



In Plain View

Plainview ISD Staff eNewsletter

Winter 2015

Christmas in Plainview ISD *with scenes from across the district*



Christina Salazar and Dalia Pardo trim the tree at the Administration Building.



College Hill Carolers



PHS Student Council hosted their annual Christmas party for some very special young students on December 10. STUCO members pictures are Priya Bhakta (elf), Mallory Watson (Mrs. Claus) and Payton Thornton (Santa).



PHS Band Christmas Concert



Dr. Seuss Wonderland at La Mesa Elementary



Staff Highlight: D'Lee Marble Sparkles, the Science Elf on the Shelf

Steve Jobs said, "The only way to do great work is to love what you do."

D'Lee Marble will be the first to tell you, she loves what she does.

D'Lee teaches Pre-AP Biology and Environmental Science at PHS. She also teaches AP/dual credit Biology with South Plains College.



The science elf, Sparkles, has been showing up in D'Lee's classroom each day to be discovered by her students.

Sparkles apparently shares her love of science and finds all sorts of science fun to involve himself in when she and the students are away during the night.

Family is important to D'Lee. When she is

not in the classroom she enjoys spending time with her three-year-old granddaughter Tylee. Tylee is the daughter of D'Lee's daughter Tasha who is married to Todd Jordan.

D'Lee has another daughter, Cheyann, who graduated from San Angelo State University with a degree in Elementary Education and now teaches at Austin Elementary in San Angelo, Texas.

Rounding out the family are Charlie, a Saint Bernard, two Yorkies—Niki and Maci—and Mollie, a Dorkie.

D'Lee also enjoys attending Boot Camp and working with 4-H kids.

What's on her Bucket List? Time to travel and explore a little.

She has been teaching for 16 years with the kind of passion and enthusiasm that is not only contagious, but creates a climate and culture where students learn, grow, and have fun in the process.

One of the ways D'Lee inserted a little fun into the classroom this December was through Sparkles, the Elf on the Shelf.

Those of you with young ones in your life have probably heard of "The Elf on the Shelf". He is one of Santa's scout elves, sent to be Santa's eyes and ears at childrens' homes around the world. During the night the elf changes locations and part of the fun is discovering where he is each morning.



D'Lee with her parents, daughters, and granddaughter.



Sparkles and her reindeer must have been hungry today. The kids found her cooking up some frogs for lunch. They will get lots of meat off those big jumping thighs!!!! Students: Are these real frogs? Can we touch them??? I just laughed at them because I don't know many people with fake frogs. Of course you can touch them!! Lol!!! I can't wait to dissect!!!



Sparkles was busy last night making solutions for lab.



Sparkles found some Mollusk, Arthropoda, Annelids, and other Animalia to hang out with and learn about today. Her reindeer must miss the beach because she was found on a large starfish.



Sparkles is busy cooking some fresh crayfish for lunch. Crayfish are small crustaceans that live in freshwater rivers and brooks that do not freeze in cold conditions.

Richard Roberts awarded technology grant

Plainview High School math teacher Richard Roberts is among ten educators nationwide to be awarded a Fall 2015 Classroom Improvement Technology Grant from eInstruction by Turning Technologies.

In announcing the grant, eInstruction stated that this year's grant competition attracted hundreds of educators from across the country.

"We had the privilege to read compelling stories of innovation with using technology with students," stated John Wilson, Director of the Turning Foundation. "Grant winners were selected based on how they planned to effectively incorporate technology within the classroom."

Roberts will receive a technology package worth \$3,600 that includes:

- ExamView Assessment Suite and Learning Series software
- Insight 360 Cloud to enable the delivery of content to mobile devices, student response clickers and interactive whiteboards.
- Mobi mobile interactive whiteboard
- 32-seat Classroom Response System

Roberts says the technology granted will make it possible to more closely monitor student achievement and adjust his teaching according to the gaps students have in their learning.

"I saw a demonstration of the Insight 360 system before applying for the grant," said Roberts. "I truly believe it will help me address the needs within my classroom. I especially like that it

will allow me to monitor student progress while engaging students in the learning process."

He anticipates having the new technology will increase student motivation and participation.

"It seems today that if you put a piece of technology in the hands of a student, they automatically become more involved and interested in the learning," he said. "I know that having real time data will allow me to adjust my teaching immediately to reach more students and close more gaps," he said.

