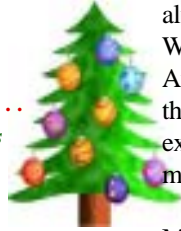




Thoughts of a Superintendent...

From the Desk of Vicki Adams



“... and let it begin with me...”

Do you have your Christmas shopping done? What about food stocked up for family and friends who may arrive for the holidays? Is the car ready for holiday travels? Are the presents wrapped? If you are like me, you started buying gifts last spring, and you now forgot where you hid them, or even worse what it was that you bought.

Each year about this time I both dread and begin to look forward to the Christmas holidays. There is a part of me that waits for the Christmas Spirit to reach down and pull me out of the day to day doldrums. (Some years before it hits me, I have sensations of panic that I will not accomplish all I have planned.) From year to year, I never know whether it will be a single act or a series of events that thrusts me into the yuletide. I await this transformation with the same anticipation that I once had for Santa's visit. This feeling I get has nothing to do with receiving presents. It has more to do with a sense of peace that comes with the promise of Christmas.

To me, Christmas is the promise of hope and charity. Hope transcends all heartaches and troubles, and charity is the nonjudgmental act of acceptance of the worth of an individual. Long ago when my children were young, the Christmas Angel program within my school district was delegated to me. I gathered names, collected gifts and donations and then contacted the parents to pick up the presents. On the last day of school before Christmas, a few parents were unable to get to town to pick up the gifts. I gathered my own children, loaded the suburban with the leftover gifts, and we went on our trek across the school district to deliver them. I was familiar with these residences, but my children were not. We delivered presents to chicken coops and barns that were being used as shelters and went to homes without doors where animals of all types freely roamed. It was not this activity that invoked the transformation in me that year, but rather witnessing the change in my own children. My children truly understood 'Christmas Spirit' and what it means to assist in spreading hope and to be charitable.

Several years later when my youngest daughter was in junior high school, I again experienced a single act that brought about the yuletide within me. We continued to participate in Angel programs after leaving that school district. As we went to choose our angels off the tree at church one year, my daughter said, "Mom, everybody

always picks the young children to buy the cute clothes and toys for. What if we choose the older kids and adults on the tree instead?" After that year, it became a tradition for us to choose angels we thought might not get picked. Whenever remembered, that simple experience continues to invoke the Christmas Spirit within me no matter what time of year.

My New Year's resolution is to hold on to that Spirit of Christmas a little longer this year and to work to achieve it throughout the entire year (or at least earlier this year). It is my sincere hope that someday the Spirit of Christmas comes for an indefinite stay.

It is my wish that each of you experience the Peace of Christmas!

Thank a School Board Member Today!

School board members are ordinary people who have extraordinary dedication to our students and to our schools. The beauty of public education is that its opportunities are open to everyone, and it's up to those who lead our schools to ensure all students are given opportunities to achieve and succeed. Putting in long hours and working for no pay, these dedicated public servants strive day in and day out to preserve the dream of public education.



At a time when we face difficult choices over budgetary priorities and changes in education, the members of the school board must stand firm on the commitment to educating our children. The school board is accountable to the public and is responsible for assuring the communication to the public with the decisions of investments towards the education of all children in the district.

In the month of January, we ask that you join with others throughout the district to salute our men and women who provide grassroots governance of public schools and who truly care about the future of education.



Make a special effort to tell each school board member that his or her hard work has been noticed and is very much appreciated. Your 2011-2012 school board members are: Cara Herlin, President; Patty Frankson, Vice President; Carlos Ottino, Secretary; and members, Peter Zamarripa, Steve Stuhrenberg, Mary West, and Rick Cink.

Early Release for UIL Academic Event

On Tuesday, January 24, 2012, Palacios ISD will have an early release of all students at 1:00 p.m. for a UIL academic event. Students in grades 2nd-8th will be participating in the contest. While high school students will not be involved, staff and facilities throughout the district will be used to support the event. There will be over 200 students participating from the following four districts: Sweeny ISD; Columbia ISD; Brazoria ISD; and Palacios ISD.

