



# IN PLAIN VIEW



Summer 2013

## Campus Educators of the Year Honored

Campus educators, voted by their peers as Educator of the Year, were honored by the Plainview ISD Board of Trustees and school administration during the annual "Salute to the Stars" Employee Awards and Recognition Banquet held at the Education Complex Board Room on Friday, May 17.

Educators receiving the honor include: Ash - Jill Craig; College Hill - Ida Rascon; Coronado - Rigo Rey; Edgemere - Virginia Malone; Estacado - Marci Owens; Highland - Caren Miller; Hillcrest - Karen Taylor; Houston - Monica Nunez; La Mesa - Alissa Carter; Lakeside - Jan Reeves; Plainview High - Todd Reynolds; and Thunderbird - Eva Balenton.

Profiles of the Educators of the Year:

**Eva Balenton**, Thunderbird, says that education has always been important to her family. She received her education under both segregated and integrated settings and has always considered this a blessing. She believes it helped her learn that the "real essence of education" is much more than academia; "it is the building of relationships with all mankind." Honors during her career include being named Outstanding Elementary Education student, PTA Lifetime Member, Teacher of the Week, Teacher You Can Count from Lubbock Avalanche Journal, Black



**Educator of the Year award recipients** : Eva Balenton (seated, left), Thunderbird; Todd Reynolds, PHS, Rigo Rey, Coronado; Karen Taylor, Hillcrest; Jan Reeves, Lakeside, Marci Owens (standing, left), Estacado; Ida Rascon, College Hill; Monica Nunez, Houston School; Caren Miller, Highland; Virginia Malone, Edgemere; and Alissa Carter, La Mesa. Not shown is Jill Craig, Ash.



Congratulations to the PHS Lady Bulldogs Varsity Softball team. They made history twice. They are the first ever Lady Dogs Softball team to win the Bi-District Championship. Then they forged on to win the AREA Championship. We are so proud of our girls and their coaches! Note: We have some proud parents on staff - Amy Hinojos is #4 daughter of Carlos (PHS ISS) and Sylvia Hinojos (SPED office), Shelby Coats is the daughter of Lorrie Coats (First Student) and Lori Gonzalez is the daughter of Monica Gonzalez (La Mesa).

(continued on page 2)



History Committee's Teacher Recognition Award, and the 2013 Educator of the Year Award for Thunderbird. She is married to Lou Balenton and has three children, all graduates of Plainview High.

**Alissa Carter**, La Mesa, is being honored by her peers with the Educator of the Year award for the third time. She also received the award in 1996 and 2003. Carter is the assistant principal at La Mesa and will take over the role of principal in the fall. Her career in education began 22 years ago. She has taught fifth grade, second grade, first grade and the gifted/talented program. She also serves as an adjunct professor at Wayland. She is married to Kevin Carter and they have a son, Blaine. Carter said, "I love what I do and I feel if you empower your students and tell them to reach for the stars they will! What a great power we have!"

**Jill Craig**, Ash math teacher, began her career in Plainview ISD in 2006. She is a graduate of Texas Tech, is married to Mike and has four grown children—Michelle, Rene', Kayla and Andy. She serves as a math mentor through Region 17 Service Center. She is also a participant in the West Texas Middle School Partnership, a program through TTU to promote the importance of math in middle schools. "I like to think that I am planting seeds of knowledge, in my students, and that one day the seeds will produce a spark of interest and m a t h e m a t i c a l understanding of their everyday lives."

**Caren Miller**, Highland, worked in business for 15 years before finding her

true passion in teaching. Miller says her greatest joy has come from seeing students learn to read well and, as a result, be able to pursue their own interests and passions. "One of the benefits of being in the same school for so long is the pleasure of seeing my former students grow up, find good jobs and start their own families," she said. "What better legacy can a person leave than to impact the future through the life of a child!" She is married to Barry Miller. They have three children and five granddaughters.

**Virginia Malone**, Edgemere, says the rewards of teaching include the smiles of her students. Her words of wisdom are to pray daily and sometimes minute by minute. "Trust God. He will get you through the roughest times." Malone is retiring this May from a 29-year career in education. She has taught Kindergarten and grades 2-5. She is a graduate of West Texas State University and is married to Kevin Malone. They have two children—Rachel and Quentin.