He also says the technology will make it possible to more effectively monitor learning.

"In order to monitor students' progress and adjust my teaching accordingly, I need immediate feedback from students who are often unwilling to respond or ask for help."

That feedback will now come through the classroom response system and software supplied by the grant. The system places individual remotes in the hands of students that allow each student to key in responses to questions selected from the accompanying software or posed by the teacher. Although all students in the class can see a graph of responses, students maintain anonymity with only the teacher able to see which students may be struggling with the concept being taught.

"The technology will assist me in finding gaps in student learning so that they can be addressed and corrected sooner rather than later," said Roberts. "It also enables the students to see correct and incorrect responses in a way



that allows those who make mistakes to remain anonymous and not to feel pressured in front of the class. Students will know immediately what they did wrong and learn from their mistakes as well as the mistakes of others."

Roberts, a tenth-year teacher at PHS, currently teaches College Prep math and Advanced Quantitative Reasoning (AQR).

"AQR is a class designed to expose high school seniors to practical applications of real world math," he said. "My diverse background and agriculture degree give me a different perspective on teaching and allows me to relate to students in different ways." Prior to coming to Plainview, he taught Vocational Agriculture in New Mexico for three years, worked on the family farm for seven years, and taught math for two years in Borger.



Cameron Hurta advances to State UIL Debate Competition

PHS Senior Cameron Hurta will represent Plainview at the State UIL competition for the second time after winning first place in the 5A UIL Regional Congressional Debate contest held in Lubbock on Nov. 9.

Hurta was one of four students from PHS participating in the competition. Other members of the debate team are Avan Daughrity, junior; Alyssa Hurta, freshman; and Emily Herrington, freshman.

To prepare for the Congressional Debate contest, contestants draft legislation and research a docket of bills and resolutions dealing with social and political policies prior to the contest to create their speeches.

At the tournament, students caucus in committees, deliver

formal speeches on the merits and disadvantages of each piece of legislation, and vote to pass or defeat the measures they have examined.

Parliamentary procedure forms the structure for the dialogue with students responding to others' arguments over the course of a session.

Judges evaluate contestants for their research and analysis of issues, argumentation, skill in asking and answering questions, use of parliamentary procedure and clarity and fluency of speaking.

Each Congress session is approximately 3 hours with students speaking in 3 minute segments followed by questioning.

Michelle Pittman, communications teacher and debate team coach,



said that all four of the students competed well in the event which promotes leadership and communication skills through rigorous interaction and debate on issues confronting our democracy.

"Acquiring these skills help prepare students for learning and leadership throughout their lives," said Pittman.

Nutcracker Dancers



Lone Star Ballet of Amarillo hosted their annual Nutcracker Baller on Dec. 11-13. This year nine of the dancers were Plainview ISD students who participate in dance through the Plainview Lone Star Dance Academy. The Plainview students were Lori and Hannah Brown, Suzy Hernandez, Ann Marie Rushin, Annabel Aguilera, Emma Pittman (daughter of PHS teacher Michelle Pittman), Abbi Wendling, Allison Aguilera, and Bryan Rushin.

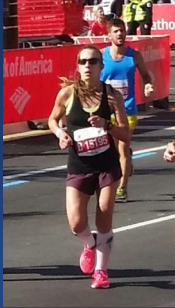
Technology Center upside down tree





Cheers! Kudos! High Fives!

Ashley Barnett Wheat, daughter of **Nancy Dougherty**, completed the Chicago Marathon on Oct. 11 in 3:15:11. She improved her time by 7 min. 42 sec. over the last marathon. She plans to run the Boston Marathon in April.

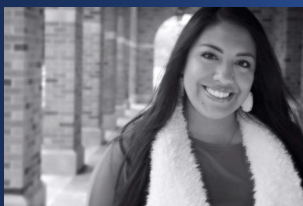


Joshua Ryan Chapa (PHS 2010), son of Albert and **Doris Chapa** (Business Office), graduated on December 12 from Texas Tech University Edward E. Whitacre Jr. College of Engineering with a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering and a minor in Math and Wind Energy.



Lesle Carlisle's daughter, **Abby Carlisle Long**, has merged her Pink Tumbleweed business with some other ladies to make a "one stop shopping" experience called "The Roost" in San Angelo, Texas. One of Abby's new partners is PHS grad Laura Bass Tomlinson. Lesle says you can check their shop out on Facebook or on Knickerbocker, if you are ever in San Angelo.

