Winter 2012

http://www.pearlandisd.org 🔃



Look for this logo throughout "The Progress" to find more information online.



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Superintendent's Message

It is an honor to serve as the new superintendent of Pearland schools. The board of trustees hired me with the understanding that our district will create and sustain world-class schools. This endeavor requires not only a firm foundation but also a world-class effort from our staff, students, community and parents. This issue of the "Progress" illustrates that this foundation is



already here in so many areas. Our students shine both in deeds done and as harbingers of great things to come.

A world-class school district excels foremost in academics. Within that academic atmosphere are both a core academic program and a strong emphasis on fine arts. We must provide superior career opportunities to our high school students since graduates who possess substantial college hours and/or vocational certifications are best equipped for the changing 21st century. Lifelong positive influences are available within athletics and other extracurricular activities when emphasis is placed on being the best you can be. Indeed, identifying and developing diverse knowledge and skills in our students will set us apart from the rest of the competition.

Academic accomplishment is hollow and misguided if not accompanied by strong character and moral development. Although primary responsibility for this resides with students and their parents, the school district must also play a part. Staff must teach and model high standards and common virtues. Helping students embrace these standards is not easy. For example, the 21st-century tools of social media and the difficult lives of single-parent families make that task even more daunting.

The school district that navigates through these challenges and makes maximum use of 21st-century tools available for accomplishing great things can be crowned as "world-class" in the hearts and minds of those who live here – and those who see us from afar. I'm thrilled to play a part and hope you will actively participate in what is coming.

May God bless Pearland ISD!



Pictured on the cover are (from left) Carleston Elementary student Andre Mireles, Dawson High School student Jaia Johnson, Pearland Junior High East students Emanuel Amir and Nabeeha Karim and Rogers Middle School students Hans Wang and Zachary Hall.



281.485.3203 http://www.pearlandisd.org

Board of Trustees

Virgil Gant, President Rebecca Decker, Secretary Pam Boegler, Member Adele Brennan, Member Rusty DeBorde, Member Sam Gray, Member

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Dr. John P. Kelly, Superintendent Andrew Solomon, Vice President Nanette Weimer, Deputy Superintendent Don Marshall, CPA, Chief Financial Officer Cary Partin, Senior Assistant Superintendent Sonia Serrano, Senior Assistant Superintendent Dr. Brenda Waters, Senior Assistant Superintendent Dr. Nyla Watson, Assistant Superintendent

District champions financial stewardship

With continued statewide public school funding cuts, Pearland ISD protects taxpayer dollars through stewardship and a proactive stance Texas Honors Circle toward reduced resources from the state.

The Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts took note of the district's commitment to financial responsibility when it awarded Pearland ISD a five-star rating -- the highest score -- in the Financial Allocation Study for Texas.

For the second consecutive year, the district earned top marks for strongest academic progress and lowest relative spending. Only 46 of more than 1,000 Texas districts earned the top FAST rating in 2011.

Pearland ISD also received the comptroller's Texas Honors Circle District Award for managing finances responsibly while preparing students for college and career success.

In addition, in fall 2011, Pearland ISD joined a lawsuit challenging the equity and adequacy of the state education funding system.

As a result of funding cuts during the last legislative session, Pearland ISD lost more than \$12 million for the 2011-12 and 2012-13 school years. Districts statewide lost more than \$5 billion.

District recognizes board

Pearland ISD extended its appreciation to the board of trustees during School **Board Recognition Month** in January.

The district's seven elected board members serve as advocates for students, LIPING OUR KIDS SHIP

whether making important decisions in the board room or promoting public education in the community.

Through their vision and direction, board members ensure a positive future for students as well as the state and nation.

The community is invited to attend board meetings on the second Tuesday of each month at the Education Support Center. Open session begins around 6 p.m.

To read the superintendent's personal reflection on trustees, log onto http://www.pearlandisd.org/information.

> http://www.pearlandisd.org/information.cfm **KEYWORD:** Board



District employees Roland Moreno (left) and Gary Hughey inspect highefficiency air-conditioning filters at a campus. Pearland ISD won the National Air Filtration Association's Clean Air Award for promoting a healthy environment through good maintenance practices while reducing

STAAR replaces TAKS exam

Pearland ISD is preparing to transition students to the new, more rigorous State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness test this spring.

