



PLEASANT GROVE
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
Education Foundation



Thanks to Aven and Sal Williamson for their donation of \$10,000.00 the PG Education Foundation

Scott Norton, President and Aven and Sal Williamson

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Thanks to those who have already participated in the Brick Campaign. There is still time to order your engraved brick to be placed in the Plaza walkway. **Help Pave the Hawk Plaza and Provide Excellence in Education.** Go to www.supportpg.org or email Kristen Giles at kgiles@pgisd.net or phone 903.831.4086 to place your order.

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PLEASANT GROVE ISD EDUCATION FOUNDATION COMMITMENT/PLEDGE CARD

YES! I want to help provide opportunities for excellence in education by Supporting the PGISD Education Foundation.

- | | |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Legacy (\$10,000 or more) | <input type="checkbox"/> Gold (\$ 5,000 or more) |
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Enclosed is my pledge card or gift in the amount of \$ _____

Name _____ Address _____
(Name as you prefer it to be listed in publications)

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Please make checks payable to Pleasant Grove ISD Education Foundation and return to Pleasant Grove ISD, 8500 North Kings Hwy, Texarkana, TX 75503



PLEASANT GROVE
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Recognizing Alumni....



Christel Young

Christel Young graduated from Pleasant Grove in 1998. She attended the University of Arkansas at Little Rock where she graduated in 2001 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Speech Pathology. Ms. Young was a member of the UALR Chancellor's Leadership Corp, the Golden Key National Honor Society, and a member of the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority. Ms. Young then attended Texas Women's University in Denton, TX and received her Master of Science in Speech Pathology in May of 2004.

Ms. Young currently works in the Plano Independent School District as a Speech Pathologist. She is a member of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

Her hobbies include spending time with family, shopping, and listening to music. She is the daughter of Charles and Lillie Young.

PGISD Hits It BIG With DOMTAR/CARAUSTAR Recycling Payday

Domtar/Caraustar held its annual recycling check presentation at the Domtar mill in Ashdown on Tuesday, November 4, 2008. Over \$105,000.00 in checks were given to various schools in our area.

PLEASANT GROVE HIGH SCHOOL received a check for \$9,500.23.

PLEASANT GROVE MIDDLE SCHOOL received a check for \$17,508.17 as top area recycler.

Congratulations to all students, staff members, and our community! Without your valuable support, this recycling project would not be possible. These funds are used to benefit all students in many areas on both campuses. Interactive white boards, computers, and software are just a few of the items purchased with the funds received in the past.

Thanks to everyone for supporting the PGMS and the PGHS recycling projects and for helping our environment.



Student Council And PGMS Lend A Helping "can" To Harvest Texarkana

Pleasant Grove Middle School collected canned goods to benefit Harvest Texarkana during the week of December 8 – 12. PGMS Student Council presented Anita Harutunian and Scott Swenson, representatives of Harvest Texarkana with 1,315 canned goods. A contest was held between the four grade levels on the campus. Seventh grade won the contest with a total of 614 and were awarded with an ice cream party.



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- John Tidwell - President
- Billy DeLoach - Vice President
- Mark Addington - Secretary
- Jay Davis
- Jeff Harris
- Robert Sheppard
- Kathleen Young



Update
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Pleasant Grove Earns Texas Education Agency Gold Performance Acknowledgments for High Performance

Pleasant Grove ISD and all campuses have earned Gold Performance Acknowledgments from the Texas Education Agency. The Gold Performance Acknowledgment system recognizes districts and campuses for high performance on indicators other than those used to determine accountability ratings.

Pleasant Grove ISD

- Commended Performance: Reading/English Language Arts
- Commended Performance: Writing
- Commended Performance: Social Studies
- Recommended High School Program/Distinguished Achievement Program
- Advanced Placement/ International Baccalaureate Results
- ACT/SAT Results/College Admissions
- Texas Success Initiative-Higher Education Readiness Component: English Language Arts
- Texas Success Initiative-Higher Education Readiness Component: Mathematics

Pleasant Grove High School

- Advanced Placement/International Baccalaureate Results
- Recommended High School Program/Distinguished Achievement Program
- SAT/ACT Results/College Admissions
- Commended on Reading/English Language Arts
- Commended on Mathematics
- Commended on Social Studies
- Texas Success Initiative – Higher Education Readiness Component: English Language Arts
- Texas Success Initiative-Higher Education Readiness Component: Mathematics

Pleasant Grove Middle School

- Commended Performance: Reading/English Language Arts
- Commended Performance: Writing
- Commended Performance: Social Studies

Pleasant Grove Elementary School

- Commended Performance: Reading/English Language Arts
- Commended Performance: Mathematics
- Commended Performance: Writing
- Comparable Improvement: Reading/English Language Arts

CITIZENS OF THE MONTH

These students were recognized for being Citizens of the Month.



