



Inspiring Student Achievement through Academic Competition

# Challenges of growth focus of fall workshops



More than 90 PSIA school directors and educators from the Austin/San Antonio area gathered at the PSIA Fall Workshop held at Our Lady of Perpetual Help School in Selma to discuss the changes and challenges of the 2004-05 academic competition year.

A primary focus of the six PSIA workshops held throughout Texas this summer and fall centered on meeting the challenge our young organization faces as larger numbers of schools and individuals choose to participate in this comprehensive academic program. With entries at the state level exceeding 1600 at each of the two state meets held at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth

this spring, the need has become imperative to find ways to continue providing a challenging program to as many children as possible without jeopardizing tournament feasibility.

Major strategies for prolonging individual advancement directly from district to state came from the State Advisory Board meeting held in June. A list of rule changes expected to balance district alignment and

relieve overcrowding at the district and state meets are listed in brief as follows:

• **CLASSIFICATION AND ALIGNMENT:** "A" schools shall

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# New rules for advancement ensure State Meet feasibility

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consist of an average of 24 or fewer students per grade level in grades one through eight. Enrollment in grades 1-8 shall be no more than 192 students. A "AA" school shall consist of an average of 25 or more students per grade level in grades one through eight. "A" schools may opt to participate in the "AA" classification. Currently, we have 10 "AA" and 12 "A" districts; so we expect to see another revision in

alignment for the 2005-06 school year, in order to maintain 50/50 ratio of participating schools

• **DISTRICT ALIGNMENT:** Minimum of 6 schools in each district. Maximum will be dependent on the number of entries and campus size.

• **ADVANCING TO STATE:** Only one student will advance at each grade level in Creative Writing and Storytelling. Two will continue

to advance in all other contests. The 1<sup>st</sup> Alternate ONLY in each contest will be eligible to take the place of a qualifying student unable to attend the State Meet.

With these measures in effect, we expect to be able to continue to provide the top students in each of 18 contests at each grade level the ability to advance directly from District to State competition.



## Praise for District Directors

Without the generous and dedicated people who come forward to direct and host meets across the state, this PSIA extracurricular program could not exist. We give tribute to these and many others who work to provide an outstanding and memorable educational experience for their children through PSIA.

These are just a few of the directors we were able to capture on camera at the fall workshops this year.



**Sharon Phillips, District 3AA,  
St. Mary's School, Temple**



**Theresa Walker and Debbie Lauman, District 4A, Stepping Stone School, Tyler. These are new directors at a new host school**



The PSIA  
Private Schools  
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**Torch** Published periodically... Comments/Contributions welcomed

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# District Director Pics con't



**Christine Wanjura, District 5A, Christ the King Cathedral School, Lubbock. New director and site.**



**Lisa Stane, Area 2 One-Act Play Director, Lubbock Homeschool Association. This will be the first year for a OAP host site in the Panhandle area.**



**Ricky Therneau, District 6AA, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Selma. (Her second year of hosting)**



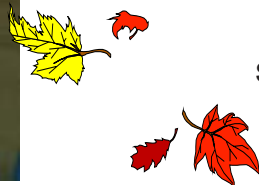
**Jo Cain (center), shares strategies for coordinating a successful PSIA district meet at the Houston area workshop held at Trinity Lutheran School in Spring. Jo will be directing District 7A, at her campus, St. Philip, El Campo, with the assistance of Sister Laura Toman from St. Michael's, Weimar.**



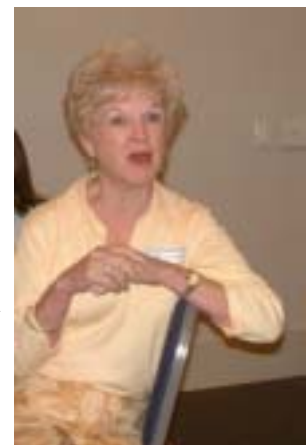
**Dr. Libby Weed, District 8AA, Brentwood Christian School, Austin. (Experienced and dedicated hostess of PSIA)**



**Bonnie McManus, assisting Bitsy Mayberry as District 9AA hostess at Saint Mary's Hall School, San Antonio.**



**Cathy Abercrombie, District 11A Director, Abercrombie Academy, Spring, shares winning strategies for students at the Houston area workshop.**





Participants at the Houston area workshop held at District 11AA host site, Trinity Lutheran School in Spring, share ideas about organizing their PSIA program during a working lunch break.



Rebecca Haley-Zamudio, Area 6 One-Act Play Director, and Mrs. Josephine Thomason, District 13AA Director, both from Our Lady of Sorrows School in McAllen, pose at the South Texas fall workshop held at Incarnate Word Academy in Brownsville.



# More Workshop Scenes



Lori Darnell, Yorkshire Academy PSIA Director and dedicated worker in District 10A, provides insight into tried and true methods of coordinating effective event grading procedures.



