



School Notes

For Immediate Release
March 26, 2012

NISD School Notes, March 26 – April 28

Second Annual Techno Expo Proves Successful

NISD held the second annual Techno Expo at Byron Nelson High School March 8. From animation and digital video to multimedia and website design, the event showcased student use of technology in the classroom during a series of more than 250 breakout sessions. Approximately 30 teachers presented model lessons exhibiting integration of content and technology. Refreshments were provided by the Culinary Arts and Hospitality Academy.

PHOTO CAPTION [teacher.jpg]: Kay Granger Elementary School fifth-grade teacher Roy Peacock demonstrates his use of netSchool, an online classroom management system.

NISD Hosts Annual Realtor Luncheon

Northwest ISD hosted more than 100 realtors at the annual Realtor Luncheon on March 8. NISD officials shared information on current demographic projections, plans for new schools and the award-winning programs in Northwest ISD. NISD is the second fastest growing district in Texas. With more than 17,000 students, the district spans 3 counties and 14 municipalities, covering more than 234 square miles. The district has seen a direct increase in student enrollment for the past ten years accumulating more than 1,200 new students and opening at least two new campuses each year.

PHOTO CAPTION [realtor.jpg]: Mi Cocina representative Liz Guevara presents a donated prize from the NISD Athletics department to a realtor at this year's luncheon.

Northwest ISD student wins Bobby Bragan Scholarships

Savannah Schneemann of Gene Pike Middle School and Jacey Allen of Medlin Middle School were awarded the Bobby Bragan Scholarship from the Bobby Bragan Youth Foundation (BBYF). Winners were selected based on their academic achievements, extra-curricular and athletic activities and community involvement from sixth through eighth-grade and an essay about their favorite role model. The foundation awarded 36 scholarships in the DFW area and recipients received \$2,500 in scholarship money. Allen and Schneemann will be honored at the annual BBYF Scholar Celebration on April 15 in Arlington.

NHS Teacher to Receive Outstanding Educator of North Texas Award

Northwest High School social studies teacher Charles Cooper has been selected as a recipient for the Outstanding North Texas Educator award sponsored by North Central Texas College. Cooper will be recognized at the sixth annual Conference on American Leadership on March 24 in Corinth.

PHOTO CAPTION [charlescooper.jpg]: NHS teacher Charles Cooper will be recognized at the sixth annual Conference on American Leadership as a recipient for the Outstanding North Texas Educator award sponsored by North Central Texas College.

Mascot and Colors Selected for Wilson Middle School

The district's fifth middle school, Truett Wilson Middle School, will open in the Sendera Ranch neighborhood in August. The school colors, purple and black, and the mascot name, the wildcats, were presented to the school board at the March 19 meeting. The colors and mascot were chosen from two committees: fifth-grade students from each feeder campus and two sixth-grade and two seventh-grade students from Northwest ISD's Gene Pike Middle School and Chisholm Trail Middle School. Ideas formed from the committees were presented to a parent committee. Principal Mike Blankenship met with the parent committee where the group narrowed it down to two color choices and three mascot names. Incoming Wilson Middle School students voted on their favorite color choice and mascot name.

“I’m looking forward to the opportunity to be a part of a neighborhood and community school,” said Principal Mike Blankenship. “The colors and mascot selection process has already given me the chance to work and meet some of the students and parents in the Wilson community.”

Academy of Culinary Arts and Hospitality Students Advance to Nationals

On March 3, members from the Byron Nelson High School Culinary Arts and Hospitality Academy competed in the Texas ProStart Invitational Restaurant Management competition in Round Rock. The team presented an original restaurant concept to a panel of judges. The group placed first and will advance to the National ProStart Invitational in Maryland April 27-29. In addition, the students earned \$8,000 in scholarship offers from The Culinary Institute of America, \$6,000 from Sullivan University and \$12,000 from The Art Institute.

PHOTO CAPTION [Byron_Nelson_mgt_winners.JPG]: The BNHS Culinary Arts and Hospitality Academy Restaurant Management team placed first in the Texas ProStart Invitational Restaurant Management competition in Round Rock and will advance to the National ProStart Invitational in Maryland in April. From left to right is Nathan Hall, Agron Mena, Trenton Shank and BNHS Culinary Arts and Hospitality Academy Facilitator Stephen DeShazo.

NISD Special Education Department Wins Leadership Award

The Northwest ISD special education department has won an award for Outstanding Leadership Efforts in the Use of Technology by Promoting Literacy Success from Don Johnston, Inc. NISD Assistive Technology Facilitator Trudy Potts has been instrumental through her knowledge of devices and software available to support NISD students. Thanks to the efforts of Trudy Potts, the special education department has promoted literacy for all middle and high school students with assistive technology such as *Read: Outloud*.

Read: Outloud is a reading support software which provides reading support for online textbooks and other digital text. NISD also provides Solo, Write: Outloud and Co:Writer software which provides additional literacy and spelling support to students with disabilities with identified needs.

BNHS Orchestras Sets District UIL Record

In February, the Byron Nelson High School orchestras earned a Sweepstakes in the UIL contest for their concert and sight-reading performances. This is the first time an NISD high school orchestra has competed in a UIL event.

PHOTO CAPTION [bnhsorchestra.jpg]: The Byron Nelson High School orchestras competed in the UIL contest in February and earned a Sweepstakes for their concert and sight-reading performances.

