



April, 2009

THE STALLION

Texas State Senator Florence Shapiro spoke to constituents on February 28 at a Town Hall meeting at Frisco City Hall about this term's legislative issues. She covered a broad range of topics including education.

Senator Shapiro chairs the Senate Education Committee. She and her committee are working on a range of bills to improve the state's education system for our children.

Here's an overview of what she said on a range of educational topics, with updates and additional information from her website, newsletter and press releases through March 6.

For the latest information, visit:
<http://www.senate.state.tx.us/75r/Senate/members/dist8/dist8.htm>.

Uniform GPA

"Uniform GPA is dead," she said. She did not elaborate.

TAKS, Public School Accountability and Broadening 4X4

"TAKS has outworn its welcome," she said.

Senator Shapiro co-chaired the Select

Committee on Public School Accountability with Representative Rob Eissler, R-The Woodlands. The committee met with teachers, parents and administrators across the state. SB 3 and HB 3 are the culmination's work.

Update On

4x4

By Debbie Press
Legislative Rep., Shepton PTSA

The respective bills define new goals and objectives to revamp the current public school accountability system. They aim to shift the focus from the single subject TAKS tests to overall post-secondary readiness, meaning students are either ready to enter the workforce or college.

In a March 5 press release, Senator Shapiro says the current system looks at one-time performance on a minimum skills test, ignoring growth in student achievement, resulting in a narrow curriculum and causing school to devalue enrichment subjects. She says the current system created an "illusion of progress."

The respective new bills would give schools credit for helping students demonstrate growth in achievement, utilizing a three-year rolling average. It involves a two-tiered accreditation system and a distinction tier.

Cont'd on Page 11

Road Rules What Every Parent Should Know!

Karen Slay
Texas PTA State Treasurer

Wednesday, April 1, 7 pm, Shepton Library

Do you have a teen planning to drive on prom night? Is your son or daughter driving to school or a job? Are you, or someone you know, about to embark on that journey? Attend this Parent program for more details before your student begins driver's training?

This is a good program for both parents and teens. Karen Slay will give you valuable information about driver's education and making students better, safer drivers. She will share details about student programs, graduated drivers licensing and the point system. Learn what you can do to help new drivers be more aware of the risks of the road.

Karen Slay has served on local, council, district, and State *PTA* boards in various chairmanships and elected offices in both Odessa and Lubbock since 1991. She is the Treasurer for Texas *PTA* and sits on many community-based boards. She is the founder of the U.S. Department of Transportation's "Kids Aren't Cargo" campaign, and the driving force behind legislation in Texas that passed keep kids out of the back of pickup trucks. She has appeared in many magazines including *Woman's Day* and *Texas Monthly* and the *Oprah Show*.

The Stallion is a publication of the Shepton High School *PTSA*
5505 W. Plano Parkway, Plano, TX 75093
Principal: Burton Smith
PTSA President: Jamie Hanna
Newsletter Editor: Becky Byrley
Correspondence should be directed to the editor at: newsletter@sheptonpta.org

Mark Your Calendars

for the following events. More information to come from Shepton Mane newsletter.

- May 1, 10 am** — 9th Grade Awards Assembly, Shepton High School gym.
- May 14, 7 pm** — Choir Spring Show
- May 18, 7 pm** — 10th Grade Awards Ceremony, Shepton High School cafeteria.
- May 19, 7 pm** — Band Spring Concert
- May 20, 7 pm** — NHS Induction
- May 21, 7 pm** — Orchestra Pops Concert

FREE Money for Shepton!

Shepton *PTSA* (Parent-Teacher-Student Association) finances all of its programs and support of the school through membership dues, school supply sales, snack sales and grocery store partnership programs. If you shop at Tom Thumb, Albertsons or Central Market, please be sure to register and use your cards to support the Shepton *PTSA*.

Here's How It's Done...

Tom Thumb Reward Card

Present your Tom Thumb Reward Card to the service desk at any local Tom Thumb and ask them to link it to Shepton's number: 6657. Shepton receives a check quarterly for 1% of all purchases.

Albertson's Community Partners

The preferred Savings Card is now the ONLY card needed for easy, year-round fundraising! Register your card now to start earning money for Shepton! REGISTER ONLINE: Go to www.albertsons.com. Click on "In the Community" then click on the Community Partners logo link. Once you log in, click on "Sign me up." Shepton's ID Number is 49000105382.

Central Market "Fundraising Foodies" Card

Central Market has begun a new card program to benefit schools—you simply show your "Fundraising Foodies" card to the cashier before they ring the total of your sale and Shepton earns five percent of your purchase! Pick up your "Foodies" card in the school's front office and use it each time you shop at Central Market!

