

*Thoughts of a Superintendent**From the Desk of Vicki Adams***To Walk or Not to Walk**

On May 16th, we have two daughters graduating from two different institutions of higher learning. We naturally assumed if they were at the same time, I would go to one graduation and my husband would go to the other. At Christmas, our younger

daughter, Danielle told us she was not going to participate in the UNT commencement exercises. We thought Danielle was just being a kind, thoughtful sister and did not want to take away from her sister's big moment. We repeatedly assured her if she wanted to walk, it would work out and one or both of her parents would be in attendance. Even though she is only 21, she is very wise, is enthusiastic and has a great attitude. Danielle informed us it was not the ceremony that was special to her, but rather the completion of her Bachelor's Degree –that sense of accomplishment. She continued that this was only the completion of one stage of her life and she had many more important ones yet to come. Her sense of accomplishment would not be altered by whether she participated in graduation.

I am sure that you, like me, know people who are not enthusiastic and do not even speak positively about what they do or with whom they work. The power of sincere enthusiasm, a good attitude and believing what you do makes a difference is the driving force behind all accomplishments. It begets boldness and courage; kindles confidence; overcomes doubts; and creates endless energy. It is the all-essential human jet propeller and elevates average people to miracle workers.

Several years ago, an experiment was performed in a school in the San Francisco Bay area. A principal called in three teachers and said, "Because you three teachers are the finest in the system and you have the greatest expertise, we are going to give you ninety selected high-IQ students. We're going to let you move these students through this next year at their pace and see how much they can learn."

The three faculty members, the students, and the students' parents thought this was a great idea. It seemed they especially enjoyed the

school year. By the time school was through, the students had achieved from 20 to 30 percent more than the other students in the entire San Francisco Bay area.

At the end of the year, the principal called the three teachers in and told them, "I have a confession to make. You did not have ninety of the most intellectually prominent students. They were average students. We took ninety students at random from the system and gave them to you."

The teachers naturally concluded their exceptional teaching skills must have been responsible for the students' progress. "I have another confession," said the principal. "You were not necessarily the brightest of the teachers. Your names were the first three drawn out of the hat."

Why did those students and teachers perform at such an exceptional level for an entire year? They were encouraged to believe they could and went into the year with a positive attitude. (Adapted from *Your Roadmap to Success*)

Danielle is a great example of having a zest for life and making the best of difficult situations. Even though for some students or people, two graduations would be a major obstacle, her wonderful attitude helped her to look at the situation positively. This is my advice to our graduating seniors, "Have a great attitude and enthusiasm toward any situation or obstacle and you too will perform at an exceptional level! You can make every day a great day or not!"

Student Drug Testing . . .

Any student planning on participating in athletics, band, cheerleading, clubs where you will represent the school in a contest or competition must submit to a drug test. This also includes anyone who will drive to campus.

A drug testing orientation is scheduled for July 14th at 6:30 p.m. in the high school cafeteria. Initial drug testing dates will be held in the Fine Arts Building on July 21st for girls and July 22nd for boys.

8:00 a.m. - Freshmen	9:00 a.m. - Sophomores
10:00 a.m. - Juniors	11:00 a.m. - Seniors
1:00-2:30 p.m. - Junior High Students	

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 school activities and to practice for a performance or sport he/she wishes to participate in. This is being held one week earlier so sponsors and coaches may have extra time to know which of their students were not present for the initial testing. This will allow time to make sure all students are tested before the first practice.

inside *this* issue**2**

Employee Appreciation Banquet
Our Retirees
Teachers of the Year

3

Koenig Receives H-E-B Excellence
TSMEC Summer Workshop
Summer Hours
Dad's Day Out

4

Summer Meal Program
Summer School
Summer Recreation Program

Employee Appreciation Banquet

300 employees, mentors and past retirees were shown the deepest appreciation with a banquet in their honor on Tuesday, May 5, 2009, at the Palacios Recreation Center. Guests were served their meals by the Board of Trustees and administrators while being entertained by the PHS Vocal Ensemble, Toe Tapin' Babes and Julie Nemec. Awards and recognition were given by Superintendent Vicki Adams and the campus administrators. Special acknowledgments went to the 2008-2009 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:

