



In Plain View

Plainview ISD Staff eNewsletter

Winter 2013

Exploring Science *and scenes from Super Outrageous Science Days*

At the end of every six weeks, Super Outrageous Science (SOS) Days are in full swing across the district. Learners become scientists as they embark on multiple scientific journeys in classrooms, labs, and outdoor areas.

Leaders of learners and special volunteers plan unique, engaging, and exciting lessons involving inquiry, discovery, and the scientific method. Lessons range from creating kaleidoscopes to studying energy, force and motion.

Students are not only engaged, but motivated to understand concepts as a wide spectrum of scientific possibilities are proven or disproven. With a strong emphasis on science and problem-solving in general, our students are enthusiastically succeeding and becoming involved in the world around them.

Kudos to our teachers - our leaders of learners - who are planning and implementing these memorable experiences and inspiring our students to dream of new possibilities in the world of science.



Physics students in Leslie Richburg's class at PHS work on completing a lab.



La Mesa teacher Vickie Stokes demonstrates the connection between gravity and force with a ping pong ball and a blow dryer.



Edgemere Elementary students conduct an experiment during an SOS day.



Andrea Ingram is transformed into Science Nana, once a month when she makes visits to Sue Patridge's class to work with students on science concepts.



Coronado eighth grade students culminated a unit of study on Force and Motion by creating a mouse trap car. Cars were built from supplies found around the house and were powered by a single mouse trap. Once completed, the students raced their cars and calculated speed and acceleration.



Pink Bat award recipients



We are privileged to work with many caring professionals who consistently go “above and beyond” in the performance of their duties. They don’t do what they do for recognition. They do what they do because they care—about our students, about their co-workers, about this district, and about our community.

When the district opened nominations for Pink Bat awards many of you took the time to write in about someone you know who deserved recognition. In several cases our nominees received more than one nomination. There is not enough room here to reprint all of what was said about each of the individual recipients, but below is some of what inspired the nomination of each of our Pink Bat recipients.

Rolando Larralde

“I watch him everyday interact, teach, and care for each of those students and I think how blessed this building is to have him. The virtue of patience is demonstrated through his actions and kind words each day. Rolando goes above and beyond the call of duty every second of every day...and for that I am honored to work with him.”

Maintenance Department:

Bernard Batista, Justin Rushing, Mike Dunn, Bruce Sandlin, Kent Holt, Aaron Sepeda, Jesse Landeros, Fred Sepeda, David Lopez, George Serna, Manuel Marin, Rick Vasquez, Charles Mooney, Scott Voyles, James Pharis, Wesly Woods, Carlos Rivera.

“They worked six days a week to get the district ready for school. They conducted themselves with

professionalism and a spirit of service throughout the restructuring and moving process. Without their behind the scenes unheralded contribution, our district would not be able to function in an effective manner.”

Plainview ISD Library Staff

“This group of 13 ladies has accomplished the reorganization of the libraries in a very short time span. In all over 50,000 items were relocated to new homes and are being relabeled for the new reading program.”

Janie Hart, Ed Berngen, Jeff De La Garza, and ted Ditmore

“These individuals exceed their work duties by staying late and coming early. They go the ‘extra mile’ by ensuring that the job gets done when no one else wants to take hold of the job. They have come up with creative ways to address new challenges from the reconfiguration of our middle school by thinking outside the box. The areas of challenge include personnel leadership, schedule problem solving, community commitment, and continuous improvement in various identified areas.”

PHS ELA Department

“The ELA department has embraced the monumental task of design and implementation of intervention plans for over 200 ELA students to help them prepare for the EOC reading and writing exam retakes. Their task has been a daunting task and they have not only designed a plan to provide direct and targeted instruction to all students who need it, but they have also designed plans for writing across the curriculum for teachers of all content areas.”