Thank you for supporting the Shepton *PTSA* by helping us provide the funds to support Shepton High School through programs, volunteers and educational enhancements!



Principal Burt Smith

I hope each
of you have a
wonderful and
successful spring!

Please feel free
to contact me
anytime I can be
of assistance with
your student's
education.

Important School Phone Numbers:

Attendance Office:
469-752-7604
Cafeteria:
469-752-7608
Counselor's Office:
469-752-7615
Main Office:
469-752-7602
Nurse's Office:
469-752-7609
Registrar's Office:
469-752-7623

It is hard to believe that this year is quickly coming to an end. And what a year it has been! Last year Shepton was one of only 64 high schools in the state of Texas to be named to the Texas Business and Educator Coalition Honor Roll. This year we are one of only 139 high schools in the state to be named a Just for the Kids Higher Performing School. To see the entire list of all Just for the Kids Schools go to the following web address: http://just4kids.org/en/texas/higher_performing/high_schools.cfm. We are so proud of both of these honors and we know that it could only be accomplished through a strong partnership between our staff, parents, *PTSA* and community as we all strive to provide the very best education possible for our students.

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to each of our amazing volunteers who have served so selflessly all year long to make Shepton a wonderful school for our staff and students. Without their help we would not be able to provide many of the services that make Shepton such a special place for our students and their hard work and dedication is greatly appreciated.

With TAKS coming up soon and semester exams on the horizon we are looking forward to a very busy last couple of months of school. During April and May we will have our annual multi-cultural assembly, spring bus evacuation drill, spring pictures, math, science and social studies TAKS, Stallion Stampede, 9th and 10th grade awards ceremonies, AP national exams, and multiple groups of students attending state and national level competitions. Of course, semester exams are scheduled for June 2-5 and then summer break!

I would like to remind everyone of a wonderful communication tool that we have available. Shepton eNews is a free service in which you can receive e-mails from the school several times each week with the school announcements and other very helpful information. You can sign up at the following website: <http://elist.pisd.edu> or you can access the website from the main PISD webpage, <http://www.pisd.edu>.

I would also like to encourage all parents to sign up for Parent Portal. Parent Portal provides parents access to real-time student attendance records and grades (grades are updated every Monday). You can register for this free service at the following website: <http://parent.mypisd.net/CookieAuth?domain=www.parent.mypisd.net> or you can access the website from the main PISD webpage, <http://www.pisd.edu>.

Families who do not have a computer to use can receive a used one free of charge from the school district through a program called Computers@Home. You are welcome to call our campus technology assistant, Daniel Ramirez, at (469) 752-7606 regarding this program.



PTSA President Jamie Hanna

A discovery is
said to be an
accident meeting
a prepared mind.

—Albert

Szent-Gyorgyi

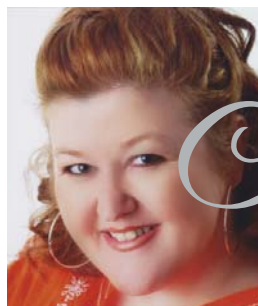
This past spring has been an eventful one. My trip to Austin with other *PTA* Parents to advocate for Texas Students was an experience of a life time with memories that will last into the next decade. We all need to find a calling, a passion to give our lives meaning. Our Students are forging ahead in their high school careers trying to figure out what they want to do after school, where they want to go to college and what careers they might like to go into. After recent events in the economy we should realize that money isn't the answer to happiness. We need to follow our dreams, do what inspires us, and live a happy life everyday. Not plan to one day be happy. Not everything should revolve around money. It pays the bills and keeps our stomachs full, but it as they say, it cannot buy us happiness.

Congratulations to all the students at Shepton. They continue to excel on the field, on the stage, and in academic competitions. They do so with all our love and guidance. They also continue to give of their time. In February a group of students along with Principal Burt Smith, Coach Strong, and Counselor Jane Clanahan, gave up an evening to field questions from Frankford and Renner students and their parents at the 2nd Annual Shepton Round Table which was hosted by the Renner Middle School *PTA*. More students will give time to give tours in the upcoming months, as these same students visit Shepton.

Our students mirror our parents. They see all that we do and that we care. Keep up the great job and we will continue sending the Best on to West! Thank you to all our volunteers – your deeds do not go unnoticed.



Shepton Round Table
Principal Burt Smith,
Coach Strong, Counselor
Jane Clanahan and a
number of 9th and 10th
grade students from
Shepton High School
fielded questions from
incoming 9th Grade
Parents.



