



In Plain View

Celebrating Texas Public Schools



Parents of Edgemere second grade students were invited to celebrate Texas Public Schools Week by touring the "armadillo home" and enjoying an Armadilly chili pie with their child in the school cafeteria. Teachers Martha Shaw, Gretchen Mahagan, Cindi Remini and Barbara Ramirez kept the chili cooking all day in the classrooms until time for the celebration.



Pre-Kindergarten students in Florinda Hayes classroom at Hillcrest Elementary donned cowboy hats and bandanas before entertaining parents and grandparents with a song about Texas.

Texas-size cookie decorating



College Hill second grade students and their parents celebrated Texas Public School Week by sharing a hot dog lunch in the classrooms.

Following the meal, students, parents and other guests had fun icing and decorating Texas-shaped cookies.

Cookies for the entire grade-level and their guests were baked by teacher Lisa Bailey with teachers Luisa Arellano and Jennifer Havens supplying the icing and decorations. It's just another example of how our truly caring teachers put in extra time and effort to ensure that students are building great memories while acquiring the academic skills needed for success.



Dr. Kirk takes the reins as Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Rocky Kirk was welcomed as incoming Superintendent of Schools at a Meet & Greet on January 28 in the Houston School Cafeteria. His first official day on the job was February 1.



Dr. Kirk shares a handshake with band director Anthony Gonzales (center) and band instructor Dusty Balderas at the Meet & Greet .



Dr. Kirk speaks with Houston School principal Dana Broyles. Staff members from across the district lined up to meet the new superintendent of schools during the hour-long reception.



Athletic Director Marcos Hinojos and his wife, bilingual teacher Jessica Hinojos, greet Dr. Kirk.

Message from Dr. Kirk

Dear Plainview ISD Family,

Before we begin Spring Break, I want to let you know how much I appreciate what you do, and how gracious you have been to me as I began my new job in Plainview. Although I have been gone from Plainview for over 35 years, one thing that I remember that is still true is that the people are so kind and caring.

The past six weeks have been a whirlwind, and that was not totally unexpected; however, I never contemplated that the initial challenges would be significant. We are all aware that our community is facing some tough times ahead, but I am convinced that we will weather the storm with dignity and hope and a vision for a healthy and dynamic future.

If you are so inclined, say a prayer for our community, our District, the leaders who must address the challenges ahead and the families and students affected by the Cargill closing. There is much work to be done; however, we will cast a grand vision with hearts full of hope and courage to walk into the wind. Our future is brighter than any of us know, but we will need to pull together like never before to see it come to pass!

As you step away from your work for a few days, please catch your breath and relax from the rigors of the many demands you face. It will do your soul good!

And finally, so many of you have expressed condolences to me regarding the recent, unexpected loss of my father, and I want to thank you for your kind words and encouragement. It is during times like this that our faith carries us through.

Thanks again for the opportunity to work with you; I am honored to join you in this wonderful endeavor!

D. Rockwell "Rocky" Kirk, Ed.D.

Dr. Kirk and Highland custodian Elizabeth Moreno pause while shoveling snow from the sidewalks at Highland Elementary after the recent blizzard.





Why Learning Rounds?



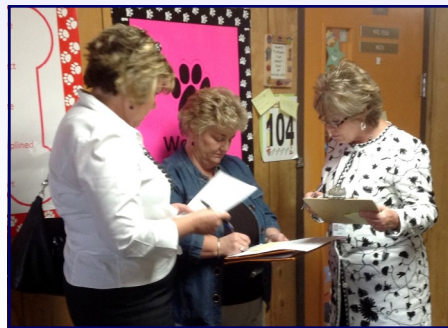
Observe

The Principals and Administrators in our district are a step ahead of many other districts having already participated in a strategy for school improvement that is being talked about across the state as a practice for positive change in education – Learning Rounds.



Discuss

Learning Rounds in Plainview ISD is to improve instruction across the district in a way that is supportive and nonjudgmental.



Collaborate

Learning Rounds in education is a collaborative professional development model inspired by the clinical-rounds model used by physicians.

It's important to note that the focus is not on the teacher. It is on what is happening in instruction and how learning is taking place.



Note the Positives

Physicians have traditionally used medical rounds, often involving teams of doctors with varying levels of expertise, to make observations, share ideas and knowledge and then, as a collaborative group, arrive at a diagnosis or course of treatment for a patient.

By making the rounds as a group, the participants learn from each other as they observe and discuss the instructional practices in place on each campus.

The process translated into the education field is intended to help school leaders observe and learn about and from teaching practices across the district.

The participants – Principals and Administrators - develop a shared understanding of what high-quality instruction looks like and what our schools and our district need to do to support it.

The goal of implementing

Educators are life-long learners

The fact is that a good teacher continues to be a student. To do it well requires your own dedication to continuous education. If you want to be at the top of your profession, you must step outside your comfort zone and embrace each opportunity to acquire greater knowledge.



Plainview ISD teachers are taking advantage of some of the many great staff development opportunities provided by the district. The focus on student-centered learning has many teachers participating in hands on activities.





Spotlight on Staff: Brandon and Tonya Buchanan

If there was an honor roll for teachers (and maybe there should be), Brandon and Tonya Buchanan would be at the top of the list.

