



# Sparky Speaks

A Publication of the Plano Fire Department  
December, 2006



The Home Safety Council Helps Elementary Students Prepare for Unexpected Emergencies

The Home Safety Council is introducing a new home safety education program designed to help children learn how to work

with their families to prepare for unexpected emergencies. Produced in partnership with the leading education publisher, Weekly Reader, *Get Ready With Freddie!* has been distributed to more than 75,000 classrooms nationwide, free of charge.

Freddie Flashlight is the long-time sidekick of the Home Safety Council's mascot, Rover the Home Safety Hound. Freddie takes center stage in this new program, focusing on family readiness and emergency preparedness. Students in grades three and four will join Freddie to develop a communications plan and assemble "Ready-to-Go" and "Ready-to-Stay" preparedness kits for their homes.

Download these free materials to use in your classroom  
@ [www.homesafetycouncil.org/teacher](http://www.homesafetycouncil.org/teacher):

[Activity Book](#)

[Live/Action Animated Video](#) (English)

[Live/Action Animated Video](#) (Spanish)

[Lesson Plans for Teachers](#)

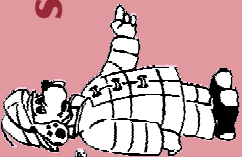
[Classroom Poster](#)

[Whats Your Family Plan? Student Worksheet](#)

[Are you Ready? Student Worksheet](#)

[Letter for Parents and Checklist](#)

These new tools are the latest classroom materials prepared by the Home Safety Council to help teachers educate students on how to prevent serious injuries in and around the home. The materials were developed thanks to the generous support of Lowe's and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security/Office of Domestic Preparedness.



# 2006 Fire Prevention Week Poster Contest Winners

Congratulations to all the PISD students who placed in the 2006 Fire Prevention Week Poster Contest at the City level! The winning posters will move on to District Level competition in March 2007. Thank you students and teachers for participating.

## Pre K Division (Pre K and Kindergarten)

- 1st Place - Tori Braschler  
Rose Haggard Elementary—Kindergarten  
2nd Place - Samantha Kling  
Dooley Elementary—Kindergarten  
3rd Place - Mayuri Vig  
Shepard Elementary—Kindergarten

## Primary Division (Grades 1 and 2)

- 1st Place - Reagan Thomas  
Saigling Elementary—1st Grade  
2nd Place - Aakash Sambhariya  
Skaggs Elementary—2nd Grade  
3rd Place - Shannon Hogan  
Gulledge Elementary—2nd Grade

## Intermediate Division (Grades 3 and 4)

- 1st Place - Kearnie Lin  
Haun Elementary—4th Grade  
2nd Place - Nirali K. Thakor  
Barksdale Elementary—3rd Grade  
3rd Place - Brianna Perkins  
Centennial Elementary—4th Grade

## Middle Division (Grades 5 and 6)

- 1st Place - Guadalupe Martinez  
Christie Elementary—5th Grade  
2nd Place - Zara Soomro  
Beverly Elementary—5th Grade  
3rd Place - Kyle Minor  
Hughston Elementary—5th Grade

## Junior High Division (Grades 7 and 8)

- 1st Place - Jonathan Lee  
Robinson Middle School—8th Grade  
2nd Place - Daniel Wang  
Robinson Middle School—8th Grade  
3rd Place - Bryna Herskowitz  
Rice Middle School—7th Grade

## High School Division (Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12)

- 1st Place - Nicole Bryan  
Plano W. Senior High School—11th Grade  
2nd Place - Andrea Kalm  
West Senior High School—12th Grade  
3rd Place - Brittney Brenner  
Plano W. Senior High School—11th Grade



## Thank You Buckaroos!

The Plano Fire Department Life And Fire Safety (LAFS) Clowns want to send out a great big "Thanks!" to all the Plano elementary schools that invited them to present their safety show during the months of September and October. Sheriff Sam, Snuzzle, Patches, and all the

characters were honored to be able to share vital fire and life safety messages from the Risk Watch curriculum with your students. Thank you to all the teachers who completed and mailed back the evaluation forms. The LAFS clowns and characters take your suggestions into consideration as they are working on their new program. Please look for the dates for the LAFS program in September and October 2007!