District Library Staff

Dora Sifuentes

“She is the one the managers go to in our chain of command. She always tries to take care of whatever our problem is at the moment. She is our go-between for the vendors, maintenance, our boss, etc. She is that “Girl Friday”. I personally cannot imagine working in this job without knowing she is there.”

Katrina Garrett

“She truly has taken on a job and she’s doing great at it. I know she has to be struggling to survive the reading, math and science and not to mention teachers and interventionists that are always bugging her!! She’s a trooper!”

Kristie Goines

“Kristie has done a fantastic job organizing and implementing the inclusion model on the Estacado Campus. She has stayed late on numerous occasions to develop a plan and schedule for our inclusion aids. She went back through all SPED IEPs to determine where our biggest needs lie and developed a schedule. This is normally done using the computer during scheduling. However, this year that was not possible and she developed the schedule by hand. She has also spent a lot of extra time developing a testing schedule for our oral SPED students.”

Teacher Leader Academy



Best practices in leadership development show that to bring about lasting school improvement, districts must build leadership capacity throughout the system. In keeping with these best practices, Plainview ISD has formed a Teacher Leader Academy to support teachers in developing quality leadership skills and knowledge.

The Academy is an opportunity for teachers who are interested in the role of teacher leader and who would like to be part of an intellectually stimulating and nurturing environment for both personal and professional growth.

The group will meet monthly and will participate in a year-long professional development.

Professional development will consist of book studies, case studies, action research and presenters with a focus on teaching talents and best practices to grow our "best of the best" professionally to serve as a leader on the campus. Presenters will come from within the district and outside.

If you didn't apply to be part of this academy, there will be opportunities in the future years to participate.

This year's academy will consist of the following members: April O'Brien, Ashlee Juarez, Cailey Stoerner, Caitlin Thurman, Chelsea Criswell, Claire Williams, Dawn Mustian, Dee Dee Ortega, D'Lee Marble, Janelle Styne, Jennifer Castenada, Katrina Garrett, Kim Carthel, Lana Branam, Leslie Richburg, Lori Glenn, Lyn Baker, Lynda Reagan, Michele Neil, Misti Rangel, Rita Blanco, Rhonda Williams, Robyn Rhoades, Rose Ann Chavez, Sarah Williams, Sheila Alexander, Tonjua Smith, and Wes Godsey.

PHS Robotics team wins Tin Man Competition



Plainview High School Engineering students recently competed in the Tin Man Robotics Competition at South Plains College. After several challenging battles, the team won the High School Division then went on to compete against SPC Reese Center to win the Tin Man Championship for the fourth time.

Team members are Adbiel Mireles, Steven Vallejo, Rico Romero, Aaron Thompson (team captain), Daniel Hernandez, Austin DeBerry, Brady Soto, Derek Adame, and Jonathan Lopez. Their instructor is Terry Nelson.

Jeana Hill and Project Linus

It's always heartwarming to hear of the ways Plainview ISD staff are making a difference in the classroom, but there are also uplifting stories of ways our staff works to touch lives in the community. This is one of those stories.

Estacado teacher Jeana Hill has been working with the Lubbock chapter of Project Linus, the only chapter on the South Plains, for the last three years.

Started in 1998, Project Linus has provided security in the form of new handmade blankets to 4,792,477 children who are

seriously ill, traumatized or otherwise in need.

Jeana has made over 100 blankets to donate to the organization. Some are traditional quilts while others are pieced fleece quilts.

Jeana says the Lubbock chapter primarily provides blankets to the hospitals in Lubbock and the surrounding areas but also sends blankets to the national organization.

School Counselors may contact Lisa Allen at (806) 790-1113 for more information.



Jeana's Quilts



Meet Brenda Valdez, Parent Liaison

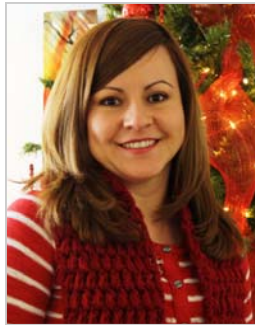
Generosity of soul, sincerity, thoughtfulness, kindness—these words could be used to describe Brenda Valdez, the migrant / bilingual program's parent liaison.

