

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

When a group of two hundred executives were asked what makes a person successful, eighty percent listed enthusiasm as the most important quality - more important than skill; more important than training; even more important than

experience.

Before water will produce enough steam to power an engine, it must boil. The steam engine won't move a train an inch until the steam gauge registers 212 degrees Fahrenheit. Likewise, the person without enthusiasm is trying to move the machinery of life with lukewarm water. Only one thing will happen: that person will stall.

Students across the United States witness enthusiasm in the classroom daily. Unfortunately, they also observe the opposite. If a teacher is negative or says something to the effect, "This is really boring, but we have to cover it because it will be on the test," rarely will students be excited to learn the subject matter and rarely remember it past the exam. Whereas a teacher who is excited and demonstrates the relevance of a topic, he/she will generate interest in a larger number of students. Really great teachers display enthusiasm using their own personality or in their own manner. This does not mean every teacher or employee needs to be a cheerleader, but rather he/she should exude the passion he/she possesses about his/her employment or subject matter.

Unfortunately, I recently witnessed a coach calling a time out during a game. The entire time out was spent complaining to the kids about something that had been done incorrectly minutes earlier rather than dwelling on actions that could be spent in winning the game or at a minimum, performing with improvement. On the other hand, another very recent example would be our PISD One Act Play. No one exudes more enthusiasm than Peggy Charlton. Because of this enthusiasm, the students performed exceptionally well and advanced out of District competition again this year. Win or lose, these students were excited to be involved in this event.

Palacios ISD has numerous teachers, coaches and sponsors who demonstrate similar enthusiasm. These are the reasons that our academics and extracurricular activities continue to be competitive. In turn, many students have modeled this passion and carry it with them throughout their own lives. Of course, in these times of legislative budget cuts, the true challenge will be to continue with that passion and enthusiasm no matter what changes will have to be made.

A.B. Zu Tavern asserts that enthusiasm is electricity in the battery. It is the vigor in the air. It is the warmth in the fire. It is the breath of all things alive. Successful people are enthusiastic about what they do. "Good work is never done in cold blood," he says, "heat is needed to forge anything. Every great achievement is the story of a flaming heart."

You may have sufficient skill, training and experience. Add passion to those assets and you will be truly unstoppable!

(Parts taken from Jon Stigliano and Steve Goodier)

*From the Desk of Herbert Ressler,
Assistant Superintendent*

SCHOOL FINANCE AND PALACIOS ISD . . . Much of the talk concerning school finance this spring is focused on the state's projected budget shortfall. Many school districts are predicting massive layoffs of employees, and some are already telling employees that they will not have a job next year. Talk of larger class sizes and reduction or elimination of programs and services is pervasive throughout the state.

Palacios ISD will not be immune to the reduction in state funding. Even though we collect enough property taxes to fully fund our budget, we are required to send approximately 35% of our collections to the state due to the state equalization program called "Robin Hood". However, while we are sending local tax revenue to the state with one hand, we are receiving state funding in the other. In 2006, the state lowered, or "compressed" the property tax rates, and attempted to make up the difference with new business taxes. These business tax receipts are returned to the local districts in an attempt to make up for the reduced property tax rates. Therefore, even though we are considered "property wealthy", Palacios ISD is dependent on the state for a significant portion of its budgeted revenue.

How bad is the budget shortfall? No one knows at this point, and it will not be known until the final state budget is passed. That will not happen before May, and could be even later in the summer if the legislature goes into one or more special sessions. Current estimates based on the budget passed by the Texas House indicate Palacios ISD could lose from 11% to 37% of our total revenue. The smaller number could be dealt with, but the larger loss would be devastating to the district.

Palacios ISD is preparing for a reduction in funds by having all campuses reduce their supply and material budgets by 10%, and by carefully evaluating each position that becomes vacant due to retirement or resignation. However, due to the uncertainty of the size of the revenue cuts that Palacios ISD will realize, we plan to delay making any rash decisions on staffing reductions. Palacios ISD has been fortunate up to this point, and was able to build up enough of a reserve fund to be able to weather this storm for at least one year without making drastic cuts to personnel or services. This is exactly the reason for building a reserve. Once we determine how the district is affected, we will put plans in place to live within our ultimate budget. Our hope is that any needed reductions in staff will be small enough to be accomplished through attrition - resignations and retirements.

Palacios ISD has been in an enviable position since the latest school finance reforms of 2006. We have been able to keep our tax rate low, fully fund our budget, and put some funds away into a reserve fund. Now is the time to use some of those funds to allow us to continue operation until we see exactly what the state's financial future will mean for us. We will continue to provide an excellent education for our community's students, in spite of anticipated financial hurdles.