2nd VP, Volunteers Lynda Gates

The goals of the Shepton *PTSA* are to promote better communication between the school and the parents, provide learning opportunities to the students and the parents, promote the Reflections Program throughout the school, and to support the Shepton High School staff with volunteers.

Not JUST A Volunteer!

Have you ever responded with "I'm just a volunteer" when asked a question you weren't sure about? At Shepton you ARE the difference in making someone's experience not just good — but wonderful. Begin the change by creating a stressfree, successful summer registration on Thursday and Friday, August 13 and 14. Positions available are greeters, cashiers, *PTSA* membership, handing out schedules, taking and checking forms, working with photographer, school supplies, reviewing order forms, alphabetizing forms, and more. For students: if you need service hours, this is great way to get yours, have fun and visit with friends.

Sign up now. Tell us know where you wish to work by sending an email to volunteers@sheptonptsa.org.

The following is the slate of officers for the 2009-2010 school year elected at the February 23, 2009 General *PTSA* meeting.

President	Jamie Hanna
1st V-P Programs	Lynn Hornsby-Lewis
2nd V-P Volunteers	Erin Bramblett
3rd V-P Membership	Nancy Graham
4th V-P Ways & Means	Lori Baum
Treasurer	Janet Fabian
Secretary	Lisa Kerr

Attendance Office Volunteers for 2009-2010 School Year

Interested in assisting in the Attendance Office next year? If you have limited time to volunteer but want to be active at Shepton, helping in the Attendance Office may be for you. The commitment is 11:30 am – 1 pm once or twice a month (your choice) and it's a great opportunity to stay connected to our school. Email attendance@sheptonptsa.org and let us know which day and time you prefer.

Multicultural Assembly — April 2

We are eagerly looking forward to our fabulous Multicultural Assembly which will take place on April 2 this year. We have many talented students who will represent their heritage culture both in a fashion show and acts from playing instruments to demonstrating Chinese yo yo skills.

There is still time for students to sign up to participate in the fashion show. They need to see Mrs. Canby at once in order to participate. We will also have on display during the month of March artifacts that represent the cultural heritage of our Shepton faculty and students.



3rd VP, Membership Cyndi Scroggins

Be a part

of 2009-2010

Membership

Directory.

Texas Life Member Awards Banquet

The Shepton *PTSA* awarded four staff and two parent members with the Texas Life Member Awards at the Life Member Banquet, February 17.

Carol Landt; Hospitality Chairperson

Joni Strobel-McLean Newsletter Distribution Chairperson
Head Custodian, David Mejares!

Eileen Zack, head of the Foreign Language Department

Creed Hansen, English Teacher

Coach Bruce Strong, Athletic Director



Joni Strobel-McLean,
Coach Bruce Strong



Jamie Hanna, Eileen Zack,
Burton Smith

Incoming Shepton Students

Design YOUR 2009-2010 Shepton Directory Cover.

A contest will be held at the beginning of the school year so look for details. We will be selecting art for the cover as well as the back page. Other entries will also be chosen to be included as part of the directory.

Incoming Shepton Parents

If you have a business you wish to advertise, ads will be sold in the directory. All ads will be printed in black and white. Sizes will be from full page (8"Hx5"W), half page (4"Hx2.5"W), and quarter page (2"Hx1.25"W).

SHEPTON PTSA SCHOOL STORE

Don't forget that your student can purchase supplies at the *PTSA* School Store. We have mechanical pencils, posterboard, yellow #2 pencils to required reading books for English classes. All prices are very economical and include sales tax. Students can purchase items during their lunch periods.

In the event your child plans to participate in the **Take Our Daughters and Sons To Work Day** program on April 23, 2009, please be aware of the position of the Plano Independent School District. The Plano School Board has reaffirmed its commitment to classroom attendance and has declined to participate. Letters will be sent home with your student.

The Plano ISD Council of PTAs presents

Plano ISD Family Day with the RoughRiders



Tickets are limited! Order today!

Frisco RoughRiders vs. Corpus Christi Hooks
Sunday May 3, 2009, 2 pm, \$12.50

All orders must be postmarked by April 10. You may pick up tickets at the RoughRiders Ticket Office after April 22 or will call on the day of the game.

For more information or to get a ticket order form, please email Jamie Hanna at president@sheptonPTSA.org or roughriders@planopta.org.

Spring Semester Exams

Please note the changes to the exam schedule and last day of school due to snow day!

