



# In Plain View

Plainview ISD Staff eNewsletter

Fall 2017

## Board of Trustees approves pay increase for staff

Recently a school district made the news for passing out \$1000 bonus checks to employees during Convocation. You may have seen the story; it went viral on Facebook and it brought a lot of publicity to the school district.

I am very appreciative that our school board did not choose to give us a bonus check. Instead, they chose to give us a salary increase. A salary increase is not just a one time boost to our bank accounts as a bonus would have been. A raise in pay means we will continue to receive those dollars in the years ahead.

Over the last several years when raises are being considered, our Administration has recommended to the Board of Trustees that all employees be given an equal dollar amount increase rather than the percentage raise many school boards approve.

With a percentage raise, those on the high end of the salary scale receive more than those on low end. For example when a board approves a 2% raise, that translates to a \$400 increase for a person making \$20,000 a year and a \$1600 increase for a person who makes \$80,000 a year.

This is my 27th year with Plainview ISD and for most of those years when we were given a raise, it was a percentage raise. This type of raise is common practice in most districts, but thankfully, it is not how our current Board has granted salary increases.

Our Board "gets it" and is concerned that no matter where we fall on the salary schedule, we all face rising costs for housing, groceries, utilities, and especially our health insurance.

This year the Board once again voted to increase our salary \$1200. It doesn't matter if you are the Superintendent or the lowest paid employee in Plainview ISD, you will receive the same dollar amount increase in salary.

If you see a Board member, please take time to thank him or her. They have a tough job and truly care about not only the success of our schools, but the prosperity of this community. Our appreciation is the only pay they receive for their service.

-Jan Seago



Fourth grade students in Ashley Carthel's room at College Hill pose proudly before a flag donated to their class by David Isaacson. The class adopted the United States Navy as part of the "No Excuses" mindset launched at the school this fall. The flag flew on an aircraft carrier prior to being donated to the classroom.



College Hill students collected seven boxes of school supplies to send to students of Stewart Elementary in Hitchcock ISD south of Houston. Many of the Stewart Elementary families were impacted by the recent hurricane and the school is working to help families get back on their feet. Both schools share the bulldog mascot.





# Pam Tillman: The Battle She Didn't Choose

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, an annual campaign to raise awareness of the disease.

Breast cancer is the second most common kind of cancer in women. Statistics say about 1 in 8 women born today in the United States will have breast cancer at some point.

We probably all know someone who is fighting breast cancer. In fact it's difficult to think back to a time when you didn't know someone who was fighting cancer. It's especially hard when the diagnosis hits one of our own.

Hillcrest teacher Pam Tillman is one of us in the fight for her life against breast cancer.

Pam was diagnosed on March 17. She had no history of cancer in her family; no reason to think that a diagnosis was on the horizon.

She first noticed a bruising on her breast that didn't go away after two weeks. That was followed by the discovery of a lump and an immediate trip to have a mammogram. Her doctor told her then that he was pretty sure it was cancer.

Pam says she drove back to school that day, crying all the way from Covenant Hospital to Hillcrest where she went straight to Hillcrest principal Yesenia Pardo's office.

"We cried and prayed together," she said.

Two weeks later, the oncologist told her it was Stage 3 breast cancer.

"I had the best kind of cancer," she said. "But we needed to get aggressive. My doctors immediately went to work developing a plan for treatment."

"On Friday, September 15, I completed five months of chemotherapy. The next step will

be to have surgery and radiation."

Pam is not one to dwell on the negative, but focuses on the positive side of what has happened since her diagnosis.



"I have been very blessed in my journey. I have had minimal side effects," she said. "I have worked most days since the first of school. I have amazing doctors and support from my school, the parents of my kiddos, my family, and GOD."

Pam teaches a special education speech communication class at Hillcrest. She took her current position in the Spring of 2015. Prior to that time, she had worked as a substitute teacher since 2010.

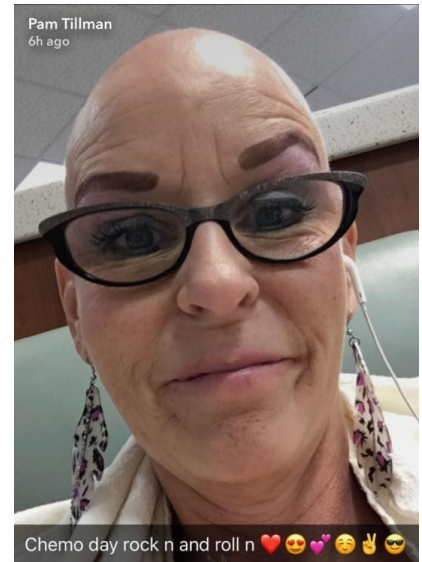
Feeling the need to be present in the classroom, but knowing your health has to be a priority can be challenging.