**Monica Nunez**, Houston School, has been teaching for 8 years. She is a graduate of Texas Tech University and is married to Gilbert Nunez. They have a son Avery Blake. Nunez says she believes that you have to treat all students in a respectful manner in order to get the BEST from that child. "We need to believe in them so that they can believe in themselves," she says. "Set high expectations and let them know the sky is the limit."

**Marci Owens**, Estacado counselor, is completing 17 years in the district. She earned a BA in psychology from Wayland and a

master's degree in counseling from Texas Tech. She is married to Kenny Owens and has three married sons, all graduates of PHS and Texas Tech. She also has two one-year-old grandsons, Will and Thomas. Owens says that few things are as good as being trusted by a teenager. "Given the right environment, every student can be successful. It is up to me to create that environment."

**Rigo Rey**, art teacher at Coronado, has been an educator for 17 years. He is a PHS graduate, a graduate of Southwestern Oklahoma State University, and is married to "the love of my life, JoAnn." Rey says that teachers are in a profession that matters. "Being an educator is like being a liquid, a state of matter that has a definite volume, but no definite shape," said Rey. "We have the ability to speak volumes to our students about our curriculum and life and finally, in our fluid form, we have the ability to fill all of the voids our students possess."

**Ida Rascon**, College Hill, says that making students a priority gives teachers the opportunity each day to impact and affect all aspects of students' lives and their future. "Knowing that I have made a difference in the life of a child provides me with feelings of accomplishment and is a rewarding experience I will cherish for the rest of my life." Rascon is retiring this year after a 31-year career as an educator. She is a graduate of Plainview High School and West Texas State University. She is married to Daniel and has two daughters—Michele and Rebecca.

**Jan Reeves**, Lakeside science teacher, has been teaching for nine years. She hold bachelor's and master's degrees from Wayland and is currently working on a master's degree in Administration. She is married to Steve and has two daughters - Laurie Reeves and Jenna Thompson. Jenna and her husband Cole are the parents of granddaughters Ryleigh and Hadley. Reeves says she is blessed to work with children and looks forward to what each day will bring. Her hope is to make a difference in the life of her students. She says it has been a privilege to have been part of the Lakeside legacy.

**Todd Reynolds**, PHS, has been teaching for three years. He earned a bachelor's degree from West Texas A & M University. He is married to Megaen and they are expecting their first child. His philosophy on teaching is to "assess, assess, assess; always, always, always; including yourself."

**Karen Taylor**, Hillcrest, has 26 years experience in teaching and is completing her third year in the district. She is a graduate of Texas Tech University and received her bilingual certification from Oregon State University. She is married to Jeff. They have four sons—Adam, Sean, Travis, and Landon. "One thing I have learned that is important in my classroom is that I must give my students the same love, patience, and passion for learning that I have wanted my own boys to receive from their teachers. In addition, I know that if I become stagnant in my teaching, my classroom will reflect that, so I try to keep learning and growing."





# 2011-12 Plainview ISD Annual Employee Awards

[Link to full story on website](#)



## Long-Term Service Awards



Special dinner music was provided by nine-year-old Joseph Alcozer, a student at Edgemere Elementary and the son of Tommy and Deborah Alcozer (Edgemere). Joseph is a member of the Children's Choir of Plainview under the direction of Dr. Debra Buford at Wayland Baptist University. He impressed the audience with his solo performance of songs from the Disney Spring Concert performed by the choir.

**Service Awards:** Honorees for 25, 30 or 40 years of service include Linda Rodriguez (seated, left), 30 years; Sharon Wright, 30 years; Dr. Ron Miller, 40 years, Vicki Stokes, 25 years, Carmen Perez, 25 years; Kym Norrell (standing, left), 25 years; Patty Rodgers, 30 years; Caren Miller, 25 years; Laura DeLuna, 25 years; Jana McCoy, 30 years; and Josie Rey, 25 years. Not pictured are Lucy Aguilera, 25 years, Susan Flippin, 25 years, Leon Hagerman, 25 years; Dee Ann Helton, 30 years, Sandra Marshall, 30 years; and Brenda Coleman, 30 years.



