



Mid-Term Review

Academic Banquet Held

The Pioneer-Pleasant Vale Academic Foundation held the 2009 Academic Banquet on Tuesday, November third, at six o'clock in the evening. This was the sixth year that PPVAF has hosted the event, and the foundation board is excited to once again have had the privilege of honoring the hard work and accomplishments of the students of Pioneer-Pleasant Vale Schools.

"We feel it is important to honor the students who have worked so hard throughout the year to accomplish their goals, and to represent the high standards of our school district," says PPVAF board president Martha Gabriel. "These kids put out an enormous amount of time and effort, and they deserve to have that recognized," she said.

Students in sixth through twelfth grades who held a grade point average of 3.0 or higher were recognized at the banquet, as well as groups receiving academic honors.

Students to be recognized received a personal invitation to the event for themselves and their family. Meals for the students being recognized were provided compliments of the Foundation, and donations were accepted at the door to help defray the cost of the event.

As always, faculty and administrative staff were encouraged to attend, and as has been the tradition, this year's Grants for Teachers were awarded.

The following grants were awarded for the 2009-2010 academic year:

- Mechele Riesen**-Smart Response LE System -\$700
- Teri Johnson**-Interactive Response System -\$700
- Debbie Whately**-Technology for Colonial Williamsburg Electronic Field Trips-\$100
- Laura Fuxa**-Library Reading Center -\$670
- Kim Watkins**- Sequoyah Reading Program Books and reward trip-\$500

The Pioneer-Pleasant Vale Academic Foundation is so pleased to have been given the opportunity to help our talented and devoted faculty in providing new opportunities and experiences to our students. Thanks to everyone whose hard work has helped us to make these innovative programs a reality for our students.

Medal Winning Teacher Brings Washington to Oklahoma

Jan McClaren is not your typical eighth grade teacher. She prides herself on her ability to take the events of the past, and bring them to life using a unique blend of art, aesthetics, and character. She is truly an artist, painting a memorable picture with her talent for performance and her passion for history. As a teacher, she is preparing her students to become "statesmen of tomorrow", providing the opportunity to engage with history on a tangible level, and encouraging them to fully experience history through dynamic lessons and fascinating presentations.

Jan McClaren is preparing students to become "statesmen of tomorrow"...through dynamic lessons and fascinating presentations.

On Monday, February 22 Jan McClaren visited Pleasant Vale Elementary School, providing students with a glimpse into the life of George Washington, as a part of the George Washington Wired Oklahoma program. The Program is designed to bring history to life for young students, introducing them to a famous people and places through a presentation that is similar to Chataqua. Students are encouraged to think about our nation's first President as a real person, not just a character from a history book.

They get to know who he was and what he stood for in a way that changes their view of history and better understand how our past relates to the nation we have become.

This will be the first time that our students will have benefited from this exciting program. Because this is the only program of it's kind in the nation, Pleasant Vale students are being given a truly unique opportunity to learn about our nation's history in a way that is very real and easy to understand. The Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence graciously provided this program to Pleasant Vale at no cost, covering the customary \$500 fee on our behalf.

PPVAF Designs First Annual Commemorative Ornament

Loyalty and school pride are emotions that run pretty deep in the Pioneer-Pleasant Vale school district. For many "Pioneer Families", generation after generation has attended the Pioneer school system, and family values are closely tied to a sense of belonging to the community of people who make up the school's very foundation. It was with this in mind that the PPVAF began its efforts to design, commission, and market the first annual Pioneer-Pleasant Vale Academic Foundation's 2009-2010 Commemorative Ornament.

The ornament, fashioned in top quality pewter, features the Pioneer High School bell tower on the front and the PPVAF mission statement on the back. It is available for purchase from any foundation board member. A new ornament will be created each year, and extra units of this year's ornament have been obtained so that future collectors can purchase the inaugural piece



of the collection. If you have any questions about the foundation or this project, you may call 580-249-5760. A representative of the foundation will be happy to contact you.

Requests should be mailed to:
 PPVAF
 6520 E. Wood Road
 Waukomis, OK 73773

PPVAF Ornament Order Form

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____
 Email _____

Number of Ornaments requested _____
 Ship to address above? yes no
 Alternate shipping information:

No. of Ornaments _____ x \$15 = \$ _____

Please make checks payable to PPVAF
 Thank you!

Foundation Opens 2009-10 School Year with Fifth Annual Duck Derby

As the summer vacation drew to an end, PPVAF was hard at work planning and coordinating this year's opening foundation event, the fifth annual Pioneer-Pleasant Vale Academic Foundation Duck Derby. As in years past, the Duck Derby was held at Splash Zone water park. This year's event was expanded to allow participants to swim at the water

park before the race began, and the foundation offered a meal of hamburgers or hotdogs, chips and a drink.

This year's event welcomed 108 guests to the water park. Dozens of prizes were awarded at the event, including first place prize going to Hannah and Mandi Fuksa, and last

place going to Kelly Lovely.

The Duck Derby is an awesome event that provides support to PPVAF, and allows a fun, family-friendly activities to help kick off the school year. Watch your local paper in August for details on this year's event, or check out our website at www.ppvaf.org!

Duck Derby Fun!!!

The Pioneer-Pleasant Vale Academic Foundation celebrated the beginning of the 2009-2010 school year with its annual Duck Derby. At right, PPVAF board members Pam Denker and Cindy Bailey kick off the event by pouring nearly three hundred rubber ducks into the Splash Zone's Lazy River. Spectators watched as the ducks floated down the "River", hoping their duck would cross the finish line first and secure a prize.



