(3 Grants) Christie Elementary School**, *Team Read*, \$1488 - Jennifer Ruth and Beckey Moffet; *Math on the Move!*, \$1398 - Lilly Jensby and Christine Kallman; and *Totally Disgusting Science*, \$1499.05 - Miriam Madill
- **Daffron Elementary School**, *Matching Math Manipulatives with Literature-AHomeSchool Initiative*, \$1300 - Cathy Chomistek
- **(2 Grants) Forman Elementary School**, *Prescription for Math Success*, \$850 - Martha Preston, Linda Ardon, Ramiro Ardon, Jake Walker and Kris Ollom, and *SOAR into Reading*, \$1500 - Armandina Louis-Charles, Natalie Shanks and Andrea Jaramillo
- **Frankford Middle School**, *Puentes Hacia Exito*, \$1500 - Ana B Dominguez, Bonnie Mueller, Nimet Bata and Lois Schock
- **Head Start**, *Literacy for Young Learners*, \$1150 - Kristi Vest
- **Hightower Elementary School**, *Math Packs*, \$1593.49 - Sara Stewart, Robin Ollison, Susan Juarez and JanDe Eppers
- **(3 Grants) Huffman Elementary School**, *4 -L Club - K-3*, \$1500 - Andra Harris and Carolyn Curfman; *Bloomin' Minds*, \$1500 - Lindsey Estill; and *Family Science Labs in a Bag*, \$500 - Marci Watson
- **(2 Grants) Jackson Elementary School**, *ELMS To Go*, \$1500 - Angela Marshall and Liz Steinbaugh, and *Breaking the Barrier: Unlocking Language for all Parents*, \$1500 - Kimberlee Speer and Laura Fix
- **Mathews Elementary School**, *Pitch Perfect*, \$1500 - Jessica Bauchum and Tammy Kraman
- **McCall Elementary School**, *Experiments on the Go*, \$3000 - Karla Hughes, Karen Bandy, Kim Kilpatrick, Heather Colomina and Silvia Nunez-Jimenez
- **Meadows Elementary School**, *Blooming Baby Readers*, \$1500 - Crystal Hume
- **(2 Grants) Mendenhall Elementary School**, *Science and Reading Morning Adventure Club*, \$1500 - Christine Barrantes, and *Math 2 Go*, \$354 - Rebecca L. Saathoff and Susan Simpson
- **Murphy Middle School**, *"Cultivating a Love of Reading"*, \$1500 - Tina Christian, Kristin Gray and Laura Foster
- **Plano East Senior High School, Plano Senior High School, Plano West Senior High School**, *My College Tour*, \$3000 - Tommy Guynes, Susan Baxkey, Dawn Jackson and Martha Will

- **(3 Grants) Plano East Senior High School**, *College Prep*, \$1500 - Jessica Chu, Holly Thomas and Katherine Ruzycki; *APUSH visits the AmonCarterMuseum*, \$1500 - Lee Ann Yates, Lynda Morrison, Richard Sklar, Richard Walker and Christina Perez; and *The Write Connection*, \$1440 - Katherine Ruzycki, Kristy Alexander, Penny Aguire and Donna Sewell
- **Plano Senior High School**, *AVID "Clawing our way to the TOP!"*, \$1500 - Aimée Ratliff and AVID Site Team Members
- **Saigling Elementary School**, *Algebra Becomes Child's Play with "Hands-on Equations"*, \$1011.08 - Kelly Threadgill
- **Schell Elementary School**, *Comprehension Cafe*, \$900 - Cynthia Smith, Michelle Hardy, Hannah Clawson, Madalyn Sierra and Lindsey Aune
- **(2 Grants) Schimelpfenig Middle School**, *Friday Afterschool Math TAKS Tutoring Incentives (6th - 8th grades)*, \$650 - Michelle Massey and Linda Vetter, and *Smart Musicians at Schimelpfenig*, \$589.80 - Martha Ball
- **Sigler Elementary School**, *The Parent Connection*, \$1500 - Andrea Hall and Sherry Stevenson
- **Skaggs Elementary School, Wyatt Elementary School**, *Explore on Your Own*, \$1484.46 - Sheryl Morris, Lucy Hooker and Judy Johnson
- **(2 Grants) Special Programs K-8**, *Step Into Reading*, \$1430.98 - Ashley Sanders and Karon Phelps, and *SPC Lending Library*, \$1500 - Rebecca Lara and Karon Phelps
- **Stinson Elementary School**, *Experience Texas*, \$383.90 - Amy Kittelson and Cathy Lawrence
- **(2 Grants) Thomas Elementary School**, *Books of Hope*, \$700 - Amy Moore, and *ELMS Club (Every Day Language Made Simple)*, \$500 - Carolyn Beall and Sheri Lutz
- **(2 Grants) Vines High School**, *Color Connection*, \$375 - Pam Clark, Becky Salonish and Danielle Roys, and *It's a Visual Thing*, \$1500 - Pauline Freeman
- **Weatherford Elementary School**, *Clever Kinder Kids - Write On!*, \$1500.00 - Sonia Day
- **Williams High School**, *Williams Warriors Writing Camp*, \$1500 - Jill Engelking
- **(2 Grants) Wilson Middle School**, *Continuing to Fill the Need for ALL Students*, \$1500; Mary Long, and *Wilson's Very History Smart (Wilson's VHS)*, \$1500 - Elena Jones and the Social Studies Department

About The Plano ISD Education Foundation

The Plano ISD Education Foundation – <http://www.pisd.edu/foundation> – is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization with the mission to generate private support for priority projects identified by Plano ISD not funded by tax dollars. The Foundation provides grants to educators, programs that support academic enrichment to Plano ISD students, emergency assistance for teachers and staff members in crisis, as well as programs aimed at recruiting and retaining quality teachers. To learn more about the Plano ISD Education Foundation or to make a donation, contact Executive Director Monica Shortino at 469-752-8091.

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