



Hope.  
Believe.  
Achieve...  
Together!

# In Plain View

Plainview ISD Staff eNewsletter

Spring 2014



College Hill First Grade students presented "Wee Sing America" to a packed house.



A Thunderbird student points out his "Texas" artwork.



Cowgirl Andrea Ingram visits La Mesa second grade to share some Texas history.



Edgemere fifth grade students display dioramas they created after researching animals and their habitats.

## Texas, Our Texas Scenes from Texas Public School Week



Highland teacher Betsy Lewis directs students during the Texas Public School Week kindergarten program. The program's finale had students, parents and teachers circling the cafeteria and laughing their way through the Chicken Dance.

Cowboy hats, boots, stick horses, the Lone Star flag, and songs about Texas took center stage as we celebrated Texas Public School Week. Of course the real stars of the week, evident by the applause of parents and grandparents, are not centered on the Texas flag. They are the students whose lives are being shaped and molded everyday by the activities and interactions planned by our ever amazing, dedicated teachers. These special activities require extra thought to plan, time to assemble props, and practice time with students. The many things a teacher already needs to accomplish within the course of a day is overwhelming, but preparing for these programs is time well-invested. These are moments that students will long remember courtesy of our teachers who "Dare to Be Great!"



Hillcrest Kindergarten students wrote Texas-style sentences.



La Mesa students shared their writing in Texas-shaped booklet.

# 18 teachers honored as Chamber Mini-Grant recipients

Eighteen Plainview ISD teachers will be recognized during the March meeting of the Plainview ISD Board of Trustees as recipients of ten mini-grants awarded through the Plainview Chamber of Commerce Education Committee.

The grants, in the amount of \$150 each, are provided by service organizations and individuals in the community. Teachers have the opportunity to apply for the grant funds to support or implement classroom activities and projects.

Grant recipients include:

**Pat Baker**, Hillcrest Elementary, received a grant to purchase headphones and boom microphones to use in a reading fluency program.

**Chelsea Criswell**, Hillcrest Elementary, received a grant to purchase personal-sized clocks and books that focus on math concepts to help build connections between math and reading.

**Kimberly Haresnape**, Coronado Middle School, received a grant to

purchase supplies for chemistry and physical science experiments in matter and energy.

**Rebecca Hilliard**, Coronado Middle School, received a grant to purchase mega blocks and Legos to build models of atoms for a Chemistry unit of study.

Houston core teachers - **Pam Kennedy, Stephanie Baeza, Nicole Abell, and Andrew Peterson** - received a grant to support cross-curriculum, hands-on learning projects in physics, biology, social studies and English.

**Caitlin Thurman, Sarah Williams, and Frances Alvarez**, Highland Elementary, received a grant to fund a Family Reading Night for third grade students and their families. The night of reading and language arts activities helps students prepare for STAAR testing.

**Anne Kelley**, Thunderbird Elementary, received a grant to purchase materials to allow students to study force, motion and energy.

**Donna Holt, Becky Vega, Sue Villarreal, and Patty White**, Highland Elementary, received a grant to purchase a listening and following directions activity center.

**Dave Sandahl**, Plainview High School, to purchase materials for a summer "Mini Boot Camp" for freshman students interested in becoming a first year cadet in the Navy Junior ROTC program.

**Walter Wright**, Plainview High School, received a grant to purchase materials for instruction and practice to improve the music reading skills of students.



Grant Recipients: Dave Sandahl (seated), Rebecca Hilliard, Kim Haresnape, Andrew Peterson (standing), Nicole Abell, Stephanie Baeza, and Pam Kennedy.



Grant Recipients: Chelsea Criswell (seated), Walter Wright, Pat Baker, Anne Kelley (standing), Sue Villarreal, Patty White, and Becky Vega.

**TEAM PLAINVIEW**  
*Hope. Believe. Achieve... Together!*

*A time to brag...*

It's up to each of us  
 as ambassadors for our district  
 to let our community know why  
 they can take pride in  
 our programs and our kids!

Great things are happening in this district! Our students are hardworking, dedicated young people who will one day be leaders in this community and beyond. It's time to brag on our students and share what they are accomplishing!