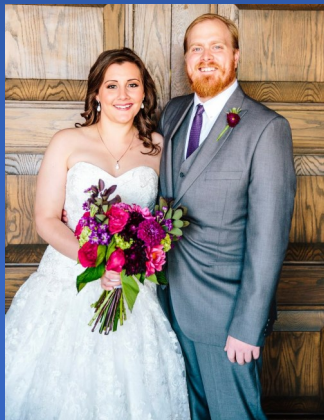
Katie Williams, granddaughter of Carl and **Renee Williams** (Hillcrest) made the All-State Choir. She is a senior at Broken Arrow High School in Tulsa, Oklahoma. She plans to attend either Tulsa Community College or Tulsa University to major in music therapy. Katie, the daughter of Mark and Kerri Williams, lived in Plainview as a young child.



Amanda Hinojosa (PHS 2011) graduated from Texas Tech University on Friday,

Dec. 11 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology. She is the daughter of Joe and **Lupe Hinojosa**, (LaMesa School Nurse).

Keegan Butler (PHS 2005), son of Kim (PHS '79) and **Glenna Hopson Butler** (La Mesa & PHS '80) was married to Lynnlee Hedstrom on August 2. They live in Lubbock and both work at UMC.



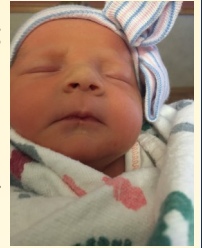
Rebecca Butler Huddleston (PHS 2000) graduated from Texas Tech on December 12. She will be teaching 5th Grade at Bean Elementary in Lubbock. Rebecca is married to Jimmy Huddleston (PHS '96) and they have a daughter, Quinn. She is the daughter of Kim and **Glenna Hopson Butler** (La Mesa).



PHS senior **Caitlyn Isaguirre**, daughter of J.R. and **Cynthia Isaguirre** (Admin Office), was selected to the TGCA All-State Academic Volleyball Team.

Baby News

Nathan and Alyson Young are the parents of a daughter, Saylor Kate, born on Nov. 12 and weighing in at 6 lbs. 15 oz. Saylor and big brother Slade's grandparents are Darren and **Vickie Young** (La Mesa).



JJ and Johna Brumley are the parents of twins, Brooklyn and Maddox, born on October 7. Brooklyn weighed 5lbs. 5 oz. and Maddox weighed 5lbs. 2.5 oz. New grandparents are Donnie and **Diana Brumley** (Thunderbird).

Cash and **Alanna Fortune** (Hillcrest) are the parents of a new daughter, Oaklynn Rose, born on November 29. She weighed in at 6lbs. 10 oz. and is 18 inches long. Oaklynn was also welcomed by big brother Chasen.



Patrick and **Karen Trudeau** (Estacado) have a new grandson, Ethan Andrew Rafacz, born September 27, 2015 (8# 13oz., 20 1/4"). Jennifer Trudeau Rafacz, (2000 PHS) is his mother. He was baptized Nov. 28 with Philip Trudeau (2005 PHS grad) godfather and Abby Crume (2000 PHS grad) godmother.





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

WANTED / NEEDED: Highland Kindergarten needs to borrow an incubator and a brooder. They want to hatch chicks as part of their Basic Needs unit in April. If you can help, contact Allison Collins at allison.collins@plainviewisd.org

FOR SALE: **Pecans**, \$10.00 per lb. shelled and bagged. Contact **Toy Long** (PHS) at 806-685-7409.

FOR SALE: Brick, **3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 car garage home** at 3615 Sides in Westgate. 1665 sq. ft., fireplace, recently updated kitchen, bathrooms, and flooring. \$129,900 Contact **Frank Torres** (Technology Center) or Billington Real Estate.



FOR SALE: Solid wood 6ft tall x 4 ft. wide **china cabinet** with 4 glass shelves. Beveled glass doors. Excellent condition. \$375. Contact **Susan Hurt** (Thunderbird) at 773-7550.



TO GIVE AWAY: Full-blooded **German Shepard**. He is very loving and playful. He needs a bigger yard and more attention. Contact **Herminia Zuniga** (Thunderbird) at (806) 729-8063.

