Northwest ISD School Notes, April 12-May 5

Byron Nelson cheerleaders to perform in Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade
Byron Nelson High School’s cheerleaders have been selected to perform in the 2017 Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade, sending 24 students to the largest annual parade in the world.

The Bobcat cheerleaders will head to New York to perform in the parade based on their 2016-17 homecoming routine, which was selected by Spirit of America Productions as one of the qualifying performances. Few cheerleaders perform in the parade each year – Spirit of America selects performers for its ensemble based on invitation and qualification.

Since 1924, the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade has served as a staple of the United States holiday season. More than 50 million people watch the parade on television, and more than 3 million people attend it in person. This year’s parade will take place Thursday, Nov. 23.

To help pay for the trip to New York, the cheerleading program is currently accepting donations for the Trophy Club Spring Garage Sale hosted by the Trophy Club Women’s Club. The sale will take place from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 22. Their items for sale will be available at 14 Brook Hollow Lane in Trophy Club. Those interested in donating items for the fundraiser should email Marian Allsup, cheerleading sale coordinator, at mrallsum2@gmail.com.

PHOTO INCLUDED [Byron Nelson Cheerleading.jpg]: The Byron Nelson High School cheerleading squad will head to New York in November to take part in the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade, the largest annual parade in the world. The Bobcat cheerleaders were selected to perform after their 2016 homecoming routine was selected for its quality.

Three Northwest ISD students, one team qualify for UIL Academic State Meet
Three Northwest ISD students and one team will represent the district at the upcoming UIL Academic State Meet, the top academic competition in Texas, after finishing near the top in their events at their regional academic meets.

One Byron Nelson High School student as well as two students and a team from Eaton High School will head to Austin later this month to compete after finishing in the top two places in their categories at their UIL regional meets. In addition to the state qualifiers, Northwest ISD is also home to two state alternate students.

At the 5A Region I meet, Eaton’s Nathan Newton qualified for the state meet in the current issues event, and classmate Taylor Glissman qualified for state in editorial writing. Both students finished second in their respective categories. Emma Bluestein also garnered points for the Eagles, finishing fourth in informative speaking and becoming a state alternate in her category.

Eaton’s current issues team finished second in its event, earning a wild card bid to the state meet. Eaton’s current issues team is composed of Zack Flowers, Avery Nennmann, Nathan Newton and Zach Sheehan.

Northwest High School’s one-act play company took home fourth-place honors, earning points for the Texans at the 5A Region I meet. Though UIL one-act play competes in its own discipline away from the other events, it also garners points for the academic team.
In the 6A Region I meet, Byron Nelson’s Hannah Stauss qualified for state with her first-place finish in poetry interpretation. Luke Chitwood also garnered points at the regional meet for the Bobcats, coming in fourth in prose interpretation and earning state alternate honors.

The UIL Academic State Meet will take place April 21-22 at the University of Texas at Austin.

Byron Nelson culinary arts students earn bronze in state competition
Byron Nelson High School’s culinary arts students recently earned third-place honors in a statewide competition based on their original recipe.

The students – Amanda Arts, Taylor Carnes and Joshua Williams – earned bronze in Aramark’s Lone Star Chef Competition, which took place at Baylor University in Waco on April 6. Competing within the competition’s “Taste of Asia” theme, the students’ created a glazed chicken teriyaki with pineapple brown rice recipe, earning $1,000 in scholarship money.

Northwest ISD will feature the students’ award-winning recipe in a districtwide menu in May.

The Lone Star Chef Competition is sponsored and organized by Aramark to bring culinary arts students from 10 Texas school districts together to highlight their skills and creativity. Additionally, Chrane Food Service Solutions donated $5,000 in scholarship funding for award-winners.

PHOTO INCLUDED [Aramark Taste of Asia Bronze.jpg]: Byron Nelson High School culinary arts students Joshua Williams, Amanda Arts and Taylor Carnes pose with Northwest ISD’s Chef Anthony Moore along with their trophy for earning third-place in Aramark’s statewide Taste of Asia competition. The trio’s recipe, glazed chicken teriyaki with pineapple brown rice, will now be served on a districtwide lunch menu in May.

Registration for district’s summer TechnoCamps now open
Registration for five summer technology camps hosted by Northwest ISD is now open, providing students with opportunities to learn about popular topics at all elementary and middle school grade levels.

Three robotics camps are available for $95 per student: CampWeDo 1.0 Robotics, Camp WeDo 2.0 Robotics and Camp EV3 Robotics. These camps vary by grade level, with at least one course offering available for all kindergarten to eighth-grade students. For students in second to eighth grades, Camp Makey Makey/Stop Motion Animation comes with a take-home kit for $150 per student. Camp Raspberry Pi also comes with a take-home kit and costs $150 per student, providing each attendee with introductory coding tutorials with a small computer system.

Each camp takes place Monday to Thursday over the summer, with dates varying by camp and session. All campers will receive a free T-shirt as part of their participation in a TechnoCamp.

All camps will be held at Pike Middle School, located at 2200 Texan Drive in Fort Worth, featuring both morning and afternoon sessions. To learn more about each camp or register for a camp, visit technocamp.nisdtx.org.

Northwest softball team hosting autism awareness game
Northwest High School’s softball team recently hosted its ninth annual autism awareness fundraiser, with a game taking place soon to recognize Autism Awareness Month in April.