"My kids are mostly autistic and change is very hard for them," she said. "My assistant, James Harris, has stepped up and helped me so much."

She does acknowledge that the need to focus on treatment has created some struggles in her day to day life.

"The bills are crazy and I have NO time off."

If you are interested in following Pam's journey, she has created a facebook page about her battle. You can find it under the username "Kicking Breast Cancer" or at this URL: <https://m.facebook.com/Kicking-Breast-Cancer-1953868838169241/>



# La Mesa hosts "Sock it to Harvey" Drive

In the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey, Texans young and old have pulled together to help in what will be a long-term recovery. La Mesa Elementary staff and students wanted to take part in those recovery efforts and found a unique way to extend a helping hand.

The campus reached out to Magnolia Elementary in Magnolia - a city within the Houston metropolitan area.

La Mesa principal Vickie Young had become acquainted with Magnolia Elementary principal Lettie Roman during a summer leadership conference at Harvard University a few years ago.

Young made a phone call to Roman to inquire how her campus could best support the recovery for the Magnolia school. Roman reported that the school building had suffered some leaks, but had received minimal damage following the hurricane. Her biggest concern was for the students whose families had suffered property losses due to flooding in the area.

Together, the two principals decided that collecting new packages of socks and underwear might be the best way the Plainview students could show support for the



La Mesa students with Larson International representatives Fred Bechtold and Josh Burns.

Magnolia families.

On August 30, La Mesa excitedly launched their "Sock it to Harvey" Drive over social media. Notes were also sent home to parents explaining the drive.

Almost immediately, new packages of socks and underwear began to pour into the donation box not only from La Mesa families, but from members of the community who heard about the drive and wanted to participate.

In little more than a week, the campus had collected approximately 155 lbs. of new socks and underwear.

Young says that's when Larson Manufacturing stepped in to help.

The company volunteered to pack the items into heavy-duty boxes for shipping and offered to pay the shipping costs.

The boxes were packed on Tuesday, supplemented with notes of encouragement from the La Mesa students, and are now on their way to the Magnolia school.

The successful campaign to "Sock it to Harvey" was not only a great way to support those in need, but also a good lesson in philanthropy for the Plainview students.

# District counselors planning Parent Seminars

After conducting an online survey of parents to determine the parents' interest in learning more information on a number of topics, the Plainview ISD counselors are in process of creating parent seminars based on those results.

Robin Salazar, Director for Accountability and Assessment, said that the counselors hope to provide resources, current trends, area contacts and to offer some professional knowledge and guidance on each of the topics presented.

The survey also allowed

parents input as to the day of the week and times that would best fit into their schedule and counselors have used that information in planning.

Salazar says they are hopefully that parents will take

advantage of these sessions and they plan to use social media to make parents aware of the availability of these sessions.

“We hope to have a prosperous response,” she said.

2017-2018 Parent Seminars

DATE	TOPIC	PRESENTERS	TIME	LOCATION
Nov. 9, 2017	Helping Young Minds Cope with Anxiety	Dana Marchman, Robin Sweeney, Courtney Wood	6:30-7:30 p.m.	Education Complex, Rms 3 & 5
Dec. 14, 2017	Stranger Danger in the Online World: Social Media, Cyberbullying & Human Trafficking	Connie Dipprey, Kasey Johnson, Emily Parker, Valinda Parker	6:30-7:30 p.m.	Education Complex, Rms 3 & 5
Jan. 11, 2018	Raising Emotionally Healthy Children in a Digital World	Cynthia Oles, Marci Owens, Jay Jay Wiseman	6:30-7:30 p.m.	Education Complex, Rms 3 & 5
Feb. 15, 2018	Substance Abuse Awareness	Elizabeth Hernandez, Larry Keltz, Andrea Morales	6:30-7:30 p.m.	Education Complex, Rms 3 & 5
Apr. 12, 2018	Building Healthy Relationships	Angie Gauntt, Amy Hagerman, Cailey Stoerner	6:30-7:30 p.m.	Education Complex, Rms 3 & 5

## Grant funds Estacado, Thunderbird ACE program



Estacado Middle School and Thunderbird Elementary received a federal grant that is administered by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to implement the “ACE” (Afterschool Centers on Education.) program. The grant is designed to offer an enriched portfolio of activities for students and their families at NO COST to participants.

The ACE program provides extended learning opportunities for children and their families through innovative, hands-on activities that reinforce and complement students’ regular academic programs. These before and after school activities are based on research and best practices and include academic enrichment, challenging curriculum, tutorial services. ACE strives to increase promotion and graduation rates and helps students prepare for collage and the workplace.

The ACE program strives to improve:

- Academics
- Attendance
- Behavior
- Promotion rates
- Graduation rates
- College and career readiness

**Contacts:**

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# Cheers! Kudos! High Fives!

