

**Two very important songs  
for Plano Senior High School families**

**Alma Mater**

Dear Plano High School  
Hats off to you.  
Ever you'll find us  
Loyal and true, true, true, true.

Firm and Undaunted  
Always we will be.  
Hail to dear Plano High School  
We love thee.



**Fight Song**

"Stay in There Wildcats"  
Stay in there Wildcats;  
Do not let them pass.  
Stay in there, Wildcats;  
Show them you are fast.  
Show them who you are, boys;  
Fight them to the end.  
Stay in there, Wildcats;  
You're sure to win.  
Stay in There Wildcats;  
Do not let them pass.  
Stay in there, Wildcats;  
Show them you are fast.  
If they block your way, boys;  
Hit 'em hard and low.  
Stay in there, Wildcats;  
Fight for old Plano.



**The Unofficial  
Parent Guide to  
Plano Senior  
High School**

or

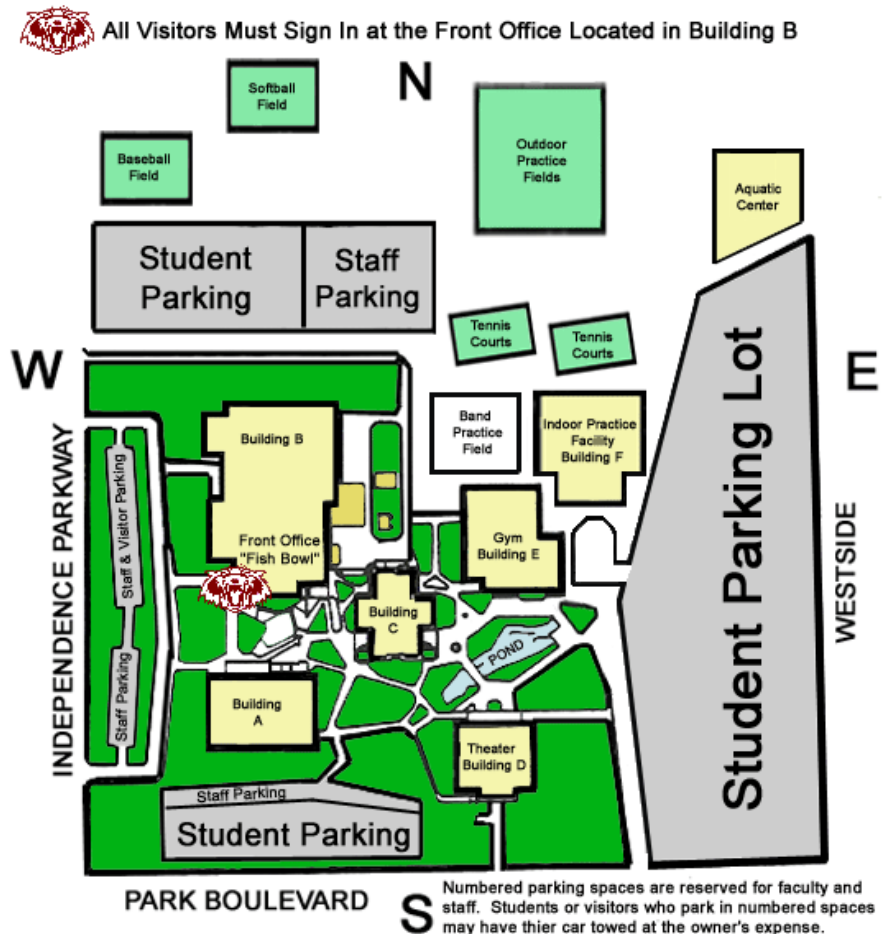
*Little known facts about PSHS Traditions  
written by parents, for parents*

**SECOND EDITION**

**PTSA**<sup>®</sup>  
everychild.onevoice.<sup>®</sup>

Presented by the Plano Senior High School  
Parent Teacher Student Association

## Plano Senior High School Campus Map from the PSHS Website



*Information in this booklet is the opinion of surveyed parents of Plano Senior High School and is not endorsed by the administration of Plano Senior High. It is not a complete guide to all traditions on the campus. Questions about the contents of this booklet should be addressed to [pshs\\_ptsa@yahoo.com](mailto:pshs_ptsa@yahoo.com).*

The note about towing cars parked in numbered spaces is NO JOKE! Be sure to remind your students that they must have a parking tag and may not park in numbered spaces. As volunteers or visitors, you must also park in appropriate spaces. If you cannot locate an unnumbered space, notify the front office about the space you are in when you check in. Visit the front office if you think your car may have been towed.