**Palacios ISD
is a Recognized District**

UPCOMING

Summer Recreation Program

Palacios ISD is offering a summer recreation program for students in grades 1st through 8th and opens the swimming pool for community access. The pool is open regular hours beginning May 31st through August 20th from 2:00-6:30 p.m. It will be closed on Sundays and Mondays. Regular pool admission is \$2.00 for students and \$3.00 for adults. Season passes are available at \$40.00 for students, \$55.00 for adults and \$150.00 for family. Family night is Tuesday and Thursday from 7:00-9:00 p.m. with special price rates of \$1.00 per student and adult. Swimming lessons are available from June 7th through June 16th for session one; June 21st through July 1st for session two; July 12th through July 22nd; and July 26th through August 5th for session four. Sessions 3 & 4 will only be offered if 2 & 3 are full. Students should preregister to reserve dates. Swimming lessons for infants to age 5 is \$50.00, age 6 and up is \$30.00. Aqua fitness for adults will be offered 8:00-9:00 a.m. from May 31st through August 19th on Tuesdays through Fridays depending on enrollment for \$3.00 per hour.



Summer mini-camps will be offered as well. Beginning June 6th through June 9th there will be a soccer and basketball mini-camp for grades 1-8. Participants will meet at the field house at 8:00 a.m. Monday, June 6th for soccer (grades 1-8) and basketball participants (grades 3-8) will meet at the junior high gym. Starting June 13th through the 16th there will be mini-camps for golf and volleyball. Golf participants will meet at the field house on Monday, June 13th at 9:00 a.m. and volleyball participants will meet at the junior high gym at 8:00 a.m. Monday, June 13th. Registration for all programs will be held at the pool on Tuesday, May 31, 2011, from 9:00 a.m. – noon.



9th Annual Dad's Day Out

This year's parent academy (Dad's Day Out) will be held on May 14th at East Side Intermediate. Parents and students will be greeted with a picture taking session and a delicious breakfast during registration. After registration, parents will be directed to the gym where they will hear the guest speaker, James Post, discuss Technology Awareness for parents and families. There will be opportunities for students and parents to participate in activities such as crafts, story reading, and outdoor games. A lunch of burgers and hot dogs will be served to be followed by cooling off in the pool. Door prizes will be presented throughout the day and last year PISD celebrated with over 150 participants. Come join us for a day of the fun!!!

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

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PISD Summer Meal Program

The Palacios Independent School District is participating in the Summer Food Service Program. Meals will be provided to all children ages 1-18, handicapped capped children up to 21 years of age may qualify for meals, without charge and are the same for all children regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability, and there will be no discrimination in the course of the meal program.

Serving times are set as part of the program and meals will not be served before or after the posted times. All meals will not be able to leave and cannot be carried to other locations. All children who are school-age must follow District dress codes and behavior codes. Children who do not follow these rules will not be allowed to remain in the cafeteria and may not be allowed to return. Times and locations are listed below:

Central Elementary: June 1st - June 30th
East Side Elementary: July 11th - July 28th
Breakfast serving time: 7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.
Lunch serving time: 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

To file a complaint of discrimination, write or call to the information below:

USDA
Director, Office of Civil Rights
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410
(800)795-3272 or (202)720-6382 (TTY)
(USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer)

Summer School 2011

Summer school begins June 1st for identified students at Central Elementary, East Side Intermediate and Palacios Junior High School. Bilingual/ESL students who will be in kindergarten or first grade the 2011-2012 school year are invited to participate in this program. Instruction will focus on language development and essential knowledge and skills appropriate to the level of the student. This is a full day program four days per week (Monday – Thursday) from 7:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Our Student Success Initiative (SSI) summer school is for identified students in grades 5 and 8. This program will provide intensive, targeted interventions in reading and math. Classes will be from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. four days per week. Both the Bilingual/ESL and the SSI summer schools begin on June 1st and end on June 28th.

Palacios High School is offering summer school for students who have lost credit in the following subject(s): English I-IV, Algebra I & II, Geometry, Math Modeling, Integrated Physics & Chemistry, Biology, Chemistry, Health, U.S. History, World Geography, World History, Government and Economics. The high school summer class schedule is:

June 6 – 9	8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
June 13 – 16	8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
June 20 – 23	8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
June 27 – 30	8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

To receive credit for a particular subject, the student must master 80% of the course-required curriculum using computer-competency testing. The student is advised to speak with Mrs. Mayra Garcia, PHS Counselor, on the needed courses. Student schedules may be flexible based on level of competency.

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EVENTS

Student Drug Testing

Any student planning on participating in the following areas: athletics; band; cheerleading; UIL; clubs where you will represent the district in a performance, contest or competition; or any student who will be driving or parking at any school facility must submit to a drug test.

A drug testing orientation is scheduled for July 14, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. in the high school cafeteria. Initial drug testing dates will be held in the Fine Arts Building (FAB) according to the schedule below:

July 18th (girls only)

8:00 a.m. – Freshman
9:00 a.m. – Sophomores
10:00 a.m. – Juniors
11:00 a.m. – Seniors
1:00–2:30 p.m. – JH (7th/8th)

July 19th (boys only)

8:00 a.m. – Freshman
9:00 a.m. – Sophomores
10:00 a.m. – Juniors
11:00 a.m. – Seniors
1:00–2:00 p.m. – JH (7th/8th)

If conflicts arise for the day the student is scheduled to be tested please come on a day where there is no conflict. These tests are free of charge and the student must have an initial test for the current school year to be able to participate in the school activities and to practice for a performance or sport he/she wishes to participate in. The orientation is being held one week earlier to allow sponsors and coaches time to know which students will not be present for the initial drug testing.