Spring Semester Exams Schedule 2008-2009

Tuesday, June 2	Wed., June 3	Thurs., June 4	Friday, June 5
Study Hall	Period 2	Period 4	Period 6
9-10:55 am	9-10:55 am	9-10:55 am	9-10:55am
Break	Break	Break	Break
10:55-11:05 am	10:55-11:05 am	10:55-11:05 am	10:55-11:05 am
Period 1	Period 3	Period 5	Period 7
11:05 am-1 pm	11:05am-1 pm	11:05 am-1 pm	11:05 am-1 pm

2:15-4:15 pm Test and attendance makeups are scheduled by appointment.

Tutorials as scheduled by appointment.

Buses will run at 1 pm on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

On Friday, buses will run at approximately 1:20 pm.

If you know that your son/daughter will be missing any of those exams, please contact our attendance office immediately so that we can begin to arrange makeups for those exams.

Absences on Exam Days?

Many times there are unforeseen situations that require a student to miss one or more final exams. Please be aware of the following suggestions regarding the makeup of those exams. First, most courses give a District Exam, meaning that all students throughout the district take the same exam in that course on the same day. Therefore, NO District Exam can be given before Tuesday, June 2. Second, the last work day for teachers is Friday, June 5, just as it is for students. Consequently, every effort should be made to take all exams during the exams

dates of June 2-5. If for some reason your student misses an exam and cannot make it up during that time, you will need to schedule an appointment for the student to take the makeup exam. Those exams will be given by appointment with the Curriculum Director, Deena Herron, during the week of June 8-11.

Any exam not taken by June 11 will be considered a zero unless prior permission is gained before the last day of school, Friday, June 5.

Plano PTAs Head to Austin

PTA/PTSA Presidents, Board Members, Plano PTA Council members and regular PTA Members joined together to travel to Austin yesterday to advocate for the children of Texas. While taking a break to celebrate 100 years of Texas PTA, the group spent most of the day visiting with local senators, representatives and staff members to express their concerns with the education items up for consideration during this legislative session.

High on the list of issues is the recently enacted 4X4 law requiring four years of English, History, Math, & Science. They made a case for adding two additional degree paths for Fine Arts and Humanities students who would only need three years of the math and science.



Consequences for not changing the plan may produce increased dropout rates, loss of fine arts and humanities programs, and a loss of technology classes, not to mention that there is a severe shortage of qualified teachers in the areas of math and science.

Next they expressed concerns with the TAKS testing and teaching to the test. They said that it was not an accurate measurement of Texas students or their schools. There are other methods of testing that more accurately measure a student's

progress and provide the teachers with information regarding the areas a student still needs to master, such as MAP testing. Changes are also needed to the School Accountability Rating System that unfairly grades Texas schools. Would a student who gets 2 A's one B and one C be happy about having a GPA of a C? Why should schools be happy with a grading system that does exactly that? Simple changes that add a point scale and averaging, like a gpa calculation, would be a simple way to more accurately report the grade of a school or school district.

Should the categories be expanded to include amount of parent involvement or the inclusion of fine arts

programs? Funding was also a major point during the visits with law makers. Recapture isn't working and neither is the funding cap. The school districts are facing budget cuts because the current law doesn't allow for any increases in spending per student. A new formula with a 3% annual increase in student spending has been submitted in two companion bills in both the House and Senate in this legislative session.

All in all they hope that the trip to Austin will be a success for the students of Texas.

The Power of Parents

Murphy MS welcomes all PISD parents to hear and speak with Dr. Otto and PISD school board president Lloyd Jenkins on **Wednesday, April 15, 7 pm** about how parents can influence the state legislature right now! Find out PISD's stand on issues such as TAKS, accountability measures, Robin Hood, 4x4, the drop-out rate, and the future of online and plugged-in education options. Learn who makes decisions regarding your school and how you can voice your opinion to legislators on these and other issues. A Q&A session will follow the presentation, so come prepared with questions. Now's your chance!!

Students Visit Watters Creek

Mrs. Ross' AP Human Geography class took a field trip to the newly opened Watters Creek. This unique area is different than any other shopping area, resembling the small towns of Europe versus the cold and impersonal mega-malls of today. Watters Creek combines residential, business and retail in a wonderful peaceful setting in Allen.

Mr. Dull, General Manager, described it as a flashback to "small town America before World War II." Watters Creek include several art pieces, a fabulous village green and an historic mantel on a huge outdoor fireplace. With its walking paths and calm environment, it is the perfect place to spend a Saturday afternoon with family and friends. Overall, the expedition was an educational experience into the next big adventure into urban planning and geography.



