

**Thoughts of a Superintendent . . .***From the Desk of Vicki Adams*

*This newsletter is dedicated to our PHS graduating seniors and is good advice for all of us:*

## IT'S A GOOD TIME TO CHANGE

*Where you are in your life today,  
you made an appointment to be there five years ago.  
Where you'll be five years from now  
will be determined by your actions today and in the future.*

*The first step toward getting somewhere  
is to decide that you're not going to stay where you are.*

*Analyze your life in terms of your environment.  
Are the things around you helping you toward your  
success - or are they holding you back?*

*You're a product of your environment.  
So choose an environment that will best develop you  
toward your goals.*

*Your world today is a living expression  
of how you're using and have used your mind.  
It's something you can change at any time.*

*Don't remain a captive of your environment.  
Don't say "I would, if I could,"  
say, "I will, if I can."*

*You can make changes anytime.  
Why not start today?*

*-Jon Stigliano*

Recently at the PHS Athletic Banquet a well known PISD graduate, Oscar Giles spoke expressively to the student attendees about choices, accomplishments and taking those steps to get somewhere. He talked about not making excuses, such as coming from single parent homes for coming up short or not accomplishing goals. He impressed

upon the attendees especially the students, that with determination and hard work we can achieve great things.

Graduates,  
Make good choices, work hard, and make no excuses. As stated previously, we are a product of our environment, so therefore we must choose environments that best help us to realize our goals and develop to attain those goals. Good luck to all of you!!!! With your first class, PISD educational background, you are now ready to go out and accomplish great things!!!!

## Dad's Day Out - A Success!

This year was the 9th Annual Dad's Day Out held on Saturday, May 14th at East Side Intermediate. The morning began with a breakfast of donuts and pigs-n-blankets. While breakfast was being served, parents were able to have their pictures taken with their children and were later given a photo of their family. After registration and breakfast, parents were directed to the gym where they heard the guest speaker, James Post, discuss Technology Awareness for parents and families. Following the technology presentation, there were opportunities for students and parents to participate in activities such as crafts, story reading, and outdoor games. A lunch of burgers and hot dogs was served in the cafeteria followed by a cooling off time in the pool. Door prizes were presented throughout the day and over 300 attendees enjoyed the day. Palacios ISD would like to thank everyone involved for making this a successful Dad's Day Out.



**Palacios ISD**  
is a Recognized District



Palacios High School's Robotics team attended the FTC Alamo Competition at Memorial High School in San Antonio, Texas on Saturday May 7th. The twelve students from

PHS helped setup and reconfigure the arena and worked as runners for the judges to gain experience and to learn about how to successfully compete in a robotics competition. Listed in the picture are as follows: (Back Row L-R) Aaron Morton, Andrew Fuentes, Bryson Huitt, Nicolas Vu, Nathan Nguyen, Matthew White, Juan Miguel Lopez, Matthew Nguyen, Hector Hurtado; (Front Row L-R) Ann Marie Gonzales, Krystal Glowka and Mindy Nguyen. Not pictured are the instructor/mentors for the Robotics Team: Jason Chandler, HS Computer Science teacher; James Post, District Technology Integration Specialist; Warren Morris, HS Physics/IPC teacher. **GO ROBOSHARKS!**

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Pictured back row (-l-r): Ivan Carrillo, Mrs. Maggie Hearn, Victoria Espinosa, Oscor Huerta, and Lyric Blackmon and front row: Yazmeen Muniz, Candido Huerta, Seniada Ledesma

FFA Banquet pictured: Proxy Sentinel – Rachel Vasquez; Reporter-Ashton Grange; Treasurer – Marissa Dunn; Vice President – Nathan Biffle; President – Jeremy Hunt; Secretary – Paige Stuhrenberg; Jr. Advisor – Taylor Machecek



# Photo

PHS Competes at Regional & State UIL Academic Meet On April 15th and 16th, PHS students competed at the Regional UIL meet in Corpus Christi, Texas. Marissa Dunn competed in Headline Writing and placed 6th while Alicia Torres competed in Poetry Interpretation and placed 3rd. Ta'Loria Young competed in News Writing and received a 2nd place finish. For their strong finishes, Ta'Loria and Alicia qualified to compete at the State level on May 5th-7th where Ta'Loria finished 7th. Pictured from L-R are: Marissa Dunn, Ta'Loria Young, and Alicia Torres. Congratulations to these students for a job well done!



Christy Grice signed an athletic scholarship for volleyball to play for Wharton County Junior College (WCJC) on



Wednesday, May 11, 2011. Christy played on the varsity volleyball team all four years of high school. Her sophomore year she was named to the 2nd All-District Team; as a junior she was named to the 1st All-District Team; and this year she

was named as the MVP Offensive Player of the Year for the district. Every year as a varsity player, the team qualified for the playoffs: 2007 – State Quarter Finals; 2008 – Area Finalist; 2009 – Bi-District Finalist; and 2010 – Regional Quarter Finalist. Congratulations to Christy Grice for all her success and contributions to Palacios ISD and the Sharkettes' Volleyball Team. Pictured: Coach Luz Arredondo, Christy Grice and Coach Aaron Wollam.

# Gallery



8th grade girls



7th grade girls

On Thursday, May 5th, the Palacios Junior High School recognized its athletes with a JHS Athletics Award night. Coach Trent Weixelman introduced the coaches and staff. Coaches for each sport spoke on the successes of the boys and girls teams and were excited about the future of PISD sports. Each student was individually recognized for their accomplishments and achievements. Congratulations to all of the JH athletes!