Board President Brandon Brownlee gave a brief message on "Hope, Change, and Inspiration." He shared a quote from Margaret Mead, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world."



## 2012-2013 Retirees

**Retirees:** Plainview ISD staff retiring during the 2012- 2013 school year are Linda Ray (seated, left), Rubye Henderson, Dr. Ron Miller, Kayla Caldwell, Mary Kindinger, Rhonda Buie (standing, left), Patty Rodgers, Eva Balenton, Ida Rascon, Caren Miller, Virginia Malone, Dee Ann Odom, and Tricia Welch. Not shown are: Rhonda Weehunt, Tangy Garrison, Cliff Franklin, Edy Lou Mayfield, Carrie Rollins, Cipriana Garcia, and Lillie Barrett.



Greg Brown, Executive Director for Administrative Services served as master of ceremonies. Awards were presented by Brown, Brownlee and Sylvia De La Garza.



Retiree Eva Balenton is greeted by event planners Theressa Burns, Rosie Licerio, and JoAnn Gamez.





# Staff Spotlight: Adeela Harrell

PHS chemistry and physics teacher Adeela Harrell never thought she would be living in Plainview, but she says it has been a wonderful place to raise her kids.

She grew up in East London, South Africa, and moved to the states with her family in 1978 joining the junior class at Midland High School where she graduated in 1980.

Adeela earned a bachelor's degree in animal science from West Texas State University, now known as West Texas A & M University.

Adeela says she married a wonderful farmer, Jeff.

"We wanted to invest in our family, teaching fit with having children and allowing me to help during the busiest times for farmers."

She joined Plainview ISD as a teacher in 1989 and taught for two years before

taking a 12-year break to stay home with her children.

She returned to the district in 2002 and has been teaching since that time. She also serves as a National Honor Society sponsor.

"The bonus is I enjoy teaching," she said.

Adeela and Jeff have four children - Kate, Jill, Payton, and Luke.

Twenty-one year old Kate just graduated from Texas A & M University with a degree in Entomology and a minor in Agronomy.

Payton, 20, is a junior at Texas A & M University. He is a member of the Corps of Cadets and is majoring in Agricultural Leadership.

Jill, 17, will be a senior at PHS in the fall.

Luke, who Adeela



describes as their "bonus baby", is six years old and will be a first grader this fall.

**What do you enjoy doing when you have free time?**

"Fishing of course."

**What is something on your 'bucket list' ?**

"Travel through all the States in the US. I also would like to see the northern lights in Alaska."

**Anything else you want to add?**

"I never thought I would live in Plainview, Texas. This has been a wonderful place for my kids. PHS with the academic opportunities, fine arts program, Ag and JROTC has really benefitted my kids."

"Kate and Payton both have been thankful for AP Chemistry at PHS because it prepared them for the rigor at A&M. We need to keep pushing those programs and academics that make our kids excel. Our students are our future."







# Cheers, Kudos & High Fives...

Congratulations to **Greg Brown**, Executive Director of Administrative Services, on being named District 17 TEPSAN of the Year for the Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association (TEPSA)

**Emily Dunlap** (PHS 2009), daughter of Spike and **Becca Dunlap** (BO), graduated Magna Cum Laude from Texas Tech University with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology and a minor in ESS on May 17. She plans to apply to the Masters Program in Occupational Therapy at Texas Tech University this Fall.

**Angela Robertson**, daughter of **Rita Robertson** (Highland / College Hill nurse), is engaged to Chris Davis of Dumas. They will be married on July 6, 2013 at Lake Ransom Chapel.

**David Richburg**, son of **Leslie** (PHS) and **Brent Richburg** (Technology) has a big summer planned. He graduates May 11 from WTAMU with a degree in Biology. He is marrying **Jordan McCorkle** in McKinney on June 28 and starts dental school at University of Texas School of Dentistry at Houston on August 12. Plainview ISD and all of you who have influenced him over the years are to be commended. Thanks for all you have done.