Break at the South Texas workshop



A few Tyler workshop participants



**DIST. #**

<b>Class</b>	<b>DIRECTOR(S)</b>	<b>SCHOOL HOST</b>	<b>CITY</b>	<b>DATE</b>
1A	Elaine Schad	Immac. Conception	Denton	Sat., Apr. 2
1AA	L Thomas/D McGowan	Prince of Peace	Plano	Fri., Feb. 25
2A	Valerie Johnson	Good Shepherd	Garland	Sat., Mar. 12
2AA	Bryan Bunselmeyer	Liberty Christian	Denton	Sat., Mar. 12
3 AA	Sharon Philips	St. Mary's	Temple	Sat., Mar. 5
4A	D Lauman/T Walker	Stepping Stone	Tyler	Fri., Mar. 11
5 A	Christine Wanjura	Christ the King Cathedral	Lubbock	Sat., Feb. 19
6 A	Rita Medellin/J Jessen St. James, Seguin	Texas Lutheran Univerity	Seguin	Sat., Feb. 25
6 AA	Ricky Therneau	Our Lady of Perpetual Help	Selma	Sat., Mar. 5
7 A	Jo Cain/ Sr. L Toman	St. Philip	El Campo	Fri., Mar. 4
7 AA	Don Kenner	Holy Family	Austin	Sat., Feb. 26
8A	Pam Clark	Austin Jewish	Austin	<b>TBA</b>
8 AA	Libby Weed	Brentwood Christian	Austin	Sat., Feb. 12
9 A	Billy Pahl/Trish Mosser St. Mary/Notre Dame, Kerrville	St. Mary's	Fredericksburg	Sat., Apr. 2
9 AA	Bitsy Mayberry	Saint Mary's Hall	San Antonio	Sat., Apr. 2
10 A	Caryl Nystrom	Holy Spirit	Houston	Sat., Mar. 19
10 AA	Julie Dreyer	St. Anne	Beaumont	Sat., Mar. 5
11 A	Cathy Abercrombie	Abercrombie	Spring	Sat., Apr. 2
11 AA	Jennifer Saunders	Trinity Lutheran	Spring	Sat., Mar. 5
12 A	Becky Till	Sacred Heart	Crosby	Sat., Apr. 2
13 A	Ellen Allen	Oratory	Pharr	<b>(place and date TBA)</b>
13 AA	Josephine Thomason	Our Lady of Sorrows	McAllen	Sat. Feb. 12

**A new group of dedicated educators participated at the Panhandle area workshop held at Christ the King Cathedral School in Lubbock, new host for District 5A.**





## We give thanks...

To these gracious businesses, organizations and individuals who support PSIA by providing scholarships, workshop door prizes, test writing, and quality resources for PSIA participants:

- ✓ ASW Enterprises (Spelling) 800 627-9030
- ✓ Art Education IDEAS (Music Memory) 203 229-0411
- ✓ Beth Harris (Dictionary Writer)
- ✓ Don McConnel (PSIA Webmaster-webmaster@psiaacademics.org)
- ✓ Doug Ray (Math areas) www.drnumsen.com
- ✓ HEXCO (Dictionary/Spelling) 800 725-2627
- ✓ Nystrom (Desk Atlas) 800 621-8086
- ✓ Stan "The Science Man" Hall (Science)
- ✓ TEP & Merriam Webster 800 443-2078
- ✓ TMSCA (math/science) 800 547-0323
- ✓ TuneIn (Art) 800 488-6346
- ✓ Special THANKS to PSIA Members and to the thousands of volunteers who make this program possible

Thank  
you



## Dates of Import

- Dec. 1 - One-Act Play Sign-up with District Director*
- Dec. 15 - District Alignment Set*
- Jan. 1 - One-Act Play Deadline for Plays Not on List*
- Jan. 15 - One-Act Play Title/Entry Registration Deadline  
(submit earlier to secure desired host site)*
- Jan. 15 - Last day to join PSIA this school year*
- 30 days prior to your District Meet - Entries DUE*
- Apr. 30 - "AA" State Meet - Texas Christian  
University in Fort Worth*
- May 7 - "A" State Meet - Texas Christian  
University in Fort Worth*
- May 14 - One-Act Play State Meet - Blinn College  
Brenham*

# Workshop Pics



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Teachers in South Texas meet at Incarnate Word Academy in Brownsville to learn about inspiring students through PSIA academic competition.



A scene during lunch at Christ the King Cathedral School - preparing for an exciting academic year.



Homeschooler, Pam Kriegel, representing Brownsville HOPE, shared with Valley participants her strategies for preparing her son, Max, to compete in the Creative Writing Contest. Max was the state gold medalist in the first grade "A" classification this year.



A few of the educators that met at Stepping Stone School in Tyler to find out more about rules interpretation and preparation for fun competition in the spring.