They are the type of teachers that students will remember long after graduation. They not only teach, they inspire. They have the ability to bring out the best in students. They have the gift that all great teachers have – a passion for teaching, a desire to make a difference and the energy, hard work and dedication required to accomplish their mission.

These two enthusiastic teachers will tell you quickly that they love everything about their jobs, they enjoy working with kids, and they share a need to instill a love for learning in each of their students.

Brandon is home grown. He grew up in Plainview, graduated from Plainview High School, and attended Wayland Baptist University where he majored in Physical Education.



Brandon & Tonya

His parents, Pat and Judy Buchanan, were teachers. Pat taught at Plainview High School before becoming a teacher at Wayland and Judy taught at Plainview High School before moving up the career ladder to Asst. Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction prior to retiring two years ago.

Tonya grew up in Hereford, graduated from Hereford High School, and earned a degree in Early Childhood Education from Wayland Baptist University.

They met at Wayland and were married 18 years ago.

Brandon has been teaching for 17 years and currently teaches Physical Education at Ash.

Tonya has taught for 14 years and currently teaches third grade at Thunderbird Elementary.

They are devoted parents who value time spent with their three sons – thirteen year-old Brosnon and seven-year old twins Braydon and Brendon.



Braydon, Brendon & Brosnon

In her free time, Tonya enjoys cooking.

Brandon enjoys playing the electric guitar.

They both enjoy reading and are involved in a family home bible study.

When asked if there is anything on her bucket list, Tonya replied that she

wants to travel to as many places with her family as they can manage.

Brandon replied in a way that will not surprise those who know him—“Everything on my list has been checked.”

One thing I know to be true about both of them— they are part of what’s good about Plainview, what makes this a great town to live in, and what makes this school district the right place for students to grow and succeed.



Brendon, Braydon, Brandon, Brosnon, Pat.

A Little Buchanan Trivia...

Thinclads Improve During '67 Season

Head coach Gerald Richey termed 1967 as the probably best overall track season in PHS history. The Bulldog thinclads placed ninth in district but had some excellent performances and return most the squad for next season. Fred Dawson served as assistant coach.

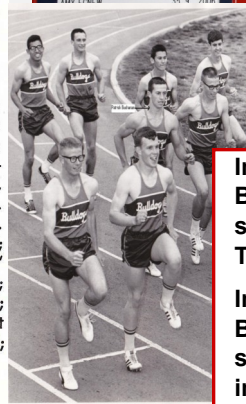
The freshmen teams also had a fine year as Rayford McLlhaneys Blues won 17 trophies including 5 meets and Robert Priest's Reds won three second place trophies.

BEST VARSITY MEET PERFORMANCES

100—Buchanan 9.6; McBee 9.7; Martin 9.8 220—Martin 22.1; Bouldin 22.5; Fox 23.5 440—Martin 49.5*; Fox 51.0; B. Bass 51.5 880—Dayton 2:06; J. O. Bass 2:08; Cole 2:15 Mile—Cox 4:58.5; Dayton 5:02; Fischer 5:05 440 R-Patterson, Martin, Hernandez, R. Davis 43.9 Mile R—Fox, Reese, B. Bass, Hernandez, 3:29 330 IH—Patterson 41.5; R. Davis 43.0; Graham 43.0 120 HH—West 15.7; Gardner 16.0; J. Davis 16.4 Shot—Simmons 49' 10"; Sisemore 48' 6"; Rushing Discus—Howle 156; Craig 152½; Simmons 137 Vault—Covey 11'; Blake 10'; Nelson 10' H. Jump—Priest 6'; West 5½; Sisemore 5½ B. Jump—Buchanan 21' 10"; McBee 21' 8½"; West 19' 6"

*Time in regional meet; placed fifth.

GIRLS		BOYS	
LAUREN HILL	9' 3" 2003	DUSTY STREET	14' 3" 2002
TOLUNAY THOMPSON	139' 4" 2003	KEATON HATCH	183' 9" 2010
TOLUNAY THOMPSON	40' 11 1/4" 2003	ROONEY SHIVERS	60' 9 1/2" 1992
KADRYN HOWE	4' 10" 2005	KENNETH STOREY	7' 1/8" 1979
TRACY CRUM	30' 9" 2006	MICHAEL EGNEW	45' 10" 2007
		MICHAEL EGNEW	24' 4" 2007
		RANDY LIGHTFOOT	13.50 1971
		RANDY LIGHTFOOT	37.50 1971
		BRANDON BUCHANAN	10.35 1992
		TIM SON	21.10 1972



In the Spring of 1967, Pat Buchanan set a record of 9.6 seconds for the 100 YARD dash. That record still stands today.

In March of 1992, his son Brandon Buchanan set a new school record for 10.35 seconds in the 100 METER dash. Brandon still holds that record.



Toward the tape

Plainview's Brandon Buchanan crosses the finish line as the Bulldogs' 400-meter relay team chalks up a victory at the District 3-SA track meet on Saturday at Coronado. The Amarillo boys and Plainview girls



Gena Nunez shares battles and blessings

Gena Nunez is the first to say she works with a lot of great people - at the district Service Center and on the campuses.