Please take a minute to send me a few words, a paragraph or a page on the positive things you see happening in this district and the things that impress you the most about our students. I will share it via our Facebook page and the local newspaper when appropriate.

**If you have previously worked in another district, you have insight into what makes our district great. Please send a few lines sharing your thoughts on our kids and our district.**



# Pink Bat award recipients



Pink Bat recipients for the 3rd and 4th six weeks were honored at a reception in the Board Room at 7:45 am on Friday, March 21.

The award recipients include:

### **Julie Rincon (Service Center)**

A TEA auditor called our district and after being transferred six times, she ended up connected to Julie at the Service Center. Julie handled the call politely and patiently. Most importantly she took ownership of getting the call to the right person. She quickly determined the auditor needed to speak with Mrs. Garcia at Central Office and made sure Mrs. Garcia was in the office before transferring the call. The auditor was very complimentary of the help provided by Julie. Way to represent, Julie!!!

### **Robin Sweeney (PHS)**

"She has gone the extra mile to



help staff and students alike. While all the high school counselors are working collaboratively on the course selection handbook for the 2014-2015 school year, Robin is currently typing and putting together the handbooks which includes information on the new graduation requirements brought on by HB5. She also volunteered to prepare the announcements which are shown on the big screen television in the main foyer of the high school. She is truly a team

player and deserves to be commended for her efforts."

### **Rene Kayler (PHS)**

"She agreed to give up her professional communications classes to teach much needed ELA remediation classes to students who have not yet met level II on EOC exams. They are in jeopardy of not graduating and she is teaching them during the day while a long term substitute teachers her classes. Way above and beyond."

### **Melissa Wilkinson (Estacado)**

"Melissa took on the assignment of 7th grade ELAR at semester, which is an assignment that is STAAR tested in two subject areas. Not only does she bring enthusiasm and high standards to this position, she does this with never a complaint and a smile on her face."

### **Penny Lockridge and Mandy Savage (La Mesa)**

Penny and Mandy have taken the initiative to do a "Snack Pak 4 Kids" type program on our campus. Many of us have been extremely concerned that some of our students were not getting enough to eat at home. It was heavy on Penny's heart so she began talking to some friends about it. Her friends felt the same way she did and donated money to help purchase some food to get us started."

### **Jeremy Douglas, Shawn Huber (Thunderbird) and Colby Coleman, Andrew Barnett (Edgemere)**

"You probably remember that the puberty film ("the film!") has traditionally been shown in 5th grade. Since 5th graders are in elementary schools now, that was a new responsibility for elementary schools this year. These awesome men stepped up and showed this film to the boys. It was definitely not something they were required to do,

but I appreciate their willingness to work with our students and give them good information to help them navigate this time of change for them. I think they deserve recognition for going beyond the scope of their job!"

### **Highland Intervention Team (Kristin Nichols, Janelle Styne, Rita Blanco, Sharon Lambeth)**

"They have gone the extra mile to meet the needs of our struggling



students. They research the best strategies, tailor instruction, and communicate with staff to ensure each child gets what they need. We couldn't do our job without them! They are a prime example of Plainview ISD'S mission: They give students HOPE. BELIEVE in their success. ACHIEVE goals that have been set...TOGETHER! Their hard work, dedication, and instruction does not go unnoticed and they are deserving of the Pink Bat Award."

### **Brandon Buchanan (Highland)**

"He does early morning duty AND after school duty each and every day. I can totally depend on him to go that extra mile. Anytime I ask him to do something he does it without hesitation. Often, I do not even ask. He volunteers. Highland is fortunate to have him on our campus!"





# Pink Bat awards (cont.)



## **PHS Counselors (Valinda Parker, Courtney Cummings, Robin Sweeney, Mary Newton, and Sonja Barton)**

"Counselors at the high school face extraordinary challenges with schedules, EOC Testing, TELPAS testing, preparing seniors for graduation, keeping freshmen on track for a positive future, and many other tasks that few could do with a smile. In addition to all of their tasks, our counselors are tirelessly working to place students in the most conducive environments for learning whether it is Special Education needs, LEP needs, athletic requests, or any of the numerous activities our students in which our students are involved.