From the Superintendent

What a wonderful year we are having here at Pioneer Pleasant Vale Public Schools. Now that I have been here for over a year-and-a-half, it is becoming very clear to me that this school does live up to its reputation as being one of the best in the state. Our faculty and staff are very good educators who go above and beyond the call of duty for our students. Our parents and community supporters are always active and willing to help when the call is sounded and that is vital to the success of a school. PPV schools are a great place to be and to educate our future leaders.

Recently I met with our local legislative leaders who represent our district at the state level. To hear their remarks about the funding of public education, it would seem that Oklahoma has some tough challenges ahead. As you know,

public schools in Oklahoma are funded 48th in our country based on per pupil expenditure; therefore it is especially hard on our school when funds are cut at the state level. Couple that statistic with the fact that we are currently operating on the same budget level we had two years ago due to a state budget freeze last year and no additional funds from the state, and the situation becomes even worse. I say all of this so that you will understand how important our foundation and our supporters really are to us. Our foundation allows our teachers access to materials that the school cannot otherwise provide. All of the items go directly to the classroom, and are utilized for instruction. I wish I could tell everyone that the school can afford to equip all our teachers with the latest and best teaching materials. But unfortunately that is not

the case during this time in Oklahoma.

We are always on the lookout for additional funding from outside sources and grants. In fact, I have applied for over \$25,000 worth of grants in the last week alone. As we look to the future, our school system will continue to grow and succeed, despite the state's financial woes. Like the vast majority of schools in this state, it may be in the form of a school bond issue or other areas of fund raising. No matter what the source, it is vital our students are afforded the same opportunities other children have in this state. Our strong tradition and pride in this great school will motivate us to continually raise the bar and be successful as a school district.

-Brent Koontz, Superintendent

Thank You!!



To everyone who voted in the bond election, THANK YOU for making your voice heard! Your support means EVERYTHING!

- High School Parking
- Elementary Special Education Classroom
- Classroom Technology
- General Building Repairs and Maintenance



- Metal Roof for High School Gymnasium
- Security Features
- Geo-thermal Heating and Cooling Buses



Want to Help? Support the Pioneer-Pleasant Vale Academic Foundation

PPVAF is working hard to make certain that our students get the best education that we can provide, and that our teachers have the resources they need to make it happen. Join us today, by making your tax deductible donation to the Pioneer-Pleasant Vale Academic Foundation. Your contribution will help PPVAF help us prepare tomorrow's leaders and build a brighter future for us all!

Please accept my tax deductible donation, and keep me informed of the Pioneer-Pleasant Vale Academic Foundation's future plans and activities.

Name _____ email: _____
 Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zipcode _____

Amount of Donation: ___ \$500 ___ \$50 \$ _____ Other
 ___ \$250
 ___ \$100

Please send me more information about how I can support PPVAF through memoriums and other forms of planned contribution.

Please make checks payable to PPVAF, and mail to 6520 E. Wood Road, Waukomis, OK 73773

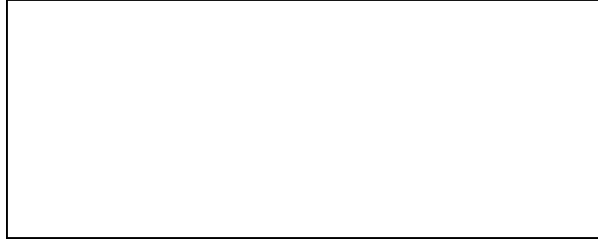
**THE PIONEER-PLEASANT VALE
ACADEMIC FOUNDATION**

6520 E. Wood Road
Waukomis, OK 73773

Phone: 580-249-5760
Email: info@ppvaf.com

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Our Schools,
Solid futures for our Children*

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Alumni Introduction: Gene Hollrah—Class of 1954

Pioneer Schools are especially proud of their alumni, and Gene Hollrah is one of the reasons why! Gene graduated from Pioneer High School in 1954. He is the ninth of fourteen Hollrahs who have graduated from the Pioneer Schools, and he has been a proud supporter of the Pioneer-Pleasant Vale Academic Foundation.

After his graduation from Pioneer, Gene attended Oklahoma State University (Oklahoma A&M, at the time), and graduated in 1959 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agronomy. He married the former Christine Sharkey, and together they raised three children. Today he and Christine have seven grandchildren.

Gene earned his commission through the ROTC program, and entered the United States Air Force in April 1959. It was his

intent at that time to spend four years in the Air Force, and then return to the Pioneer area to farm and raise cattle. Some twenty-nine and one-half years later he retired from the Air Force. His military career included assignments in South Viet Nam, Thailand and Germany. His final assignment was serving as Base Commander at Altus Air Force Base.

When asked why he is such a staunch supporter of the Pioneer School System, Gene says that he appreciates the role that the school has played in his own family's history. His father attended Pioneer, and his family recognized that the Pioneer school district is made up of families who are truly invested in the community, who share their needs and their blessings; where students learn early on that they are a part of something meaningful. Furthermore, Gene felt encouraged to reach beyond the limits

of Oklahoma farm life. Pioneer superintendent, Max E. Brown, had perhaps the greatest influence on Gene, advocating for him to attend college and to serve in the U. S. military.

Gene Hollrah is happy to have the opportunity to support new and innovative learning programs for our students through the Pioneer-Pleasant Vale Academic Foundation. He understands that through the Foundation, his dollars are being put to work to ensure that our students have every opportunity to get the best education available.

Gene appreciates the efforts of the Pioneer-Pleasant Vale Academic Foundation, and encourages all PPV alumni to get involved, and offer their support.

Thanks, Gene, for helping PPVAF to be a success!

Pioneer-Pleasant Vale Academic Foundation Mission Statement

The mission of the Pioneer-Pleasant Vale Academic Foundation is to fund programs to enhance and enrich educational opportunities which will provide innovative and creative learning activities for students in the Pioneer-Pleasant Vale School System.