A Garden City, Kansas, native, she has been employed by the district for 13 years as a custodian.

She proudly shares that she is German on both sides of her family. She is also a fighter. She has battled with Non-Hodgkins lymphoma twice in the last ten year. Then six months ago she was diagnosed with cervical cancer.

She was head custodian at La Mesa when she first learned she had Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma.

When the treatment she was undergoing in Lubbock didn't seem to be working, she contacted the Cancer Centers of America.

She was away from her job for nine months while she traveled back and forth to Chicago, usually alone and in a wheelchair, to undergo treatment. Free flights were provided by the airlines programs for cancer patients.

Gena recalls the flights as often difficult. She struggled with feeling ill during the whole trip. She smiles and then tells the story of an older lady who realized Gena was ill and walked to the back of the plane and offered to get her a Sprite to help with



the nausea.

"People like that make it easier," she said.

When she was able to return to work, she was moved to PHS where she took on the role of head custodian.

Then a few years ago, she had to undergo additional treatment for the lymphoma.

She was off work again for nine months while she underwent treatment.

The cervical cancer six months ago was taken care of through surgery, but the Non-Hodgkins lymphoma will be something she will probably deal with throughout her life.

Currently she is a floating custodian and works wherever she is needed.

She is very thankful for the health benefits she has through her job, but she is even more thankful for the way her coworkers have supported her through the years.

"I have been blessed, really blessed, by those who stood by me," she said.

"They took me to doctor's appointments, to the airport, and provided for many other needs."

David Lopez, Assistant Director of Maintenance for Custodial Services, says the Service Department collected donations to help her with medical and household expenses following her last surgery in January.

Gena is single and over the years of her health struggles, she lost her home.

"But I am rich in family," she says, "and that is what matters."

She has three daughters—Cyndi, Tylene, and Tina. She also has 13 grandchildren.

She now lives with one of her daughters and says that is working well.

She has learned not to take time with her family for granted.

"No one ever really knows how long they have," she said.

She also has learned, for the most part, not to worry about little things.

"The doctors told me that stress brings down your immune system. Your frame of mind can help in your recovery."

What's on her bucket list?

"I want to go to San Antonio and spend some time at the River Walk," she said.

"I never say why me. I've always said, 'Why not me?' I'm just like everyone else."

-Gena Nunez

Shout-outs to the Maintenance Dept.

A HUGE shout out to the Maintenance Dept and custodians! They worked hard in the cold to get sidewalks and parking lots cleared!! - Kayla Caldwell

Thanks to the maintenance guys for spending 3 days digging us out so we could have school and a track meet on Thursday. They are a hard working group!

Thanks to the maintenance department for moving office furniture for the Central Office staff on the Thursday after the snow. They also cleared the field for a track meet that was held on the same day.

Edgemere would like to give a shout out to our maintenance department for working hard on Monday afternoon in the blowing snow while we were all sitting in front of a warm fire wrapped up in a blanket. Thanks to that department, we



were able to come to school on Wednesday and not worry about icy sidewalks or parking lots! Thanks, guys! We really appreciate all you do for us!!!

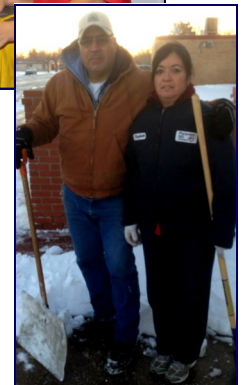
Lakeside sends a shout out to Jay Coleman for helping their custodians shovel snow to clear the way for the Book Fair.

I would love to give a shout out to Pam Putnam's

husband Doug. We live out in Pleasant Hills and our drifts were higher than the vehicles on the road. He spent the entire afternoon clearing the road on his tractor and helped us to clear out our driveway. To top it off our well went



out and we couldn't take showers to get warm after the long day in the snow. So a huge thank you to him.— Phoebe Jones
All the shoveled snow was moved off the sidewalk and the bus lane was quickly compacted into one neat pile by Estacado's diligent, hard-working custodians! Thank you ladies for all your hard work!





Nineteen teachers receive COC mini-grants

Nineteen Plainview ISD teachers were recognized during the February meeting of the Plainview ISD Board of Trustees as recipients of eleven mini-grants awarded through the Plainview Chamber of Commerce Education Committee.

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

Grant recipients include:

Sonia Walker, Jessica Hinojos, Carrie Rollins and Mary True (La Mesa), received a grant provided by the Soroptimist Club. They will purchase books and CDs to help first grade students learn to read.

Janelle Styne, Sarah Williams, and Frances Alvarez (Highland) received a grant provided by the Soroptimist Club. The grant will fund a third grade Family Reading Night designed to involve families in language arts and reading activities. These teachers also received an additional grant from the Soroptimists to fund a Math Boot Camp.

Susan Blackerby, Denice Kirby, and Jay Jay Wiseman (Plainview High School) received a grant from the Rotary Club. They will use the funds to purchase perfect attendance incentives for at-risk students.

Caitlin Thurman, Minga Rodriguez, and Amy Pebsworth (Highland) received a grant from the Optimist Club. The funds will be used to purchase math materials.