# So you're going to have a Wildcat!

(a wildcat is the Plano Senior High School mascot)

First of all - don't panic. Grab something maroon (PSHS's primary color), and sit down to read this guide. It is the combined knowledge of many experienced parents so you can relax – we've got your back.



Alright - now you are going to have a Plano Senior High School (herein known as PSHS) Wildcat in the fall! Start your family transformation this summer by following these 10 steps:

## Step 1

Go to your closet and pack up all your purple (Vines), and green (Jasper) clothing. High school is over and it is time to move on to the SENIOR HIGH. Then eliminate the royal blue and yellow clothing, except for jeans - jeans are OK. For all of you that do not know, blue and yellow are the colors of Plano West and Plano East, respectively. When they mix with **Maroon**, things get messy. Put those clothes away for the next two years. Staff and administrators really like it when parents wear maroon to show their school spirit. So trust us...you don't want to be caught wearing any other color but Maroon. (White, black and gray are acceptable neutral colors.)

## Step 2

Sit at your computer and **bookmark three sites**: [www.pisd.edu](http://www.pisd.edu) (Plano ISD website), <http://k-12.pisd.edu/Schools/PSHS> (PSHS), and <http://k-12.pisd.edu/Schools/PSHS/PTSA> (PSHS PTSA). The main forms of communication between school and parents are eNews, mailed newsletters, and the websites. Be sure to visit the Plano ISD website and update your profile for the eNews to include PSHS. Then check your email on a regular basis, if you haven't learned to already. We suggest at least once a day, but if you just can't, please don't go longer than every other day. This is especially important if your child is involved in athletics, fine arts, student clubs, or some other kind of campus activity. We all know how communicative our high school students are, so if you want to know what is happening, this is the best way to go.

### Step 3

While you are at the computer and if it is after July 1<sup>st</sup>, visit [www.pisd.edu](http://www.pisd.edu) and fill out your **volunteer application**. If you are too early, then mark your calendars to fill out the volunteer application on that date! All volunteers on campus have to do this background check to be involved in their child's activities.

### Step 4

**Watch your mail!** Over the summer you will receive a thick packet with lots of information and forms for your Wildcat. Don't put off filling out the forms, as you may have questions or may need time to gather the requested information. **BE WARNED** - read all the material carefully. This is the only way the registration process in August will go smoothly. For example: When it says that on the day of the registration boys need to wear nice shirts and the girls need to wear appropriate tops – take it seriously! Remind your student that they will not be allowed to have their photo ID taken unless appropriately dressed. Also, if you don't go through the packet page by page you might miss the Truancy form—and your Wildcat can't get their schedule without this form signed by a parent. Do you want a yearbook? Will your student have a car on campus? Then go through the forms! No one wants to have to step out of line to fill out forms and then get back in line. Many Wildcats go to registration by themselves. Do you want to get that call at work asking you to come to Plano to sign a form? Save yourself the headache – just do it ahead of time. If you are sending checks with your student to registration, be sure to include your Driver's License number on it. Your student will also add their student ID number. Watch for the separate mailing of the medical emergency letter. This one must be turned in at registration too.

**Seniors:** your summer packet will have information regarding Senior photos at a local photography studio. Go to your appointment time and have your picture taken as this is your formal yearbook photo (not the one you took for your ID). There is no pressure to buy more photos at that time. You can set up a special appointment for lots of poses and outfits at a later date.

