



School Notes

For Immediate Release
January 17, 2012

NISD School Notes, January 17 – March 8

NISD Finance Forum

Parents and NISD staff are encouraged to attend the NISD Finance Forum on Thursday, January 19 at 7 p.m. at the Northwest ISD Administration Building (2001 Texan Drive, Justin). Dan Casey, an expert in Texas School Finance with Moak, Casey & Associates will address the audience and give a legislative overview and update. Northwest ISD school board president Mark Schluter, Superintendent Karen G. Rue, Ed.D., and Chief Financial Officer Jon Graswich will discuss Northwest ISD's strategic plan in response to additional reductions in state funding for 2012-2013. More information is available at www.nisdtx.org/schoolfinance.

Pike Middle School Named a 2012 'School to Watch'

Northwest ISD's Gene Pike Middle School is one of six middle schools in Texas named a "School to Watch." Pike Middle School was selected for its academic excellence, being responsive to the needs and interests of students and a commitment to helping all students achieve at high levels. As a Texas "School to Watch," Pike Middle School will be featured at the annual Texas Middle School Association (TMSA) conference in March and later recognized at the National Schools to Watch Conference in Washington, D.C. this June.

This is the second consecutive year a Northwest ISD middle school has received this honor. Last year, Chisholm Trail Middle School was named a Texas "School to Watch." For more information about the "School to Watch" program, go to www.texasschoolstowatch.com.

Mike Blankenship Named Principal of Truett Wilson Middle School

Mike Blankenship will take the lead as principal of the district's new Truett Wilson Middle School. Blankenship is the current principal of Northwest ISD's Gene Pike Middle School where he has led the campus since 2007. Prior to his career in NISD, Blankenship has served as an assistant principal at North Ricland Middle School and a teacher and coach at Haltom Middle School. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in education from the University of North Texas and is working toward a doctorate in education.

Wilson Middle School is located in the Sendera Ranch neighborhood in north Fort Worth. The district's fifth middle school will open in August with a projected enrollment of 615 students.

PHOTO CAPTION [Blankenship_cropped_2012.jpg]: Mike Blankenship has been named the principal of the district's fifth middle school, Truett Wilson Middle School, located in the Sendera Ranch neighborhood.

BNHS Seniors Accepted into UT Honors Business Program

Byron Nelson High School seniors David Murff and Jacque Roberts have been accepted to the Business Honors program at the University of Texas in Austin. Byron Nelson High School will graduate its first senior class in June.

Granger Elementary Adopts Two Smithville ISD Schools

Kay Granger Elementary School students raised \$3,000 to send to 27 children and two faculty members from Smithville ISD's Brown Primary and Smithville Elementary School. These families lost homes and personal possessions in the fall grass fires in Bastrop County.

PHOTO CAPTION [smithville.jpg]: Kay Granger Elementary School students Chloe Long, Avery Boering, Drew Creane and Jacob Creane pose with a \$3,000 check raised by Granger Elementary students to send to students in Smithville, Texas whose families lost homes and possessions in the fall grass fires.

Board of Trustee Meeting

A Northwest ISD School Board meeting will be held Monday, January 23 at 7 p.m. in the Board Room at the NISD Administration Building (2001 Texan Drive, Justin, 76247).

BNHS Bobcat Dazzlers Drill Team Host Clinic

The Byron Nelson High School Dazzlers Drill Team presents the I Love Dance Clinic and Parent's Night Out on January 27 from 5 to 10 p.m. at Byron Nelson High School. To register, go to www.bobcatdazzlers.com.

NHS Hosts Softball Clinic

The Northwest High School softball team is holding a clinic for third through sixth-grade students on Saturday, January 28 from 9 a.m. to noon at the NHS Indoor Activity Center. To register, email Lynn Rottman at lrottman@nisdtx.org or call 817-215-0235.

Love Elementary School Hosts "Empty Bowls" night

Clara Love Elementary school will partner with Community Storehouse to host an "Empty Bowls" night on Tuesday, February 7 from 6-7 p.m. The community is invited to the Clara Love Elementary cafeteria and gymnasium to enjoy a bowl of soup and view a display of student artwork featuring empty bowls made of clay and fired in the kiln. Community Storehouse will be accepting donations.

PIE Seeks Volunteers for Northwest Reads

The Northwest ISD Partners in Education (PIE) program is seeking volunteers to participate in the fourth annual Northwest Reads on Friday, March 2 from 9-10 a.m. Participants will read their favorite children's book to pre-kindergarten through fifth-grade students at one of the school district's 16 elementary schools.

This event provides community members with an opportunity to inspire young NISD students to become lifelong readers. Volunteers are encouraged to talk with students about their profession and how they use and enjoy reading as adults. To volunteer, go to www.nisdtx.org/northwestreads.

NISD Will Hold Second Annual Techno Expo

NISD is pleased to announce the second annual Techno Expo at Byron Nelson High School on Thursday, March 8 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. From animation and digital video to multimedia and website design, this event will showcase student use of technology in the classroom during a series of more than 250 breakout sessions. New this year, more than 20 teachers will present model lessons exhibiting integration of content and technology. Refreshments will be provided by the Culinary Arts and Hospitality Academy.

Sendera Ranch Elementary Students Become the Teachers

For the past two weeks, Sendera Ranch Elementary third-grade students in Mrs. Games' classroom have switched places with the teacher and led the class. The students were divided into four groups. Each group planned and designed a science lesson and created a PowerPoint presentation to instruct the class. Their PowerPoint presentations will be submitted for NISD's annual Techno Expo showcase in March.

PHOTO CAPTION [powerpoint.jpg]: Sendera Ranch Elementary School third grade students Jessica Rowe and Nick Lowe teach the class a science lesson while incorporating technology and PowerPoint in their lesson.

NISD to Host Movax Immunization Clinics

Northwest High School and Gene Pike Middle School will host Movax Immunization Clinics this spring. The cost is \$14 per child for one vaccine and \$25 for two or more. Please bring a copy of the child's shot records, and a parent or guardian should be present. For more information, go to <http://www.nisdtx.org/cms/lib/TX21000351/Centricity/Domain/1/MOVAX2012.pdf>.

###

For more information, contact: Lesley Weaver, Director of Communications, 817-215-0056 or 817-846-0145 (cell), LWeaver02@nisdtx.org or Emily Conklin, Communications and Multimedia Specialist, 817-215-0169, EOlson@nisdtx.org
Mailing Address: PO Box 77070 Fort Worth, TX 76177 *Physical Address:* 2001 Texan Drive Justin, TX 76247