Aaron Wollam	Hair It Is	Palacios Drive Inn
Academy/Buddy Kelly	Heart & Home	Palacios Marine & Industrial
Porter Ace Hardware	His & Her's Beauty Salon	Palacios Prescription Shoppe
American Electric & Hardware	Jeanette Allums	Patty Frankson
Amore Memories	Janie's Snack Bar	Peter Zamarripa
Amy Kubecka	KC's Nails	Palacios Mexican Restaurant
Andrea Lindley	Knights of Columbus	Prime Parts/Napa
Anita Keeling	Lavaca Navidad River Authority- Jason Chandler	Prosperity Bank
Baycel Federal Credit Union	Little Stars Day Care	Rebecca & John Crowell
Bay City Sears	Los Cucos Mexican Restaurant	Rick Cink
Capital One	Marisela's Cafe	Ricky & Penny Milam
Cara Herlin	Marina Spaw	Royal Cleaners
Carlos Ottino	Mary West	Sally Kurtz
City State Bank	Matamoros Taco House	Second Nature (Bay City Floral)
Claxton's Flower Basket	Melody Egg	Shelly Newsom
Coach Treybig	Mid Coast Lumber & Hardware	Simple Simons Pizza
Cut & Curl	Movie Gallery	Somewhere in the Sun
Dairy Queen	Nails by Lisa	Steve & Michele Stuhrenberg
Debbie Kubecka	Natalie Hansen	Studio 35
Diva Vazquez	Nick West	Styles by Rosie
Donut Palace	Norma Wollam	Subway
Fred & Dana Buckley	Old Main Bookstore	Super S
Gold Coast Seafood	Palacios Auto & Towing	Terri Curtis - Days Inn
Hair Gallery - Theresa Pardo	Palacios Autoworld (Rob Pettit)	Tran's Restaurant
Hair Gallery - Jana Huddleston / Charity Jenkins	Palacios Dental	Zimco

The week of May 4-8 was designated as "Teacher Appreciation Week." The week was filled with daily appreciation gifts from the administration to all teachers. As a district, the staff came together for the annual Teacher Appreciation Banquet on Tuesday, May 5th, where staff members received their service pins, retirees were honored and Teachers of the Year were recognized.

Our Retirees . . . During the employee appreciation banquet on May 5th, Palacios ISD retirees were honored. The dedication of these fine educators to our students and district was evident when they each received a standing ovation while receiving their retirement plaques. Their commitment, expertise, and experience will be truly missed. Palacios ISD wishes them all the very best for a long, well-earned, satisfying retirement.

(Pictured l-r: Janice Galloway, Sadie Diaz and Sandy Miller)



Teachers of the Year . . . Palacios ISD participates in the Texas Education Agency's "Texas Teacher of the Year" program. Each campus nominates teachers and the campus then votes for their campus representative. Once the campuses select their Teachers of the Year, interviews with each candidate were scheduled. The interview committee, comprised of community members, selected an elementary and a secondary Teacher of the Year. Each campus representative were recognized and the elementary and secondary Teacher of the Year were announced at the Employee Appreciation Banquet on May 5th. The elementary Teacher of the Year is Cindy Krause and the secondary Teacher of the Year is Norma Wollam. They will now compete for Regional Teacher of the Year and if selected, will then compete at the state level.

(Teacher of the Year candidates selected by the campuses are: Norma Wollam, Sandy Miller, Cindy Krause and Terry Divers)

Erika Koenig Awarded H-E-B Excellence in Education

Since 2002, H-E-B has been working in cooperation with the Texas Association of School Administrators to promote and support public education. A way to promote Texas educators in a positive way is to recognize these educators for the hard work, dedication, and contributions they make towards education.

Seven Gulf Coast area educators were recognized as the “Best in Texas Education” with their selection as finalists in the 2009 H-E-B Excellence in Education Awards, the state’s largest monetary recognition program for Texas Educators.



The honor was kept a surprise from the educators who learned of their status as finalists when H-E-B representatives visited their classrooms and schools – bearing balloons, cake, and flowers – and presented each teacher finalist with a \$1,000 check for her/him and a \$1,000 check for his/her school.

Erika Koenig, who teaches English at Palacios High School, was selected as one of the seven finalists. Erika has been with Palacios ISD since the 2005-2006 school year. She holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Mass Communication and Print Journalism and a Master of Education in Administration and Supervision. She was also selected as PISD Secondary Teacher of the Year and Region III Secondary Teacher of the Year in 2007-2008.

The category for which Erika was selected is the Rising Star Secondary Category. This category honors exceptionally promising teachers with less than 10 years of experience. These winners have also been selected to compete for the Rising Star Award. This award will recognize the contributions and dedication the teacher has made in education and awards of \$5,000 will be given to both the teacher and the school.