### Step 5

**Join the PSHS PTSA** through the membership envelope in the summer mailing or anytime during the school year by visiting the

newspapers, videos and DVDs, computers, and digital cameras/camcorders. The “Back Room” contains a laminator, die cuts, and supplies to create posters and displays for school projects. A small school store also sells pencils, pens, folders, and poster board. The **online library** is available 24/7 at: <http://k12.pisd.edu/library.html>. Select PSHS or under pshs.mypisd.net select “Library Resources”. Off campus login for databases: *planoisd*, Password: *library*. PSHS library webpage is at <http://k-12.pisd.edu/schools/pshs/LIBRARY/library.htm>. The library is also a great place for parent volunteers to help with checkout and sell supplies between 11:45 a.m.-1:30 p.m. so sign up on the PTSA volunteer form in the summer mailer.

Many of these administrative areas request PTSA volunteers during the year. Be sure to visit the PSHS PTSA website for more information on volunteer opportunities on campus!

PSHS website! There are lots of reasons for both you AND your student to join this organization.

- Join an organization that is actively making a difference in students and parents lives. Since our membership drive is our biggest fundraiser, your membership dues help cover the costs of our PTSA programs, activities, services, and Plano After Prom – our drug-free, alcohol-free after Prom event for Seniors and their guests at Main Event.
- Have a voice at our PTSA meetings and find out what is going on around campus and throughout Plano ISD.
- Become a part of the large volunteer base on campus that helps in the copy room, in the library, proctoring AP exams, chaperoning events, being involved on committees and the all important baking donations. Be sure to fill out the volunteer form in the summer mailing and include your email and phone number. If this information changes during the year, be sure to send your new information to the Volunteer VP at the PTSA email address.
- Student members of our PTS(tudent)A get involved with volunteer projects and are eligible for college scholarships during the year. Some scholarships have a 2 year PTSA commitment requirement, so Juniors should join now.
- Each PTSA family receives a PSHS Student Directory that includes lots of information about the campus including administration contacts, staff emails, bell schedules, organization sponsors, etc.

#### **Step 6**

This one is very important for parents. If you haven't already done this, consider it immediately. **Update your driver's license photo.** The new security system on campus requires a swipe of your license that captures your current photo. This image is printed on your name badge for all on campus to see, including your humiliated student. Of course, if you looked fabulous years ago, then wear it proudly! For some of us, it shows how far we've come (or gone) since we were teens. Each time you visit the campus, your check in point is the Fishbowl. *(What's the Fishbowl? Impress your student by already knowing this. The Fishbowl is at the main entry in Building B facing Independence. It is called the Fishbowl because it is surrounded by glass walls.)*

### **Step 7**

This summer, do not buy plane tickets or make nonrefundable plans for vacations before reading your child's sports or activity calendar! Even if your **calendar** says "school holiday" or "winter or spring break", there are many events that the child may be required to participate in during these times. Please keep this in mind when planning time away!

### **Step 8**


Talk to your student this summer about the **Open Campus** policy at PSHS. You may notice that there are no fences and that there are lots of cars in the parking lots. Discuss the importance of being in class on time and returning to class after an off campus lunch break. Teachers notice a missing child and you will get a phone call from the attendance office! As a parent, stay clear of the streets around campus from 11:45-1:30 p.m. Many student drivers will be exiting the lots and heading towards the nearest fast food places. *A tip for students:* use the summer to practice walking miles each day, in good and bad weather, pushing through crowds, and carrying a heavy backpack. Although lockers are available, most students do not use them.


### **Step 9**


Help your student find a place to belong on campus. One of the best parts of PSHS is the variety of student groups, sports teams, and fine arts activities they can participate in over the next two years. Some of their best friends will be made in Student Congress, on the golf team, marching in the band, practicing for a musical, or gathering for a meeting to discuss environmental issues on campus. Visit the PSHS website and click on **Clubs, Academics, and Athletics** to see what is available. If your child does not see something he likes, visit with the Student Activities Associate Principal and start a new club!


### **Step 10**


Finish reading this guide. This guide has a lot of information we wished we had known before our **Wildcat** adventure began. What follows is a basic guide starting with registration and ending with graduation. Some information is more helpful for senior parents, but if you are a junior parent, just think of how well prepared you'll be!


 **Registrars Office:** This office located next to the Fishbowl retains records for students for two years after graduation and stores transcripts forever. During the year, students come to the registrar for their GPA and class rank, and to have transcripts sent to colleges. There are procedures and fees associated with this that are explained to all students during their Senior year.