**Kolby McCormick** (son of **Joyce McCormick**) is graduating from Texas Tech on May 18 with a degree in Agriculture and Applied Economics. He plans to continue school and work on his Master's Degree at Tech.

Congratulations to Grace Shaw, daughter of **Martha Shaw (Edgemere)**, for earning a State Perfect in the BGCT State Bible Drill Competition.

**Shelly Miller** and Kevin Faught were married on May 4, 2013 at First Baptist Church Plainview. Shelly is the daughter of **Terry Miller (Ash)**,

**Rusty White** (Houston School) would like to announce the marriage of his son Jared White (PHS '08) to Alissa Wheeler. The couple was married on April 27th. Jared graduated from WBU in December and is currently employed at WBU. Alissa is employed by Prosperity Bank. They will continue to reside in Plainview.



**Rusty White** (Houston School) would like to announce his pending marriage to Karen Poole of Lubbock. The couple will exchange vows on July 13th at First Presbyterian Church here in Plainview. The couple will reside in Plainview.

**Hayden Alexander** (PHS 2010), son of **Sheila Alexander**, will graduate with honors from WTAMU with a degree in Plant and Soil Science on May 11. He will be working for Texas Agrilife in Lubbock. On August 2, he will marry **Kaitlyn Schaffner**, a Lubbock native who is graduating from WTAMU with a degree in social work.

Firefighter **Jake Solis** (left) and Marine Veteran **Joe Solis** (right) were honored at the Sports Award Banquet for Tech athletes. Also honored were first responders, and military personnel. They are the sons of **Joe N. and Mary Alice Solis (Ash)**.

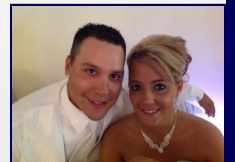


**Rico Peña** (PHS 2009), son of **Richard and Maria Peña** (Coronado), received recognition from the National Consortium for Academics and Sports (NCAS) as an outstanding student athlete who achieved excellence in academics and athletics while making significant

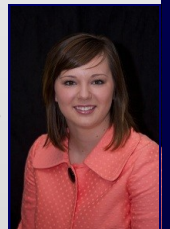
contributions through community service. Rico is a junior at California State — Dominguez Hills. And was one of four baseball players who received this honor. He attended Thunderbird Elementary and played baseball all four years at PHS.



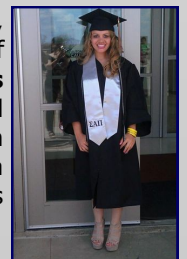
**Whitney and Jeremy Salas** were married on Saturday, May 11, at the first United Methodist Church. Whitney is the daughter of **Sandee Hancock** (Ash social studies teacher) and **Randy Bain** of Edmonson. Jeremy is the son of **Estella Salas** (Houston School secretary).



**Meagan Igo** (PHS 2007), daughter of **Kevin and Roxie Igo** (Admin Office) will be joining the American Meat Science Association team in July as the Youth Programs Coordinator. She is currently completing her Master's degree at Texas A & M University. "Meagan's involvement with the AMSA meat judging program is began back in 2004 when she was high individual at the National 4-H Meat Judging contest" said AMSA Executive Director **Thomas Powell**. "She has a great understanding for the importance of these types of programs and the potential impact they have on the youth development."



**Ashlee Brown**, daughter of **Phoebe Jones** (PHS), graduated from WTAMU on May 11 with a degree in Business management.







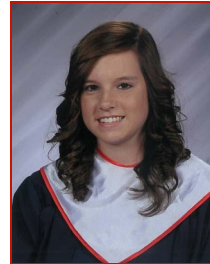
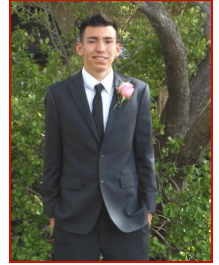
# Class of 2013 begins a new journey

(NOTE: This is not all of our staff members' children who are graduating, only the ones who submitted. )

**Mary Elizabeth Sammann**, daughter of **Claire Williams** (Estacado) graduates from Lockney High School with the class of 2013. She will attend Texas A&M University in College Station and major in biochemistry. She started her educational journey at La Mesa. Sherry Thompson, Carrie Rollins and Vickie Stokes were her teachers. She has very fond memories of her days at La Mesa and Claire says everyone there got her off to a fantastic start. She is at the top of her class and is receiving several scholarships. She hopes to work in the medical field and be involved in research to help discover new way of treating diseases.