Ashlee Juarez (Thunderbird) received a grant provided by Texas Business Women-Plainview. The funds will be utilized to purchase snacks for after school tutorial sessions to prepare fourth grade students for STAAR testing.

Brandy Tirey (La Mesa) received a grant provided by the Soroptimist Club. Her grant will provide project-based learning

activities in her fourth grade inclusion classroom.

Margaret Rose (Highland) received a grant provided by the Lions Club. The grant will be used to purchase digital keyboards for class piano instruction.

Julie Jobe (La Mesa / College Hill) received a grant provided by the Lions club. The grant will be used to purchase musical instruments.

Jessica Amador (College Hill) received a grant provided by the Rotary Club. The grant will fund online curriculum enrichment for special education math, reading, science and art.

Sara Hanoch (Ash) received a grant provided by the Kiwanis Club. The funds will be used to purchase a wi-fi adapter to link technology in the classroom.



Chamber of Commerce mini-grant teacher recipients include Jessica Hinojos (front row, left), Sonia Walker, Ashley Juarez, Brandy Tirey (back row, left), Mary True, Carrie Rollins, Janelle Styne, Frances Alvarez, and Sarah Williams.

Looking for a Grant?

The Lubbock Area Foundation is a great source for mini-grants for classroom projects. Typical grant awards range from \$300- \$1,000. Applications are due by June 15th each year. Check the lubbockareafoundation.org website for more information.



Teachers receiving mini-grants from the Chamber of Commerce include Amy Pebsworth (front row, left), Jessica Amador, Margaret Rose, Sarah Hanoch (back row, left), Jay Jay Wiseman, Susan Blackerby, Minga Rodriguez, and Caitlin Thurman.

Grant allows students to support FISH



Estacado student Karly Sanchez presents a gift card in the amount of \$500 to Ron Warren, president of the Faith in Sharing House board. Students in Maria Sheetz's Spanish classes collected canned and boxed goods to donate to the food bank. Sheetz applied for and received a grant from the Meadows Foundation to purchase the gift card which will be used to purchase meat.



Cheers! Kudos! High Fives!

Central Office welcomes **Fransis Marin** to their staff as the new Federal Programs Clerk. She replaces Theresa Burns who moved to a new position as Secretary to the Director of Operations following Rhonda Weehunt's retirement in January.

Shelby Summers, daughter of Mark and **Molly Summers** (Highland) is competing in her first College National Championship this week in North Carolina with Wayland cheerleaders. We wish them lots of luck!

Congratulations to **Victoria Thrasher**, daughter of **Ruth Gonzales** (Thunderbird). She passed all of her state boards and is now a licensed Funeral Home Director employed at Kornerstone Funeral Home. As Ruth proudly says, "It takes a very special person to do her job."

Their daughter **Amy Summers** went to the TAFE convention in San Antonio in February. She and her partner, Keeley Askins, received a 2nd place ribbon for a tri-fold presentation of their volunteer work at the Edgemere Fall festival.

Blake Riley, son of **Jill Freeman** (Lakeside) is getting married March 23 to Andi Polimbit. They will be living in New Philadelphia, OH where he is in the oil business.

Ashley Ellis, PHS history teacher and tennis coach, will be starting classes in August at the Texas Tech School of Law. After graduation, she hopes to settle either in the Dallas / Fort Worth area or the Midland area to practice law.



Jeremy Hinojosa, son of Joe and **Lupe Hinojosa** (Lakeside / Ash nurse), is engaged to be married to Courtney Eickmeier. Their wedding date is set for May 4, 2013 in Houston, Texas. He is a graduate of PHS 2000.

Baby News

Doug and **Rhonda Buie** (Thunderbird / Edgemere music teacher) announce the arrival of a grandbaby, **Eva Grace Hamilton**, born on Feb. 6. New parents are Clifford and Carissa Hamilton of Midland.



Landon and **Erika Sims** (Highland) are the parents of a son, **Brody Hoyt Sims**. He was born on December 26, 2012. He was 5 lbs. 4 oz. and 18.5 inches long at birth.



John and Cassandra Belt are the parents of a son, **John Gideon Belt**, born on October 29, 2012. Grandparents are Kevin and **Cindy Belt (PHS)**. John is a 2009 PHS graduate and a member of the United States Air Force. He and his family are stationed at Dyess Air Force Base in Abilene.



2003 Lady Bulldogs Recognized

The 2003 Lady Bulldogs reunited on March 2 at the girls state basketball tournament. They had the privilege of attending the last of the state championship reunions. Ten years ago the 2003 Lady Bulldogs won state and because of this, they were recognized during the half time of the 2A state finals

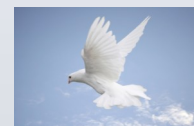


Back Row: Mandy Steen (PHS) Allison Hodges (PHS) Chelsea Hartman, Jackie Thiel, Leanna Miller-McMahan (daughter of Terry Miller-Ash), Katrisa O'Neal, Rene Kayler (Ash), Danny Wrenn (PHS) Front Row: Addie Lees, Tojinay Thompson, Sarah Hauk -Dowell (daughter of Patti Hauk-Lakeside), Tiffany Williams-Blackerby (daughter-in-law of Susan Blackerby—PHS), Kelsey Davis-Vest, Elyse Newland, Dana Reinart.