The STAAR exam will be administered to students in grades 3-8 and to ninth-graders taking high school courses in language arts, math, science and social studies.

The new program will measure a greater range of student achievement, specifically preparedness for advancing to the next grade and college readiness.

> Current district and campus accountability ratings will remain in place for two years as STAAR replaces the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills testing program.

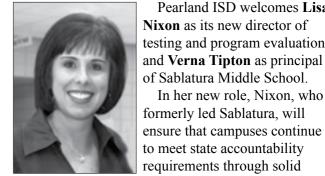
> > Jose Romero

Alexander Middle School student

STAAR vs. TAKS

- The STAAR will count for 15 percent of a student's grade in a subject.
- STAAR has more questions for most grades, subjects and courses.
- · Students will have four hours to take the STAAR (the TAKS was not timed).

Testing office, Sablatura welcome new leaders



of Sablatura Middle School. In her new role, Nixon, who

formerly led Sablatura, will ensure that campuses continue to meet state accountability requirements through solid academic programs and high

Pearland ISD welcomes Lisa

Nixon as its new director of

testing and program evaluation

Lisa Nixon

standardized test scores.

During their Jan. 10 meeting, school board

members named Tipton, Sablatura assistant principal, as the school's new leader.

Nixon holds a master's degree in educational management. In addition to working as a school administrator, she has served as a high school math teacher and math department head.



Verna Tipton

Tipton holds master's degrees in educational administration and counseling and has served as everything from a teacher and coach to a school counselor and administrator.



Ninth-graders impacted by STAAR end-of-course exams

Current ninth-graders face the biggest change in testing this year as the first students impacted by new STAAR end-of-course exams.

These EOC tests, which will apply toward graduation requirements, will count for 15 percent of students' final course grades. Students cannot graduate without sufficient passing rates on EOC exams.

Parents of ninth-graders are invited to EOC informational meetings Feb. 21 and 23, 6-7 p.m. at the Bailey Road facility, 4717 Bailey Road.



http://www.pearlandisd.org/information.cfm **KEYWORD:** STAAR Testing

State, federal accountability continues to soar

Pearland ISD students have once again excelled in academics.

The district achieved a Recognized accountability rating from the state for the 2010-11 school year, with 21 of its 23 campuses ranked Exemplary or Recognized.

Ratings are based on students' passing the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills and on completion and dropout rates.

In addition, Pearland ISD and 22 campuses earned Gold Performance Acknowledgments for high academic achievement, including students' commended performance on the TAKS, college admissions tests and other exams.

District GPA honors included collegeready graduates and commended social studies performance.

Lastly, despite increasing federal accountability standards, Pearland ISD continued to achieve Adequate Yearly Progress under No Child Left Behind through students' reading/language arts and math scores and graduation rates.

Campus News

Early kindergarten registration slated for April 2-5

Planning to enroll your child in kindergarten for the 2012-13 school year?

To qualify, your child must be five years old on or before Sept. 1, 2012. Students must be enrolled by a parent or legal guardian who lives in Pearland ISD.

For enrollment questions, contact Janet Christman in the Support Services Office at 281.485.3203.

For enrollment procedures and immunization requirements, visit www.pearlandisd.org

http://www.pearlandisd.org/information.cfm **KEYWORD:** Enrollment Procedures/Immunization

Click the text Mon., April 2 - Thurs., April 5: 8-11 a.m. and 1-3 p.m. (daily) Tues., April 3: 5-7 p.m. (late night)

Documents Required for Enrollment (must be in parent/guardian name):

- Deed or current home lease (tax statement may be used for deed; apartment lease must list parent and student)
- Current utility bill
- Parent/guardian Texas driver's license/ID with correct address
- Student immunization records validated by health professional or school official
- Student's official birth certificate
- · Student's Social Security card

Students give back during holidays

Students turned the gift getting into gift giving this holiday season as they focused on helping those less fortunate.

