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Protecting Your Child

**F**ingerprinting is another step the Texas Education Agency and the State have taken to protect your child. While teachers have been fingerprinted with the State for the past few years prior to receiving their State teaching credentials, in June of 2007 Texas signed into law, Senate Bill 9 or what is also known as the "Fingerprinting Bill." The law requires not only newly certified teachers and instructional aides to be fingerprinted, but all previously certified currently employed educators, as well as all substitute teachers and all non-certified school employees hired before January 1, 2008 will now be fingerprinted. The State is in the process of ensuring all required personnel are fingerprinted in accordance with the new law. This process could take several years to complete.

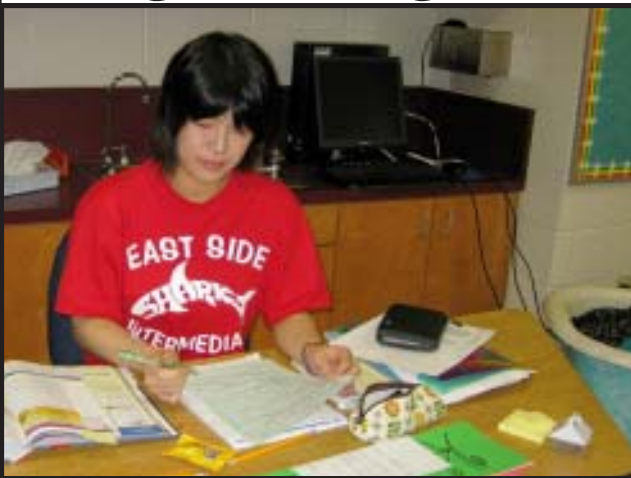


Superintendent Adams being fingerprinted

Since January 1, 2008, Palacios ISD required all new employees to be fingerprinted before they begin their employment. Palacios ISD was one the first districts to make it mandatory for all its employees to be fingerprinted. During the month of October, Palacios ISD will be working with local, state, and federal agencies to ensure all of its employees are finger-

printed in accordance with the State law. A mobile unit is being provided by the State and will be on each PISD campus to assist in the fingerprinting of PISD employees. This unit will not only make it easier for our employees to be fingerprinted, but also allow our teachers to remain on campus and continue providing your child with an exemplary education.

Foreign Exchange Student Teacher



**P**alacios ISD would like to give a public welcome to our Foreign Exchange Teacher from Kaskabe, Japan, Ms. Megumi Ohno. Ms. Ohno attends Dokkyo University in Saitama, Japan where she majors is Liberal Arts and she is studying to become a teacher. Her focus in education is being able to teach English and to discuss areas where the English language is spoken. She also has an interest in the Hispanic culture in America and how it correlates with the English language. Ms. Ohno is working with our elementary students and staff at East Side Intermediate and will be with Palacios ISD for the next 6 months.

While Ms. Ohno is learning the English language and the cultures of Palacios, she would also like to introduce her culture of the Japanese language, which includes Basic Conversation, Hiragan, and Chinese Characters to our students.. Also, she would like to share different styles

of art, food, and games with the children and staff. She will enjoy presenting different information of modern Japan and the daily life of a Japanese student. When she is not busy concentrating on work and education, she enjoys piano, basketball, and chorus.

Thoughts of a Superintendent...

From the Desk of Vicki Adams



### Proactive or Reactive?

**H**ave you ever noticed that for some people, life is a series of one crisis after another? They never seem to be happy. Their life is in constant disorder and they usually complain that they have too much to do and too little time to do it. They complain about things out of their control, such as when it is raining or projects that are required. The funny thing is, these are usually the people who really do not have an unusual amount of responsibility and typically waste a lot of time griping and complaining that could be spent on completing the tasks on hand or getting prepared for that rainy day. Many times these people are unorganized which causes them to be reactive instead of proactive.