Sincere Sympathy

To David Lopez (Service Center) on the loss of his father, Pete Lopez.

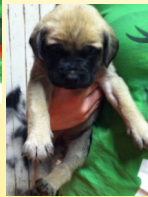
To Dr. Rocky Kirk, Superintendent of Schools, on the loss of his father, George Kirk.



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

For sale: **Refrigerator** (\$150), **desk** (\$50) and a **corner wall shelf** (\$30). Contact **Kylie Van Pelt** (PHS). **Ruth Gonzales** (Thunderbird secretary) wants to buy some **round clothes racks** or **long clothes racks** that will hold jeans.

Cynthia Brundage (PHS Physics teacher) has three remaining **English mastiff puppies** for sale. They will be ready for adoption on March 8th. She has two female fawns and one male brindles. They will have all of their shots. She is asking \$750 OBO for each. They are full blooded but not registered, The father is AKC championship line.

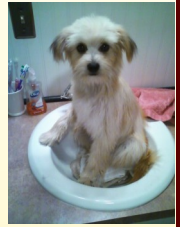


Robin Sweeney (Coronado) has points that can be used at Wyndham Vacation Resorts www.wyndhamvacationresorts.com. She will rent out their condo time at hotel rates (\$100—\$300 depending on number of people, size of room, etc). These are extremely nice places that her family has always enjoyed. If you are interested check out the available resorts on the website or contact her for further information.

For Sale: **Powerhouse WM 1501 Home Gym**, looks brand new. Asking \$200. Please call **Curtis Bailey** at 292-5597.

For Sale: **California King waterbed (frame only; conventional mattress if wanted)** with a 6-drawer storage compartment underneath and a 7 drawer dresser with mirror (needs refinishing) for sale. Best offer on them., Selling them for a fundraiser for church. Email or call **Johnny Hill** (PHS) at (806) 729-1568.

Hello, my name is Dixie. I was rescued out of a kill shelter. I am desperately looking for my forever home. I am about 14 months old. I am very friendly and love to sit in someone's lap. I have beautiful blond hair and I think I am part terrier. I am very smart and have been spayed along with a microchip. Please email my stepmom if interested at denise.hance@plainview.k12.tx.us



Needed for Prom

We need the following items for the PHS prom. Please email Leslie Richburg if you have any items that we can borrow or keep:

- Large chandelier
- Black or red fabric, gossamer, or plastic
- Columns
- Arches
- Stars
- Silhouettes of guitars, paparazzi,
- Old speakers, large size (they don't have to work)
- CD (don't have to work)
- CD cases
- Cassettes (don't have to work)
- 8-tracks (don't have to work)
- Fishing line
- PVC tubing or parts
- Plywood (any size pieces)
- Spot lights
- Christmas lights

If it would help, we can give you a receipt for the donations.

An open Letter from a Former Student~

(reprinted with the author's permission)

Congratulations

Coach Danny Wrenn

on your 600th career WIN!



Coach Danny Wrenn,

My name is Robert Vasquez and I graduated with the PHS Class of 1994. I live in Amarillo, TX and I am a high school Spanish teacher at Highland Park ISD. I don't know if you remember me since that was 19 years ago. I was on Amarillo.com this morning going through the sports section and I read how last night, you reached your 600th win and I just wanted to say CONGRATULATIONS!!! It's a funny deal, but I was in your PE class for all of my high school years. I was so caught up in credits that I needed a class to be in, so I asked to be in your class for all 4 of those years. I am very happy to say that I looked to you as a mentor and you helped to cement my love for the game of basketball. I still remember our games of 1-on-1 and even 5-on-5 and what I loved the most was watching you come down the court, stopping at the 3 point line and just drain your shot. Because of you, I feel in love with the 3-point game. And now, starting when I was 14 years old to now a 36 year old, I still love that 3-point shot and use it as much as possible in every pickup game I play. You always motivated me to be a better player and a better person. So Coach Wrenn, I know this email is out of the blue, and a huge part of me hopes that you still remember me after all these years. But I wanted to say thank you for being a great mentor and playing such a big role in my life and most of all CONGRATULATIONS on your win!! You were a winner then and you are still a winner now. It's an honor to say that I know you and that you were my teacher. Thank you, sir.

¡Muchas gracias!
Robert Vasquez
Highland Park ISD
Instructor of Spanish I & II
Online Instructor of Spanish III

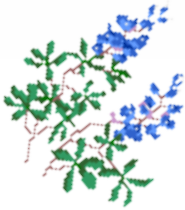


Learning about Communities



When Christy Morgan’s kindergarten class at Thunderbird studied maps and community, the students with parents help, built places they might find in our community - homes, banks, libraries, restaurants, businesses, schools. They brought them to school and assembled them into their own version of our city.

105 students qualify to vote for the Bluebonnet Award



A total of 105 Plainview ISD students qualified with students across the state to cast a vote in the election deciding which children’s book will receive the Texas Bluebonnet Award (TBA).

The award winning book is selected from a list of twenty books chosen by the TBA selection committee.

Once the books have been selected and placed in the campus libraries, students have almost a year to read the selections.