SEPTEMBER - Jeff Harris, board member, presents Kevin Sutton, 12th-grade



OCTOBER - Mark Addington, board member, presents Brooke Shimanek, 11th-grade, Chole Lawrence, 5th grade, Dana Campbell, 3rd-grade



NOVEMBER - John Tidwell, board member, presents Kaitlin Schmidt, 10th grade, Landry Guyton, 6th-grade, Nathan Jennings, 2nd-grade (not-present)

In order to become Citizen of the Month, a student must be nominated by a teacher. All students nominated must have no less than an "A" in conduct, possess good leadership qualities, display a cooperative attitude, and show courtesy to teachers as well as fellow students. The nominee must also represent the district in a positive way to the community.

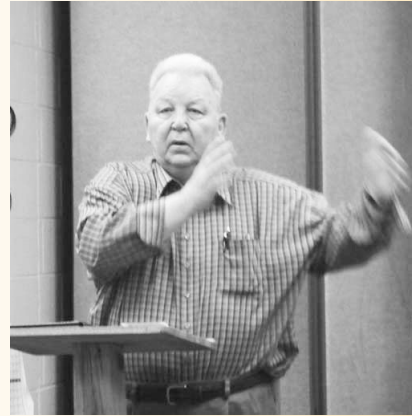
Update

is published monthly for the patrons of Pleasant Grove Independent School District

Pleasant Grove High School Holds Mini-Career Fair

Pleasant Grove High School students enrolled in Career & Technical courses had an opportunity to listen to career choices during the annual CTE Mini Career Fair. The career presentations provide students with an insight to possible careers. Prior to this year's career fair, CTE Department Chair, Beth Pesek, distributed a career interest survey with inventory selections taken from the Career Clusters. Career Clusters are designed to help prepare students at any level—secondary or post secondary.

Speakers for the two-day event included the following: Captain Eric Schlotter, and Captain Chris Black, Texarkana, TX Firefighters
Julius LeGrand, LeGrand & Sons Welding
John Tidwell, Attorney, former teacher
Bess Gamble-Williams, Business Owner, Ex-Military
John Hall, Mortician, Texarkana Funeral Home
Chris Court, Culinary Arts, Texarkana College
Sergeant Larsen, US Marines
Erik Jacobsen, M.D.
Bill Smith, Wright Patman Corp Engineers
Derrick McGary, Media, City Council
Joey Martin, Express Personnel
Randy Johns, Chiropractor
Ronda Dozier, Cosmetology Instructor, Texarkana College
Sheriff James Prince, Bowie County Sheriff's Department
Silvia Jennings, Texas Department of Public Safety



Julius LeGrand describes the skill of welding.

High School Students Commended

Taylor Sutton and Ansel George were named Commended Students in the 2008 National Merit Scholarship Program. About 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise. Commended Students placed among the top five percent of more than 1.4 million students who entered the 2008 competition by taking the 2006 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

The young people named Commended Students in the 2008 National Merit Scholarship Program are distinguished by their strong academic performance in this rigorous competition.



Taylor Sutton and Ansel George

HOBY Ambassadors Selected

Elizabeth McDowell, Christine Mitchell, and Peyton DeLoach have been selected HOBY Ambassadors and will attend a leadership convention on May 14-17 in Dallas. Each year two to three students are nominated from the sophomore class by staff and administration to represent their school at the annual HOBY, or Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership convention. Each year the PG PTA graciously donates the registration fee for our Ambassadors.

Pictured are:
~~Elizabeth McDowell, daughter of Gary and Ina McDowell~~
~~Christine Mitchell, daughter of Dan and Lori Mitchell~~
~~Peyton DeLoach daughter of Allison DeLoach and Billy DeLoach~~



Middle School Band Students Selected All Region Band

The following students were selected to the Middle School All Region Band. The tryouts were held at Crockett Middle School in Paris, Texas on November 22nd. The students will now participate in a Clinic-Concert on December 13th at Mount Pleasant High School.

