

# BRINGING THE WINTER DANCE PARTY MUSICAL SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS INTO THE COMMUNITY

WITH

## THE SCHOOL



Remembering  
**Ritchie Valens, Buddy Holly and The Big Bopper**  
Also pilot Roger Peterson and former Surf Ballroom Manager Darrel Hein

### THE STORY OF

## *Buddy's Buddies*

In 2002 following the Rock 'n' Roll Dance Party Tour, a show was put on by the artists for kids at Clear Lake Middle and High Schools and members of Clear Lake Chamber of Commerce. Approximately 450 students and around 50 adults attended a fabulous show, and an annual tradition was established.

Artists appearing were Tommy Allsup, Carl Bunch, Peggy Sue Geron, Gary and Ramona Tollett, Ernie Valens, George Tomsco, David Bigham, Larry Welborn and The Classics and Alan Clark.

Every year since then, as part of the events in Clear Lake each February to commemorate 'The Day The Music Died', a show is put on at the EB Stillman Auditorium, Clear Lake School for around 700 students and adults. The artists are drawn from talented music fans, the number growing each year to around fifteen in 2008. The musicians are the self-styled 'Buddy's Buddies'.

An increasing number of famous artists appearing at the Surf Ballroom during the February events now willingly come along and join in the fun at this very colourful show. Guest artists have included The Fireballs, Tommy Allsup, Carl Bunch, Jay and The Americans and the legendary Peggy Sue. A feature each year is a 50's period costume competition for the kids, with around 40 entering in recent years.

Since 2006 another local School at Garner, Iowa has been added to the playing schedule, and in 2009 it is hoped to stage three performances of 'Buddy's Buddies' during the week leading up to the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 1959 Winter Dance Party.

Since their debut in 2002, 'Buddy's Buddies' and their guest artists have played to a total audience of around 4,500 students and adults.