Students on the campuses in grades 3-6 qualify to cast individual votes by reading at least five of the books on the list. The Plainview students were also required to participate in a discussion on each book or pass an Accelerated Reader test on the book with an 80% mastery.

Many of our students chose to read up to 15 of the nominated books and although the award is only voted on by

students, La Mesa Physical Education coach Rae Rousseau decided to read the nominated books too to encourage the students to participate in the reading program.

District librarian Susan Flippin said, “Texas is the only State that has this award and it is a big deal to the authors. Every author wants to win a Texas Bluebonnet Award.”

She adds that she is excited about the increase in the number of local students participating in the TBA voting this year and says the award is a way to expose students to many different genres.

The prestigious award is presented to the author of the winning book during the Texas Library Association Annual Conference each April.

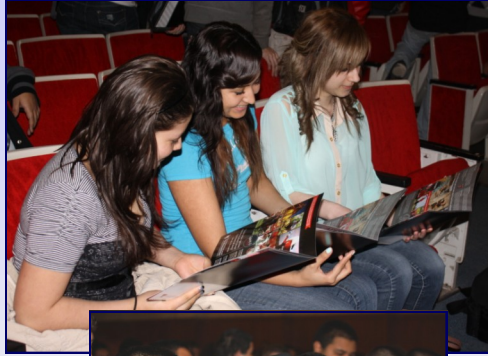
This year the award was presented to “Postcards from Camp: A Postal Story” by Simms Taback.



Promoting Higher Education



Pictured with Lakeside students are Dr. Heather Martinez director of Office of Community Engagement, at Texas Tech and Isaac Flores Section Coordinator of the Office of Community Engagement. The Texas Tech representatives talked to students about the value of a college degree.



PHS juniors and seniors read informational brochures from Texas Tech University. Representatives from the university spoke to the students recently at an assembly that focused on the opportunities available through higher education and the assistance available to students interested in pursuing a college degree.

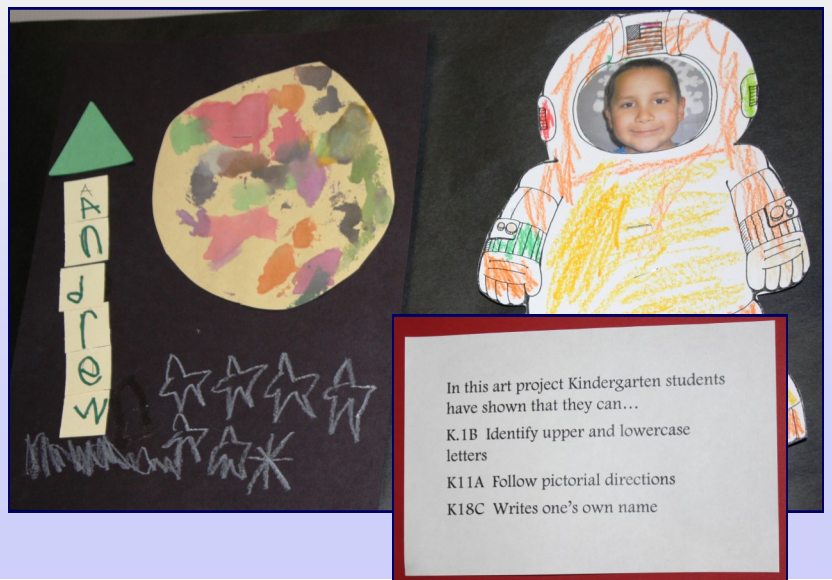
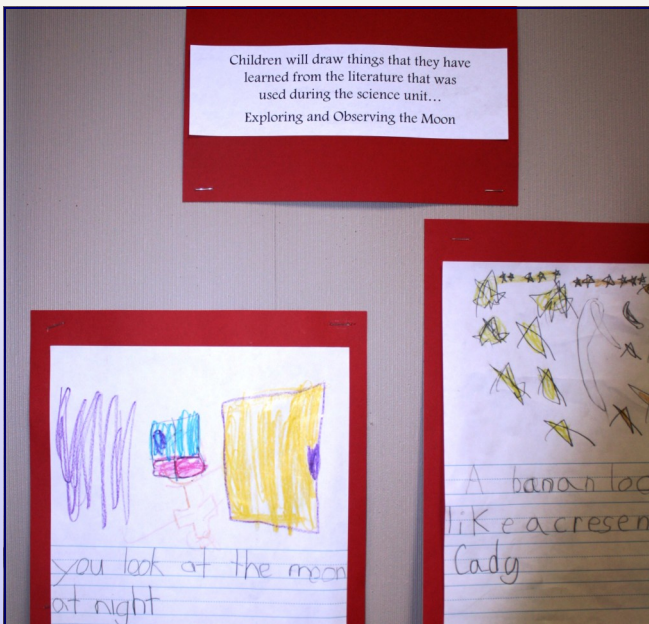
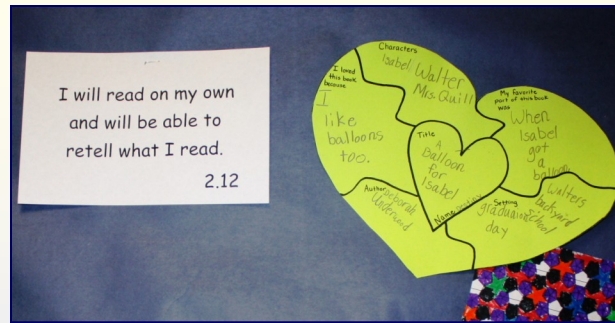
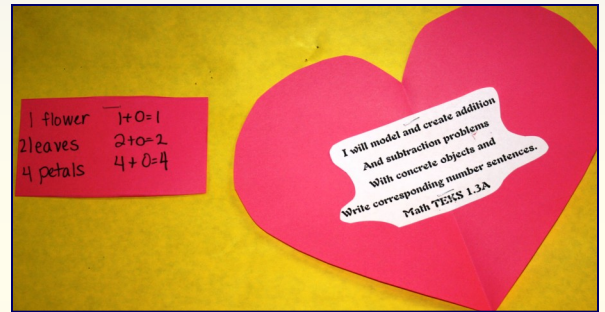
Why didn't I think of this?