They also work with troubled students, broken hearts, and fractured friendships. Their offices are seldom empty, but their positive attitudes remain Sonja Barton, counselor's secretary and

filing goddess keeps files, transcripts, transfers, withdrawals, and everything else in the office in line which allows the counselors to do their jobs. Sonja is that woman who stores and refills the oil can to keep the machine running! I have only seen a portion of what they do, and it is overwhelming, but they find ways to do it."

## **Coronado Dept. Heads - Dean Kellum (math), Mary Coleman (ELAR), Kelley Bozeman (SS), Kim Haresnape (SC), Rigo Rey (Electives), Emily Parker (SpEd), and Debi Rogers (ELAR—6th team leader)**

"This group of teachers has risen to the challenge and put in extra time and effort by going the "extra mile" to ensure our campus and ultimately the district is successful in our mission to offer students the best educational opportunities possible. They have taken on responsibilities as department heads and some bear the responsibility of team leader.

They are cognizant of best practices and willing to examine their own practices to ensure they meet the need of all students that they serve. They realize that change is very necessary for school improvement and willingly choose to think creatively in their attempts to problem solve academic issues and provide time and support for students who struggle with achievement.

The performance of their duties extend beyond simply analyzing data, measuring student growth, and providing mastery lessons. They understand the importance of a healthy school culture and the necessity to cultivate a climate of high expectations and rigorous learning.



# 2014 LaVern Roach nominees announced

## **2014 Nominees:**

- Aaron Chavez
- Dakota Crawford
- Karson Hembree
- Jacob Naron
- Tony Phan
- Ishmael Soto
- Desmond Vera
- Brendan Voss
- Thomas Wirth
- Lincoln Zapata



The highest honor given to a senior male at Plainview High School is the LaVern Roach award. The award, given annually to a student who embodies clean living, good citizenship, and sportsmanship, is named in honor of LaVern Roach, a 1943 PHS graduate and welterweight boxing champion who died from boxing injuries in 1950. This is truly an award that just being nominated is very much an honor. Nominees are selected by vote of the senior class. The winner will be determined by vote of the entire student body on March 26.



# Snack Pak 4 Kids



The face of hunger could easily be a familiar one. In fact, in virtually every U.S. community there are people who are impoverished and in need. Plainview is no exception.

U.S. Statistics indicate that ten million children struggling to learn and succeed in our schools are dealing with poor nutrition. The USDA defines "food insecure" as "a household where members are unable "to consistently access the adequate amount of nutritious food necessary for a healthy life." More than 1 out of 4 (27.6%) of the children in Texas are classified as food insecure.

As educators, we know students who come to school without breakfast often have a hard time concentrating on lessons. Prior to the district implementing the free breakfast in the classroom program, many teachers kept a supply of crackers or other small

snacks on hand for children who demonstrated physical symptoms such as stomachaches or headaches due to having missed breakfast.

The breakfast in the classroom program is making a difference, but have you ever wondered what happens to those same kids when the weekend rolls around.

The heartbreaking truth is that some of those kids spend the weekend hungry. We like to believe that the

*"64% of teachers surveyed in Amarillo ISD said they saw improved academic performance because of the program.. 71% saw improvement in academic performance. 50% saw a decrease in absenteeism."*  
- Dyron Howell

food stamp program ensures that proper nutrition is available for every child. Realistically this is not the case. We can place the blame on society or parents but for a variety of

reasons many children, through no fault of their own, do not have access to nutritious food on the weekends.

Snack Pak 4 Kids founder Dyron

Howell, a pharmaceutical sales executive, recognized the problem of weekend hunger. After speaking to a school principal, he and his wife began the Snack Pak 4 Kids program in the kitchen of their home in Amarillo just before Labor Day weekend in 2010. They filled bags with nutritious weekend snacks for 10 kids that first weekend.

Then the program began to grow. Soon it was 20, 30, 40, 50 bags. Now three years later, SP4K has 2 full-time employees and 3,000 volunteers. The program serves more than 4,000 students in 24 school districts and is continuing to grow. The SP4K program discretely provides bags for identified elementary students as well as siblings at home not yet old enough to attend school. The program is also moving into the middle school and high school levels in a student-lead format modified to meet the needs of students in those age brackets.

