

# KleinConnects

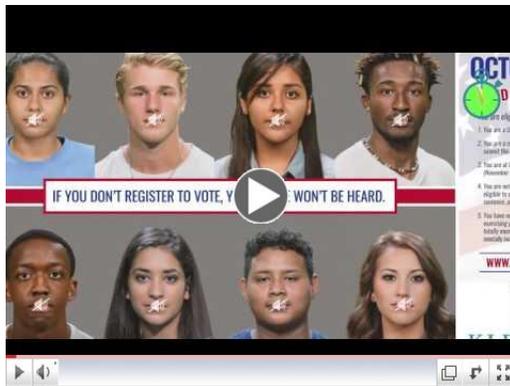
A monthly newsletter to keep you informed.

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## 90 SECONDS WITH BRET

Each week Superintendent Bret Champion, Ed.D, updates us on the latest news happening across the district. These videos are available each Tuesday at 4 p.m. Check out the highlights here:



Sept. 6, 2016



Sept. 13, 2016

[Click here](#) to see all of the 90 Seconds with Bret episodes.



## BIOLOGY TEACHER ATTENDS WORKSHOP AT SAN DIEGO ZOO

Conservation education

For new Klein Oak biology teacher Aaron DeForge this summer was definitely one to remember. DeForge was selected to attend the San Diego Zoo's Conservation Education Lab. This exclusive four-day workshop has trained more than 800 middle school and high school teachers to date.

"I wanted to be a part of this because I want to teach my students about the impact we are having on organisms and their habitats," he said. "But I didn't know how to fit it in to such a tightly structured curriculum."

Click [here](#) to continue reading this story.



## WHAT'S NEW

### Klein ISD Education Foundation Annual Giving Campaign

New this year, the Klein ISD Education Foundation has launched a text-to-donate campaign. This makes it easy to become a member of TEAM KLEIN. Be on the lookout for the new TEAM KLEIN flyer headed your way. For more information about the Foundation and how to donate, [click here](#).



## DID YOU KNOW

### District Liability Insurance

The Board of Trustees and Klein ISD administration are pleased to remind you of the protection you have if a lawsuit is filed against you because of an incident or event that occurs within the scope of your employment.

The district also offers automobile liability insurance to employees who operate district owned or hired vehicles for Klein ISD business.

Learn more about these coverages by clicking [here](#).



# EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

## Following In the footsteps of a legacy



### Jodi Ekster

#### **Teacher & Coach - Klein High School**

She didn't plan on following in her mother's footsteps but for Jodi Ekster becoming a teacher meant following a passion.

Beginning her first year in the district she was prepared for the first day but had no idea how special it would be. She greeted each of her 150 tenth graders with a smile and a handshake because her goal is to build lasting teacher-student relationships.

"I've always had a huge heart and yearned to create meaningful relationships with young people," said Ekster. "This is something that rests at the top of my to-do list."

Her original plan was to become a pediatric nurse and blaze her own path to success. After realizing her passion wasn't rooted in nursing, she turned to listen to what she had been ignoring. She wanted to be a teacher and follow in her mother's footsteps.

Jodi is the daughter to 40-year Klein ISD veteran Peggy Ekster.

"I saw how fulfilling her job was, and I desired that," she said. "It seems surreal, but I will always try to preserve the legacy she has made in Klein and make her proud. She is one of the most important influences in my life and I cherish everything that she is and stands for."

### Peggy Ekster

#### **Director - Vistas High School Program**

She loves students. She loves making a difference and she loves Klein. That's why Peggy Ekster has served for 40 years.

In 1977, Peggy Ekster began working as a teacher and coach at Klein High School. She continued serving students as a teacher and counselor at Klein Forest and in 2005 became the director of the Vistas High School Program.

"I am very fortunate to have been selected as the director of the Vistas High School program," said Ekster. "The best part of my job is working with students who are willing to do whatever it takes to graduate from high school."

Ekster begins each day by greeting each student with a handshake and a smile and prides herself on taking the time to build those strong student-teacher relationships.

"Visiting classrooms and constantly motivating and building strong relationships is an important part of my daily job," she said. "On occasion, I do get in a game of ping-pong with my students. Trying to beat Ms. Ekster is a big deal at Vistas."

She is thrilled that her daughter has decided to become an educator in Klein ISD. She has shared many of her thoughts and beliefs with daughter Jodi and knows that

Jodi has a twin brother, Jake, with whom she shares "twin telepathy".

"He always knows exactly what's on my mind." she shared. "One time in the car, we started singing the same song at the exact same time. It was strangely awesome."

she will make a difference in the lives of her students.

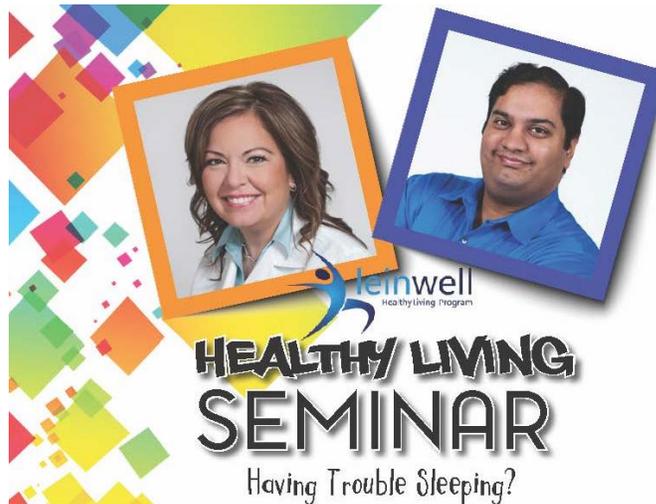
Peggy enjoys family camping trips with her husband, children, and now four grandchildren. They also enjoy four wheeling and doing things outdoors. Additionally, she is also an avid supporter of her hometown Astros and Texans!

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## MISCELLANEOUS

### Kleinwell hosts first seminar

Join the Kleinwell Healthy Living Program for its first seminar, *Having Trouble Sleeping?* on Sept. 19. Hear from local experts about the importance of getting good, restful sleep. They will discuss common sleep disorders and how to overcome them. Click on the image for more information.



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## {CALENDAR OF EVENTS}

### September 2016

- 20: Townhall - KMPC
- 21: Key Communicators Meeting
- 22: Townhall - Kaiser
- 24: Wunderlich Farm Farmer's Market

### October 2016

- 4: Board Candidates' Forum - KMPC
- 6: College Night - Champion Forest BC
- 7: Yellow Bus Tour
- 10: Board of Trustees' Meeting
- 11: KEF Golf Tournament
- 12: VIPS Luncheon - Strack



### Just Home Savings:

Klein ISD employees will save hundreds or even thousands each time they buy or sell a home. Learn more about cash rebates, closing fee options, and more by clicking [here](#).

### Optucorp:

Travel within the U.S., Mexico, or take a dream cruise with package specials for Klein ISD employees. [Click here](#) to learn more.

### Farmers - Van Pelt Group:

All Klein ISD employees receive an Affinity Discount and much more. [Click here](#) to

### Klein ISD Police Street Smarts

Would you like to know more about situational awareness, know how to defend yourself if attacked, and learn tips and tricks to make your home and car more secure? Then check out the Street Smarts class.

[Click here](#) for more information.

[learn more.](#)

[Click here](#) for a full listing of employee discounts.

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### Stay Connected



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