This year Pearland ISD schools **donated a hefty 34,700 pounds of food** -- more than 17 tons -- to the Pearland Neighborhood Center's annual "Share Your Holidays" event.

District bus drivers joined in the holiday spirit, picking up canned goods from several campuses and delivering them to PNC.

In addition, for the 19th consecutive year, schools collected toys for the Pearland Police Department's annual **Toys for Tots drive**. In keeping with tradition, Pearland ISD provided a facility for the drive's main event, a basketball game.

To recognize the district's overwhelming support, police officers presented Superintendent Dr. John Kelly with a plaque of appreciation.

From left: Pearland Junior High East students Grace Lee, Briana Gonzalez and Julia Atlikhani collect Toys for Tots donations.



District offers special, early graduation options

Whether pursuing higher education or the workforce, students need a solid educational foundation.

Pearland ISD offers several options to help students earn their diplomas or graduate with a head start on college.

PACE Center, which celebrated 29 graduates on Jan. 6, offers a supportive, nontraditional learning environment for high school students who need flexible education options and hours to complete graduation requirements.

The campus offers smaller classes, individual attention, credit recovery

and accelerated coursework options.

In addition, through Pearland ISD's dual credit partnerships, students may earn associate degrees from Alvin Community

College or

workforce technology certificates from San Jacinto College before receiving their high school diplomas.

This school year, two high school students will graduate with associate degrees already under their belts, while 26 students recently graduated with dual credit certifications.

Through these opportunities, Pearland ISD strives to develop students who are prepared for college and career success.



Above: PACE Center graduate John Cory Martin

Above: PACE Center student Courtney Adams accepts a diploma from school board president Virgil Gant and Superintendent Dr. John Kelly.

Berry Miller Junior High made the **Texas Business and Education** Coalition 2011 Honor Roll for sustained academic excellence. TBEC Honor Roll schools have the highest percentage of students performing at the state's most rigorous standard -- commended -- in every subject on the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills.



From left: Berry Miller Junior High students Madeline Powers, Cydney Boudreaux and Olivia Mendieta

'o qualify, hool In its first year to qualify Dawson High School made "Newsweek's" America's Best High Schools list for graduation rates and Advanced Placement participation and exam scores.

In a community characterized by its passion for pigskin and taste for victory, Dawson and Pearland high schools boasted football teams simultaneously advancing to the state playoffs.

After successful seasons, the Dawson Eagles ranked as the 4A Division I quarterfinalists, and the Pearland Oilers defending state champions finished as the 5A Division I regional quarterfinalists.

Call it a year to be recognized. Pearland ISD schools have staked a claim to honor in 2011-12 in academic and extracurricular feats.



Pearland High School Oilers running back Jackie Robinson runs the ball past Madison High School. (Photo courtesy of Ordeneaux Photography)

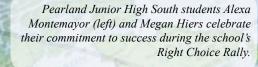
In extracurricular activities, the **Dawson Eagles Band** ranked No. 8 in Texas in the University Interscholastic League **4A State Marching Band Championship.**

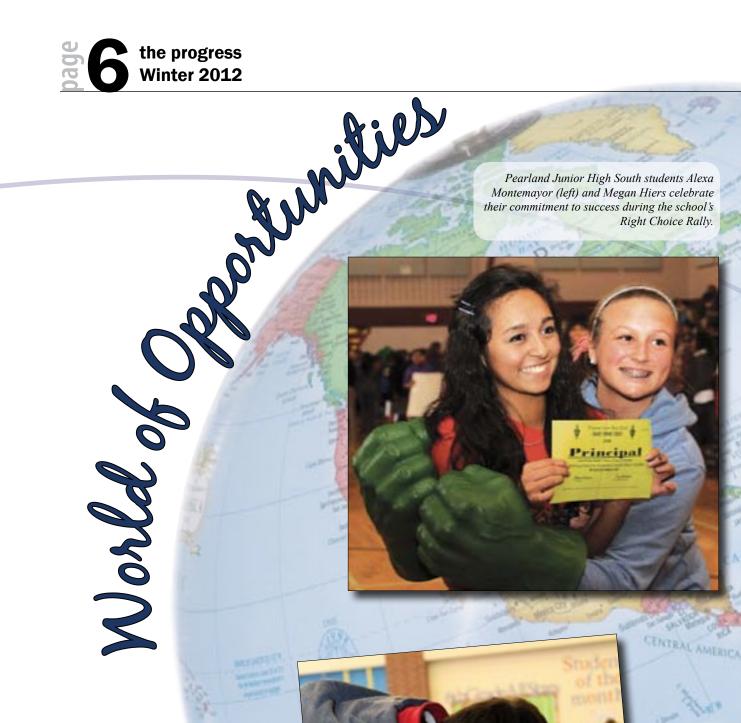
Dawson High School band student Emily Stinnett