## SP4K - Plainview

La Mesa teacher Susan Hurt is leading an advisory committee of interested community members to bring the Snack Pak 4 Kids program to Plainview ISD elementary schools in the fall of 2014.

Students participating will be referred by campus counselors. Food items will be discretely given to students as they leave the campus on Friday afternoons.

All food items will be new and high-quality. The only food that will be collected locally will be Poptarts and peanut butter. You can expect to see a peanut butter and/or Poptart drive this summer.

Monetary donations will be accepted. Donations to the



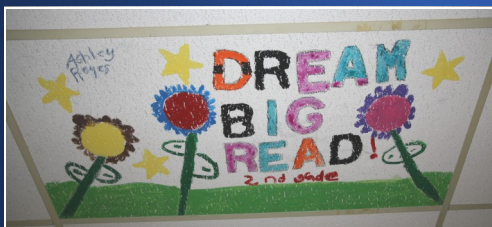
Plainview program can be made through the SP4K website at <http://snackpak4kids.org> 100% of donations will stay in this area and will be utilized for food purchases unless otherwise designated. The cost of providing snacks for one student is \$133 year (\$11 per month).

SP4K will need volunteers twice a month to sack the products and make deliveries to schools.

The local group has a Facebook page—Snack Pak for 4 Kids Plainview—where you can follow the program's implementation.

# Cheers! Kudos! High Fives!

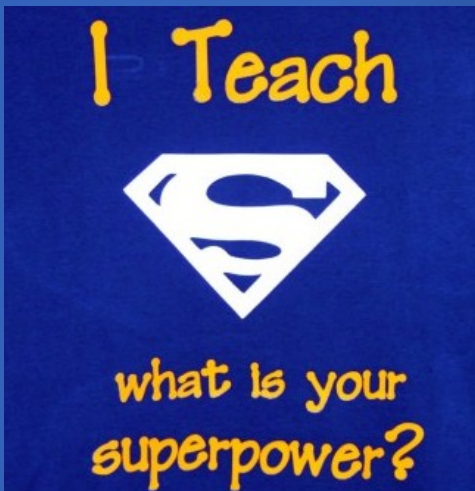
The highest scoring readers at Hillcrest Elementary get top billing in the hallways of the school. They earn the opportunity to decorate a ceiling tile with paint and their name. Next time you are on the campus, look up!



John Gatica brought his beautiful mother, Paulina Gatica, by Central Office to meet the staff.



Joni Perez (Highland) submitted this photo of students celebrating Dr. Seuss's birthday on Monday, March 3. (Seuss's birthday was Sunday, March 2.)



Houston School Student council served an enchilada dinner to Board members and administrators prior to the School Board meeting in February.

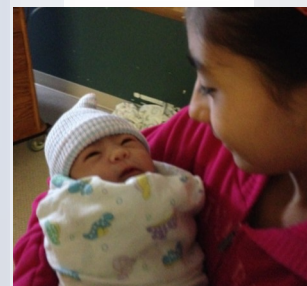
## BABY NEWS



**Vickie Young** (Edgemere) is now a Glammy! Slade David Young was born on January 22 to Nathan and Alyson Young. He weighed 7 lbs. 1 oz. Grandparents are Darren & Vickie Young, aka Poppa D and Glammy!



**Karen Trudeau** (College Hill) also joined the Grandmother Club recently with the arrival of Heather Rose, daughter of Matt and Jennifer (Trudeau) Rafacz of Austin, on March 13 at 10:14 a.m. She was 20" long and weighed 8 lbs. 9 Oz.



**Anita Flores** (Central Office) has a new granddaughter, Arabella. She was born on March 16, weighing in at 7lbs. She is pictured with her sister Larissa who is a fifth grade student at Hillcrest.

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

**TWO HOUSES FOR RENT:** Small two-bedroom one bath no garage, yard, or washer dryer connections. \$350/ \$200 deposit. Also, one bedroom, one bath – no garage, yard, or washer dryer connections. \$300/ \$150. Deposit. Call **Tracy Dawson** (PHS) 292-0291; **Michael Dawson** (PHS) 292-8585.