Those of you who have met her know that although she was born in Mexico, she has a heart as big as Texas.

Her caring spirit makes her not only the right person for her job, but also someone who makes each of us better just by her presence. She makes it a habit to incorporate random acts of kindness into her days and in doing so, inspires others to do the same.

A middle child sandwiched between an older brother and a younger sister, Brenda connects not only with the lives of our migrant children, but with the immigrant story that is part of the history of each of our families. When she was a child, her parents brought her and her siblings to the states. She says they came because her mother wanted a better life for her children and greater opportunities than what she felt they would have in Mexico.

Brenda has made the best of those opportunities.



She is a 1998 graduate of Plainview High School. Following graduation, she attended Vogue Beauty Academy, and had a five-year career cutting hair. She was a volunteer worker for the Girl Scouts which led to a job working with that organization.

She says she left those jobs because she had a desire for more education and a goal to become a teacher. She enrolled at Wayland Baptist University and is currently a sophomore working toward a degree in education. Her goal is to teach secondary Spanish but her impact as a teacher will no doubt go far beyond the classroom.

Her current position was offered to her when she came to the district offices to learn more about a teaching career.

"Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around."

-Leo Buscaglia



As Parent Liaison, Brenda works with three-year-olds and their parents in the home-based Stepping

Stones program. She helps parents understand the importance of working with their children and trains them in activities that will positively impact each child's development and growth.

Brenda says she loves everything about her job.

"I love the people I come in contact with and the environment at work. I love the opportunity to help others," she said.

Brenda is married to Adolfo Valdez, Jr. They have two children, Kelsie and Kaleb.

When asked if she has anything on her bucket list she said, "I just want to make a difference."

She may not know it, but she already does.

Chris Richardson honored as "Teacher on the Rise"



PHS teacher Chris Richardson (second from left) was named a Mrs. Baird's / United Supermarket "Teacher On The Rise" award winner for December. Chris was nominated by student Brooklyn Puente. The award was presented by TCTA Membership Chair Donna Corbin (right) of Lubbock .

"Teacher On The Rise" recognizes teachers who go above and beyond the call of duty. It is a student-nominated program that seeks to honor teachers who truly have a positive impact on their students, Three teachers are selected on the South Plains each month to receive the award along with prizes totaling \$200.

Renee Williams shares talent, Christmas spirit

In 1973, Renee Williams and her husband, Carl, were living in Canyon. Both were attending WT and Carl was teaching in Happy.

As a mission project, the Mormon ladies invited the Canyon ladies to a gingerbread house decorating party. That was the beginning of a long family tradition for the Williams' family.

This year marks 40 consecutive years that the Williams have baked a gingerbread house using the same recipe and pattern that Renee used on that day in Canyon.

Every year after Thanksgiving, as many family members as possible, get together to build and decorate a new gingerbread house. Of course, there

are rules; no licking the icing off of fingers, everything used to decorate the house must be edible, and no eating the candy allowed until the house is completely finished.

Renee says the last rule serves two purposes. First, to keep the kids from getting too hyper on sugar and to help insure there is enough candy.

Since she began working at Hillcrest, Renee has brought the completed gingerhouse to school for receptionist Hope Gonzales to display at her desk. The students enjoy seeing it and have done an amazing job of not bothering it.

One Christmas, there was a student who was a "frequent flyer" at the nurse's office located adjacent to Hope's desk. Renee says that they discovered when no one was looking, he was sneaking candy off of



the house.

The family tradition is that following Christmas dinner, everyone has their picture taken with the side they decorated. Once the picture-taking is complete, it is finally time to eat the house and all of its decorations!

Renee also has a talent for painting, something she says she has always enjoyed. Each year she is called upon to paint Christmas scenes and greetings on the glass doors and windows at Hillcrest and at Central Office.