 **Student Activity Office:** Located next to the Fishbowl, this is a good place to buy football ticket sales. If you are paying by check, be sure you include the required student ID number and Driver's License number!

 **Copy Center:** Thousands of copies a year are requested by the administration and staff to use in classrooms or for student groups or parent mailings. The PTSA is asked to staff the Copy Center for a shift each morning and afternoon, Monday through Friday. This is a great way to meet PSHS staff and the volunteers are very much appreciated! Sign up for a monthly shift on the Volunteer Form in the summer mailing or through the PSHS PTSA website.

 **Nurse:** PSHS has one full time registered nurse on campus located in Building B down the hall from the Fishbowl. Students leaving school because of illness must first sign out at the nurse's office.

 **Police:** PSHS has a police liaison officer with a goal of establishing a rapport between students and uniformed police. The officers also serve as counselor and instructor on matters involving law enforcement.

 **Library:** The PSHS library is an amazing place for your student to do research and check out books. It is also a gathering place for a game of chess or writing assistance. The staff includes two Librarians and three assistants. The physical library is in Building C, upstairs above the cafeteria. Library hours are: Monday 7:30 am-8:30 pm, Tuesday-Thursday 7:30 am-7:30 pm, Friday 7:30 am-4:30 pm and Sundays 2:00-5:00 pm. The PSHS library provides tools necessary for student success including over 30,000 books, 57 magazines and

# Administrative Information

🐾 **Attendance Policy:** at the Senior High level, attending classes each day is very important for graduation. The current policy for absences is very clear and can be found on the web at: <http://k-12.pisd.edu/schools/PSHS/Admin/attendance>. Be sure to review this with your Junior child as it relates to college visits, and especially as a Senior hoping to be exempt from exams. With the open campus at Plano Senior, it is sometimes easy for a student to gather a number of tardies that can add up to absences, which in turn may affect graduation.

🐾 **Principals:** Although there is only one PRINCIPAL, the Senior High administrative structure also has Associate and Assistant Principals. The two Associate Principals handle Curriculum and Student Activities. They office in the main entry by the Fishbowl. The next level includes four Assistant Principals or Sub School Principals.

🐾 **Sub Schools:** PSHS is divided into four sub schools named Alpha, Beta, Delta, and Gamma. The sub school offices are located in Building C (the cafeteria) behind the wall of trophy cases. An assistant principal and secretary manage each sub school and handle matters of discipline, attendance, issuing TEA forms (required for auto insurance purposes – these must be requested in advance from the secretary in your sub school), college visit forms, as well as matters related to lockers, parking tags, ID badges, textbooks, textbook fines, etc. Students are assigned to a sub school according to the first letter of their last name. The range of letters for each sub school changes each year.

🐾 **Counseling:** The Counseling Center is located in Building B and handle matters related to academics, testing, college admissions, careers, and personal growth. Each student has a counselor designated by the first letter of their last name. There are currently eight counselors and two secretaries. More information on counseling can be found at <http://k-12.pisd.edu/schools/PSHS/Counsel/Counseling>.

# A Year at Plano Senior High

(specific dates will be published in eNews and on the website)

• **Registration** (mid-August depending on the school calendar) is the time to turn in all of those summer packet forms! It is also the best time to buy spiritwear from all of the clubs and teams, parking passes, take ID photos (need some cash), student tickets for home football games, and of course, pick up class schedules. Although many students handle registration alone, parents are welcome to attend - especially if they are writing the checks!

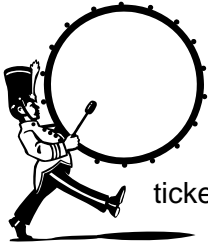
• **Cat Camp!** (during registration) *Don't miss this!* It is a time for the new junior Wildcats (no parents) to meet up with old friends and make new ones. It is a great warm up to get a feel for the PSHS campus community and rev up your school spirit.