Military News



Philip Trudeau (2005 PHS grad) recently completed a 15 month assignment at Incirlik AB in Turkey with a 3 1/2 month assignment as interim squadron commander in southern Spain. He is off to Fussa, Japan (Yokota AB) for the next 2 years. He will be responsible for all construction on the 3 American air bases---Misawa, Yokota, and Kadena. His assignment will have him travelling to the different bases and consulting with Japanese officials. He is the son of Patrick and **Karen Trudeau** (Estacado).



Share the Warmth

The Migrant Program collects used coats and clothing for school age children of all sizes. Contact: Anita Flores or Linda Quezada at Central Office.

Blanket Drive

Dora Sanchez (Aramark Office) is hosting a blanket drive to benefit the Nursing Home. She is collecting new blankets . If you can help, call her at (806) 293-6088 or email



Love Fund

A love fund has been set up at Prosperity Bank for Eric Hastey. Eric is the husband of Hope Hastey (Student Support Services Department). He was critically injured in an industrial accident at Farwell in November.

PHS PE classes

What a fun way to work out!



Note of Thanks

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for all your kind words and prayers, warm-felt hugs, and coming to my campus so my staff could attend my husband's funeral. Words cannot even begin to express my deep appreciation for all your support. All I know is that I am blessed beyond measure to work alongside such caring and compassionate people. Blessings to all of you!

- Angie Valdez

PESSA Christmas Party

The PESSA (Plainview Educational Support Staff Association) members are among the hardest working staff in our district. What you may not know is these ladies know how to throw a party.

Members held their annual Christmas luncheon on December 7. The theme was “Ugly Christmas Sweaters” and the highlight of the day was walking “the runway” and putting forth their best efforts at coaxing the judges to throw the vote their direction. It was more entertainment (and laughs) than contest, with the judges taking a considerable amount of time to settle on ONLY three winners.

While members waited on the judges to deliberate, they played a game that involved a plastic wrap ball with candy and small prizes within the layers. The player continued unwrapping the ball (and claiming the prizes) until the next player rolled a double with dice. **DO TRY THIS AT HOME** because it was great fun.

Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest



1st place—Rosie Licerio



2nd place—Shelley Roberts



3rd place—Carmen Salinas



Panel of Judges

- Dalia Rivera
- Curtis Joseph
- Frank Torres

Thunderbird "Ugly Sweater Day"



Pre-kindergarten communities

Pre-Kindergarten students in Florinda Hayes classroom at Hillcrest recreated buildings in our town during their study of communities.



PHS Child Guidance Thanksgiving Lab

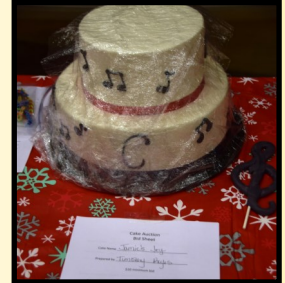
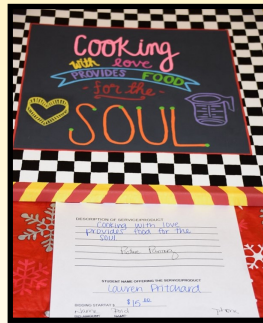
PHS Child Guidance classes Thanksgiving lab combined the opportunity to complete child observations with fun moments as visiting kids participated in activities and snacks.





PHS Choir Concert & Cake Auction

This year's choir cake auction had an abundance of beautiful (and no doubt delicious) cakes and other items up for bid. Santa even made an appearance prior to the Concert.





College Hill "Ugly Sweater" Day!



College Hill Readers @ the Fair Theatre

College Hill readers who meet their reading goals were treated to the the movie, "The Santa Clause" at the historic Fair Theatre. When the Fair first opened in 1925, it was a silent movie house. How wonderful that 90 years later it is still a place to enjoy an afternoon of entertainment.



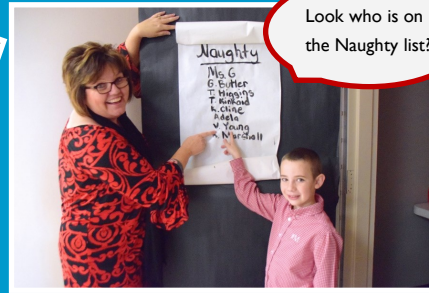
Edgemere Carolers at Centennial Bank

Our elementary choir teachers have all done an outstanding job preparing students for Christmas programs and caroling at the local banks. You can see video of some of these performances on our Plainview Independent School District Facebook account.