The rest of the story (or at least a bit more)

Renee was born in Memphis, TX and is a graduate of Memphis High School. After high school she attended Jessie Lee's Hair Design Institute and became a licensed cosmetologist.

She also attended classes at West Texas A & M University. Her dream was to go to Baylor and become a home economics teacher, but as it does for many of us, life took her on a different journey.

In 1990, she began substitute teaching in Plainview ISD. She says one of the highlights of her years in the district was the opportunity to teach music for a whole year at Thunderbird. That year the PTA honored her with a life-time membership.

Renee says for years when she would drive by the campus, she felt that someday she would work there and in 2002 she took a job as an assistant at



Mary's Family

Hillcrest. She is currently the Inclusion Assistant and says of Hillcrest, "It is an awesome campus!"

Renee and Carl, a land surveyor, have two children.

Their son Mark attended IIT in Chicago and Texas Tech. He followed in his father's footsteps and is a fourth generation land surveyor. He and his wife, Keri Tyler (sister to Keitha Bowman) live in Tulsa, OK. They have three daughters Bethany, Katie, and Holly.

Their daughter Mary (PHS '94) holds dual masters in Deaf Education and Speech and Language Pathology from Texas Women's University. She lives in Plano where she works as a SLP/Therapist. She is married to Lynn Steen (PHS'94) and they have three sons—twins John and William and Michael.

What do you enjoy about your job?

My favorite part my job is doing Homework Central. It is deeper than just being one-on-one time. It is knowing that I am giving those kids something

extra. One morning while I was doing early morning gym duty, a precious little kindergarten girl asked to read to me. She didn't speak much English but we communicated with our



Mark's Family

hearts. After several years of seeing progress from that special time we had together, I was hooked.

What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

Spending time with my family, playing with my grandchildren, genealogy, quilting, reading (Historical and Christian fiction), visiting with friends.

What is something on your 'bucket list' ?

Oh, that is easy! I dream about touring the east coast in an RV; doing genealogy, visiting places my ancestors lived and land they owned, experiencing historical places and spending hours and hours on the beach.



Cheers! Kudos! High Fives!

Adrienne McCaleb, daughter of Dickie and **Janet McCaleb** (PHS) is engaged to be married to Kieffer McBeth on June 21, 2014.

Emily Welch, daughter of **Torri Hatch** (PHS), is playing volleyball for Wayland Baptist University. Her team is playing in the National NAIA tournament. They are making Wayland history as it is the first time that they have ever made it to the tournament.

Sarah Rodriguez, daughter of **Minga Rodriguez** (Highland), will be studying abroad in Italy next semester. She is currently a Junior at the University of Oklahoma in Norman, OK. where she is majoring in Anthropology and Art History. OU has a campus in Italy where she will be taking 15 + hours and hoping to intern at a local museum while she is there. She hopes to one day become a museum curator here in the United States or overseas. She attended Plainview schools and graduated from PHS in 2011.

Breanna Hatch, daughter of Bobby and **Kim Massey** (Hillcrest), is graduating from Texas Tech University with a degree in International Business on Saturday, December 14. She has accepted a job with TXU Energy in Irving, as their new Issues Analyst. Breanna is a PHS 2009 PHS Honor Graduate.



Congratulations to **Lauren Rose**, daughter-in-law of **Margaret Rose** (Highland /Hillcrest Music) and wife of Brandon Rose (PHS 2004). She

graduated Dec. 14 from the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond, with a Bachelor of Music Education. Lauren persevered through many trials the last several years, including the death of her mother from cancer, to make it to this great achievement.

Highland Elementary and Hillcrest Elementary were recently awarded \$800 each in grant funding by Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) to purchase educational materials that will help support the delivery of high quality music education to nearly 900 students. TMEA recently awarded nearly \$500,000 in grant funding to elementary music programs across the state. Over 600 elementary music programs will purchase new music instruments, music, technology, and other educational supplies to help them deliver high quality music education to students in grades K-5. congratulations to **Margaret Rose**, music teacher for these two campuses.