Massey Ranch Elementary, Rogers Middle School and Berry Miller Junior High landed on the National Center for Educational Achievement's 2011 Higher-Performing Schools list.

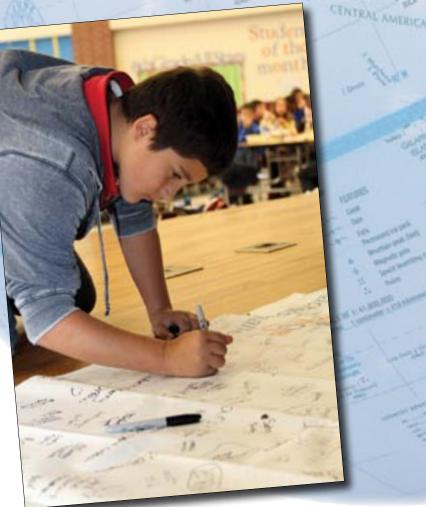
These campuses showed consistently high academic growth for three consecutive years and promoted college/ career readiness.

4A State Marching Band Championship











Farm girl Dorothy (Dawson High School student Taylor Pitts) dreams of life beyond rural Kansas in Ovation Theatre's musical "The Wiz," a soulful retelling of the "Wizard of Oz."

During the Rachel's Challenge program, Rogers Middle School student Alec Reves signs a banner agreeing to make a difference through acts of kindness.

Massey Ranch Elementary student Andrew Mickelson finds his beat during a drum program.

> Sam Jamison Middle School student Bryan Hudman enacts a mummy scene from children's author Pseudonymous Bosch's "Secret Series."



Searcy Ninth Grade Center students Jared Munive (bottom) and Gopi Matha visit merchant booths in the "Mad City Money" program led by Johnson Space Center Federal Credit Union.





Lawhon Elementary student Hope Huber (right) shows her homemade boat to classmate Stephanie Rodriguez during a flotation lesson.

Campus News

High school students recognized in national academic programs

Thanks to high PSAT scores, Dawson and Pearland high school students ranked among the top in their class in nationwide academic competitions.

These students may qualify for scholarships and have their academic information sent to colleges.

National Merit Scholarship Program

Commended Students

Carter Allensworth (DHS) Theanne Liu (DHS) Yuwei Cai (DHS) Francesca Mallett (PHS) Tianhao Ou (DHS) Tejas Dave (PHS) Andrew Dinhobl (PHS) Sarah Pastore (DHS) Richard Paul (DHS) Shaina Gong (DHS) Allison Hall (DHS) Hunter Reagan (DHS) Chad Hynes (DHS) Morgan Scott (PHS) Belinda Jiang (DHS) Lea Shackelford (DHS) Elise Lebiga (DHS) Emma Steiner (DHS) Lu Liu (DHS) Aaron Varner (DHS)

National Achievement Scholarship

Program Semifinalists

Desire Guillory (PHS) Damani Johnson (DHS) Francesca Mallett (PHS)

National Achievement Scholarship Program Outstanding Participants

Daryl Irby (DHS) Angolaoluwa Olutimehin (DHS)

National Hispanic Recognition Program Scholars

Aimee Lopez (DHS) Joel Gutierrez (PHS)



National Merit Scholarship Program Semifinalists

PHS (left):

Catherine Tregre

DHS (above, clockwise from bottom):

Damani Johnson Christopher Bahr Owais Sarwar Rachel Rhodes

Angela Yang

Nine students to display Western art at Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo

The 2012 **Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Hayloft Gallery** will feature art by nine Pearland ISD students.

