



School Notes

For Immediate Release
May 31, 2012

NISD School Notes, May 31– August 2

Gene Pike Middle School Recognized as Texas ‘Schools to Watch’

Gene Pike Middle School celebrated their ‘Schools to Watch’ achievement at an assembly on Friday, May 25. Performances included student poetry readings and music selections from the choir, band and orchestra. Pike Middle School is one of six schools in Texas to receive this honor. Every middle school that is named a School to Watch must meet four areas of criteria: academic excellence, developmental responsiveness, social equity and organizational structure. Texas currently has 17 ‘Schools to Watch’ and NISD’s Gene Pike and Chisholm Trail middle schools belong to this elite group.

PHOTO CAPTION [schooltowatch]: District and campus administrators along with Pike Middle School students pose with the Texas ‘Schools to Watch’ banner presented to Gene Pike Middle School at an assembly May 25. Pictured left to right is Executive Director of Curriculum and Staff Development Rob Thornell, Ed.D., Pike Middle School student Jensen Brown, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Edward Chevallier, Pike Middle School student Dawson Jones, Superintendent Karen G Rue, Ed.D., former Pike Middle School Principal and current Truett Wilson Middle School Principal Mike Blankenship, Schools to Watch Board Member Kyle Wilson, Schools to Watch Board Member Sandra Chaps, Pike Middle School Principal Conrad Streeter and Executive Director of Secondary Education Damon Edwards.

NISD Students and Staff Recognized at NISD Night at the Ballpark

Northwest ISD students, staff and family gathered for NISD Night at the Ballpark in Arlington May 30. Students from Byron Nelson and Northwest high schools and James M. Steele Accelerated High School sang the National Anthem. Members of the Northwest ISD Board of Trustees, Elementary Teacher of the Year Meredith Cunningham, Secondary Teacher of the Year Amy Jo Wagner, 16 of the NISD’s Exemplar Educators and NISD Superintendent Karen G. Rue, Ed.D. were recognized on the field prior to the start of the game. Medlin Middle School seventh-grade science teacher Tina Alwin threw the first ceremonial pitch.

PHOTO CAPTION [firstpitch_cropped]: Medlin Middle School seventh-grade science teacher Tina Alwin throws the ceremonial first pitch at NISD Night at the Ballpark in Arlington on May 30. Alwin was the lucky winner from a staff drawing of more than 250 names.

PHOTO CAPTION[onfield]: NISD Superintendent Karen G. Rue, Ed.D. members of the NISD Board of Trustees, Elementary Teacher of the Year Meredith Cunningham, Secondary Teacher of the Year Amy Jo Wagner and 16 of the district’s Exemplar Educators represented Northwest ISD on the field prior to the start of the game.

BNHS Students Rank in Top 10 for National French Exam

Each year approximately 97,000 students attending public and private schools across the United States participate in the National French Exam, and Byron Nelson High School sophomores Musela Lecane and John Kouam ranked among the Top 10. Lecane ranked sixth in North Texas and sixth in the nation on the Level 2 exam and Kouam ranked second in North Texas and fourth in the nation on the Level 3 exam. Byron Nelson High School is the only public high school in Denton or Tarrant counties to have students rank in the National Top 10. The National French contest is sponsored each year by the American Association of French Teachers.

PHOTO CAPTION [French]: Pictured left to right is Byron Nelson High School sophomore Musela Lecane and sophomore John Kouam with their medals from the American Association of French Teachers for ranking in the Top 10 in the National French Contest. Lecane ranked sixth in North Texas and sixth in the nation on the Level 2 exam and Kouam ranked second in North Texas and fourth in the nation on the Level 3 exam.

Two NISD Elementary Schools Place in Top Ten for Destination Imagination Global Finals

Samuel Beck and Lakeview elementary schools competed in Knoxville, Tennessee at the Destination Imagination Global Tournament. The teams competed against teams from the United States, Canada, China, Poland, Mexico and Turkey. The Lakeview team received eighth place and the Beck team received 10th place out of 48 global teams.

NISD Recognizes Top Students at Board of Trustee Awards

The Northwest ISD Board of Trustees honored the district's top students for their achievements in regional, state, national and international competitions on Thursday, May 24. More than 600 students were honored and presented a medallion for their achievements.

PHOTO CAPTION [bot]: James M. Steele Accelerated High School top graduate Micah Larsen is presented a medallion from Northwest ISD Board Member Daryl Laney, D.C. at the annual Board of Trustee Awards May 24.

Sendera Ranch Elementary Student Named to 2011-2012 Lone Star Youth Leadership Council

Sendera Ranch Elementary School fifth-grader Nicolas Buckwalter is one of 111 young student leaders to complete the 2011-2012 Lone Star Youth Leadership Council alumni program. Each year student leaders are nominated by their educators to participate in spring break and summer Lone Star Leadership Academy camps. In addition to the camps, the participants are instructed to create a project action plan and put together a portfolio. Buckwalter and 10 volunteers organized a school and community drive to collect winter outerwear and personal hygiene products. Three boxes of hygiene products and five bags of coats, hats and gloves were collected and donated to the Union Gospel Mission Homeless Shelter. This year's Lone Star Youth Leadership Council is made up of 111 fifth through twelfth- graders.

PHOTO CAPTION: Pictured from left to right are Sendera Ranch Elementary students Raegan LeGrand, Olivia DeHaan, Lone Star Youth Leadership Council member Nick Buckwalter and Quinn Smith. Buckwalter organized a school and community drive to collect winter outerwear and personal hygiene products.

NISD Early Release Days and Last Day of School

Northwest ISD will dismiss early on Thursday, May 31 and Friday, June 1 at the following times:

Elementary Schools: 12:15 p.m.
 Steele Accelerated High School: 1:10 p.m.
 Byron Nelson and Northwest high schools: 1:15 p.m.
 Middle Schools: 2 p.m.

The last day of school is Friday, June 1.

NISD Graduations

Graduation ceremonies for the Class of 2012 are as follows:

- James M. Steele Accelerated High School's graduation ceremony will be held Monday, June 4 at 7 p.m. at the Vernon Solomon Performing Arts Center (PAC) at Northwest High School.
- Northwest High School's commencement is Tuesday, June 5 at 3 p.m. at the University of North Texas Coliseum in Denton.
- Byron Nelson High School's commencement is Tuesday, June 5 at 7 p.m. at the University of North Texas Coliseum in Denton.

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.

Northwest ISD Summer School Opportunities

From math and reading academies to sports and fine arts camps, Northwest ISD proudly offers a variety of summer programs for students to enhance their educational experience. For online registration and a complete description of the programs, go to www.nisdtx.org or call the Student Services office at 817-215-0083 for further assistance.

Prekindergarten Registration in Northwest ISD

Prekindergarten registration will take place August 1 and 2 at Hatfield Elementary School (2051 Texan Drive, Justin, 76247). Registration will be by appointment only. To make an appointment, please call Deanne Colley at 817-215-0198 beginning May 1. For more information about prekindergarten qualifications, go to www.nisdtx.org/familyinvolvement.

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