Magdalena Zuniga, a graduate of

Plainview High School will graduate this Saturday from Wayland. She majored in education and will be starting her new job as a first grade teacher at College Hill on Monday, December 16th. She is the daughter of Efren Zuniga and **Herminia Zuniga** (Thunderbird). Welcome Magdalena to the Plainview ISD family!

BABY NEWS

Khloe McCulloch, daughter of Jason and Kodi McCulloch will turn 4 months old on December 15.



PHS ELA teachers wait in the conference room to find out why they were summoned to the office. The group of teachers were honored with a Pink Bat Award.

Sympathy



Our heartfelt condolences go out to our friend and coworker, Rosa Camacho. Her husband Raul Camacho passed away on December 13.

And to Tom and Linda Hall (Estacado) on the passing of Tom's mother, Marie Hall. Mrs. Hall passed away on Nov. 6 at the age of 92.

December Door Greeter at the Technology Dept.



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

College Hill Pre-Kindergarten is collecting **Sunny D Labels**. If you can help, please send your labels to **Michelle Daily**.

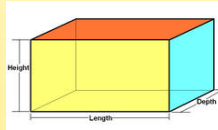


FOR SALE: 2001 Land Rover, 92,000 miles, Navy exterior, tan leather interior... fully loaded. Asking \$6000. Email **Amy Meek** (Hillcrest) if interested...Serious inquiries only.

Janet McCaleb (PHS) needs to borrow or purchase three **"old/vintage" doors** to use at her daughter's wedding. Also if **anyone is looking for a house sitter for June 15 to June 22**, Janet would like to talk with you about it. Her numbers are 296-2119 (home), 729-6025 (cell) and 296-3353 (work).

Jennifer Havens (College Hill) would like to rent or borrow **two 6 ft. pillars/columns**, preferably white to use in a wedding. If you have access to columns, please contact her through school email.

Coronado 7th grade math needs lots of **small boxes, cardboard tubes** from paper and paper towels and other items that could be used in a surface area and volume project. Contact **Jeana Hill (Coronado)** to donate items.



FOR SALE: Kodi McCulloch (Hillcrest) would like to sell a **pink and white bassinet**- used only about 4 times. it has wheels that lock in place, a night light, plays music and has a button for vibration. It also has a hook that you can unhook and it will rock or sway side to side. It also has a canopy that can be up or down and storage around the bottom for blankets or small light weight items. Asking \$40 . Text 806-773-6199 or email kodi.mcculloch@plainview.k12.tx.us



Johnny Hill (PHS) needs **5-gallon buckets with lids**. If you have any you are willing to part with, please email Johnny or call him at 729-1568.



Kudos to painter Jesse Landeros! Although he tried to hide, Maintenance Dept. painter Jesse Landeros was caught by the camera vacuuming salt off the rug in the entry way to Central Office after the snow on December 6. Jesse had just completed the job of "de-pinking" the Central Office color scheme and was cleaning up in Rosie's Office. Noticing the carpet in the foyer, he voluntarily vacuumed it also. Our receptionist Connie helped out. She was happily pointed out any spots he missed.



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.

College Hill Rockin' to Read Sock Hop



Military News

Jared Wise, brother-in-law to Allison Hodges (PHS) and son-in-law to Julie Hodges (Edgemere), is deployed to Afghanistan. Please keep him in your prayers as he is protecting our country and away from his family in Okinawa, Japan. Jared is married to Jennie Hodges Wise, PHS graduate of 2001.





Combining Art and Science



Estacado's 6th Grade art students in Kathy Tanner's class used paper towels dyed with red cabbage to create unique art pieces.

They first discovered the acidity or basic nature of a solution charting their results, then used that information to create non-objective designs, keeping in mind the properties of materials they were using—solutions, q-tips and paper towels.

To finish their piece and add emphasis, they outlined with Sharpies.



