



# Sparky Speaks

A Publication of the Plano Fire Department  
August 2002

## Back-To-School Edition

**Teachers, welcome back to school!** The Plano Fire Department is committed to helping you keep your students safe. We would like you to know about all the programs, services, and resources we have available to you. We hope you will take advantage of all we offer to help you teach your students fire and injury prevention behaviors.

**Sparky Speaks** is a newsletter that the Public Education Office sends to elementary team leaders every other month during the school year. **Sparky Speaks** is full of good, timely information on the Risk Watch™ curriculum, educational websites, Plano Fire Department classroom visits and events, current safety issues, and lots more! We encourage team leaders to read **Sparky Speaks** and then pass it on to their teachers to read too. **Sparky Speaks** is delivered to each school office. If you are a team leader, please ask your school office staff to make sure your copy of **Sparky Speaks** gets to you!

### Hey Kindergarten Teachers...

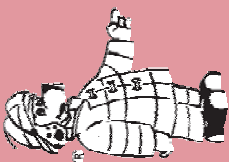
The Public Education Office has several sets of child-size firefighting gear (jackets, suspenders, pants, boots, helmets) available for loan to your classroom. Just call the Office and we'll be happy to bring a set to your school. The sets may be checked out for one week. When you call, ask for the Children's Bunker Gear.

We also have a tote full of books, games and puzzles that all relate to fire safety and firefighting. We call it the Teacher Tote and you can check it out for one week. Give us a call and if it is available we will deliver it to your school.

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**Fourth and Fifth Grade Teachers:** Your students can win a ride on a Plano fire engine by simply completing a Home Escape Plan and Practice homework assignment following your firefighter classroom visit. How? It's easy. When you call to schedule your visit, ask about the Ride Out Contest. One winner from each classroom will win a ride.

**First and Third Grade Teachers:** The Children's Fire Safety House is a great way to help your students learn about how to get out of a burning home safely. The Fire Safety House can be scheduled to come to your school for First and Third grades by calling the Public Education Office.



# Scheduling a Risk Watch™ classroom visit...

You can have a firefighter come speak to your classroom about fire safety (and falls prevention or water safety if requested)! To schedule a program, please call the Public Education Office with several date and time options that will work for you. We ask that you call at least two weeks in advance to schedule. Let us know of any special needs you may have (i.e. bilingual students, special needs students, special materials, etc.).

Below is a breakdown of classroom visitors you can schedule to help you reinforce the Risk Watch™ curriculum safety messages.

<u>Kindergarten</u>	Firefighter (fire/fall/water safety) Nurse (poisoning/choking/suffocation/strangulation safety)
<u>First Grade</u>	Firefighter (fire/fall/water safety) Children's Fire Safety House
<u>Second Grade</u>	Firefighter (fire/fall/water safety) Police Officer (firearm safety)
<u>Third Grade</u>	Firefighter (fire/fall/water safety) Children's Fire Safety House
<u>Fourth Grade</u>	Firefighter (fire/fall/water safety) Nurse (poisoning/choking/suffocation/strangulation safety)
<u>Fifth Grade</u>	Firefighter (fire/fall/water safety) Police Officer (firearm safety)



**Public Education  
Office**  
972-941-7421

To schedule a nurse from Medical Center of Plano, contact Kala Halliburton at 972-519-1581. To schedule a Plano Police Officer, contact Officer Mark Dawson at 972-941-2146.

We're sorry to say that, because classroom visits are presented by on-duty fire crews, the PISD schools that are located outside the Plano city limits are not able to receive these visits. Other than firefighter classroom visits and the Children's Fire Safety House, all other PFD Public Education resources are available! Just give the Public Education Office a call and we will let you know how we can help.



**Fire Prevention Week** is always the week in which October 9 falls to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire. This year's Fire Prevention Week will be observed October 6-12. This year's theme is "Team Up for Fire Safety."

The Fire Prevention Week Poster Contest is open to

students at all levels. Posters are due to campuses on September 17. Winners at the school level will then be delivered to the Plano Fire Department to be judged. The City Level Awards Ceremony will be held at the Fire Administration Building on October 8. For more information contact Ginger Britain.

The Plano Fire Department **Life and Fire Safety Clowns (L.A.F.S.)** put together a program each year for First, Second and Third grade students. The program theme changes each year and the clowns focus the message of the program on the top injury areas to children in Plano. Their program is a great way to reinforce the safety behaviors taught through the Risk Watch™ curriculum. The L.A.F.S. clowns visit campuses during set weeks in September and October.