La Mesa Elementary teachers post the corresponding TEKS next to student work on bulletin boards throughout the campus.

This is not only a reminder to students of what their objective was in completing the activities that artfully decorate their hallways, but it allows parents and visitors to understand some of the concepts being learned in the classrooms.

I wish I had thought of doing this when I was in the classroom.

La Mesa Elementary - A+





100 Days of School at Edgemere



Thunderbird first grade teachers and students celebrated Read Across America Day and Dr. Seuss's birthday on March 1.



Where do teachers go at the end of a long school day? It must be the Cotton Patch. That's where these wonderfully talented College Hill teachers were spotted one evening.



Thunderbird secretary Ruth Gonzales goes through the brisket line as Dr. Kirk and Andrea Moreno help serve.

Brisket - coming to a school near you.



Sandra Ramirez, Director of Aramark Food Services, scolds Rusty Ingram for sampling brisket while serving.

DECA students advance to International Competition

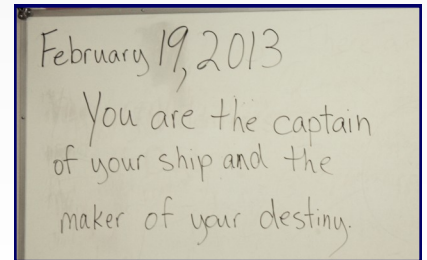
PHS DECA state winners advancing to the International Career Development Conference after placing in the state competition are Ashlee Taylor, Crystal Gloria, Hayley Raymond, Ishmael Soto, Ryan Bowen, and Jonathan Salazar. Dalia Acosta (not shown) will attend as a voting delegate. DECA is sponsored by PHS teacher Debbie Raymond.



Coronado Academies



Positive climate at Houston School



Houston School embraces a "Dream Big" philosophy for students.

TAFE students place at State Conference



Twenty-one PHS students attended the TAFE TEACH SUMMIT held on Feb. 17-19.

Courtney Perez, historian, was awarded a first place ribbon for the chapter yearbook.

Keeley Askins and Amy Summers were awarded a second place ribbon for their tri-fold display on a service project. Other members participated in the "keynote Speech" and "Storybook Creation" competitions.



FCCLA members place in Region 1 competition



Five PHS FCCLA members competed at the Region 1 Meeting in Lubbock.

Seniors Karla Fuentes and Kadejha Bowman redesigned and recycled garments for competition. Karla placed 4th and Kadejha placed 5th.

Maria Cervantes, Marisa Chumacero, and Nubia Lujanall received a bronze medal for testing in the Leadership Education Opportunities Events.

All students will proceed to the State FCCLA Leadership Meeting coming up April 11-13, 2013 in Dallas, Texas. The group is sponsored by Cindy Belt.



Educational Technology



Many educators have discovered that Pinterest is a great place to locate, save, and access educational resources. There is also a search function so users can look for ideas on topics of interest.

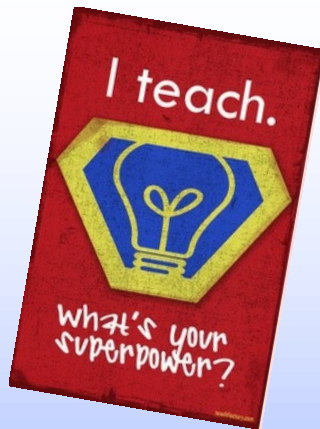
If you have never used Pinterest, it is a social media website where users can create virtual bulletin boards to save links to recipes, home decorating ideas, crafts, tips, and much more.

Pinterest creates an automatic photo link to a site where a resource is located so that users do not have to save or remember URLs. These links can be organized by topics onto multiple bulletin boards created by the user.

Because it is a social media site, users can collaborate with other users and elect to follow others (similar to following someone on Twitter) who are interested in the same subjects. Users can even look at bulletin boards belonging to others and access resources that others have "pinned".

Users must sign up for Pinterest accounts using an email or facebook account.

A note of warning: Pinterest can be addictive and time consuming. It's not something you will have time to browse from school, but it's a great resource to explore in your free time. Because you save the links online, they will be available whenever and wherever you need them.