Students whose art won "best of show," "gold medal" and "special merit" during rodeo art judging Jan. 11 will have their pieces displayed at the rodeo.

During the show, approximately 50 pieces of art selected by judges are auctioned.

Best of Show:

- Helen Wang, Sablatura Middle School -- "Cat Nap"
- Erin Bailey, Berry Miller Junior High -- "Cowgirl on the Range"
- Emilia Cavallaro, Dawson High School -- "New Life"

Gold Medal:

- Keaton Tippit, Rustic Oak Elementary -- "Color of Pots"
- Brooke Dowler, Pearland Junior High West -- "Left Behind"
- Shaina Gong, DHS -- "Samuel"
- Lucille Little, Pearland High School -- "Brian and Sean"

Special Merit:

- Laura Hagen, DHS -- "Resting Calf"
- Jose Lopez, DHS -- "That Ol' Tractor"



"That Ol' Tractor" by Dawson High School student Jose Lopez

Campus News winter 2012 93 CTE certifications, projects give head start in job market

Career and Technical Education certifications and workforce training opportunities are keeping Pearland ISD students a step ahead in career preparation.

In 2010-11, 304 Dawson and Pearland high school students earned CTE certifications.

These certifications make valuable additions to résumés and college or job applications while showing potential employers that students have achieved proficiency in their chosen fields.

Through the help of the Northern Brazoria County Education Alliance, PHS students recently applied their workforce skills to technical and industrial projects for local companies.

A video production class produced a new employee orientation video for Clear Lake Regional Medical Center; while welding students constructed tables and benches for Pearland Parks and Recreation.

In addition, construction trade students built a collection desk for Brazoria County Tax Assessor-Collector Ro'Vin Garrett.

From left: Pearland High School automotive technology teacher John Larson and student James Stephens III take a look under a hood in the auto tech lab.





- Construction Technology
- Arts and Audio Visual
- Business, Marketing and Finance
- Health Science Education
- Human Services and Culinary Arts
- Information Technology
- Transportation, Distribution and Logistics
- Welding

GT Academy provides more advanced learning options

Thanks to board initiative and community input, Gifted and Talented students now have more options for in-depth study through the GT Academy.

Opened in fall 2011, the academy provides more than 300 students with rigorous academic mini-courses, flexibility in course selection and opportunities to earn high school credits while in junior high.

Housed at adjoining Sablatura Middle School and Pearland Junior High West campuses, the academy serves as a school-within-a-school learning environment for identified GT students in grades 5-8.

In January, students began exploring cyber citizenship by piloting a "bring your own device" program, which will allow them to use personal technology devices like laptops, e-readers and netbooks for their studies.



For more information about the GT Academy and other advanced learning opportunities, visit the Advanced Academics page at www.pearlandisd.org.

NASA astronaut Stan Love shares his space experience with GT Academy students.

Campus jobs prepare students for workforce

Preparing students for life beyond the classroom, Dawson and Pearland high schools offer multiple vocational programs to give students with disabilities real-world career experience in a safe environment.

The creative programs allow these students. while supervised by caring teachers, to learn essential workforce skills, then transfer their success to jobs in the community.

At DHS, baristas-in-training whip up coffee and tea at the **Talon Coffee Shop**, while classmates stock and sell school supplies and campus memorabilia at the Eagles' Nest retail

PHS students make and serve sandwiches and salads at the Filling Station Café and design and deliver bouquets and gift baskets through Unique



Dawson High School student Joy Yang prepares a cup of java at the Talon Coffee Shop.

In addition, both schools' Work-Based Learning Program offers community job training by placing students in supervised part-time positions at

Teachers accompany students to their worksites, ensuring that they understand their tasks and can communicate effectively with supervisors, coworkers and customers.