**Avery Blake Nunez**, son of Gilbert and **Monica Nunez** (Houston School) will graduate with the PHS Class of 2013. He will be attending Wayland Baptist University in the fall.

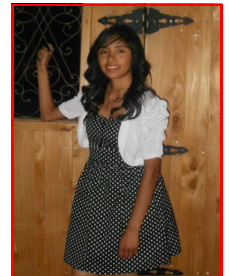


**Mariah Wetzel**, granddaughter of **Mary Wetzel** (Ash) is graduating from PHS. She is planning to attend Wayland for the first year (basic courses). Then she will start Nursing School. Her parents are Mike and Jamie Wetzel and Jessica Wetzel.

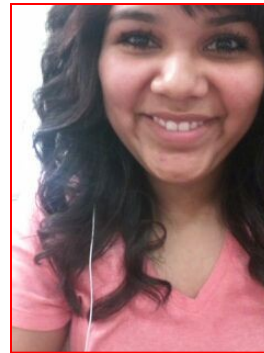


**Trent Kinkaid**, son of Rob and **Teresa Kinkaid** (Edgemere) will be attending the University of Tennessee. He is following in his father's footsteps and plans to major in business then attend law school. He hopes to work in the Knox County District Attorney's office one day.

**Gabby Gamez**, Daughter of Rogelio and **JoAnn Gamez** (Administrative Office) is graduating with the PHS Class of 2013. She will be attending Wayland Baptist University this fall.



**Haley Raymond**, daughter of Paul and **Debbie Raymond** (PHS) will graduate with the Class of 2013. She plans to attend Texas Tech in the Fall, majoring in Business Management and Entrepreneurship.



**Kristen Lopez**, daughter of **Mary Moralez** (Thunderbird) and **David Lopez** (Service Center) is graduating with the PHS Class of 2013. She will be enrolling in Wayland Baptist University this fall and plans to study music.



**Mireya Garcia**, daughter of **Maria Horton** (PHS), is graduating with the PHS Class of 2013. She will be attending WBU on the pep program and she has also made the WBU Cheer Squad. Maria says they are very excited for her!!!

**Gus Licerio**, son of Jerry and **Rosie Licerio** (Administration Office), will graduate from PHS with the class of 2013. He plans to attend Wayland Baptist University in the fall.







Oh BABY!



There's a baby boom at Hillcrest. Teacher Kodi McCulloch is expecting as are the wives (not pictured) of Hillcrest staff Noah Hall, Kevin Parker, and Steve Quesada.

## Fighting Bulldogs

This plaque hung in the foyer of the auditorium until it was remodeled several years ago and the display cases installed. It is a salute to the "Fighting Bulldogs" who died in Viet Nam.

- Corp. Jimmy Awalt
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. James D. Carter
- PFC Juan M. Chavez
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Edward H. Fox
- Capt. James B Hansard
- Sgt. Joe Pena Jr
- Pvt. Jimmy D. Roberson
- Sgt. James W. Smith
- SP 4 Juan Camargo
- Sp 4 Norman Smoots
- SP 4 Wade E Thackrey Jr
- Capt David Watson



## BABY NEWS

**Terry Miller** (Ash) has a new grandson, Kolton Lee McMahan was born April 18, 2013 at 1:55 pm, 8lbs 5 oz, 21 1/2 inches long. Parents are Matt and LeAnna McMahan. Alicia LeAnna Miller McMahan graduated from Plainview Schools in 2005 and works for Head Start in Lubbock.

Doug and **Jill Freeman** (Lakeside) have a new grandson, William Douglas Cashiola, born on March 8. His parents are Dominic and Angie Cashiola of Sugarland, TX. He also has a proud big brother Christopher, age 5.



**Benjy Foster** (Ash) is the proud grandparent of Eli Dillon Lees. Eli was born on November 20, 2012. His parents are PHS graduates Mack Dillon Lees and Melody Foster Lees.