To see what the class experienced, check out <http://www.watters-creek.com>.

Cell Phone Policy

The District prohibits the use of all telecommunication devices, including cellular phones and pagers/beepers, while on school property during academic hours. Students shall be allowed to possess such devices; however, such devices must not be visible and must remain turned off before entering the building and during the instructional school day until 4:15 pm. Students who violate this policy shall be subject to disciplinary measures as outlined below.

- 1st offense – Parent and student must pick up phone after school. Parent and student signature required.
- 2nd offense – Parent and student must pick up phone after school. Parent and student signature required. Saturday School assigned.

- 3rd offense - Parent and student must pick up phone after school. Parent and student signature required. Saturday School assigned. Parent conference required on next offense.
- 4th offense and higher - Saturday School assigned. Cell phone will be returned after five school days (FNCE Legal). Parent conference to resolve the issue of concern. Parent and student signature required.

In the event that another student owns the cell phone in question, both students may be liable. Cell phone violations are cumulative for the school year.



Congratulations for Winning. . .

at the Dallas Regional Science & Engineering Fair February 28 at Centennial Hall at Fair Park.



Shepton Students set up at the Regional Science Fair

Cellular and Molecular Biology
 Environmental Science
 Medicine & Health Sciences
 TEAM – Life Sciences
 TEAM – Life Sciences
 TEAM – Life Sciences
 TEAM – Life Sciences
 Earth & Planetary Science
 Engineering: Electrical and Mechanical
 Engineering: Electrical and Mechanical
 Energy & Transportation
 Energy & Transportation
 Energy & Transportation
 TEAM – Physical Sciences
 TEAM – Physical Sciences

Honorable Mention
 Honorable Mention
 Honorable Mention
 Third Place
 Third Place
 Honorable Mention
 Honorable Mention
 Third Place
 First Place
 Honorable Mention
 Honorable Mention
 Honorable Mention
 Honorable Mention
 Honorable Mention

Austin Simon
 Christopher Murzyn
 Piper Hayden
 Edward Strecker
 Justin Kalisher
 David Sanborn
 Arman Baratifar
 Kaline Gabriel
 Rounok Joardar
 Jack Ballent
 Vipul Kohli
 Kristin McDermott
 Michael Bartling
 Christopher Hanna
 Niko Satari

Special Awards:

Baylor Research Institute
 Cisco Systems:
 Dallas County Medical Society
 Dallas County Medical Society
 Dallas-Fort Worth Chapter of ACHMM
 I-SWEEEP Sustainability Award
 Longhorn Institute of Food Technologies
 Office of Naval Research
 Society of American Military Engineers
 U.S. Army

Second Place
 Cisco Special Award
 First Place
 Honorable Mention
 Honorable Mention
 Senior Division First Place
 Naval Science Award, Senior Div.
 Honorable Mention
 Outstanding Project in Engineering
 Senior Division
 Best Use of SI Units in a Project
 Senior Division

Piper Hayden
 Rounok Joardar
 Tess Michaels
 Piper Hayden
 Piper Hayden
 Rounok Joardar
 Tess Michaels
 Vipul Kohli
 Rounok Joardar
 Rounok Joardar

U.S. Metric Association

Mariam Mansour

Congratulations to Ed Strecker for his 2nd place finish in the Texas Junior Science and Humanities Symposium paper presentation. Ed received a scholarship. Kajari Bhattacharya placed 2nd in the poster presentation at the competition.

Cont'd from Page 1

Update on 4x4

"While we believe the strong academic core of the 4X4 we passed in the last legislative session is critical for all Texas students, we recognize the need for flexibility for students to pursue an academic path that allows them to nurture their individual interests and talents," Eissler said.

The bills would create the Texas Diploma Plan, which, in effect, is the 4X4, requiring four years each of English, math, science and social studies plus two years of foreign language credits and eight elective credits.

The Standard Diploma Plano would replace the minimum plan. It would require four years of English, three years each of social studies, math and science. They would have additional electives. Expanded Career and Technical Education Courses would be permitted for some math and science credits.

Top 10 percent College Admissions Rule

In early March, the Senate Higher Education Committee approved Senator Shapiro plan, 4-1, to reform the state's policy of granting automatic admission for students that graduate in the top 10 percent of their high school class to a state school of their choice.

Senator Shapiro's SB 175 would cap the Top 10 percent rule admissions at any state school to half the incoming freshman class. Admissions would start at the top, meaning first the top percent of graduates would be admitted. Then, the top 2 percent would be admitted until the cap is reached.