Partners in Education

Women's club gives gift of words

The Pearland Area Republican Women's Club donated Webster student dictionaries to third-graders at Carleston, Challenger, Cockrell and Lawhon elementary schools this fall.

Each year the club chooses four elementary campuses to receive the dictionaries, hoping to develop future wordsmiths and promote literacy.

Students get to take the dictionaries home with them to use for personal projects and classroom assignments.



From left: Cockrell Elementary students Morelia Esparza, Mya Gomez, Brent Baker Jr., Stephan Torres and Robbie Schurtz with donated dictionaries

Dare to Excel Scholarship Program to benefit seniors

This spring, the Dare to Excel Scholarship Program will pave the road to college and trade school for Dawson and Pearland high school seniors with exceptional career and leadership potential.

The annual program -- sponsored by the Pearland and 288 Corridor Rotary clubs -- will award approximately 30 scholarships of \$500 or

Last year 38 civic-minded seniors won approximately \$30,000 in scholarships through the generosity of both Rotary clubs and other local service organizations, businesses and private individuals.

For more information about supporting students through Dare to Excel scholarships, contact Amy Matejek at amymatejek@sbcglobal.net or 281.610.1708.

Support students through corporate grants, volunteer programs

If you think supporting Pearland ISD students simply means voting "Yes" on bond elections, think again.

Many companies and stores offer ways to give

Corporate Donations

Have you considered applying for a corporate grant or volunteer program that will benefit Pearland ISD?

Many companies offer employees an opportunity to give back to schools through education grants and mentoring programs that introduce students to different career paths.

Check your company's website for more information.

Store Contributions

Many nationwide stores offer special credit/debit cards that help raise money for schools.

Target's Take Charge of Education program is one option. By using a Target REDcard, shoppers can donate up to 1 percent of their purchases to the school of their choice.

Community generosity shines during holidays

Approximately 47 Pearland ISD families forgot the teeth-chattering temperatures as they felt the warmth of community generosity this Christmas.

Local businesses, private individuals and district employees pulled from personal resources to make the holidays merrier for students whose families needed

assistance.

Wal-Mart - Dixie Farm Road employees donated \$4,000 for holiday meal supplies and gift cards, with Wal-Mart Foundation providing a \$6,000 grant to combine with employees' donation.

> Employees from Wal-Mart - Main Street donated 42 blankets for students without heated homes or shelter, and Macy's employees donated approximately 75 toys, blankets, clothes and gifts.

In addition, Favors for Friends ands for for ards for for denerous donors Charity Thrift Store donated \$2,400 in toys and gift cards for four families.



Employees from Wal-Mart -Dixie Farm Road



- Central Church of Christ
- Gulf Coast Educators Federal Credit Union employees
- Pearland ISD employees
- Pet Hub Animal Rescue
- Tammy Dexter and Nancy Kozanecki

Left: Favors for Friends Charity Thrift Store

Community leaders give back

Despite busy schedules, community leaders gave the gift of time this fall to serve young citizens.

U.S. Rep. Pete Olson presented Rogers Middle School students with a civics lesson on the Constitution and branches of government.

Another elected official, **Mayor Tom Reid**, participated in a "Flat Stanley" project with Magnolia Elementary students, taking a paper cutout of Stanley along with him during his official responsibilities. Afterward, Reid shared with students what Stanley experienced during his time at City Hall.

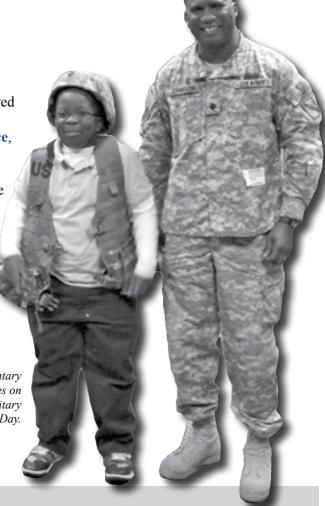
During International Walk to School Day, volunteers from the **Brazoria County Precinct 3 Constable's Office**, **Safe Kids Greater Houston**, **Texas Children's Hospital** and **FedEx** encouraged pedestrian safety by helping Silverlake and Shadycrest elementary students walk to and from school safely.