**RECLINERS FOR SALE:** Used very little. One is leather and the other is fabric. \$350 each. Contact **Anna Trusler** (Coronado) if interested.



**FOR SALE:** Antique kitchen table, \$250. Bought a few years ago from Turquoise Alley. One of the chair legs is broken, but can be glued. Email **Alicia Jimenez** (Edgemere) or call 806-685-3379.



**FOR SALE:** Tires, 20" Hot Wheels brand wheels. Set of 4. Fits newer model Chevrolet pickups, same bolt pattern and spacing. Not damaged or scratched. \$500. Also a lot of GMC truck parts to sell and an almost finished 1970 GMC pick-up if anyone is interested! If interested email or call **Alicia Jimenez** (Edgemere), 806-685-3379.



**GARAGE SALE:** **Kimmett Bellow's** (Houston School) church is having a church-wide garage sale to raise money for a missions trip to Guatemala in July. The Garage Sale will be March 29 at 1902 Ennis. **Michelle Pittman** (PHS) will also be involved in the fund-raiser.

**LOOKING FOR A REFRIGERATOR:** **Mabel Caballero** (Central Office) is looking for a refrigerator for her son. If you have one to sale, please contact her at Central Office.

**FREE TO GOOD HOME:** One standard, interior, **wood door** (painted white) complete with doorknob and hinges. Call 292-5897 or contact **Pam Kennedy** (Houston School) at [pam.kennedy@plainview.k12.tx.us](mailto:pam.kennedy@plainview.k12.tx.us)



**LAMPS FOR SALE:** \$70 for the pair. Contact **Anna Trusler** (Coronado) if interested.

## What it's like to be a teacher...

You laugh, you cry, and you work harder than you ever thought you could. Some days you're trying to change the world and some days you're just trying to make it through the day. Your wallet is empty, your heart is full, and your mind is packed with memories of kids who have changed your life. Just another day in the classroom.



# Sympathy



Our heartfelt condolences to Brandy Merrick (Administration Office) and Gwen Crawford (Highland) on the passing of Brandy's grandmother and Gwen's grandmother-in-law, Evelyn Crawford.

Our sincere sympathy and love to Jennifer Stephenson (Highland) on the loss of her mother, Vickey Falkenberry Cagle on March 17.

# Hip Hop to Wellness



Calories are being burned and Plainview ISD staff is getting stronger thanks to the Hip Hop class at Houston School started by Randa Wrenn and Lorrie Burnette.

The class is going strong with 30-40 hip hoppers every time the doors are opened.

If you are interested in joining the group, information on the class and a calendar is posted each month on the Plainview ISD website under the Staff tab.

Although it is currently mostly women, men are also welcome.

Babysitting is available at a small fee.

You can follow the group on the Plainview ISD Health and Wellness Facebook page or contact Randa Wrenn for further information.

Some comments from participants:

*"This class is amazing!!!! Awesome hip hop coach... Lorrie keeps you moving no matter how big or small you are."*

*"Love this class! Great hip hop step cardio workout plus drum sticks and weights. Great sweat to awesome music"*

## Danny Wrenn named District Coach of the Year

After winning the Area Championship, the Plainview Lady Bulldogs dominated the All-District 4-4A selections.