**Sarah Valencia** (Hillcrest) has a new baby granddaughter, Isis Dahlia Valencia, born on May 5. She weighed 7 lbs. 14 Oz and was 20 inches long.



### Rhonda Williams



( Edgemere) has a new granddaughter, Brynnlee Faith Plumlee, born April 22. She weighed 8.2 lbs, and was 20.5 inches. Her parents are Kyle and Leigh Ann (Williams) Plumlee. Her big brother Brogan is soooo proud of her.

PHS teacher **Todd Reynolds** and his wife Megaen are the proud parents of Elizabeth "Libby" Jane Reynolds. She was born May 15. She weighed 7lbs. 4 oz and was 20.5 inches long.



## Military News

**Naval officer ESN James C. Shaw**, son of **Martha Shaw** (Edgemere), received a promotion to Lieutenant Junior Grade on April 22, 2013. James is currently stationed in Sasebo, Japan. He will be marrying Elizabeth Ellis of Campbellsville, Kentucky on June 1 of this year in Lexington, KY. They will honeymoon in Santorini, Greece and then reside in Sasebo.

**Jerrad Bailey**, son of **Curtis** (Technology) and **Lisa Bailey** (College Hill) was accepted into the

Air Force and was awarded a scholarship of \$27,000 in May of 2012 to attend the Community College of the Air Force and pursue an associate of applied science degree. He will also receive \$52,500 in tuition assistance under the GI bill and \$22,500 in housing allowance while in school.

He started basic training January 28, 2013 at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio and graduated April 28, 2013.



Core Values of the USAF  
Integrity First  
Service Before Self  
Excellence in All We Do

Jerrad is currently based at Sheppard Air Force in Wichita Falls, Texas for technical training. Upon completion, his permanent duty station will be Luke Air Force Base near Phoenix, Arizona.





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

**Kimberly Haresnape** (Ash) is in need of a **tall book case**, one that is sturdy and cheap.

Houston School teacher **Kimmett Bellows** also pastors a local church, United Assembly. The church is setting up a playground and is looking for any **outdoor play equipment**. If anyone had this type of equipment that they are willing to sell or donate, please contact Kim at 685-1099.

**Karla Cline's** daughter has a full-grown, **full-blooded yellow lab** that she will give away to a good home. He loves children and really needs a place to run and play. Contact Karla through school email if interested.

**Cherrie Taylor** (Thunderbird) has an **Elliptical exercise machine** purchased from Walmart for \$150 and rarely used. She would like to sell it for \$65 **or trade for a recumbent exercise bike**. She is also **looking to purchase a nice couch or chair with ottoman**. Call Cherrie at 685-2769.

FOR SALE: **Trap set** in good condition, \$1,300. Call **Rebekah Mize** (Lakeside) at 774-4554 or contact her through school mail.

FOR SALE: Elliptical—\$50, two hand-made wooden rockers- \$75 each, bookcase—\$30. contact Jill Freeman (Lakeside).

The **Vendors Market** will be opening back up in July and would like to offer any school, community or church organizations free booth rent for fund raising events. (this offer is good every month as long as



there are booths available). Need a booth for girl scout cookies, bake sale, t-shirts, or just yard sale items (yard sale outside only) we will be happy to have you! To request a booth or for more information please call **Nathena Brown** (Houston School) 806-685-2278 or email [nathena.brown@live.com](mailto:nathena.brown@live.com)

**FOR RENT: House** with 2 bedroom, 1 bath, CHA, WD connections, attached garage, fenced yard. Rent \$550/ month \$300 deposit. Call 292-0291 or 292-8585. **Tracy** (PHS) and **Michael Dawson** (PHS).



FOR SALE: **10 ft. by 10 ft. dog pen**. Asking \$25.00. Please contact **Janet Cunningham** (Estacado) at 293-9057 (land line) or 729-6951.

## Lost. Needs a Home!

Lyn Baker (Edgemere) found this little guy in her front yard two weeks ago. If you know anyone missing a little dog please send them her way. She thinks he is a chiweiner (Chihuahua dachshund mix). If she can't find his family, she would love to send him to a new family. He loves to cuddle.