Throughout Fire Prevention Month in October, **Pearland firefighters** visited elementary campuses to reinforce fire safety and educate students on firefighters' role.

Mayor Tom Reid shares his "Flat Stanley" adventures with Magnolia Elementary students.



Massey Ranch Elementary student David Antwi tries on visitor Hurel Johnson's military gear during Career Day.



Community Partners



From left: John Gates from Horace Mann Insurance and Parent-Teacher Association volunteers Carrie Dillie and Tonya Green help package school supplies for students.

Pearland ISD thanks the following **Community Partners** for their generous support. These partners help create the best learning environment possible for students through in-kind donations, financial support and student/staff incentives.

ABC 13 KTRK

Ace Hardware

ACU Credit Union

BP's Fabric of America Fund

Brazoria County Fair Association

Casa Ole'

Central Church of Christ

Chocolate Bayou Community Federal Credit Union

City of Pearland

Cox Media Group

Favors for Friends Charity Thrift Store

GDF SUEZ Energy

Gulf Coast Educators Federal Credit Union

H-E-B Plus!

HOPE Church

Houston Astros

Kroger

KSBJ - 89.3 FM

Luna's Mexican Restaurant

M.D. Anderson Cancer Center Children's Art Project

Macy's Pearland employees

Method Evolution

Nancy Kozanecki New Hope Church

Northern Brazoria County Education Alliance

Pearland Area Republican Women

Pet Hub Animal Rescue

Red Robin Restaurant

Rice University

Shoe Carnival

South Park Funeral Home

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

Tammy Dexter

Target

Terrie Morgan

Vic Coppinger Family YMCA

Vineyard Church

Wal-Mart - Dixie Farm Road

Wal-Mart - Main Street

Wal-Mart - Silverlake

Wells Fargo

http://www.pearlandisd.org/departments.cfm **KEYWORD:** Community Partners

Communication Corner



P.O. Box 7 | Pearland, Texas 77588 | 281.485.3203 | http://www.pearlandisd.org

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"The Progress" is published biannually by Pearland Independent School District to inform the community about district news, events and accomplishments. "The Progress" is a Texas School Public Relations Association Best of Category and Gold Star winner. To make suggestions or comments, contact Renea Ivy-Sims, director of communications, at 281.485.3203.







Got a positive story to share about a student, campus or district employee? We want to hear your story.

Share the success story online via our "Share Your Story" webpage.

Although we will not use every submission in Pearland ISD publications, we will consider all submissions fairly and may share some with local media partners.

Thank you for taking time to tell your story!



http://www.pearlandisd.org/departments.cfm **KEYWORD:** Share Your Story







- "Like" Pearland ... http://www.facebook.com/PearlandISD.
- Follow Pearland ISD on Twitter: http://www.twitter.com/PearlandISD.
- Subscribe to "Pearland ISD e-News," the district's electronic newsletter. Visit http://www.pearlandisd.org and click on the e-news logo on the left-hand side of the

Online Community Offers

Adult Reading Center
Camp Invention
Vic Coppinger Family YMCA
HLSR Half-Price Carnival Tickets
Sea Camp
Daddy/Daughter Date Night

MindWorks Testing Texas Storm Track Club Space Center Houston



http://www.pearlandisd.org/departments.cfr **KEYWORD:** Community Offers

dates to remember

-	
Feb. 20	. Staff Development (No School for Students)
Feb. 23	. Report Cards
Feb. 29	. Early Release
March 12 -16	.Spring Break
March 22	. Progress Reports
April 2-5	. Kindergarten Enrollment
April 6	. Good Friday (No School)
April 19	Report Cards
April 30 - May 8	. Early Voting (Board of Trustees Election)
May 10	. Progress Reports
May 12	. Board of Trustees Election
May 28	. Memorial Day (No School)
May 31	Last Day of School/Early Release
May 31	. Report Cards (Grades PK-4)
June 2	Dawson High School Graduation, 5 p.m.
June 1	. Pearland High School Graduation, 8 p.m.
June 7	. Report Cards Mailed (Grades 5-12)