The remainder of applicants would be placed in the general pool.

SB 175 will head to the full Senate for further consideration.

According to Senator Shapiro's newsletter, University of Texas officials have concerns with the current system because demand for

admission is so high they will soon only admit freshmen under the Top 10 percent rule.

"We simply don't have room to take all the top 10 percent students," UT President Bill Powers is quoted as saying in Shapiro's February newsletter. "It has become a crisis for us, not just in the future, but right now."

State funding

The Senate Finance Committee is considering how to pay for state services as a result of the national economic downturn. State leaders have suggested a 2.5 percent reduction in budgets from all state agencies.

In the committee's hearing of Article III of the state budget, which funds public education, the findings as of March 7 suggest that the cost to the state for the 2010-2011 biennium will be less because of higher than expected property value grown, combined with student growth under projected levels.

Math & Science Teacher Shortages

Senator Shapiro and Senator Dan Patrick, R-Houston, have filed legislation to reverse the growing shortage of math and science teachers around the state. Senate Bill 816 creates a scholarship program for college students pursuing degrees in math and science.

The program would provide recipients with up to \$5,000 in annual scholarships for four years. Upon graduation, recipients would be required to teach math or science for four years in an underserved area of the state.

Recent studies reveal major shortages of math and science teachers. For example, the lack of high school science teachers has increased 80 percent since 2004. More than one-third of high school science teachers are not certified to teach the subject.

"For Texas to remain competitive in a global economy, we must provide our

Plano Youth Leadership

Plano Youth Leadership (PYL) is now accepting applications for its 2009-2010 leadership program. Students who are currently enrolled in the 9th grade and are planning to enter the 10th grade during the 2009-2010 school year are eligible to apply if they reside in the area serviced by the Plano Independent School District (PISD), whether attending public school (PISD or non-PISD), private school or home school.

The purpose of PYL is to train students in leadership techniques and community awareness to prepare them to make a positive impact on the quality of life in the Plano community. Through a series of monthly class sessions, which run concurrently with the school year, students develop the confidence and knowledge they need to succeed in leadership positions while learning about service opportunities around the community. According to PYL Board president, Joan Smith, "This unique program, designed for 10th grade students, provides the participants the opportunity to meet with city officials and work with local education and business leaders in an effort build their individual leadership skills."

The PYL Selection Committee chooses participants who represent a cross section of the community, based on information provided in the written application.

Completed applications and reference forms must be postmarked no later than April 10, 2009.

Applications are available at area Plano High Schools and are also downloadable from the Plano Youth Leadership website: http://www.planoyouthleadership.org/pages/Application_Form.

Tuition for the program is \$125 per participant, and need-based scholarships are available for qualified students. For additional information, contact Harry Polly at harry.polly@verizon.net or Joan C Smith at joancsmith1@verizon.net.

Extracurricular Absences

If your student will be absent from any class due to extracurricular activities (field trips, competitions, etc.), please be reminded of the following important information:

1. Ultimately, it is the student's responsibility to contact the teacher prior to the scheduled absence in order to get assignments. Every student knows that he/she will be missing in advance, so should plan ahead.
2. If the student waits until after the absence to obtain assignments, the student:
 - a. Runs the risk of falling behind, possibly becoming ineligible in the future
 - b. Could cause the entire class to fall behind during a time of preparation for district exams, TAKS testing, or scheduled district curriculum.
3. Failure to plan ahead or promptly make up labs causes serious curricular issues for the lab classes.
4. If the absence is for an event that could be cancelled at the last minute (ie. outdoor athletic events), the student should come to school prepared to attend all classes that day with regard to class supplies, homework assignments, and/or test preparation.

Let's all work together to help our students be successful in all areas of their Shepton experience.

2009 Summer School Applications

The purpose of the extended summer program for grades 9-12 is to provide high school students with the opportunity to master the essential elements of incomplete/failed courses, to accelerate their high school programs and to enrich their experiences with non-credit courses.

You may pick up your applications at the counseling office. Students may enroll now through May 22. After May 22 students must register June 11 at Plano West Senior High School. No registration form will be accepted without a counselor's signature.