• **Classes Begin!** (4<sup>th</sup> Monday in August) Unlike elementary school, this is not a meet the teacher day and there is no need to walk your student to class (imagine the humiliation). Make sure your student has their ID with them and/or picks it up that day. If you were gone all summer, have your child go to the cafeteria to pick up their ID and schedule. For those nervous about starting a new school, pack a lunch so they do not have to worry about getting out for lunch or standing in line. After the first day, they will find the PSHS café will have a lot to offer every day - before, during and after school.

• **Football Ticket Sales** (late August) Friday night football in Plano is huge! The stands are filled with the Marching Band, the Planoettes, the student section, Plano parents, and lots of Plano alumni families waving their paws to the sounds of Grandioso and the PSHS Fight Song. Although tickets are sold before and at each game, some families like to get reserved seating season tickets so they can sit close to their performing children. Others like to get seats far away from the student section! This process begins in August and takes place at the ticket office on the west side of Clark Stadium. Visit <http://planoisd.assistantcoach.net> for

information on ticket sales and sign up for “Fan Alert”. This sends you emails about events and ticket sales for Plano sports. More information is available on the Plano ISD website under Athletics. Plano Senior has a very successful year round sports program and utilizes many stadiums and fields around Plano: football at Clark and Kimbrough, soccer at Kimbrough, Clark, and Clark East, lacrosse at Clark East, hockey in the Dr. Pepper Star Center, basketball, volleyball and wrestling in the school gym, baseball, softball, and tennis on the campus fields, golf at various Plano courses, and swimming and diving at the Plano Aquatic Center.



- The **Band Twilight Concert** and BBQ (late August) is a great way to start off the year. The PSHS Band along with the Jasper and Vines bands will be playing songs by the pond, followed by a Marching demonstration. If you buy tickets ahead of time from the band, you can enjoy a delicious BBQ in the cafeteria. Be sure to bring your lawn chairs or blankets and your Plano paw to show your Plano Pride!

- Fall semester **Stay Day** is hosted by Student Congress. This is not a day to “Stay at Home”, but a day to encourage students to “Stay on Campus” during the lunch hour. It is a festival with booths selling food, the PSHS jazz band playing great music, and tables representing different student activities raising money and promoting causes. Parents are welcome to attend and enjoy the fun!

- **Junior Class President Election** (early September)

- **Class Ring Packets** (September) are handed out to Juniors. Look through the complicated brochure and figure out what you want or what questions you have before you go to place the order. Class rings are not required and you don’t have to order it from the designated company. Since there is not a specific design for PSHS, the ring can include a variety of stones and engravings. The display at PSHS will have many samples to view and they will size your student’s ring finger. The rings typically arrive in late November.

tickets per student. In case you did not know, the actual Plano Senior diploma is not handed out at the graduation ceremony. Students pick up their real diplomas at PSHS in the Fishbowl during the summer. Be sure to watch the eNews for dates the school will be closed. This usually happens the week of the fourth of July.

If you are a Junior parent, it’s time to start your student’s last year as a Wildcat. If you are a Senior parent, it’s time to say goodbye. Although you are free to unpack your colorful clothing, you might just find that **Maroon** has become your favorite!

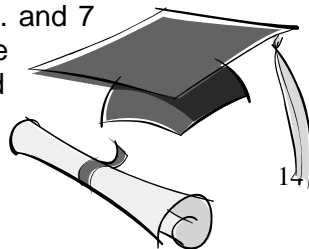
event with beautiful dresses and tuxedos, a special dinner, and a themed dance. The Prom begins at 9 p.m. and ends at 1 a.m.

• **Plano After Prom** (after Prom) is the biggest event hosted by the PSHS PTSA. The purpose is to encourage Seniors and their guests to make good choices for after prom activities. Plano After Prom is a drug-free, alcohol-free, life-saving celebration first held in 1985. Tickets are typically sold for \$10.00 per person and include four hours of fun from 1- 5 a.m. Historically held at The Main Event in Plano, the event includes unlimited pizza and drinks, bowling, laser tag, billiards and thousands of dollars in prizes and scholarships. The PTSA begins planning in August and works hard to gather funds and donations to keep the cost to students as low as possible. The event takes lots of volunteers and Junior parents are strongly encouraged to be a part of the committee. This allows Senior parents to enjoy Prom day with their children. Check the PSHS PTSA website for a PowerPoint presentation on Plano After Prom.