## Donations Needed

Josie Walker (PHS) is seeking donations of gently used stuffed animals to give away during vacation bible school at Primera Iglesia Bautista. If you will contact her, [Josie.walker@plainview.k12.tx.us](mailto:Josie.walker@plainview.k12.tx.us) She will be happy to pick them up.



## May Play Day

Our amazing, dedicated, caring Special Education Department staff organized a field day, "May Play Day", for students in six area districts. Students played field games and shared a hot dog lunch provided by Atmos and cooked by Atmos personnel.

The fire department arrived in the afternoon to give the participants a break from the heat and an opportunity to have some water fun.

The smiles and laughter of participants made it clear how very much the event was enjoyed by all attending.



## You're in Luck Cause

### I'm Selling a Truck!



For only **\$1500** you can own a great machine—a Blue 1995 Chevy S10!!!

Who needs all of the "bells and whistles" when you can feel the pure joy of this Base Model everyday on your way to work! This truck gets great gas mileage, and is fun to drive to since it's a standard! Plus there's nothing like a 250 AC in the Summer Time!!!!

So message Shawn Huber (Thunderbird) if you are interested in seeing/test driving this great machine!

# Does technology impact student learning?

Recently I was asked what technologies Plainview ISD has available to teachers and how those technologies impact student learning. It's not an easy question to answer. Available technologies differ not only from school to school, but from classroom to classroom. The answer to the second half of that question— how it impacts student learning— is vital in assessing what we are doing, why we are doing it, and whether we should continue on the same course.

First let me say that I am an advocate of the use of new technologies in the classroom. In a utopia of unlimited funding, every teacher should have the opportunity to utilize any and all technology tools that complement our educational mission.

The problem is that technologies that are cool and cutting edge quickly become obsolete. Because of this, we need to use a great deal of discernment when deciding what to purchase so that expensive technologies do not wind up in storage cabinets because we have quickly moved on to something newer. It's also vital that we are on the same page when purchasing technologies to ensure that training and support are in place.

For many years researchers have followed the one-to-one computing initiatives that have been implemented in many districts. Somewhere in the future, all students will utilize devices to access curriculum and information. Plainview ISD is too large a district to fund an initiative like this with previous grant offerings and not wealthy enough to fund one with district funds.

When we look at student achievement (as measured by state assessments) from districts who have one-to-one initiatives - laptops or iPads—and compare it to districts who do not have these initiatives, it's obvious that technologies do not necessarily lead to improved learning.

If students use the devices to take notes from a teacher who is giving a lecture on an interactive whiteboard, it amounts to nothing more than the same old style instruction delivered with new and more expensive tools. We can't expect different results. There has to be more to lead to improved learning.

Real improvements through the use of technology take place when we make use of the assessment opportunities available with technology, utilize student data to plan meaningful instruction, focus on a more individualized student-centered learning environment, and consider options such as flipped learning, self-directed learning, and peer instruction.

Technologies are a huge opportunity to provide teachers with new sources of information about students' ideas, misconceptions, and questions.

Devices can help students to think critically, process new learning, convey that information to others, and visibly display mastery.

The goal is to achieve more meaningful teaching and learning, enhanced by the use of technology, so that our investment in technology is not wasted.

## Free Educational iPad Apps

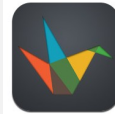
Below are a few free or low cost educational apps for iPads. **Be sure and read the reviews and description in the iTunes App store before installing.**



### Idea Sketch

**Free from iTunes App Store**

Idea Sketch lets you easily draw a diagram - mind map, concept map, or flow chart - and convert it to a text outline.



### Haiku Deck

**Free from iTunes App Store**

Haiku Deck is the simple and fun new way to create stunning presentations - whether you're pitching an idea, teaching a lesson, telling a story, or igniting a movement



### Free Books

**Free from iTunes App Store**

Quick reference to 23,469 books (and counting!), autobiographies, letters, speeches, and other writings by significant historical figures.



### Pic Collage

**Free from iTunes App Store**

Lets you instantly arrange your photos into frames - or get creative with freeform collages, cutouts, filters, borders, stickers, and text.