Remaining 2009 Shepton Baseball Schedule

Date	Day	Opponent	Time	Site
3/27/09	Friday	Jesuit*	5 pm	Plano West
3/28/09	Saturday	Naaman Forest JV	10 am	Plano West
3/28/09	Saturday	Naaman Forest JV	12 pm	Plano West
3/31/09	Tuesday	Williams*	5 pm	Plano East
4/3/09	Friday	Wylie*	5 pm	Plano West
4/9/09	Thursday	Allen*	5 pm	Plano West
4/11/09	Saturday	Rockwall Heath	10 am	Rockwall Heath
4/11/09	Saturday	Rockwall Heath	12 pm	Rockwall Heath
4/11/09	Saturday	McKinney Boyd*	5 pm	McKinney Boyd
4/14/09	Tuesday	Jasper*	5 pm	Plano West
4/17/09	Friday	Jesuit*	5 pm	Jesuit
4/21/09	Tuesday	Williams*	5 pm	Plano West
4/24/09	Friday	Wylie*	5 pm	Wylie

*District Game

Head Coach – Greg Pierce
(469) 752-7747, gregory.pierce@pisd.edu

Assistant Coach – Martin Melson
Athletic Director – Bruce Strong

CONGRATULATIONS to the SHEPTON ORCHESTRA for fine performances at the March UIL Concert and Sight-reading Festival at Plano West Senior High School. All three orchestras gave great performances. The Shepton Sinfonia was one of only six orchestras to receive a Sweepstakes trophy and the Symphony Orchestra received First Division ratings from all six judges. Congratulations to these students for their hard work!

Cont'd from Page 11
Update on 4x4

students with math and science teachers of the highest quality and strongest content knowledge," Senator Shapiro said in her February newsletter. "This bill will greatly help us reach this goal by encouraging individuals to enter the teaching field and to remain in the classroom."

Correspondence for Senator Florence Shapiro should be sent to:

The Honorable Florence Shapiro
5000 Legacy Dr., Ste. 494
Plano, Texas 75024
Phone (972) 403-3404
Fax (972) 403-3405

E-Mails can be sent through her website at www.shapiro.senate.state.tx.us (click link to access, then select "E-Mail" in the menu at the top of the home page).

Spanish Contest Winners

Nine Shepton High School students participated in the state Spanish contest in San Antonio, March 13-15. These nine students brought home 19 awards! The following are the award winners:
Kelsey Ball: 1st place, grammar; 3rd place reading, 3rd place, vocabulary
Connie Chen: first place, grammar; 2nd place, reading, 3rd place, vocabulary
Colin Edgar: 1st place, reading; 1st place, grammar; honorable mention, vocabulary
Stephanie Gullo: 1st place, grammar; 2nd place, vocabulary; honorable mention, reading
Emily Niewiarowski: 1st place, grammar
Derek Ou: 1st place, reading; 1st place, grammar; honorable mention, vocabulary
Laura Stoughton: 2nd place, vocabulary; 3rd place, reading
David King: honorable mention, reading

Student Drivers Permit/License/Renewal?

If a student plans to get a driving permit, a driver's license, or renew a license, a TEA form is required. This form, which verifies enrollment and attendance, is available through the Attendance office. If you will need a TEA form over summer break, you must sign up at the Attendance. Don't forget to come back and pick up your form.

Once school is dismissed for summer vacation, forms will no longer be available at Shepton, so please plan ahead! (The TEA forms issued in May are valid for 90 days, whereas normally they are valid for only 30 days.)

Parking Lot Reminders

It is spring and we have more drivers on our campus. Please take a few moments to review the guidelines for driving and parking at Shepton High School.

1. Every car in the parking lot is required to display a 2008-2009 Shepton parking tag. These may be obtained at the receptionist's desk.
2. Student parking is allowed in the front southeast lot only. In the fall semester, portion of that lot are blocked for marching band practice. All students are expected to park outside of the orange parking cones. Students parked in teacher/visitor parking will be asked to move their vehicle.
3. Parking on the Shepton campus is a privilege, not a right. Parking privileges may be denied to any student if:
 - The student drives in an unsafe manner.
 - The student speeds in the Shepton parking lot – the speed limit is 10 MPH.
 - The student parks improperly.
4. Once a car is parked on the Shepton campus, that student driver and all passengers must enter the building. None of the students, including the driver, may return to the vehicle without permission from a campus administrator.
5. Once a car is parked on the Shepton campus, that vehicle must remain on the campus until 4:15 pm unless the student driver has officially checked out, in writing, with the attendance office or the coach.
6. Suspension from school may result in a suspension of parking privileges.
7. Parking spaces are taken on a first-come, first-served basis. Failure to find a parking space is not an excuse for missing class or being tardy to class.
8. Students improperly parked will be removed from class to solve the problem, even if it means driving the car home. The time out of class to solve the problem will be an unexcused absence, and the time will be made up in Saturday school.
9. Student drivers are not allowed to pick up any passengers at any location except their parking space. Any student wishing to ride with a Shepton student must meet the student at his/her vehicle.
10. Because of safety hazards, students will not be allowed to gather in the parking lot. After school, students in the parking lot are expected to get into vehicles and leave the campus. Before school, students are expected to leave the vehicles and immediately enter the building.
11. Driving or parking in pedestrian areas such as sidewalks may result in an immediate suspension of parking lot privileges.