• **Pops by the Pond** (mid-May) is an outdoor concert performed by the PSHS Full Orchestra. It's a great way to spend an evening in May. Bring a picnic dinner, lawn chairs or blankets and listen to upbeat music from our talented orchestra students.

• May is full of end-of-year concerts, banquets, and performances along with AP (advanced placement) tests and final exams. Juniors must take all finals except for AP classes and Seniors can earn exam exemptions with good attendance and good grades for the second semester.

• **Graduation** (early June) is the best day in the life of a Wildcat! It is the final celebration of the success of 13 years of education. Plano ISD holds all three Senior High graduation ceremonies on the same day in June. The ceremony is held at the Dallas Convention Center and the three senior high schools rotate each year through the times of 10 a.m., 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Because of the size of the convention center, seating is limited and tickets are required. PSHS is limited to 6



• **College Nights** (mid September) are held each year at two of the Senior High Schools. Plano Senior will have it for two years and then off one year, but students and parents may attend any night at any senior high school. There are about 250 colleges represented and it is free and open to students and parents from anywhere in Plano. This is a perfect place to talk with college representatives, pick up college materials, or to sit in on an information session for some of the bigger Texas colleges. After this event, the mailings from colleges really start flowing!

• **Open House** (September) is your chance to get a feel for where your students are every day and how they manage to get from class to class in a few minutes! You will see their teachers give a short presentation, but there is no time for one on one conversation. It begins in the Theatre in Building D with a welcome from the principal and then everyone will be released to sprint to their child's first class. Wear comfortable shoes and carry as little as possible (an umbrella would be good on a rainy evening).

• The PSHS PTSA and The Princeton Review sponsor a **practice PSAT** for juniors to help them prepare for the real deal in October. It is a real test in a real setting with real timing. Watch for publicity on eNews and the PTSA website in August. Practice tests for ACT and SAT tests are also offered at this time.

• October brings some of the first **performances** for choir, band, orchestra, and productions from the PSHS Theater Department. For information on tickets for plays, visit [www.pshstheater.com](http://www.pshstheater.com). For choir event information, visit [www.pshschoir.com](http://www.pshschoir.com). Orchestra events are posted on the PSHS website under Performing Arts. Plano is known for its support of the arts and PSHS is a shining example of the talented students the Fine Arts programs have developed.

• **Junior class PSAT** (October) – this is the real deal and is taken during the school day on campus. High scores offer students entrance into the National Merit Scholarship Program. There are online prep courses offered through Plano ISD and many others offered through private centers to get ready for this test. Students who are successful can get scholarships from col-

leges all over the country. (flyer in summer packet with date and cost)

• **PSHS Homecoming Week!** (late October, early November)

Just as when we were students, the Senior High Schools in Plano celebrate the “Homecoming” of its alumni with a special week of events. The ceremonial tribute takes place at the Friday night football game, but there is a lot more for students to participate in during the week. Here is your mini guide to a fun Homecoming week with your Junior or Senior students. Note that everything is optional and nothing requires a date.

🐾 **Group forming:** beginning in late September/early October, students form Homecoming friendship groups in sizes from 6 to 20 (anything bigger may not fit in a limo!). They make plans for Homecoming week including meeting at the parade, gathering to exchange mums/garters, going to the football game and making reservations for the dinner/dance evening. Part of the tradition is designing a group t-shirt with a theme on the front and their names printed on the back. The negative part of the tradition is that some groups create inappropriate themes and have the shirts taken away at school. As parents, make sure the design is acceptable or they will not be allowed to wear it at school. Many local printers will not print shirts with questionable messages.