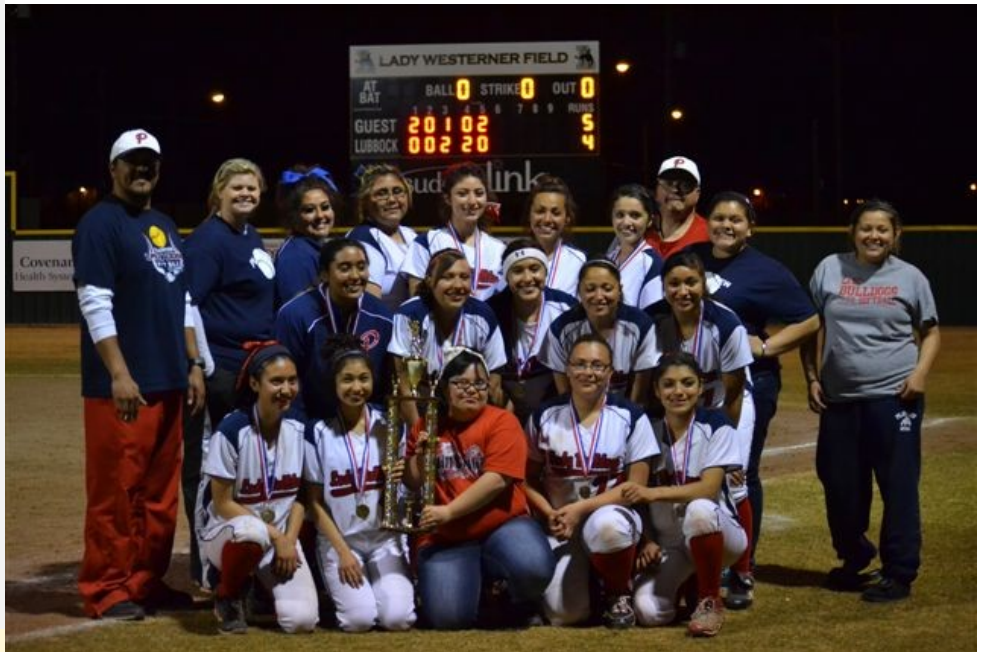
Junior Karli Wheeler was voted the district's Most Valuable Player for the second consecutive year. C

Coach Danny Wrenn was named the district's Coach of the Year for the second straight season.

Meredith McDonough (daughter of PHS teacher Brenda McDonough) was also named to the All-District first team. Tavia Hearn and Jaden Gonzales were voted to the All-District second team. Lizette Ramirez and Shalee Bennett were voted All-District honorable mention.

# 2014 AMBUCS Silver Bracket Champions

## Defeated Monterrey 5-4 for the Championship



**Front Row:** Criselda Luna, Kristan Enriquez, Shelly Luna (MGR), Monica Perez, Avere DeLuna **Middle Row:** Justy Pena, Chyane Hernandez, Lori Gonzalez, Anna Moreno, Alicia Pulido **Back Row:** Coach Enrique Villa, Coach Kami Carnell, Thyme Martinez, Nikki Chavez, Amy Hinojos, Tori Magallanes, Head Coach Johnny Hill, Nikki Argueta (TRN), Sandi Reyes (MGR)

## STUCO Luncheon



Madi McMckay and her dad, PHS teacher Rick McKay, share a hamburger meal at the STUCO luncheon held during Texas Public School Week.

## Book Fairs

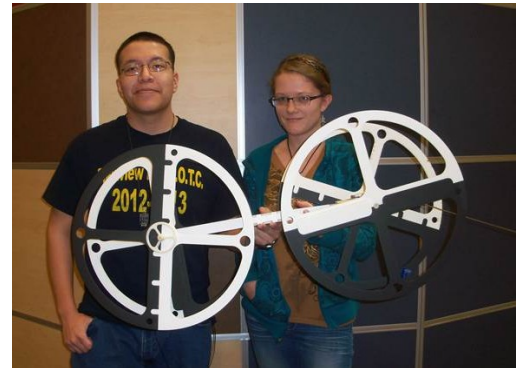


Book Fairs on were held on several elementary campuses during Texas Public School Week giving students the opportunity to acquire new reading material before Spring Break.

## Engineering News

Katie Cox and Jamie Everett set a new PHS distance record for a mousetrap powered car. The old record was 152'2" and the new record is now 243'5".

Students first researched mouse trap cars and then sketched their designs on paper. They used SolidWorks to design the individual components and then assemble the parts in the computer creating a 3D representation of the car.



The project is then transferred to the laser cutter where the parts are cut from foam board or any light weight material. The car is t assembled by the team members and tested. The car is repeatedly tested and adjusted to get the maximum distance possible.

Students used STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) to solve the problem: Science – kinetic and potential energy, and friction; Technology – 3D printing to build the wheel hubs and the laser cutter to cut the body; Engineering – SolidWorks computer-aided design software or CADD, to build and simulate the construction of the car.; Mathematics – gear ratios to calculate the possible travel distance before the car was built.

