

PINE TREE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

P.O. Box 5878, Longview, TX 75608
903.295.5000
www.ptisd.org

Pine Tree Sale Lets Former Students Build Memories

By **MAGGIE SOUZA**, Longview News Journal
Friday, September 07, 2007

Pine Tree Independent School District alumni and teachers soon will be able to own a piece of their past. Now that the new middle 5-6 school is up and running, construction workers will begin tearing down the old school to make way for a new primary campus. It will be the end of a 75-year era, and the fall of the district's first brick building.



Kevin Green/News-Journal Photo

Though the school will no longer stand, the Pine Tree Education Foundation has come up with a way to preserve memories, brick by brick.

At the suggestion of Superintendent Lynn Whitaker, the foundation will start selling bricks from the old building. The school won't be knocked down until October, but the foundation will start taking orders Sept. 23 at the new middle 5-6 open house. The sale is open to anyone, not just the Pine Tree community.

The Pine Tree Education Foundation will sell bricks from the district's middle 5-6 building, which will be torn down in October.

There will be three styles for sale: plain bricks, \$25; bricks with a standard brass tag, \$50; and bricks with a customized tag, \$100.

Customized tags will have three lines that say whatever the customer wants.

"It's a great opportunity for alumni to receive a memento and at the same time to be giving back to the school," said Cathy Shipp, executive director of the education foundation. Shipp began teaching math at the school district in 1969. Her first classroom was in the building that's about to be demolished, so she knows firsthand that the school's building blocks hold sentimental value.

"You look at one of these bricks, and I can do this right now, and I can see my classroom, I can see the kids," Shipp said, pointing to one of the plated bricks. "I can look at it as a memory of my life devoted to young people." Shipp said she's already gotten quite a bit of feedback from interested parties. It's something that will make a great gift, she said.

Dale Sage, foundation board member and Pine Tree alumna, agreed. "I think it's something I'd like to have, and it's something I'd like to buy for my children," said Sage, whose four children (and three grandchildren) are also Pine Tree grads. "I feel we don't do enough preserving,"

Sage said. "We do a lot of demolishing, and we need to be reminded of our past."

Money raised by sales will go to the Pine Tree Education Foundation's general endowment fund, which supports a variety of grants and programs. Shipp said she's not sure how much the fundraiser will bring in, but is optimistic that the idea will be popular. "There are just certain periods in your life you want to hold on to and remember," she said.

Interested?

— What: Pine Tree school memorabilia sale

— Starts: Sept. 23

— Where: Order forms will be distributed at all campuses and will be available at the Pine Tree Administration Building and at home football games

— Contact: Cathy Shipp, executive director of the Pine Tree Education Foundation, (903) 295-5021 or cshipp@ptisd.org