🐾 **Mums and garters:** a big Homecoming tradition is the exchange of mums (for the girls) and garters (for the guys) between couples during Homecoming. These items can be made by crafty parents or ordered through the Planoette website at [www.planoettes.org](http://www.planoettes.org). They show samples in the cafeteria weeks before Homecoming and the orders can be placed online. Local craft stores, florists and grocery stores sell the supplies too. From what we’ve seen, the bigger and louder the mum, the “cooler” the mum or garter. Mums and garters are customized to the individual with charms for various school groups and letters to spell out names. Some girls have metal harnesses attached to their mums to keep the item high on their shoulder. Others have a hoop around their neck and wear the mum like a necklace. **Please note: Juniors are maroon and white and Seniors are silver and white.**

*Mum etiquette 101: Usually the guy makes or buys the mum for the girl and the girl makes or buys the garter for the guy.*

your child is interested in attending. This is the perfect time for Juniors to do college visits without losing class time.

• **Senior Class President Election** (April)

• **Spring Stay Day** (April) is a chance for the PTSA to promote Plano After Prom.

• **Duck Week** (April) is a campus celebration of the ducks that live around the PSHS pond. Special Duck Week t-shirts are designed and activities are planned for each day.



• **Shattered Dreams Program** (April) is a mock driving accident staged at the school and Senior students are allowed to attend. Responders include police, firefighters, and a CareFlight helicopter. The program is filmed and made available to the students later in the week. The purpose for this program is to remind Seniors of the dangers of drinking and driving, especially on the upcoming Prom night.

• **Cap/Gown/Invitation Pickup** (April) takes place in the cafeteria from sunup to sundown. Your student will need a photo ID to be able to receive the items. It is time to get the graduation invite address list ready!

• **TAKS testing** (late April) for Juniors takes place during class time on a number of days. These are basically exit tests for graduation, so the students should take them very seriously. If they do not pass, they have another chance as Seniors.

• **Prom and Plano After Prom Ticket Sales** (late April) begin the week before the Senior Prom. Another chance for parents to volunteer and watch the excitement as one of the biggest events in High School draws near.

• **PSHS Senior Prom** (late April) has historically been held at Southfork Ranch and is for Seniors and their guests. Prom traditions are similar to Homecoming with groups formed and t-shirts designed. The big plans are made for the Saturday evening

- **Mr. Plano** (mid February) competition is for Senior guys representing various organizations on campus. Everyone is invited to attend this fundraising event which includes fashion and talent competition.

- **Junior Academic Conferences** (February-April) occur in the Counseling Department in the spring. A postcard with your scheduled day and time will be sent to your home. Parents are encouraged to attend with their student as the conference covers the senior year schedule and reviews graduation requirements and college admission basics. This is where you learn about the Blue Packet - forms for the teacher's letter of recommendations that are sent to the student's counselor for the counselor to use when writing college letters of recommendation.

- **Junior 50's Day!** (a Friday in March or April) This is a retro event organized by the Social Studies Department to let the junior history students experience life in the 1950s. The PTSA helps with volunteers for this event serving coffee in the coffee shop and ice cream in the soda shop. There are rooms set up with different themes like Lucy movies, a bomb shelter, an art gallery and a live band. Volunteers and students wear poodle skirts or rolled up jeans to show off their white socks and get ready for a great time.

- **Spring Open House** (March) is a parent event. Students usually do not go with their parents to this. Teachers are clustered in departments and parents have a chance to visit about their student's progress in one or more classes.

- **Audition Times** (March-May) and interviews are happening for many of the school Performing Arts programs and student organizations. The results of these tryouts will affect the class schedules for the fall. Students should watch the school monitors for more information. (TV monitors are in most rooms on campus and in some areas have a continuous script of announcements for students.)

- **Spring Break** (mid-March) is usually the best time for family vacations or college visits. Sometimes you can combine the two! Take a family vacation to an area with a number of colleges that

*Now if the "couple" is going as friends, they can decide for themselves who buys what.*

- **Homecoming Dance attire:** Start shopping early for the homecoming dress or suit and make the all important appointments for hair, nails and so on. Girls tend to get really dressed up although the high heels usually come off as soon as they get to the cafeteria. Restaurant reservations will be hard to make the week of the dance, so have the kids decide early where they want to go. Although the dance is optional, this is the only chance for Juniors to get dressed up for a social event on campus. The Prom is for Seniors only.

- **Ticket Sales:** The PTSA gets volunteers to sell tickets in the cafeteria for the Homecoming Dance the week before the event. A lot of parents like to help with this so they can be around the excitement of such a special week.