TSMEC Summer Workshop

‘Sea Creatures in the Classroom’ workshop will be held on June 10, 2009, from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., at the Texas State Marine Education Center for elementary/middle school teachers. The hands on lessons (make and take) bring the coast to the classroom. For more information or to register call 361-972-3774 or email at tsmeck12@tisd.net. Registration deadline is June 5th, and the class is limited to 30 participants.

Summer Hours

Beginning June 8 and ending July 30 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.

Palacios ISD
is a Recognized District

7th Annual Dad’s Day Out was held on Saturday, May 9th

This year’s parent academy (Dad’s Day Out) was held on May 9th at East Side Intermediate. Parents and students were greeted with a picture taking session and a delicious breakfast during registration. Parents were then sent to the gym to listen to Joe Reyna, Palacios ISD Police Officer and children’s guest reader, Helen Knaggs from Verizon who read to students and informed parents on the importance of reading. Students participated in crafts and other activities with their dads. Parents and students were then reunited to join in outdoor games. After working up a hunger and thirst, families were then fed hamburgers and hotdogs before cooling off in the pool. Great door prizes were won by many students and parents. More than 150 students participated in the day long event with their dads or parents. A huge “thank you” to all our donors, supporters, volunteers, and participants. Without you, this day would not have been a success. See you next year!

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

Board of Trustees

Peter Zamarripa, President
Patty Frankson, Vice President
Carlos Ottino, Secretary
Rick Cink, Member
Cara Herlin, Member
Steve Stuhrenberg, Member
Mary West, Member

Administration

Vicki Adams, Superintendent
Herbert Ressler, Assist. Superintendent of Business
Vanessa Kunefke, Director of Instruction
Larry Williams, Director of Federal Programs/Human Resources

Summer 2009 Activities

Student Meal Program

The Palacios Independent School District announces the sponsorship of the Summer Food Service Program. Meals will be provided Tuesday, June 2, 2009 through Thursday, June 25, 2009 at Central Elementary cafeteria, and Monday, June 29, 2009 through Thursday, July 23, 2009 at East Side Intermediate cafeteria. All children aged 1 to 18 years will be served free of charge. Handicapped children up to 21 years of age may qualify for meals. Adults will not be served.

Both breakfast and lunch will be offered. Serving times for breakfast are 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. Lunch times are 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Serving times are set as a part of the program and meals will not be served before or after the posted times or at any other times. All meals must be eaten in the cafeteria. Food may not be carried from the cafeteria to be eaten elsewhere. All children who are school-age are expected to follow District dress and behavior codes. Children who do not follow rules of conduct will not be allowed to remain in the cafeteria and may be asked not to return.

In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability.

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Adjudication and Compliance, 1400 Independence Avenue S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (202) 260-1026, toll-free (866) 632-9992 or (202) 401-0216 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Summer School

Summer school begin June 2, for identified students at Central Elementary, East Side Intermediate, and Palacios Junior High School. Students in grades K - 8 who qualify to attend the program will have focused instruction in reading/language arts and math, as well as science and social studies for junior high students. In order to be eligible for the program, students must be identified by their teachers as likely to be retained. Classes meet Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Classes begin Tuesday, June 2 and end Thursday, June 25. Students in grades PK-6 attend summer classes at Central Elementary and students in grades 7-8 attend classes at the junior high school.

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. Summer School classes will begin:

June 8-11	8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon
June 15-18	8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon
June 22-25	8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon
June 29-July 2	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.

Summer Recreation Program

Palacios ISD is offering a summer recreation program for students in grades one through eight and open the swimming pool for community access. The pool is open regular hours May 30 through August 22, from 2:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. It will be closed on Sunday and Monday. Regular pool admission is \$1.50 for students and \$2.00 for adults. Season passes are available at \$35 for students, \$50 for adults and \$150 for family. Family night is Tuesday and Thursday from 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. with special price rates of \$1.00 for students and adults. Swimming lessons are available from June 3-June 13 for session one; June 17-June 27 for session two; July 8-July 18 will only be offered if the first two sessions are full. Students should preregister to reserve dates.



Swimming lessons for age 6 and above cost \$30. One-on-one lessons for children five and younger are \$50. Aqua fitness for adults will be offered from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., June 3-August 8, Tuesday through Friday, depending on enrollment. The charge is \$3.00 per hour.

Instruction for tennis will be offered June 15-18; golf and basketball June 8-11; track June 15-18. Participation in just one program costs \$20, and each additional program is \$15, excluding swimming lessons.

Registration for all programs will be held at the Municipal Pool on Monday, June 1, from 9:00 a.m. until noon.