La Mesa Christmas Open House



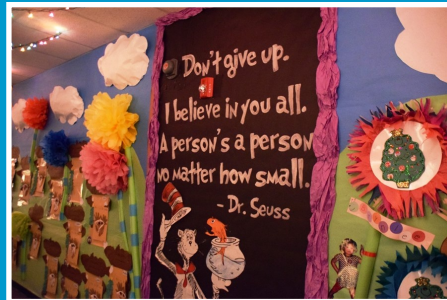
Look who is on the Naughty list?



Dr. Seuss liked your Tweet
Dec 15: La Mesa was a Dr. Seuss Wonderland this morning for their annual Christmas Open House. pic.twitter.com/3c0IwuxWSZ



The halls of La Mesa have always been wonderfully decorated and welcoming to students. This year, the staff have outdone themselves with their Dr. Seuss theme. Add to that some Christmas décor and the school became an amazing Wonderland of all things delightful to a child's eye and those of us who still possess an inner child.



May
Your Lives
Be Filled
With JOY, HOPE
LOVE, and PEACE!



TECHNO TIMES

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TECHNOLOGY TOOLS AND TRICKS

December 2015

As we get to the end of the semester, I am amazed at how fast it has gone! I hope everyone has a great and restful break! I have been receiving many requests on how to integrate technology in the classroom. Be looking for some after school training in January and February to hopefully give you some ideas and assistance. Below is an article I found in my email today and thought it was festive and fun! 'Tis' the Season!

Alissa Carter



ON THE WEB.....

[REINDEER CAM](#)

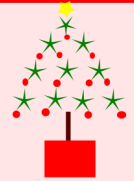
[SNOWFLAKE MAKER](#)

[NORTHPOLE.COM](#)

[CLAUS.COM](#)

[SANTA TRACKER \(NORAD\)](#)

[CHRISTMAS JUNKIE TOP 50](#)



Apps for Fun Over the Holidays

[Peggy Reimers](#) | Dec. 8, 2015 | [Google Tips and Tricks](#), [iPad Tips and Tricks](#)

We'll all have some free time to relax and unwind over the winter break. If you need some technology to help you take it easy, here are a few fun apps.

Red Herring is my favorite word game. It comes in handy in the grocery store or TSA line. A game consists of 16 words. 12 of the words are placed in three categories of four words each. There are four words that are thrown into the mix to distract you; these are the Red Herrings, pesky little words whose sole purpose is to mislead you. You can choose your own level: easy, normal, or hard. You can buy puzzle packs at \$0.99, but I enjoy playing the one free puzzle a day. [iOS/Android](#)

ElfYourself allows you to "elf" yourself and four other friends. You can post your personalized video in the Cats theme and share via email or Facebook. There are many other video choices, but they will set you back \$0.99 a pop. [iOS/Android](#)

Star Wars by Disney is your app connection to a galaxy far, far away. You can get trailer releases and movie news, but this app has so MUCH MORE! A couple of cool things: Take and share a Star Wars "selfie" such as Princess Leia complete with her hair buns or Han Solo's carbon freeze. The app is equipped with a Sound Board, which will allow you to play classic sound clips: "How rude!" by C3PO or you can listen to Darth Vader's "I am your father." This Day in Star Wars History is full of fun trivia. May the app be with you! [iOS/Android](#)

Photobricks is a free app that turns your photos into a LEGO brick mosaic. You also have the ability to crop and change the colors of individual bricks. Try turning your car, a bowl of fruit, or your pet into a brick mosaic. You can share via email, Facebook, Twitter, or save it on your device. [iOS](#)

Bitmoji Keyboard – Your Avatar Emoji is a free app with the ability to buy more theme packs for \$0.99. First you design your own personal avatar. The app comes with hundreds of attributes to customize everyone's unique look. Next choose a mood, a scene, or a saying to message, email, or post to Facebook or Twitter. [iOS/Android](#)

Colorfy is a coloring book app for adults. It comes with a ton of free graphics for you to add your artistic touch to and more are available with an in-app purchase. [iOS/Android](#)

Fuzel Collage is a great way to take all of those holiday photos and turn them into stunning collages that you can share with your friends and family. The basic shapes and styles are free and there are more templates that you can add with an in-app purchase. [iOS/Android](#)