8th grade boys



7th grade boys



The top ten students of the Class of 2011 Bell Awards Ceremony (left to right) Richard Davis received a bell from Juan Carlos De La Fuente Carrillo and Ta' Loria Young; Rodney Bennett received a bell from Theresa Nguyen; Jason Chandler received a bell from Jason Nguyen; Yen Tran received a bell from Kimberly Tran; Thuy Vu received a bell from Truong Vu; Valerie Segovia received a bell from Ashlan Kacer; and Erika Koenig received a bell from Ann Nguyen and Laura Martinez.

The Palacios High School TAFE members hosted a food drive for the Robert Duren Food Pantry. Working hard and staying busy during the spring semester, the TAFE students were able to collect over 1,000lbs for the food pantry. After collecting all of the food items, the students also volunteered to assist the pantry volunteers with sorting, boxing and bagging the items. TAFE would like to thank all the teachers and students who participated in making this a very successful food drive. TAFE members who participated in the event are Arianna Galvan, Jose Jimenez, Dat Pham, Rhianna Aparicio, Victoria Garcia, Keri Isbell, Lupita Reyes, Jonathan Vu, Liem Tran, Kayla Isbell, Kolbe Huffman, Marian Medrano, Mylien Nguyen, Gabrielle Isbell, Mayra Mancera, Ana Paniagua, Carmen Ortiz, Jose Jimenez, Mariela Mujica, and Duyen Truong. Pictured: Arianna Galvan, Jose Jimenez, Dat Pham, Rhianna Aparicio, Victoria Garcia



### Teachers of the Year

At Palacios ISD we believe we have the best teachers in the State, but each year the campuses are allowed to only select one teacher to represent the campus in a district competition for the Teacher of the Year program. From the four teachers who were chosen to represent their campus, two teachers are then selected to represent the district at a regional competition. One will represent Palacios

ISD at the elementary level and one at the secondary level. This year's four Teachers of the Year selectees were: Judith Calhoun, Central Elementary Music teacher; Gary Figirova, East Side Intermediate Physical Education teacher; Jody Sanchez, Junior High Math teacher; and Rhonda Garcia, High School Special Education teacher. After a tough interview process by a three



member committee of former educators, Gary Figirova was selected as the elementary level Teacher of the Year and Rhonda Garcia was selected as the secondary level Teacher of the Year to represent Palacios ISD at the 2011 regional competition. Congratulations to all the teachers for a successful year and we wish Gary and Rhonda the best of luck at regional competition.



### PISD Honors its Retirees

On Tuesday, May 3rd, Palacios ISD retirees were honored at the annual PISD Employee Banquet. The dedication of these fine educators to our students and district was evident when they received a standing ovation while receiving their retirement plaques. The commitment, expertise, and experience of these educators will be dearly missed. Palacios ISD wishes all the very best for a long, well-earned, and greatly deserved satisfying retirement to Harry Rutledge, Transportation Coordinator; Shirley Kubecka, Central Elementary Art teacher; and Scott "Doc" Kurtz, Athletic Trainer and JHS Health/PE teacher.

Palacios ISD honored two Distinguished Alumni at the graduation ceremony on May 27th. The honorees were chosen by the distinguished alumni committee whose goal was to identify past graduates whose achievements, strength of character and citizenship served as models to inspire and who had excelled following graduation. This year's honorees were:

- Holly H. Claybourn - Class of 1969**
- June Deadrick - Class of 1983**

### Employee Appreciation Banquet

Over 300 employees, mentors, and past retirees were shown the deepest appreciation with a banquet held in their honor on Tuesday, May 3rd at the Palacios Recreational Center. Guests were served their meals by the Board of Trustees and administrators while enjoying the entertainment by Touch of Gold sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. Awards and recognition were given by Superintendent Vicki Adams and the campus administrators. Special acknowledgement went to the 2010-2011 retiring staff members and the Texas Teacher of the Year nominees. Door prizes were distributed to many lucky staff members. Special thanks to the following individuals and businesses for their generosity:

- |                             |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Superintendent Vicki Adams  | STP                         |
| Simple Simon's Pizza        | Subway                      |
| K-2 Steak House             | City State Bank             |
| Mr. & Mrs. Hank Huitt       | OXEA                        |
| Hair It Is                  | Bay City Tribune            |
| Mr. & Mrs. Tran Vu          | Harbor Spirits              |
| Steve & Michele Stuhrenberg | Bruce & Cara Herlin         |
| Palacios Beacon             | ReMax Coastal Properties    |
| Green Brothers Jewelry      | Palacios Mexican Restaurant |
| Patty Frankson              | Mr. & Mrs. Richard Rhoades  |
| Sonic Drive Inn             | Los Cucos                   |
| Prosperity Bank             | NAPA                        |
| Mr. & Mrs. Ken Leck         | Cut-N-Curl                  |
| Mary Lou Copeky             | HEB                         |
| Ron Laws                    | The Basket Shop             |
| Styles by Rosie             | Palacios Antiques           |
| Mr. Keith Garnett           | Palacios House of Flowers   |
| Peter & Kymberli Zamarripa  | Shelley Newsom              |

The week of May 2-6 was designated as "Teacher Appreciation Week." Palacios ISD teachers and staff are very dedicated to the education and success of all students. From the Board of Trustees and all administrators we thank you for all you do!

**Drug Testing . . . If you are scheduled on July 18th or July 19th for drug testing and are unable to attend your scheduled day, you may attend the other day for testing. If you are unable to attend either day of testing, ensure you contact the athletic department at 361-972-5491.**

**Summer Hours**  
Beginning June 6th and ending July 28th, the Administration Office, Tax Office and Campus Principal Offices will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday. All offices and campuses will be closed on Fridays. The district will be closed the week of July 4-8.