Curriculum Office News...

UIL Eligibility

All students in an extracurricular program are subject to the UIL No Pass-No Play Policy when his/her extracurricular program is in season. Eligibility for the 5th six weeks will be assessed based upon the grades posted at 4:30, Thursday, April 9. The student will then regain or lose eligibility at 4:30, Thursday, April 26. Those students deemed ineligible on April 9 will be reassessed based upon the grades as of 4:30, Thursday, April 30. If a student is deemed to have regained eligibility, the student will be eligible as of 4:30, Thursday, May 7.

Report Cards and Progress Reports

Report cards for the 5th six weeks will be issued from 4th period teachers on Friday, April 17. If you do not receive a copy of your student's report card, please contact our registrar, Fran Weidemier, to receive a copy. Progress reports for the 6th six weeks will be issued from 4th period teachers on Monday, May 4. If you do not receive your student's progress reports, please contact the 4th period teacher by calling our front desk at 469-752-7600.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

As the school year progresses, you may find it necessary to contact one of your student's teachers regarding concerns that you are having about your student's progress. Sometimes, parents contact our front office and indicate that they feel reluctant to contact the teacher. Occasionally, the parent feels

that the teacher might not appreciate a call from the parent with concerns. Please be aware that Shepton believes very strongly in the teamwork between the school and the home. Our staff welcomes calls of concern where your students are involved. In fact, our principals will ask that you speak with the teacher before you speak to us regarding the problem. Just as we feel parents should have a chance to solve a student problem before it is referred to the office, we feel that the staff should have a chance to solve a classroom problem before it is referred to the office. Some parents and staff have asked that we include a sample conversation in order to give some tips for initiating that contact with the teacher. We hope that you will find this information helpful should you need to contact a staff member.

"Hello, Mr(s). _____. This is _____, and I am _____'s parent. I was wondering if you would have a moment to speak with me about my son's/daughter's progress in your class. I know that all students have different learning styles, and all teachers have different teaching styles. I would like an opportunity to discuss my son's/daughter's learning styles to see what we can do to help him/her adjust to the teaching style within your classroom. Would you have a moment to share some thoughts with me regarding that process?"

Shepton Fashion Tips

As you assist your student in their selection of clothing to wear to school each day, please be aware of the most frequent fashion errors that result in dress code violations:

- Exposed midriff
- Holes in clothing
- Immodest necklines
- Sagging pants
- Short skirts or shorts

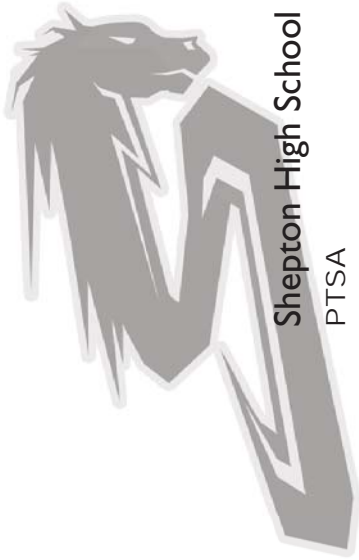
Students should be able to move freely (bend, reach, walk, etc.) without the need to readjust or cover clothing in order to remain within dress code. In other words, after sitting, walking, or reaching, if a girl must stretch her shirt down in

order to cover the waist of the pants or if a boy must pull up his pants, there is probably a dress code issue.

Boys' pants should be pulled up to the waist, with no exposed undergarments.

Those clothes that fit so well last fall will likely be smaller this spring so please check those shorts and skirt length (beyond the end of finger tips).

In addition, females' shirt necklines should not extend below the hand placed horizontally below the chin at the collarbone.



Shepton High School

PTSA

5505 W. Plano Parkway

Plano, TX 75093

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Plano, Texas
Permit No. 459

Must Reads!

2009-2010 Registration Sign Up	5
Fashion Tips	15
4x4 Update	Cover
Parenting Program	2
Principal Letter	3
PTA Lifetime Members	6
PTSA President Letter	4
Plano PTAS Head to Austin	8
Spring Semester Exam Schedule	7
Student Driver's License Application/Renewal	14