Reactive people respond to life in a “catch up” fashion. They wait until a problem occurs and then they try to deal with it. Conversely, proactive people try to prevent problems from occurring through careful planning and goal setting. When problems do occur, they are dealt with purposefully and with specific outcomes in mind.

This reminds me of a story I once heard about a young farmer who needed help on his farm and advertised he had a job opening. The first day the advertisement appeared in the local paper, an elderly gentleman showed up seeking the job. Since the farmer could do most of the strenuous jobs himself, the man’s age was not of great concern. The farmer got straight to the point. “Can you handle the barn and all the animals, including the cows and horses?” “I can sleep on a stormy night,” the old man replied. “Fine,” the young farmer continued, “but can you handle the barn?” “I can sleep on a stormy night,” again came the reply.

Assuming the old man was just hard of hearing, the farmer decided to try him at the job. The next night a violent storm awakened the farmer. Fearing for the safety of his livestock, he raced to wake the old man so he could assist in securing the barn and protecting the animals. However, the gentleman was sound asleep and did not respond to the young farmer’s pleas for help. So the farmer hurriedly ran to the barn only to find the barn doors shut and latched with all the animals safely inside. He suddenly realized what the man had meant when he said he could “sleep on a stormy night”. He knew he had hired the right person.

Which kind of person are you – proactive or reactive? Have you taken control of your life or has life taken control of you? When you prepare properly and manage your time and abilities wisely, you can rest comfortably even on a stormy night.

**Palacios Independent School District**  
361-972-5491 [www.palaciosisd.org](http://www.palaciosisd.org)

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## Fall Substitute Teacher Training

**S**ubstitute orientation will be held on Wednesday, November 5, 2008 at 3:00pm in the Palacios ISD high school LRC. All persons interested in becoming a substitute are required to attend. Any current substitute who would like refresher training is welcome to attend. Each person will have to submit the following information before he/she can substitute:

- an application, criminal history record information, copy of high school diploma or highest degree, copies of driver’s license and social security card, copy of recent TB test, electronic equipment form, W-4 form, completed I-9 form and a campus selection form.

Forms will be available at the substitute orientation. After the orientation, prospective substitutes will be directed to the campuses. Any questions may be directed to Larry Williams, Director of Human Resources or Martha McEntire at 972-5491.

**Save the Date:**  
**High School LRC**  
**Wednesday, Nov. 5**  
**3:00 p.m.**

## Red Ribbon Week

**P**alacios ISD will hold its annual Red Ribbon Week the last week of October. Red Ribbon Week is a nationwide fight against drugs. Thousands of schools across the nation use this time to stand up and combat drug use in America by focusing on educating students about healthy choices, especially the choice to avoid drugs. Palacios ISD is participating in that fight against drugs and its theme for Red Ribbon Week is “Elect to be Drug Free.” Each day of the week there will be different themes for the students to show their support against drugs.

- ♦ October 27<sup>th</sup> – **“I Elect to Be Drug Free!”**  
(wear red/white/blue)
- ♦ October 28<sup>th</sup> – **“Put a Cap on Drugs!”**  
(wear crazy hats)
- ♦ October 29<sup>th</sup> – **“Join the Fight Against Drugs!”**  
(wear camo)
- ♦ October 30<sup>th</sup> – **“Team Up Against Drugs!”**  
(wear jerseys)
- ♦ October 31<sup>st</sup> – **“Drugs Make You Crazy!”**  
(wear crazy hair)

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your student’s campus for further details.

# SPOTTED ON CAMPUS



New officers were elected to the East Side PTA. President-Dana Buckley, Vice President-Kelli Machacek, Secretary-Marie Garcia, Treasurer-Dana Peck



Mr. Glasscock's 4th period Math class hard at work.



Diva Vazquez, school counselor met with all East Side students and presented a lesson on **STOP THE BULLYING NOW!** Through the use of technology, students were able to watch a webisode on bullying, furnished by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Resources. During this presentation students were given beneficial information as to what bullying is, reasons why kids might bully, signs that will help them identify if they are bullying others and the effects of bullying. Mrs. Vazquez reemphasized the importance of reporting to parents, teachers, administrators any bullying that might be taking place.

