

www.palaciosisd.org

1209 Twelfth Street - Palacios, Texas 77465 - (361)972-5491

Safe Paths for Our Kids

By now you may have noticed red collection cans at various locations throughout Palacios or the many different fundraisers and activities within the community for the Safe to Schools Project. The Safe to Schools committee was created by local community members for the purpose of providing safe walking and biking paths to and from schools. The committee held its first meeting on August 26, 2009, to discuss options and ideas for the safety of Palacios kids. The first project discussed was to construct a walking/biking bridge parallel to the "Hump (Big Cat) Bridge". The bridge will later be connected to hike/bike trails from Palacios housing areas to the campuses and provide safer paths for our children and community.

The red cans were created by Maggie Hearn's PJH 8th grade advanced art class. Students made the cans to be placed in different locations throughout the community to collect donations for construction of the bridge.



Pictured: Carlos Villasenor, Carmen Mancera, Justice Acosta, Jose Rodriguez, Andrea Perez, Destiny Terrasas, and Kimberly Rubio

Other fundraisers have included a BBQ chicken dinner and the Pedal Palacios bike ride where PISD's Officer Reyna accepted pledges to donate towards the bridge. PHS Student Council is donating the collection from their Penny Drive to the Safe to Schools Project. Part of the construction of the bridge will include engraved planks that people can purchase to have placed on the bridge.

If you are interested in the Safe to Schools committee and would like to volunteer your time or attend a meeting, please contact Rick Cink, John Groth, Bill Cannon, Joe Kana, Troy Lewis, Kay Lawson, Carolyn Kubecka, Vicki Adams, Bill Olsen or Juan Carlos Zamora.

Parent Notification System

Good relationships among students, the school staff, and parents are essential to student success, and good relationships are created and maintained by good communication. In an ideal world, face-to-face meetings or personal phone calls would make up the bulk of that communication. However, since we live in the real world, with real world time limitations, a parent notification system is the next best thing.

Palacios ISD has incorporated a parent notification system, SchoolMessenger, as an essential tool to increase efficiency, so parents, staff, and students feel well-informed and connected. SchoolMessenger has effective communication tools such as automated phone calls, texting and emailing. When the system is in effect, parents will be notified of district or campus closings, emergencies, school events, student attendance, and meal balances.

It is very important for parents and students to maintain up-to-date phone numbers and email addresses with the campus offices to ensure accurate notification from the school. Not only can parents be notified of an emergency or closings, it will also notify a parent if their child is absent from school for the day. When a student's meal balance begins to get low, a message will be sent to that parent to notify them of their child's meal balance. Throughout the year, each campus is active with many different school events and activities. The notification system can also be used to notify parents of upcoming activities and events at their child's school.

SchoolMessenger is a great communication tool to assist Palacios ISD in maintaining cooperative communication relationships between parents and the district.

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Celebration Time

Due to the large numbers of exceptional students at Central Elementary and East Side Intermediate and limited seating in the PISD Board Room, there will be a Fall Semester Awards and Recognition Ceremony on January 26, 2010, at 6:30 p.m., at the PHS Fine Arts Building. The PISD Board of Trustees, Superintendent, and campus administrators will be presenting awards and recognizing students for their outstanding performance during the 2009-2010 fall semester. For further information, contact your student's campus.

PHS Choir Advances

On September 19th, the All-District Choir auditions were held in Missouri City, Texas. This audition was for school districts in Region 13 that includes school districts from Palacios to Sugarland. After competing against several hundred other girls, Palacios ISD had four girls chosen to the All-District Choir. The girls selected to the All-District Choir were: Michelle Olmstead, Soprano 2; Hannah Estraca, Alto 1; Diana Dinh, Alto 1; and Ta'Loria Young, Alto 2. By being selected to the All-District Choir, these girls have advanced to the All-Region level of choir competition and will compete on October 17th at Dulles High School. If they qualify at All-Region, they will perform in the All Region Choir concert on November 7th at Dulles High School and advance to the Pre-Area round of choir competition on November 17th. The ultimate goal is to be selected for the All State Choir in January. Congratulations and good luck to these PISD students and Mr. Perry Dean, choir director.

Palacios ISD
is a Recognized District

Why Do We Have Red Ribbon Week?

Red Ribbon Week began after the kidnapping, torture and brutal murder of Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Agent Enrique "Kiki" Camarena in 1985. Agent Camarena had been working undercover in Guadalajara, Mexico for over four years. His efforts led to a trip that resulted in the discovery of a multimillion dollar narcotics manufacturing operation in Chihuahua, Mexico. The successful eradication of this and other drug production operations angered leaders of several drug cartels who then sought revenge. As a result, they murdered key informants and then, on February 7, 1985, they kidnapped Agent Camarena and his pilot, Captain Alfredo Zavala-Avelar.