- **The Homecoming Parade:** Usually held the Wednesday before the Homecoming game, this is an after school event and is for all to come – students, parents, family, community. The parade starts at a local church and goes to the entrance of the PSHS student parking lot. Led by the PSHS band, it includes floats from student groups and feeder schools. A huge pep rally immediately follows the parade in the school gym and everyone is invited.

- The Thursday night before the game is usually a casual dinner or meeting to swap the mums and garters and get the group t-shirts. In some cases, this is when the girls cook for the guys in the group.

- **Friday Game Day** starts with a morning pep rally and a parade (not literally) of students in their group t-shirts and mums and garters. Hopefully the shirts are appropriate and the mums stay together. If not, the library has a "mum repair shop" for those who need glue or scissors to make things right. Friday evening may begin with a casual dinner (girl's treat) and is followed by the football game and the crowning of the Homecoming King and Queen. After the game the group may get together at one of their homes for an after game social.



🐾 **Dance Day** may include a meeting for outdoor or indoor group photos before heading off to dinner. *Parents:* you should plan to meet your child at the photo location to take some great pictures. There are many favorite outdoor locations in Plano that the kids know about. After photos, the group will usually go out to dinner before heading to the dance. Some groups hire limousines to make the transportation process easier on everyone. The dance is held in the PSHS cafeteria and the PTSA asks for parent volunteers to help with coat check and refreshments. Many will plan an after dance gathering ...usually at one of their houses to watch a movie, play games...or whatever fits their group. Keep in mind that school starts Monday morning, bright and early!

- **Graduation Plans** (November) begin with the ordering of cap, gown, and **graduation** invitations. The designated company will be in the cafeteria with samples and helpful sales people. If the process is too overwhelming, you can schedule an appointment at their shop to go over all the options. Price ranges vary depending on your selections.

- Late November is the arrival of **Junior Class Rings** ordered back in September. There is no special ceremony – just pick it up and put it on!

- **PSHS Jazz Band Swing Dance** (Tuesday before Thanksgiving) is a fun way to start the long holiday weekend. This event is open to the community and attracts PSHS alumni coming home for the holidays. The program includes swing dance lessons, desserts and some great jazz music. Watch the eNews for ticket information.

- **PSHS Choir Madrigal Dinner** (on a weekend in early December) is a dinner and choir performance at its best! The cafeteria is transformed into a medieval castle and the ticket price includes a traditional medieval dinner along with strolling musicians and a professional magician. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.pshschoir.com](http://www.pshschoir.com)

- PTSA hosts a **PSHS staff dessert bar** (at the end of finals week) to say thanks to the over 250 staff members on campus. Volunteers on the “Baking” list bring homemade and store bought goodies to this highly anticipated event.

- **Final first semester exams** (mid-December) are structured like high school with a half day of testing ending at 1 p.m. The only difference is that if a student has any “off” periods in their schedule, they do not have to stay on campus.

- **Winter Break** (late December/early January) gives most students a chance to regroup or catch up and get ready for the second semester. Some students will be travelling with groups or continuing with athletic schedules. One never knows if the football team will be headed to State playoffs at this time!

- The **Physics Paper Bridge Project** (due between late December and early February) is a little scary for both students and parents, but is a great learning experience for all. Both Honors and Regular Physics students must construct a bridge made of only paper and glue and will be graded based on the amount of weight it can hold without failing. A website with details on construction and grading can be found at [www.gravitykills.com](http://www.gravitykills.com). Hint: start early and keep it simple. Every parent’s nightmare is helping their student blow dry glue joints at 2:00 in the morning before the project is due!

- **Calling All Cats** (early February) is a program for incoming Juniors and their families to learn about PSHS and the classes and clubs that are available. The cafeteria is set up with booths manned by PSHS students and sponsors encouraging new Wildcats to check them out and make plans to join in the fall.



- The PTSA will sponsor another practice test session hosted by The Princeton Review for the **PSAT, ACT, and SAT**. It falls right before some of the March testing dates. Watch the eNews for more information. March is a good time for Juniors to take their first SAT or ACT. Have them visit CollegeBoard for more testing information.