Christmas Fun around the District!



Kindergarten students of Rose Ann Chavez (Hillcrest) practice for their presentation of *Pete the Cat Saves Christmas*.



Highland students singing Christmas carols at a local bank.



PHS Student Council officers pose with Santa prior to the annual STUCO party for special needs students. Everyone involved had lots of fun and even made a few new friends.



The Chamber singers provide entertainment at the Counselor's Christmas luncheon.



Most Original
Aaron Chavez



Grand Proze
Jacob Richburg



1st Place
Robby Riley



Judges Choice

Choir Concert & Cake Auction



2nd Place
Thomas \ Jayci Wirth



Directors' Choice
Aaron Chavez



3rd Place
Layne Mustian



Red Velvet Christmas
Mallory Watson

The annual Choir Concert & Cake Auction was once again a night to remember. Not only did the choirs perform impressively, but the auction provided added fun. Two cakes topped \$500 in the auction, another cake brought over \$400, one at \$350, another at \$200 and a series of cakes brought more than \$100. Pictured are just a few of the creative cakes that went up for bid during the auction. Kudos to Walter Wright, Sally Bass, the choir students, and parents. You make us very proud!

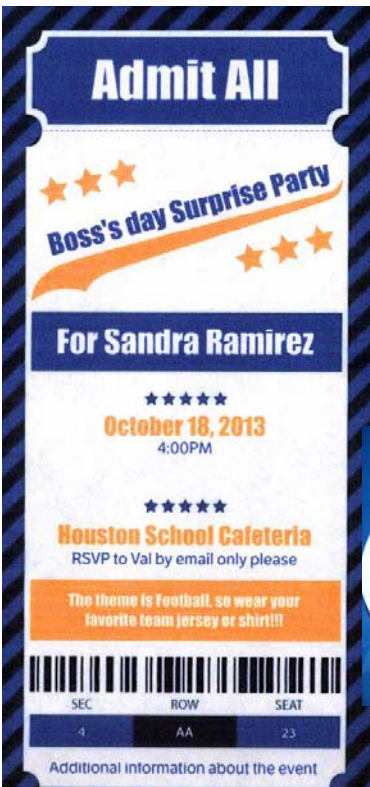


Scenes from the Service Dept. Christmas Luncheon



You know you are at a "mostly male" Christmas potluck when lunch and dessert are served on platter-sized plates.

Bosses' Day the Aramark Way!



The Aramark team knows how to party. This photos are from their sports themed Bosses' Day celebration honoring Director Sandra Ramirez.



The 12 Days of Christmas

Angie Gauntt's 5th Graders produced these posters for the 12 Days of Christmas to accompany Christmas caroling on Friday at Highland's Caroling Festival!



Colby Coleman



New Teachers' Christmas Party

Coronado Christmas Decorating Contest



Advisory students in Belinda Pruitt's classroom decorate the classroom door for the "Room Decorating Contest" at Coronado! We have to decorate the **whole classroom**. Judging was held on Friday, December 13 with the winning classroom receiving an extended lunch complete with cookies and hot chocolate!

- Grand Prize — Whitney Schafer's Advisory
- 1st Place — Belinda Pruitt's Advisory
- 2nd Place — Kylie Middleton's Advisory
- 3rd Place Tie - Advisories of
Dean Kellum & Amy Carrasco

PLAINVIEW ISD HEALTH & WELLNESS

LOLO'S HIP HOP FITNESS

Houston School Gym
24th & Yonkers



Class Schedule

Monday	6:00 p.m.
Tuesday	6:00 p.m.
Wednesday	6:00 p.m.
Thursday	6:00 p.m.
Saturday	9:00 a.m.

Class times are subject to change based on need.

*****Class Pricing

Individual Class Price	\$3.00
Weekly Class Price	\$15.00
Monthly Price	\$60.00

Class Punch Card will be available for purchase at a price of \$55.00 for 30 class visits.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE to FOLLOW!!!!