In Agent Camarena's home town, Calexico, CA, the public outpouring of support turned into an organized community response in which citizens wore red ribbons. They became the voice for prevention in order to reduce the demand for illegal drugs and illegal use of legal drugs in America. The following year the California State PTA adopted the Red Ribbon Week campaign. In 1988, Red Ribbon Week was recognized nationally with President Ronald Reagan and First Lady Nancy Reagan serving as the first Honorary Chairs.

Today, Red Ribbon Week brings millions of people together to raise awareness regarding the need for alcohol, tobacco, and other drug and violence prevention, early intervention, and treatment services. It is the largest, most visible prevention awareness campaign observed annually in the United States.



October 26th – 30th, Palacios ISD will hold its Red Ribbon Week. During the last week in October, PISD will participate in the fight against drugs and alcohol and this year's theme is "Texans Give Drugs the Boot!" Each day of the week there will be a different theme for the students to show their support.

Monday, October 26th - "Texans Give Drugs the Boot!" (wear cowboy boots)
Tuesday, October 27th - "Fight Against Drugs!" (wear camouflage)
Wednesday, October 28th - "Put a Cap on Drugs!" (wear crazy caps/hats)
Thursday, October 29th - "You CAN Stand Against Drugs!" (bring can goods)
Friday, October 30th - "Team Up Against Drugs!" (wear favorite team jerseys)

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

Palacios Independent School District
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The H1N1 Flu Virus

There are a few misconceptions about the H1N1 virus. In the beginning of the outbreak of the H1N1 virus, many referred to this virus as the swine flu and the pork industry began to falter because of the belief that a person could contract swine flu from eating pork. The idea is totally false! A human cannot contract the H1N1 virus from eating pork.

At this time, human infections with the H1N1 virus are ongoing here in Texas and in the United States. Most people who have become ill with this virus have recovered without requiring medical treatment. The CDC and local medical professionals suggest that if a person has any questions or concerns to contact his or her personal physicians.

The H1N1 virus is thought to occur the same way as the seasonal flu spreads. Flu viruses are spread mainly from person to person through coughing or sneezing by people with influenza. The germs become air borne and/or cover objects that are often touched by other people such as door handles and hands.

Illnesses with the new virus have ranged from mild to severe. While most cases are treated and the individuals recover just like from the normal flu, there have been some cases of death reported. In the seasonal flu, certain people are at high risk of serious complications. This includes people 65 years and older, children younger than five years old, pregnant women, and people of any age with certain chronic medical conditions. About 70% of people who have been hospitalized with this virus have had one or more medical conditions previously recognized as placing people at "high-risk" of serious seasonal flu-related complications. One thing about this virus that appears to be different from seasonal flu is that adults older than 64 years of age do not yet appear to be at an increased risk.

While vaccines are being administered for seasonal flu, the vaccine for the H1N1 has not yet been distributed. Until then, there are a few daily routines that individuals can do and be aware of to help prevent contracting the virus and/or help in the spread of the virus.

Steps of Prevention:

1. **Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.**
2. **Wash your hands often with antibacterial soap and water. The use of alcohol-based hand rubs are very useful for throughout the day use.**
3. **Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.**
4. **Try to avoid close contact with people who are sick.**
5. **If you feel you are sick with flu-like symptoms, it is best to seek medical attention through your personal medical physician.**



Thoughts of a Superintendent...

From the desk of Vicki Adams

Many times as students, parents or professionals, we tend to dwell on what others have done to us rather than what another person may be going through. We are too quick to become victims rather than look at situations positively. When coming across adverse actions, I struggle to look at the situations as optimistically as the taxi driver in this anecdote:

The Law of the Garbage Truck

– Author Unknown

One day I hopped in a taxi and we took off for the airport. We were driving in the right lane when suddenly a black car jumped out of a parking space right in front of us. My taxi driver slammed on his brakes, skidded, and missed the other car by just inches. The driver of the other car whipped his head around, started yelling at us, and flipped us the bird. My taxi driver just smiled and waved at the guy. And I mean, he was really friendly. So I asked, "Why did you just do that? This guy almost ruined your car and sent us to the hospital." This is when my taxi driver taught me what I now call, 'The Law of the Garbage Truck.' He explained that many people are like garbage trucks. They run around full of garbage, full of frustration, full of anger, and full of disappointment. As their garbage piles up, they need a place to dump it and sometimes they'll dump it on you. Don't take it personally. Just smile, wave, wish them well, and move on. Don't take their garbage and spread it to other people at work, at home, or on the streets. The bottom line is that successful people do not let garbage trucks take over their day. Life's too short to wake up in the morning with regrets, so.....love the people who treat you right. Pray for the ones who don't. Life is ten percent what you make it and ninety percent how you take it.

We can all learn from this taxi driver. As an observer in many classrooms, I see PISD staff treating the students as if they may have extra garbage. No matter the personality of the student, or if the student is having a bad day, I witness teachers and staff striving to make it a better day for that student while still providing the structure and education the student needs. We have mentors and volunteers who try to make garbage-free days for many students in our district. My sincere thanks goes out to all of these teachers, aides, volunteers and mentors making better days for our students!

Have a blessed, garbage-free school year!!!