The Lady Texans sold T-shirts throughout February, aiding the local Special Olympics program that assists Northwest students with special needs. As part of Autism Awareness Month, the Lady Texan softball team will host its annual home game in support of the cause on Thursday, April 13, when people who purchased the shirts are encouraged to wear them.

To see the design of the shirt, click here. For more information about the team’s Autism Awareness Month game, please email Coach Tanya Morrow at tmorrow@nisdtx.org.

FORM ATTACHED [Northwest Softball Autism Awareness.pdf]
School board candidate forum being hosted by PTA on April 19
The Northwest ISD Council of PTAs will host a forum for school board candidates on April 19, where community members can hear candidate views before they cast ballots for the May election.

At the forum, candidates will receive questions from a professional moderator, who will provide each with up to three minutes to respond. Primary topics for discussion include academics, policies, parents’ rights and background/experience. Pike Middle School, located at 2200 Texan Drive in Fort Worth, will serve as host of the candidate forum, which will take place in the cafeteria and last from 6-7 p.m. Wednesday, April 19. The event is free to attend.

Three trustee places for the school board are on the ballot this year. Incumbent Mel Fuller is running unopposed for Place 7, while incumbent Lillian Rauch is running against Carissa Barrett for Place 6. Five candidates have filed to run for Place 5, which will see a new face after incumbent Devonna Holland decided not to seek re-election. Running for her seat are Tammy Eck, Taylor Harrington, Matthew Hooper, Steve Sprowls and Jennifer Zazula. For information about the school board election, click here.

Early voting for the election will take place from Monday, April 24, to Tuesday, May 2. Election Day is Saturday, May 6. In addition to the school board contests, a referendum for Northwest ISD’s proposed $399 million bond package will be on the ballot. For more information on the proposed bond package and information on voting locations, click here.

Student job fairs being held at comprehensive high schools in April
Northwest ISD’s Partners in Education program will hold a job fair at each of the district’s three comprehensive high schools in April, providing students with information about job opportunities in the community.

Job fairs will be held around lunchtime at each high school, where tables will be set up for area businesses to meet with interested students. Byron Nelson’s job fair will take place from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday, April 18; Eaton’s job fair will take place 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 19; and Northwest’s job fair will take place 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Thursday, April 20.

Businesses will provide students with information about their job openings, which students could use to find summer jobs, after-school jobs or similar opportunities. The job fair is free to attend, and slots are still open for businesses interested in participating.

For more information about the job fairs or to apply for a business table, please contact Phil Beckman, Partners in Education specialist, by phone at 817-215-0172 or via email at pbeckman@nisdtx.org.

Bond information meetings taking place April 18, 20, 27
Northwest ISD will host a special virtual Facebook Live bond information meeting on Tuesday, April 18, as well as in-person meetings on April 20 and 27, providing families and community members with the opportunity to learn more about the district’s proposed bond package.

At 6:30 p.m. on April 18, anyone can log into Facebook and view the district’s account (search for “Northwest ISD”) to hear from Dr. Ryder Warren, district superintendent, and ask him questions. Dr. Warren will provide an overview of the bond before taking audience questions from those attending virtually.

The Thursday, April 20, meeting will take place 6-7 p.m. at Byron Nelson High School, located at 2775 Bobcat Blvd. in Trophy Club. The final meeting – on Thursday, April 27 – will take place from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at the district administration building’s board room, located at 2001 Texan Drive in Fort Worth.

At each meeting, attendees will have the opportunity to learn about projects included as part of the proposed $399 million bond package, which include new schools, school expansions, safety and security additions, and curriculum upgrades (including athletics, career and technology, and fine arts upgrades). Dr. Ryder Warren, district superintendent, will provide information and answer questions along with Northwest ISD administrative staff.
Early voting for Northwest ISD’s bond referendum will take place from April 24 to May 2. Election Day is May 6.

For more information about the 2017 Bond, a closer look at the specific recommendations, tax information and more, visit www.nisdtxbond.org. If you are interested in setting up a presentation from the school district to learn more about the proposed bond, call 817-215-0171.

FLYER INCLUDED [Facebook Live Bond Chat.jpg]

Next school board meeting taking place April 24
The Northwest ISD Board of Trustees will hold its next regular meeting at 7 p.m. Monday, April 24, in the Board Room at the NISD Administration Building, located at 2001 Texan Drive in Fort Worth.

Kindergarten Roundup to take place districtwide first week of May
Northwest ISD’s annual Kindergarten Roundup will take place the first week of May, providing parents of incoming kindergarteners with the opportunity to learn about their future campuses.

Children who are 5 years old by Sept. 1 are eligible for enrollment in kindergarten, with online enrollment beginning Tuesday, April 18. Following enrollment, each school will host incoming students as part of Kindergarten Roundup.

Though enrollment takes place online, parents and guardians must still bring appropriate documents – including birth certificates, immunization records and proof of residency – for the campus to review. Both online registration and document review can be completed at the campus during Kindergarten Roundup.

Each of Northwest ISD’s 17 elementary schools serves kindergarteners, and exact dates and times for each school’s Kindergarten Roundup can be seen by clicking the corresponding school link at www.nisdtx.org/kroundup.

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