Ashley Dowdle
Catherine Daddato
Lauren Hall
Alisa Robinson
Cherish Gladden
Ryan Williams
Marissa Strebeck
Ye Won Yang
Rachel Weems
Carissa Blokker
Cassie Ford
Kiera Primm

Kailee Walker
Austin Reynolds
Braden McDaniel
Seth Rosenbaum
Nico Atienza
Tyler Ayers
Braxton Johnson
Minjae Kim
John Altenbaumer
Josh Whitt
Alexandra Lawson
Meghan Morphis

Austin Goldsmith
Josh Breitfeller
Laiken Jean
Halie Charo
Taylor Everett
Kirsten O'Neal
Michael Fischer
Paul Ten Eyck
Matthew Cantin
James Gibbons



Other trivia about the results:

These 34 students make up the largest group ever from Pleasant Grove to be named to All Region.

Only one other school had more students selected.

This marks the first time in school history that the entire 8th grade band went to tryouts.

PG had the highest number of 8th graders (29) selected from ANY school.

High School Art Student Receives National Recognition

~~Shana Hoehn~~ has been selected to attend Arts Week sponsored by the National Foundation for the Advancement of the Arts in Miami. This is the single most prestigious honor a student in the arts can receive. By being accepted she is a finalist for the Presidential Academic Scholar Medal in the Arts. Each year about 10,000 students send their portfolios in. NFAA accepts about 20 students from across the nation. By being accepted she will be flown to Miami for one week in January and work with the most prestigious artists in the field. They will accept a small handful of high school students in each discipline in the arts (dance, visual arts, music, and theater) to be honored by the President of the United States for their achievements in the arts. Simply by being a finalist Shana is eligible for over \$3,000,000 in scholarships to some of the most prestigious

art schools in the nation. All honor very large scholarships just by her acceptance into this program. This honor truly shows her passion for art and her commitment to excelling at it. She has worked diligently since this summer to prepare. Although this is her largest honor she has been honored with Gold Seals every year at State VASE, was accepted to Marie Walshe Sharpe Arts Foundation, the Columbus College Summer Arts Week, her work was published on this years Gold Seal State VASE poster, as well as multiple individual awards including the cover of the phone book.

Only one other student was accepted in Texas among the 20. Here is a website if you would like more information on the program. <http://www.youngarts.org/index.html>.

Pleasant Grove ISD Earns Highest Financial Accountability

Rating of Superior Achievement

Pleasant Grove ISD has earned the highest rating of Superior Achievement for the 2008 Texas Education Agency financial accountability system. The district has earned the highest rating each year since the inception of the system. The Financial Integrity Rating system of Texas, which is called School FIRST, is based on the school district's overall performance on certain financial measurements, ratios, and other indicators established by the commissioner of education.

Teachers Receive E-Z MART Education Grants

E-Z MART Education Grants were presented to six teachers in the district totaling just over \$2000.00. E-Z MART has allocated funding for Education Grants to the school systems located in the communities where they operate. The purpose of the E-Z MART Education Grants are to assist the educator in acquiring the tools necessary to keep the teaching of our children interesting, fun and up to date. E-Z MART granted funds in the amount of \$30,000.00 to area teachers this year.

The following teachers received grants:

Donna Bullard	\$943.60	Brenda Burns	\$304.70
Linda Kirby	\$453.60	Judith McKinley	\$ 79.00
Mendy Sharp	\$500.00	Melinda Shumaker	\$120.70

2008 Luminant Scholar Winner

Fifth grader, Jacob Coon, recently won an essay contest sponsored by the Luminant Scholar Program. At a ceremony held in Pleasant Grove Middle School's cafeteria, Luminant officials presented Jacob with a \$1000 United States savings bond. Jacob, along with each student in his class, received a Luminant Scholar "Making Texas Shine" T-shirt and an MP3 player. Luminant (formerly TXU Generation), a competitive power generation company and the largest purchaser of wind-generated electricity in Texas, sponsored the one-page essay contest under the theme "How can I help protect the environment?" Thanks to fifth grade teacher Jana Mayo for coordinating the contest on the middle school campus! Jacob is the son of Jennifer and Mark Coon.



In December a Luminant representative will judge all winning entries from across the state. Three grand-prize winners will be selected. The three schools representing the winning entries will receive a \$5000 grant from Luminant.

Congratulations Jacob and good luck in the next round!



Students Perform With Rita Coolidge

High School Students ~~Elizabeth Lawson, Christine Mitchell, Kevin Sutton, Noe Cork, Haley Box, and not pictured Kait Henderson~~ represented Pleasant Grove High School as members of the 80 voice choir that sang back up for Rita Coolidge at the Perot Theatre.

The Pleasant Grove singers were directed by Rene Lawson.