Students of Terry Nelson in the Engineering Design and Advanced Engineering Design classes will compete at the Top of Texas Career and Technical Education contest in May. Competitions will range from mouse trap cars, catapults, robotics, and computer-aided design and manufacturing.



# Middle School Intentional Acts of Kindness



## Lots of "KINDNESS" happening at Coronado Middle School!

Coronado Middle School hung "Chains of Love" as a reminder to do intentional acts of kindness. Each link represents one act of kindness. Advisories wrote notes to the office staff, cafeteria workers, custodians, and school board to thank them for their support of Coronado .

**Estacado believes "kindness starts here."** Those words on a sign at Estacado Middle School are a reminder to students and staff of the importance of kindness when interacting with others.

Character development, good citizenship, social responsibility, and positive peer-to-peer interaction are promoted throughout the year as part of the Character Counts program at Estacado.

Each six weeks brings a new opportunity to stress one of the character traits emphasized this year by the campus - responsibility, self-discipline, citizenship, kindness, perseverance, optimism - through 10-minute character chats during the advisory period each Wednesday.



# La Mesa students collect items for Operation Blessing

On the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school in January second grade students in co-teachers Sue Patridge and Patti Roll's classroom decided that they would brainstorm 100 acts of kindness.

They wrote their ideas on sticky notes and placed the sticky notes on a bulletin board as a reminder of the many ways they could show kindness at home and at school. The students and staff then put their words into action on the campus and found kindness was contagious. It was then they decided to "go big."

They joined with other second grade and third grade classrooms on the campus to partner with Operation Blessing to collect new toys, pajamas, and art supplies for children who require long-term hospitalizations. Their goal of collecting 100 items was quickly surpassed. In the end they amassed 536 items to donate.



# La Mesa FOLK Program helps feed kids in need

Penny Lockridge and Mandy Savage took the initiative to implement a campus take home snack program on the La Mesa campus that will serve students until the Snack Pak 4 Kids program can be implemented. They are calling it FOLK. FOLK stands for "Feed Our La Mesa Kids". The program was implemented after staff members became concerned that some of their students were not getting enough to eat at home. La Mesa assistant principal Brandy Tirey says Penny and Mandy deserve a tremendous round of applause for their dedication and desire to help students at La Mesa. "They became aware of students that are hungry and don't have enough food at home for the weekend. It was heavy on Penny's heart so she began talking to some friends about it. Her friends felt the same way she did and donated money to help purchase some food to get us started," said Tirey.



The Snack Pak 4 Kids program will hopefully be up and running next year once funding has been secured, but until then students in need can depend upon Penny and Mandy to make sure they have food for the weekend. The pair filled bags of food for 23 kids to take home over Spring Break. It's clear they have a heart for kids. They are already working on an idea for a new "Make a Difference" project once the food need has been taken care of by the Snack Pak 4 Kids program.

# Bluebonnet Voters



Students at College Hill, Edgemere, Highland, La Mesa and Thunderbird participated with students across Texas in reading and voting for the Texas Bluebonnet book award in January.

The Bluebonnet Award reading program encourages children to read and explore a variety of books from the master list and then use critical thinking skills to select a favorite book. The 2014 Bluebonnet Award winner is "10 Rules you Absolutely Must Not Break If You Want to Survive the School Bus."



## Celebrating 100 (or 99) Days of School



It is a long-standing tradition in our elementary schools to celebrate 100 days of school in January each year. (100 days fell on a Monday this year so at least one of the campuses elected to celebrate 99 days of school on a Friday.) Students and staff enjoy dressing up as they picture themselves at 100 years of age.

This year Edgemere's celebration was enhanced by technology. Age-Progression software used to give students a photo of themselves at 100 years.

## A Cappella Choir sings in Washington, DC



The PHS A Cappella Choir had the opportunity to sing at the Washington National Cathedral during Spring Break.

## DECA students qualify for ICDC in Atlanta



Following the state conference, nPHS DECA students have qualified to attend the International Career Development Conference in Atlanta in May.