In Mr. Ortiz's Building Trades class, Jacob Frausto is working on a brace for a wooden table that he and Marcus Ferree are building.



Jessica Ayala, Carmen Rios, Tezna Roy, Stephen Alderete and Ernesto Rodriguez at the Moulton Cross Country Meet.



Teresita Lopez works with the letter "I" in Mrs. Perez's class.



Below, second grade students Jodie Ging and Seth Quintanilla working on their Social Studies assignment in Mrs. Hansen's second grade class.



Assistant Principal Buddy Kelley lending a helping hand to students with lockers and schedules.

## Sharky's Halloween Tips

A parent or responsible adult should always accompany young children on their neighborhood rounds. Here are some other things to keep in mind and tell trick-or-treaters so that can have a safe Halloween:

- Use a flashlight so you can see and be seen;
- Stay in a group and communicate where you will be going;
- Go only to homes with a porch light on;
- Remain on well-lit streets and use the sidewalk;
- If no sidewalk is available, walk at the farthest edge of the roadway facing traffic;
- Never cut across yards or use alleys;
- Never enter a stranger's home or car for a treat;
- Always walk, not run across a street;
- Remove any mask or item that will limit eyesight before crossing a street, driveway, or alley;
- Never consume unwrapped food items or open beverages that may be offered;
- No treats are to be eaten until they are thoroughly checked by an adult at home;
- Law enforcement authorities should be notified immediately of any suspicious or unlawful activity.

*PISD hopes these tips will help you  
and your family have a safe and happy Halloween!*



## DATES TO REMEMBER

October 21.....	TAKS Reading Practice 1-3 ELA Exit Retest
October 22.....	TAKS Math Retest
October 23.....	TAKS Science Exit Retest
October 24.....	TAKS SS Exit Retest
October 24.....	Progress Reports
October 27.....	TAKS Math Practice 1-3
October 29.....	Progress Reports
October 27-31.....	Red Ribbon Week
October 27.....	NHS Induction
October 31.....	Halloween
November 2 .....	Daylight Savings ends
November 4.....	Election Day
November 11.....	Veteran's Day
November 14 .....	Second Six Weeks ends
November 20 .....	Report Cards
November 17 .....	Third Six Weeks begins
November 22 .....	Miss Palacios Pageant
November 25 .....	Early Release
November 26-28 .....	Thanksgiving Holidays
December 7.....	Pearl Harbor Day
December 12.....	Progress Reports
December 14.....	Band Christmas Concert
December 16.....	Choir Christmas Concert
December 19.....	Early Release
December 22-January 2.....	Christmas Holidays

## PISD Facilities Inspection

Times are forever changing. With each new day and each new year, demands on education are constantly changing. PISD takes pride in the education it provides for its students and community. Part of that pride is to ensure we provide the best possible education we can for all of our students. To meet the ever changing demands on education, PISD must ensure that each campus, facility, building, and classroom meet these demands.

PISD Board of Trustees has appointed an 11 member committee to study Palacios ISD facilities. The committee is made up of Board members, community members, business owners and is looking to expand the committee to include parents as well. The committee has been charged with the duties of examining all buildings and facilities of Palacios ISD and gathering input from committee members and others within the community.

One of the demands on education is the forever growing system of technology. PISD must ensure all facilities are capable of meeting the requirements for installation, electrical usage and upgrading required systems for updated technology. The committee also inspects all facilities for structural integrity, safety, wear, possible repairs, and studies the cost of meeting all of these demands being placed on education and PISD. PISD is constantly looking towards the future and how each change will affect our students. The future is our students and PISD wants to ensure every effort is considered to ensure the continued growth and success for all members of Palacios ISD.



*Pictured: new gymnasium under construction*



*The Connections is published periodically by the Palacios ISD to inform the community about district news, events and accomplishments.*