NHS AP Psychology Students Advance to State

Thirteen Northwest High School advanced placement (AP) psychology students competed at the Fort Worth Regional Science and Engineering Fair February 27 and 28 in Arlington. The following students will advance to state:

Behavioral and Social Sciences:

- 1st place: Samantha Spence - \$100 - The Effect Color Has on the Recognition of Emotion in Humans
- 2nd place: Crystal Dawson - \$75 - Morality: Does Gender Matter?

Division 1: Team Project A

- 3rd place: Andrew Mirable & Austin Pryor - \$50 - The Effects of Priming on Test Scores

Northwest High School AP psychology teacher Jill Compher has been selected to be the Fort Worth Regional Fair Official at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in May.

NHS Speech Team Excels in State Competition

The Northwest High School speech team traveled to Amarillo for the 2012 Texas Forensic Association Speech and Debate State Tournament. Damon King was a semi-finalist in poetry interpretation ranking him in the top 12 in the state. Amber Mayhew and Sarah Moss advanced to the state finals and placed 7th. Lizzette Marrero advanced to the student congress final and placed second in the state.

PHOTO CAPTION [state2.jpg]: Members of the Northwest High School debate team competed in the 2012 Texas

Forensic Association Speech and Debate State Tournament in Amarillo. From left to right is Sarah Moss, Amber Mayhew, Damon King and Lizzette Marrero and in back is teacher Amerley Ferrell.

BNHS Debate Team Successful at Contests

The Byron Nelson High School debate team shined in the 2012 Texas Forensic Association Speech and Debate State Tournament. Eric Pool and Matt Marxer advanced to the octo-finals in public forum debate and Pool, Marxer and Brendan Gillette advanced to the semi-finals of extemporaneous speaking. Pool and Marxer will advance to the National Championship in Indiana in June. Brendan Gillette and Jesse Hedin competed at the UIL CX State Tournament in Austin and advanced to the octo-finals.

PHOTO CAPTION [photo.jpg]: Byron Nelson High School debate students Brendon Gillette and Jesse Hedin advanced to the octo-finals in the UIL CX State Tournament in Austin.

NHS Destination Imagination Team to compete in State Contest in April

More than 260 teams competed in nearly six different creative problem-solving challenges at the Greater Fort Worth Regional Destination Imagination competition in Mineral Wells. The Solar Stage team from Northwest High School won second place and will advance to the state competition in April.

NHS Texans Take First in Bowling

The Northwest High School Texans took first place in the district bowling tournament. Senior Felix Martinez and junior Chris Mailloux were among the top five boys selected to bowl singles. Both Martinez and Mailloux will advance to state in the boys single division after winning second and third place at regionals.

NHS Powerlifting Team to Compete in State Meet

The Northwest High School powerlifting team competed in the Regional Powerlifting Meet at Everman High School on March 3. Cody Duffy, Clayton McGilvray and Travis Stubblefield placed third in their weight class earning a chance to compete in the State Powerlifting Meet March 24.

Schluter Elementary School to Receive Funds for Fuel Up to Play 60

Carl E. Schluter Elementary School will receive \$4,000 in funding from Dairy MAX for a Fuel Up to Play 60 grant. Fuel Up to Play 60 is the National Football League's campaign to encourage children to be active for 60-minutes a day in order to reduce the trend of childhood obesity. Grant money will be designated for Wii's, physical fitness equipment, host speakers, a salad and yogurt bar in the cafeteria and an after-school fitness club for students.

Army Jazz Ambassadors to Perform Free Concert at NHS

The Army Jazz Ambassadors from Washington, D.C. will perform a free concert at Vernon Solomon Performing Arts Center (PAC) (2201 Texan Drive, Justin, 76247) on Thursday, March 22 at 7 p.m. The Jazz Ambassadors is the official touring big band of the United States Army and will perform a diverse repertoire of big band swing, bebop, Latin, contemporary jazz, standards, popular tunes, Dixieland and patriotic selections. For ticket information, please call 817-215-0243.

Student Holiday

In accordance with NISD's 2011-2012 calendar, Friday, April 6 is a student holiday. Classes will resume on Monday, April 9.

NHS to Host "The Big Event"

On April 28, Northwest High School will participate in "The Big Event," a tradition started at Texas A&M 30 years ago. More than 70 colleges and high schools now participate in "The Big Event." "The Big Event" is an opportunity for NHS students to say thank you to residents in the communities of Haslet, Justin, Rhome, Newark and Aurora (as well as surrounding communities) for their continued support. For more information, email thebigeventnorthwest@nisdtx.org.

NISD Kindergarten Registration Set for May

Northwest ISD will begin welcoming incoming kindergarten students April 30-May 4 during Kindergarten Round-Up. All children who will attend kindergarten during the 2012-2013 school year are asked to register at their local school. Parents and students are also encouraged to attend the school's special round-up event during which incoming students will meet staff and tour the school.

To register, kindergarten students must be five years of age by September 1, 2012. The following items are required for kindergarten registration:

- Birth certificate.
- Immunization records (immunizations must be up to date to attend school).
- Proof of residency (housing contract, rental agreement, etc.).
- Student's Social Security Card.
- License or other suitable photo ID of the parent/guardian.

Additional information regarding NISD Kindergarten Round-Up is available on the district's website at www.nisdtx.org.

Volunteers Encouraged to Complete NISD Background Check Online

Parents and other volunteers who plan to work with children in NISD schools must have passed a criminal background check prior to volunteering. As a convenience, the volunteer background check form is available online and can be completed before the rush of the new school year.

Go to www.nisdtx.org/volunteercheck to complete your background check and be approved to volunteer. Volunteers are a highly valued group of individuals within Northwest ISD, and the district appreciates the contribution of time and effort of the dedicated volunteers.

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