**Tiffany White** (PHS 2008), daughter of Royce and **Patty White** (Highland), married Edward Wilhelm in Nazareth on July 22.



Welcome to **Jaren Ramirez**, new Aramark Catering Manager. Jaren attended Auguste Escoffier School of Culinary Arts in Austin where he earned an associate's degree in Applied Sciences of Culinary Arts. He was born and raised in Plainview, attending Plainview Schools until his sophomore year of high school and then transferring to Kress ISD when his family moved to Kress. He says, "I am excited to bring what I have learned about food and cooking back to Plainview. Hopefully I can make a positive and healthy impact on the people of Plainview through my food."

**Alyssa Garcia**, daughter of **Monica Garcia** (PHS) was awarded the John C. Stevens Scholarship in the amount of \$58,000. She is attending Abilene Christian University.



**Keila Crawford** (PHS 2013), daughter of Dusty and **Beverly Crawford** (Business Office), received her LVN pin on August 10. Keila credits her inspiration for a career in the medical field to her Uncle Bryan and Aunt **Brandy Merrick** (Admin Office). Keila also has a sister, PHS senior Liberty Crawford.

Estacado science teacher **Leslie Daugherty** (formerly Miller) married Calvin Daugherty on July 22 in Silverton. Calvin teaches Ag Science for Silverton ISD.



**Dr. Ricardo Garcia** (Business Office) graduated from Capella University in Minneapolis Minnesota on August 26. He was awarded a Ed.D in Educational Leadership with Distinction. His dissertation was in "Procedures for Physical Access Control at a Rural Public High School."

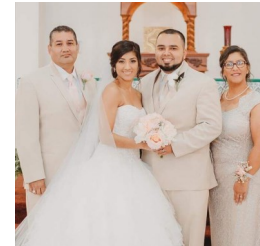


**Nathan Young**, son of Darren and **Vickie Young** (La Mesa) was recently inducted into the Abilene Christian University Sports Hall of Fame.

**Josiah Hannon**, son of **Andrew** (Coronado) and **Nancy Hannon** (Estacado) is beginning his first year of teaching in Midland ISD. He is teaching 5th grade math.



**Rebecca Bertelson** (Edgemere) celebrated the 50th wedding anniversary of her parents, John and Carolyn Redding, on August 19. the family celebration was held at the Plainview Country Club on August 12.



**Bethany Chavez** (PHS 2012), daughter of Adam and **Gracie Chavez** (La Mesa) married Jacob Munoz on August 5.

## NEW BABIES IN THE PISD FAMILY

Jesus and **Michelle Villegas** (Edgemere) are the proud parents of a son, Mason Alexander Villegas, born on March 30. He weighed 8 lbs. 5 oz. at birth.



Robert and Cynthia Mendoza (former Ash staff) are the parents of a daughter, Elleana Rose Mendoza, born on August 4. She weighed 7 lbs. 6 oz. at birth. Elleana has two brothers, Christian and Eli (Highland students). Proud grandparents are Rick and **Estella Salas** (Ash).

Josh and Erica Amador are the parents of a son, Bostyn Amador, born on August 30. He weighed 8 lbs. 9 oz. and was 19 1/2 in. at birth. Proud grandparents are Phil and **Angelica Cordero** (Estacado)



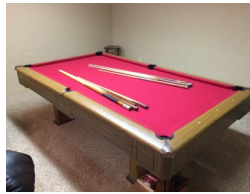


# Buy, Sell, Rent, Trade, Give Away..

FOR SALE by owner: 3 bedroom, 1 bath, completely remodeled. Huge yard, 30x30 cemented shop, new roof, new fence. 609 W 22nd, \$59,900. Contact Lupie Perez (College Hill) 292-7287.



WANTED: Donation of **two matching bar stools** (preferably with backs) that will fit under a high bar in the breakroom at Edgemere. Contact Rebecca Bertelson (Edgemere).



FOR SALE: **Pool table**, excellent condition. Used very little. \$400. contact Tommy Caldwell (PHS).

FOR SALE: **Sofa and loveseat**, olive green color, good condition from a non-smoking, no pets home. Both for \$450 OBO. Contact April O'Brien (Thunderbird).



Thunderbird principal Amy Meek poses with students celebrating Mexican Independence Day.

## Note of Thanks

I would like to thank all of those who came out and helped us clean up our house, called, prayed and donated money to our family this summer when our house was heavily damaged due to a bad storm in July. My family had to spend a month and a half living in Tulia, but we are so thankful that we were not home. We are very close to having all of the repairs to the house complete and then we will begin work on the damage to the garage.

-Monica Garcia (PHS)

## Social Media

If you are on Facebook please join us. We share school and non-school related information of interest to staff through this medium.