“By use of technology and imagination, Amy Kubecka’s class traveled to Costa Rica on the magic school boat where they were visited by a native bird of the land!!”

Federal Regulations

Federal regulations require that information concerning the inspection, re-inspection, periodic surveillance, response activities, and management planning for our school district in regard to asbestos be made public.

Palacios ISD is working hard to maintain compliance with the federal AHERA (asbestos) regulations. Should you desire to review the management plan for your child’s school, a copy of the plan is available in each principal’s office.

If you have any questions about the plan on this federally mandated program, please contact Santos Perez at 972-5491.

“Teacher Appreciation Week”

Teachers are some of the greatest and most remarkable people whom you will come across in your entire life! PISD would like to take this opportunity to say “Thank You!” to all of its teachers for their hard work and dedication to the students and community of Palacios ISD. They are not only selfless givers, but also the mentors to tomorrow’s adults. At every step of a child’s life, teachers are there devoting their time and their lives to enlighten and challenge students to learn and to challenge themselves to succeed. Teachers work each day with a passion for learning, a passion for teaching and a desire to see every student become successful.

National Teacher Week began in 1985 and became a time for honoring teachers and recognizing the lasting contributions they make in our child’s life. May 2-6, 2011 is designated “Teacher Appreciation Week” and PISD will be recognizing and honoring its teachers during this time.

Lupita Reyes, Teacher Certification Recipient

Lupita Reyes is the recipient of the Palacios ISD’s ‘Grow Your Own’ Teacher Certification Program. She is the daughter of Aida and Felipe Jimenez. A committee interviewed several top quality applicants this year where they were scored on academics, essays, recommendations, written responses and their overall interview process. While it was a very tough decision for the committee, only one applicant may be accepted into the program each year. On April 11, 2011, Lupita was presented to the Board where she was approved and accepted into the ‘Grow Your Own’ program. Upon graduation she plans to attend Texas State University in San Marcos where she will major in Bilingual studies. This program is another avenue to fill acute shortage positions with quality applicants willing to make a long-term commitment to our students, school district, and community.



Best of Show

Ernesto Rodriguez received Best of Show and Best Artist awards in the student section of the competitive show and the Matagorda County Museum. He also received awards for two other works he submitted. Other students received awards in the non-competitive student exhibit. The participating students were: Young Nguyen, Brenda Perez, Ricardo Yanez (3 pieces, all with ribbons), Ashley Bui, Lam Nguyen, Thao Nguyen, Jordan Machacek (3 pieces, all with ribbons), Kristy Guillen, Jennifer Mack, Gaby Cruz, and Ann Marie Gonzales. First place winners were Lam, Kristy and Gaby.



PALACIOS

2011-2012

CALENDAR

AUGUST 2011

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SEPTEMBER 2011

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OCTOBER 2011

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NOVEMBER 2011

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DECEMBER 2011

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JANUARY 2012

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HOLIDAYS

Labor DaySeptember 5, 2011
 Thanksgiving Holidays.....November 23-25, 2011
 Christmas Holidays.....December 19-30, 2011
 New Year's Holiday.....January 2, 2012
 Matagorda County Fair Days.....February 29-March 2, 2012
 Easter/Spring Break.....April 2-9 2012
 Last Day of School.....May 31, 2012

TEACHER IN-SERVICE

New Teacher In-Service.....August 10-11, 2011

TEACHER IN-SERVICE/PREPARATION (Student Holidays)

Teacher In-Service.....August 17 & 18, 2011
 Teacher Work Day.....June 1, 2012

GRADING PERIODS

First Six Weeks.....August 22-September 30
 Second Six Weeks.....October 3-November 11
 Third Six Weeks.....November 14-January 13
 Fourth Six Weeks.....January 16-February 24
 Fifth Six Weeks.....February 27-April 20
 Sixth Six Weeks.....April 23-May 31

TESTING DATES

TAKS Testing (Exit Level Retest).....October 18-21, 2011
 TAKS Testing (Exit Level Retest).....March 5-9, 2012
 TAKS Testing (Gds 10 & 11).....March 7, 2012
 STARR Testing.....March 26-29, 2012
 (Gds 4, 5, 7, 8, Eng. I, II & III)
 STARR Testing (Gds 3-4, 6-8).....April 24-27, 2012
 STARR Testing (9-12).....May 7-11 & 14-18, 2012

SPECIAL DATES

First Day of School.....August 22, 2011
 Bad Weather Days.....February 29 & March 1, 2012
 Early Release Dates.....November 22; December 16; February 28
 Students Only Early Release Days.....January 13; May 31
 Early Release-Report Card Conference.....October 6-7, 2011
 Last School Day.....May 31, 2012
 High School Graduation.....June 1, 2012

F M N V DAYS

December 16; February 14; March 30

LEGEND

- ◆ New Teacher In-Service
- Teacher In-Service/Preparation Days



FEBRUARY 2012

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MARCH 2012

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APRIL 2012

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MAY 2012

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JUNE 2012

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JULY 2012

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