Looking to the Future

Wednesday, November 30, 2011 the Junior and Senior classes had an opportunity to take a look into the future. A College Day was held in the HS/JHS cafeteria where students could visit with representatives from 17 different colleges, universities, and branches of the military to discuss such items as courses, selection of majors as well what each college or university had to offer. Students also have the opportunity to be excused from school for two days and visit colleges and universities their junior and senior years. For more information, please contact Mayra Garcia, HS Counselor.



Calling for nominations! If you know someone whom you would like to nominate as a PHS Distinguished Alumni you may go to the PISD website and download the nomination form. The deadline for submitting nominations is 4:00 p.m., Friday, February 24, 2012.

#1 Jazz Drummer in Texas

Andrew Popham has many accolades in his young music career, but one thing he can add to his collection of success is being the #1 Jazz drummer in the state of Texas. He recently competed at Regional competition and was selected to compete for State competition. In order to compete, Andrew had to make a recording of himself playing the quad drums to a Jazz selection and submit it to the Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) Area 0 ATSSB Jazz auditions. On November 13th, he was notified he not only won the State competition, but with his scores being so outstanding, he was also #1. With this award, Andrew will be playing his drums at the upcoming TMEA Convention on February 11, 2012. "Congratulations!" to Andrew Popham for his award and representing Palacios ISD with such an inspirational achievement.



PHS Mixed Choir Performance

The PISD Board of Trustees had an early Christmas at the Board Meeting on December 12, 2011. The PHS mixed choir, which consists of 30 students, directed by Mr. Perry Dean, performed three songs to celebrate Christmas and to show the School Board their appreciation for all the work and dedication the School Board members give to the district. The three songs performed were: "Sing We Now of Christmas"; "Bidi Bom"; and "The Lord Bless You and Keep You".

Merry Christmas to Everyone!



Pictured: Sharkey and STP CEO Ed Halpin

STP Outage Celebration

Performing in front of over 2000 people, the PHS Band and cheerleaders help STP celebrate their STP Outage on Thursday, October 27th. "I hope some will be inspired to someday work at STP. The kids were just great and this was awesome!" said Sr.

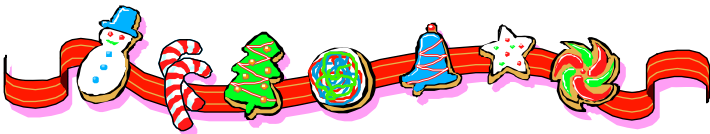


STP's Karen Bishop with the PHS Cheerleaders during STP Outage Celebration

Technical Analyst, Karen Bishop. The students enjoyed the time at STP and being able to perform in front of so many people that contribute to Palacios ISD each year. Karen Bishop also added, "CEO Ed Halpin shook the hand of each student and was honored and enjoyed the show!" Thank you to everyone from STP for their constant support and we appreciate the opportunity to give a little something back.

*Note from the Nurse:***Protect Yourself!**

Flu season has officially started. So how do you prevent your family and yourself from getting sick? The best way to prevent catching and spreading germs is to practice good handwashing. Hands should be washed thoroughly for 20 seconds before eating, before and after touching your face, after using the restroom, and after coughing, sneezing or blowing your nose. When handwashing is not possible, alcohol-based hand sanitizers may be used. Another good way to prevent spreading germs is to remind family members to cover their mouths and noses with a tissue when sneezing or coughing and to throw away used tissues immediately. If a tissue is unavailable, coughing or sneezing into the sleeve will help keep germs off hands. Also, avoid sharing food or drinks, eating utensils, towels or anything else that comes into contact with respiratory droplets from coughing, sneezing or talking. Talk to your doctor to see if he/she recommends receiving the flu vaccine. If someone in your family does become sick and runs a fever, he/she should stay at home until fever free for 24 hours. Students at PISD are required to be fever free for 24 hours without taking any fever reducing medication such as Tylenol, Acetaminophen, Motrin, Advil, or Ibuprofen before they can return to school. Call your doctor if there is a risk of developing complications due to chronic health problems, if high fever develops, or if the illness worsens. For more information on cold and flu prevention tips, visit the Texas Department of State Health Services website www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/health/prevention/cold_flu/.