**Plainview ISD Staff**  
(closed group for staff only)

**Plainview Independent School District**  
(Public Facebook)

**Twitter - @PLVWISD**



Our campuses also have Facebook accounts. We hope you will check those out also.

## Donations needed for 18 Plus Room

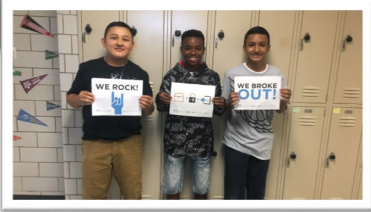
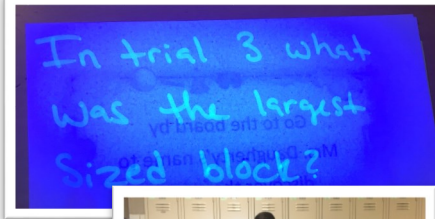
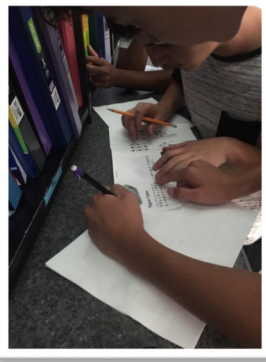
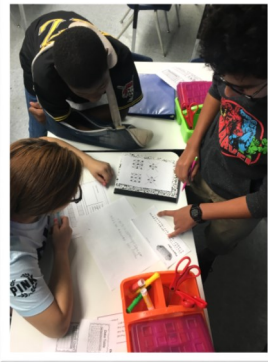
Donations of the following items are needed by the Special Services Dept. for the 18-plus room where high school students work on transition skills. Contact Jeff De La Garza.

### Items need for 18 plus:

- Small broom
- Alarm clock
- Electric can opener
- Large towels (4)
- Hand Towels (4)
- Pictures for the wall
- Twin sheets
- Hanging rack for clothes
- Twin size bed
- Lamp(s)
- Cookie sheets
- Small cake pans
- Platters
- Vacuum



# Estacado students "escape" through science



Estacado students in Leslie Daugherty's science class participating in an Escape Room Breakout activity. In order to escape, the teams had to solve clues by analyzing data using hidden messages within charts and graph and pigpen ciphers and decipher secret codes written in invisible ink.

# Celebrating with our August retirees



The Aramark Office held a surprise retirement party for retiring custodian **Mabel Caballero** on August 31, her last day working for PISD. Mabel also was honored that morning by the Administration and Business Offices with a retirement breakfast.



**Peggy Bownds** (above, left) retired on August 31 from her position as senior accountant in our Business Office. Peggy has been an important part of our PISD family for many years. She says she would love to hear from everyone. Her email address is [peggydbownds@gmail.com](mailto:peggydbownds@gmail.com). Peggy was hon-



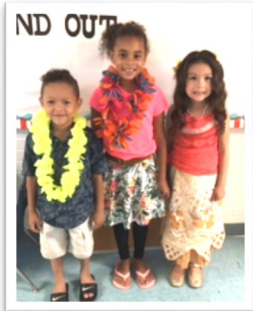
Also retiring in August (and super excited about it as you can see from the photos) was **James Pharis**, Assistant Director of Maintenance. James worked for PISD for 23 years. The Service Center celebrated their retirees with a hamburger luncheon.

# Spirit Week around the District

## #WeHaveSpirit



Estacado staff Robbie Cross, Angelica Cordero, Tresha McCaster and Virginia Leal say "Aloha to Borger" during Spirit Week.



Hillcrest first grade teacher Dani Licerio says "Aloha" with some of her students.



Estacado staffers Keri Nelson, Diana Solano, and Audra Richerson too cute on "retro day". Notice the high school rings on their neck chains.



La Mesa staff Bailey Stengler, Joanna Rodriguez, and Shelby Summers dressed for "Fictional Characters Day."



Central office staff Sandra Munoz, (seated) Rosie Licerio, Christina Salazar, Cynthia Isaguirre, and JoAnn Gamez show their SPIRIT on "NFL /



Ash High School goes retro for "Throwback Thursday."



College Hill says 'Aloha to Borger.'



Highland kindergarten teachers dressed for fictional characters day.



Edgemere "fake-out" Borger in camouflage.



Thunderbird Spirit.



PHS staff puts their spirit on display at the homecoming pep rally.





# 2017-2018 Campus T-Shirts

One of the highlights of Convocation is checking out the new campus t-shirts.



Ash High School



PHS



Coronado

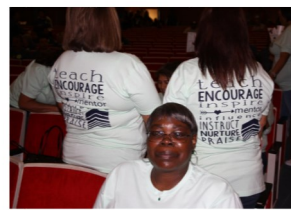


Estacado

Highland



Edgemere



Thunderbird



Col-



La Mesa



Hill-



Special Services



Central Office / Business Office