### Video Science

**Free from iTunes App Store**

A growing library of over 80 hands-on Science lessons that are great for home and the classroom. These short videos demonstrate inexpensive and easy to recreate experiments that are designed to inspire and excite kids of all ages.



### Teaching with Technology Video Library

**Free from iTunes App Store**

The NETS video library is a collection of video of actual classrooms, enriched by additional material such as lesson context, teacher handouts and even student work, accessible alongside the video.



### Duolingo—Learn another language

**Free from iTunes App Store**

Learn Spanish, French, German, Portuguese, Italian, and English. Totally fun.



### History Line

**Free from iTunes App Store**

History Line is a collaborative learning game for the iPad focusing on US History. A series of historical events is presented on the screen and the goal of the game is to place the events onto a timeline at the bottom of the screen in the correct sequence. When the event placed on the line is correct the date appears below.





# Hillcrest Pre-K Cinco de Mayo



Pre-K teacher Florinda Hayes speaks to parents about the services offered through the bilingual program during the Cinco de Mayo Celebration.



# Ash Shows Appreciation



Ash Sixth Grade Learning Center celebrated the second annual Community Partners Luncheon on Friday, May 3. The luncheon is held in recognition of the importance of community members to the success of the learning team. Guests invited to the luncheon included postal workers, UPS, crossing guard, campus improvement team, PTA officers, and resource officers. Shown with Jeff DeLaGarza, coordinator for the event, are (L to R) Amos Rodriguez, Casey DeLeon, and Dion Guerra.



Ash also recognized the ladies who work in the school cafeteria for the hard work and loving care they demonstrate each day. Shown enjoying punch and cake are Maria Garcia (left), Willie Polite, Yolanda Moreno, and Vickie Waters. Also honored but not pictured was Terry Soto.

# Hillcrest STAAR Power



Hillcrest had a theme this year for STAAR is "STAAR Power" Teachers elected to wear superhero STAAR t-shirts to get kids excited about mastering the STAAR





# Houston High School celebrates 1000 Graduates

[Link to story on Plainview ISD website](#)



Plainview High School secretary Phoebe Jones was a little emotional as Principal Tye Rogers spoke of how much he appreciated her, her dedication to the success of the high school, and how she will be missed next fall. Phoebe's husband took a job with Cargill in Kansas and she will be moving this summer.

One of the most touching moments during the Secretaries' Luncheon happened when Director of Athletics Marcos Hinojos introduced his secretary Janet McCaleb. He described her as his mother, sister, and wife, rolled into one person. Janet says she was overcome because she knows how much he cares for his wife, mom and sisters. "He is genuinely one of the sweetest people I have ever known," said Janet. "I am very lucky to work for him."

## Secretaries' Luncheon







# Edgemere Mother's Day Tea

When you see first grade desks covered in table cloths and set with flowers and china teacups you can bet something special is happening. First grade students in Amber Graves' classroom at Edgemere held their annual

Mother's Day Tea complete with flowers, hats, tablecloths, china tea cups, cookies and cups of tea. It was a special time for all attending.



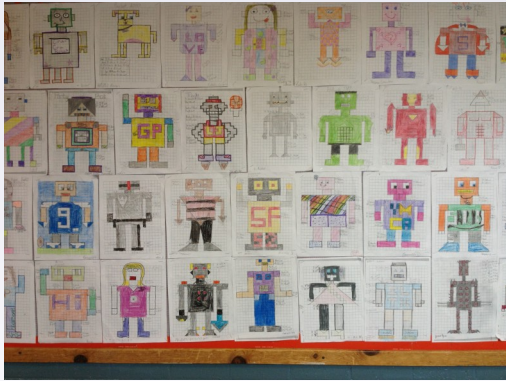
# College Hill Mother's Day Luncheon







# Lakeside Math Projects



These are products produced by students in Julie Hodges's class at Lakeside as an after STAAR fun learning activity. They created robots on grid paper and found the area and perimeter of each body part. Then they colored and embellished the robot.



In this project, the kids brought a box and then found the volume of their box. We then combined the boxes to make the robot and his robot dog.



# PHS Technology Students display awards