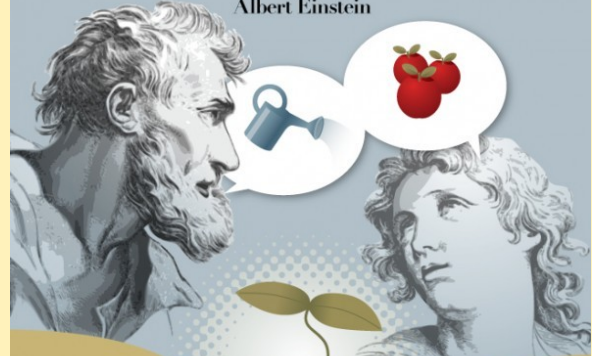


Yes, I pinned this!

The Impact of Great Teachers

"It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge."

Albert Einstein



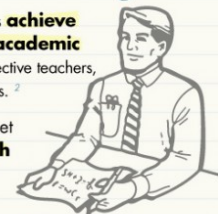
Once children reach school age, they spend more time with their teachers than with their parents.

A teacher affects 3,000 students over the course of their career on average.

How great teachers affect student learning

Students with effective teachers achieve about three times the academic gains than those with less effective teachers, regardless of their backgrounds.

In one school year, students get about 1 1/2 year's worth of learning from the strongest teachers.



How great teachers affect student's lives

Students assigned to a high value-added teacher for one year between 4th and 8th grade:

- Have an increased cumulative lifetime income of \$25,000 on average.
- Are more likely to attend college.
- Are less likely to become teenage mothers.

Harvard Study "The Long-Term Impacts of Teachers"

The authors of the study suggest that if a great teacher is leaving, the parents should collectively pay as much as \$100,000 in bonuses to persuade the teacher to stay for 1 more year.





Students' Views on Digital Learning

Source: Speak Up 2012 National Research Project Findings – the results of the authentic, unfiltered views of 364,240 K-12 students nationwide. Learn more about Speak Up and other research findings from Project Tomorrow on digital learning at www.tomorrow.org.

1. **Use the Internet to help with homework at home?** Over 50% of students in grades 6-12 say that they do that at least weekly; for 29% of high schoolers, it is a daily event with 68% saying their primary Internet access is through a 3G/4G device.
2. **Learning anytime, anyplace, any pace?** 41% of students who have not taken a fully online class would like to take a virtual class; they see the #1 benefit as being able to learn at their own pace.
3. **What do kids think about flipped classrooms?** 6 out of 10 students say it would be a good way for them to learn.
4. **Pixel or print – what is your reading style?** 1/3 of students in grade 6-8 say their preference is to read a digital book for schoolwork; put that hard copy book away – 44% of students want to read on a digital reader.
5. **Learning via YouTube?** Yes, 29% of students have used an online video to help them with their homework.
6. **Teacher – I have a question!** 30% of students say that being able to text their teacher during class (and getting a personalized response) would help them be more successful in science.
7. **Who is today's gamer?** 75% of students in Kindergarten through second grade are using computers and mobile devices to play educational games on a regular basis.
8. **Tweet-tweet?** 34% of high school students are Twitter users now – a three-fold increase since 2011 when only 11% of students acknowledged tweeting as part of their social media profile.
9. **Where do kids do school group projects in 2013?** They do them on Facebook – 38% of students say that they regularly use Facebook to collaborate with classmates on school projects.
10. **Students are mobilists!** Students' personal access to mobile devices has reached several significant tipping points: 80% of students in grades 9-12, 65% of students in grades 6-8 and 45% of students in grades 3-5 are smartphone users now; middle school student tablet access doubled from 2011 to 2012 with 52% of those students now tablet-enabled.

Google in Education

Google offers a number of great edtech resources for teachers including collaborative apps, videos, lesson plan search, professional development, and even educational grants. <http://www.google.com/edu/teachers/#>



CarrotSticks

Carrot Sticks

www.carrotsticks.com/

CarrotSticks is an online multiplayer game that improves math skills for 1st–5th graders. The Basic Plan is free.

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.**



Rover—The Browser for Education Free from iTunes App Store

Kid friendly web browser that will stream educational Flash content from Raz-Kids, Brain Pop Starfall, and more to an iPad.



Grammaropolis Free from iTunes App Store

Teach students the parts of speech in Schoolhouse Rock style.



4 Pics 1 Word Free from App Store

Four pictures that one word describes. This starts easy but can require some higher order thinking skills to come up with the correct word.



Fit Brains Trainer Free from App Store

A collection on brain games, visual tools, and personalized training sessions to keep your brain sharp in minutes a day.



ClassDojo for Teachers

Free from App Store

Helps teachers improve behavior in their classroom quickly and easily. It also captures and generates data on behavior that teachers can share with parents and administrators.



Mathmateer

Free from App Store

Students can successfully complete math missions. Missions include number sense, time, money, geometry, computation, and square roots.



VoiceThread

Free from App Store

This app is great for project-based learning. You can upload photo or video taken with an iPhone or iPad and create interactive slideshows where others can comment using text, drawing, audio or video.

Need apps to meet specific skills or apps for special needs students?



Check out the [Complete guide to educational and special needs apps](#) on the One Place for Special Needs website.

If you know of other great free or low cost apps that you would recommend to other educators, let me know so that they can be included in future newsletters.