**Robotics at Palacios High School**

Palacios High School Robotics Team is participating in the FIRST Robotics program again this school year. “RoboShark #4641” returns with significant upgrades in control modules, drive motors, and wireless firmware.

“*Bowled Over*” is the theme for the FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) Robotics Competition this year. High school students with an interest in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) enter statewide competitions with robots they design and build in the after school program. The competitions include using the robots to overcome physical obstacles and complete timed tasks, along with additional challenges in an arena setting.

PHS is in the selection process for high schools statewide that applied to participate in a Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Robotics grant. The Robotics program sponsor and PHS Science teacher, Warren Morris says “when students design and build robots they are immersed in physics, geometry, trigonometry, electronics, programming, logic, computer

Upcoming Events for January/February 2012

Dec 16	EARLY RELEASE ES/CE - Choir Christmas Tour
Dec 17-Jan 2	Christmas Break
Jan 3	Return to School
Jan 6	FFA Area 3 Mid-Winter Conference
Jan 7	Area Band Auditions Choir All-State auditions
Jan 13	EARLY RELEASE (Students Only)
Jan 20	JH STUCO Dance
Jan 21	ATSSB Region Concert FFA/4H BBQ & Auction
Jan 23	Vietnamese New Year
Jan 24	Early Release – UIL Contest
Jan 26	Central and East Side Awards Ceremony
Jan 27	Kindergarten 100 Day Celebration
Feb 3	Boys & Girls Soccer Alumni Game
Feb 9	East Side Star Gazing Night
Feb 11	Art Club Dance FFA/4-H BBQ at KC Hall

**Fall Semester Awards
and Recognition Ceremony**

Palacios ISD is proud to be celebrating success and achievement. Central Elementary and East Side Intermediate will hold their annual Fall Semester Awards and Recognition Ceremony on January 26, 2012 at 6:30 p.m., at the PHS Fine Arts Building. The PISD Board of Trustees, Superintendent, and campus administrators will be present and presenting awards and recognizing students for their outstanding performance during the 2011-2012 fall semester. For more information, contact your student’s campus.



control and mechanics while using industry standard software and hardware. Students learn to compromise when working in teams, and they begin to understand the importance of time management and resource allocation”. PISD Technology Specialist James Post adds that “robotics challenges students in activities using today’s technologies and is the great integrator in high school curricula”.



We’re on the web
www.palaciosisd.org

HAPPY HOLIDAYS



Enrique Vega and his mom Cecilia Vega enjoy "Family Night" at Central Elementary.



East Side 4th graders enjoying Ag Day Field trip.



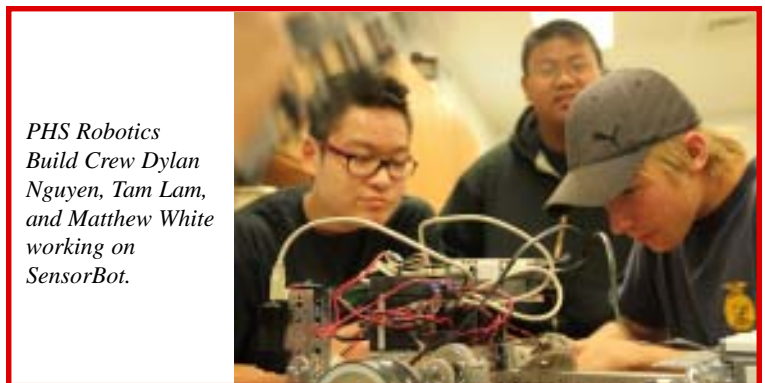
Mrs. Roehl and her 2nd grade class at the marine center.



Joie Pena, Valerie Nguyen, and Kamryn Vickers sing Karaoke!



East Side 5th graders celebrate Crazy Hair Day during Red Ribbon Week!



PHS Robotics Build Crew Dylan Nguyen, Tam Lam, and Matthew White working on SensorBot.



Palacios ISD is an equal opportunity employer. All positions and all school programs are offered without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, or handicap.

Palacios Independent School District
361-972-5491 www.palaciosisd.org

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