



School Notes

For Immediate Release
December 12, 2011

NISD School Notes, December 12 – January 19

NISD Joins School Finance Lawsuit Filed December 9 in Austin

Northwest ISD (NISD) is participating in the school finance lawsuit filed Friday by members of the Texas School Coalition, which is made up of revenue-contributing school districts. The lawsuit challenges the constitutionality of the Texas school finance system, claiming that it fails to provide schools with sufficient funding to meet state educational standards and that the system has become a statewide property tax. For more information, go to www.nisdtx.org/schoolfinance.

Steele Accelerated High School Graduates Fall Class

James M. Steele Accelerated High School graduated 23 students at the fall graduation ceremony on December 8. Steele Accelerated High School, which opened in the fall of 2010, is a nontraditional high school, designed to provide students a venue to complete their education and graduate at a faster pace. Last year, Steele Accelerated High School graduated 26 students.

PHOTO CAPTION [Hannah.jpg]: Steele Accelerated High School senior Hannah Spears graduated from Steele Accelerated High School on December 8 as a Texas Scholar with highest honors. She will attend Texas Woman's University in January.

NHS Receives Award for Saving Lives

Northwest High School received two awards for blood donations on behalf of Carter Bloodcare. The campus received the highest percentage of donors and highest number of donors based on the size of the 2012 senior class.

NISD FFA Teams Compete in State Leadership Development Contest

The Northwest High School Future Farmers of America (FFA) competed in the 2011 State Leadership Development Contest December 2 and 3. The Junior Quiz team - Sydnee Hinkle, Brooke Butler, Jessica Spence and Natasha Kissell - placed 10th out of more than 600 teams in the state. The Byron Nelson High School FFA Junior Quiz team - Shelby Bennett, Billy Green, Justus Montgomery, Christian Moskal and John Steele - placed 16th and Junior Creed Speaker Morgan Brathwaite placed 11th out of more than 600.

PHOTO CAPTION [FFA_NHS]: Pictured from left to right is the Northwest High School FFA Junior Quiz team Sydnee Hinkle, Brooke Butler, Jessica Spence and Natasha Kissell with their state banner. The team placed 10th out of more than 600 teams at the 2011 State Leadership Development Contest.

STEM Academy Receives \$13,000 in Grants

The Northwest ISD Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Academy (STEM) has received the JC Penney rookie team grant totaling \$6,500. The money will be designated for the STEM robotic team's registration and kit to initiate a team at Northwest High School. In addition, the STEM Academy robotic team was awarded another grant from the Texas Workforce Commission in the amount of \$6,500 to fund the initial costs, transportation and marketing materials for the team. The grant is directed to rookie teams in the FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC). FRC is described as a varsity sport of the mind designed to help high school students discover skills used by engineers and researchers.

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-k through fifth-grade students at one of the 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. For more information, contact PIE Specialist Phil Beckman at 817-215-0172 or pbeckman@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).

BNHS Theater Presents *A Christmas Carol*

The Byron Nelson High School (BNHS) theater department presents *A Christmas Carol* on Friday, December 16 and Saturday, December 17 at 7 p.m. in the BNHS Performing Arts Center (2775 Bobcat Blvd. Trophy Club, 76262). Tickets are \$5.

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.

NISD Early Release Days

Northwest ISD campuses will dismiss early on Thursday, January 12 and Friday, January 13 at the following times:

High Schools: 10:45 a.m.

Middle Schools: 11:30 a.m.

Elementary Schools: 12:15 p.m.

Board of Trustee Meeting

A Northwest ISD School Board meeting will be held Monday, January 9 at 7 p.m. in the Board Room at the NISD Administration Building (2001 Texan Drive, Justin, 76247).

NISD Closed in Observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Northwest ISD offices and campuses will be closed Monday, January 16 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Classes will resume January 17.

Save the Date for 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). A representative from Moak, Casey & Associates (experts in Texas school finance) will address the audience and give a legislative overview and update. Northwest ISD 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.

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).

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