## Welcome to Plano's New Fire Chief

Plano's new Fire Chief started work on November 27. Chief Hugo Esparza came to Plano from our friend to the west, the Fort Worth Fire Department where he rose through the ranks. Chief Esparza served the citizens of Fort Worth for 31 years before coming to Plano to serve as our Fire Chief. Please visit the Plano Fire Department's website at [www.planofire.org](http://www.planofire.org) to read a message from our new chief!



# Holiday Electrical Safety

Holiday lights and electrical decorations create a warm and festive atmosphere both inside and outside the home - but they can also create fire hazards and electrical shock risks, if they are not handled properly. The Home Safety Council recommends taking the following precautions while decorating your home this year:



Inspect holiday lights and extension cords before decorating. Replace any that are fraying or otherwise damaged. Pay special attention to lights, cords or decorations that may have been damaged from winter weather conditions.

Check for red or green Underwriters Laboratories (UL) marks on all light strings and extension cords. The green holographic UL Mark means the light strings should be used only indoors. The red holographic UL Mark indicates the light strings can be used both inside and out — and can withstand conditions related to outdoor use.

Follow manufacturer's guidelines for stringing light sets together. As a general rule, UL recommends using no more than three standard-size sets of lights together.

Do not overload extension cords or electrical receptacles.

Unplug all holiday lights when you go to sleep or leave home.

Automatic lighting timers can be used to ensure that lights are not left on. These are available for both indoor and outdoor applications.

Roll up excess electrical cords and keep them away from high traffic areas. Do not run electrical cords under rugs.

Never keep an extension cord plugged in when it is not in use.

When replacing a light bulb, make sure that the replacement bulb is of equal or lesser wattage than that recommended by the manufacturer.

If you have children in your home, use safety caps on all electrical receptacles.

For more information and resources to stay safe in and around the home during the holidays and year round, please visit [www.homesafetycouncil.org](http://www.homesafetycouncil.org).

## Plano's Newest Fire Station Now Open



Plano's Fire Station 11 is now open and responding to emergency calls! The new fire station is located at 4800 Los Rios Boulevard and is responsible for calls in the northeast part of Plano, east of Highway 75 (Central Expressway) and Spring Creek Parkway. The fire station is a new neighbor to McCall Elementary! The fire station houses one engine company which is staffed with a Fire Captain, a Fire Apparatus Operator, and two Firefighters. A dedication ceremony and open house will be held on Saturday, January 6, 2007 from 9:00 am to 11:00 am.



## Candle Safety

Home fires caused by candles peak during the holiday season, with the highest number of candle fires occurring on Christmas Day, followed by New Year's Day and Christmas Eve. Here is some great safety advice for using candles:

A lit candle can cause a fire in the blink of an eye. Never leave burning candles unattended even for a short time. Extinguish all candles before going to sleep or leaving the room. Before leaving your home, double check to make sure that all candles are extinguished.

Do not permit children to keep or use candles or incense in their rooms. Candles and candle-making kits should only be used when an adult is present and awake.

Never use lighted candles on or within three feet of a Christmas tree or other greenery.

Keep candle flames at least three feet away from anything that can burn, including other decorations and wrapping paper.

Always use stable, nonflammable candle holders (such as ceramic or glass). Using a hurricane-lamp enclosure around a flame is a good idea.

Place candles where they will not be knocked down or blown over and well away from drapes, blinds and other materials that can burn.

Always keep burning candles up high, out of the reach of children and pets. If you have children living in or visiting your home, store candles, matches and lighters out of their sight and reach (preferably locked away).

As an additional safety measure, consider using flameless candles (with a battery-powered "flame" light) which will eliminate the risk of an open candle flame.

The Plano Fire Department's Explorer Post is looking for new participants. If you know of a young person who is considering a career in the fire service, please share with them the following information. The Plano Fire Department's Explorer Post is now accepting applications. Applicants must attend Plano ISD schools and be between the ages of 16 and 21. They must have at least a C average. For an application, contact Captain Mark Vice at 972-941-7162 or [markv@plano.gov](mailto:markv@plano.gov).

Fire Explorers meet and train each Monday evening at Plano fire stations. After a certain amount of training and the successful passing of a test, Explorers are issued fire gear and a pager, are assigned to a Plano station and shift, and respond to structure fires with Plano fire crews. Explorers do not enter burning structures or fight fires but they do help with salvage and overhaul and firefighter rehab.

