



School Notes

For Immediate Release
November 28, 2011

NISD School Notes, November 28 – December 30

NISD Trustee Participates in Leadership Program

Northwest ISD School Board Vice President Mel Fuller was among a group of Texas school board members attending the Leadership TASB (Texas Association of School Boards) program in Dallas November 11-12. Trustees attended sessions focusing on their roles as advocates for public schools. The 36 member group was selected by TASB and will participate in a year-long education leadership study program. The Leadership TASB class of 2012 represents Texas school districts of all sizes. Participants who complete all requirements will graduate next year with a unique designation recognized by TASB.

BNHS Teacher Earns Award from Texas A&M University

Byron Nelson High School teacher Kim Vazquez has been awarded the Texas A&M University Inspiration Award for Exceptional Secondary Education. Vazquez was selected among a pool of nominations submitted by graduating students of Texas A&M University. Vazquez will be recognized at the commencement ceremony on Saturday, December 17 and will have the opportunity to present Lauren Pellino, her nominating student, her diploma. Vazquez will receive \$2,000 for this honor and an additional \$1,000 will be awarded to Byron Nelson High School.

NISD Announces New Executive Director of Curriculum and Staff Development

Northwest ISD is pleased to announce the hiring of Rob Thornell, Ed.D., as the district's new executive director of curriculum and staff development. Thornell is currently the principal at Northwest ISD's Chisholm Trail Middle School in Rhome where he has led the campus since 2007. Under his leadership, the school was named a "School to Watch" by the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) in 2011.

Dr. Thornell will continue his position as principal of Chisholm Trail Middle School as the district launches a search for his replacement. Effective December 1, Thornell will transition into the executive director position and will begin full-time as soon as his successor at CTMS is hired. The current executive director for curriculum and staff development, Mike Schwei, Ed.D., will remain in his position at NISD through November 30.

PHOTO CAPTION [robthornell.jpg]: NISD announces Rob Thornell, Ed.D. as the district's new executive director of curriculum and staff development.

Steele Accelerated High School Recognizes Fall Graduates

James M. Steele Accelerated High School celebrated the fall 2011 graduating class on November 9 with a special reception. Principal Robin Ellis recognized 20 graduating seniors and presented awards and honor cords. Senior Robert Mayon received the Steele Legacy Award and was named the Highest Achieving Fall Graduate.

PHOTO CAPTION [graduate.jpg]: Pictured is Principal Robin Ellis with Steele Accelerated High School graduating senior Robert Mayon. Mayon is the recipient of the Steele Legacy Award and was named the Highest Achieving Fall Graduate.

BNHS Freshman Wins Local Essay Contest

Byron Nelson High School freshman Jaspreet Mann won the 2011 local Voice of Democracy essay contest. Her oral essay, "Is There Still Pride in Serving in our Military?," has been submitted to District 1 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Vocal Democracy is an annual contest sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars to encourage patriotism in our youth as well as to provide state and national scholarship opportunities. The Roanoke Memorial Ladies Auxiliary serve as an official NISD Partner in Education.

NHS Drum Line Finishes in Top Five

The Northwest High School drum line competed in the Lonestar Classic November 13 at Marcus High School and finished in fifth place setting a new personal best for the line at this contest. To watch a clip of the NHS drum line performance at the preliminary contest, go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xuWZMpaQvbY>.

NHS Choir Advances Two Students to Area Contest

Two Northwest High School choir students have advanced to the Area choir competition in January. Sophomore Roarke McKinzie and freshman Megan Graves will compete in Abilene on January 7 with 15 other students from three other regions for a place in the Texas All State choir. Sophomore Bailee Ingoe will serve as an alternate.

High School FFA Teams Advance to State

Byron Nelson High School and Northwest High School FFA (Future Farmers of America) teams competed in the Area Leadership Development Contests on November 19. The Byron Nelson High School Junior Quiz Team – Shelby Bennett, Billy Green, Justus Montgomery and John Steele – came in first place and were named Area Champions. Junior Creed Speaker Morgan Brathwaite came in second place. The Northwest High School Junior Quiz Team – Natasha Kissell, Brooke Butler, Sydnee Hinkle and Jessica Spence – received second place in the area. These teams qualified for state and will compete in the state contest December 2-3.

NHS Theater Director and 15 Students Cast to Perform in Local Community Production

The Northwest High School theater department and Tarrant County College Northwest will collaborate in a local community production of Thornton Wilder's *Our Town*. Northwest High School theater director Nick Kougias has been cast as the lead role of the stage manager.

Seven Northwest High School students were selected to be part of the cast. Two Northwest High School students, seniors Tomlyn Borgan and Jordan Mersberger, were cast in the lead roles of Emily Webb and George Gibbs. Junior Taylor Hart was cast as Rebecca Gibbs, sophomore Lincoln Taylor was cast as Wally Webb and freshman Hunter Hart was cast as Joe Crowell. In addition to these principle roles, senior Ahsan Siddiqui and sophomore Drew White were cast in the ensemble.

The production is December 7-11 (Wednesday-Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m.). For reservations, please call 817-515-7724.

NISD Hosts 4th Annual Reindeer Romp

Northwest ISD is hosting the 4th Annual Reindeer Romp benefiting the Northwest ISD physical education departments. The 5K race will be held Saturday, December 10 at 8:30 a.m. at Byron Nelson High School (2775 Bobcat Blvd. Trophy Club, 76262). To register for the race, go to <http://www.nisdreindeerromp.com/>.

BNHS Hosts Winter Cheer Classic

The Byron Nelson High School (BNHS) cheerleaders will host the 2011 Winter Cheer Classic on Saturday, December 10 at 9 a.m. Participants will learn cheers and dances to perform at half time of a Bobcat basketball game. For more information, go to www.nisdtx.org.

Board of Trustee Meeting

The December School Board meeting will be held Monday, December 12 at 7 p.m. in the Board Room at the NISD Administration Building (2001 Texan Drive, Justin, 76247).

NISD Closed for Winter Break

Northwest ISD offices and campuses will be closed December 19-30 for Winter Break. Monday, January 2 is a student holiday. Classes will resume Tuesday, January 3.

###