



School Notes

For Immediate Release
February 6, 2013

NISD School Notes, February 6 – March 7

Texas School Finance System Ruled Unconstitutional

On February 4, State District Judge John Dietz ruled in favor of the school finance lawsuit that includes plaintiffs across the state, including Northwest ISD. As a Chapter 41 (or Robin Hood) school district, Northwest ISD participated in the Calhoun County ISD lawsuit, as part of the Texas School Coalition represented by Mark Trachtenberg and John Turner, attorneys with Haynes and Boone, LLP. The school finance lawsuit was filed December 9, 2011 and it challenged 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.

Online Parent Survey Available through February 18

All parents are encouraged to provide valuable feedback by completing the Northwest ISD 2012-2013 Parent Survey. The survey will be online February 4 – 18 at the Your Voice Portal at www.nisdtx.org/yourvoice. A hard copy may be requested by calling 817-215-0171. Computers are available for use at your child's campus.

STEM Revealed Best Projects at Community Event

The Academy of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics students presented projects at the fourth annual Community Reveal on Thursday, January 31. Freshman students designed School of the Future models, incorporating a concept of combining NISD academies in one facility. Students went through step-by-step design processes to create their models.

PHOTO CAPTION [stem.jpg]: STEM student and project manager of team All in Innovators Austin Navarrette presents his school of the future design with student-colleague Brandon Keck.

15 NISD Athletes to Sign NCAA Scholarships

The following athletes from Byron Nelson High School and Northwest High School signed their letter of intent to play collegiate sports on Wednesday, February 6:

Northwest High School

Mason Baker, baseball, University of New Mexico
Ally Cannon, soccer, Texas Woman's University
Carter James, football, West Texas A&M University
Brianna Johnson, soccer, Iowa State University
Brenna Lane, softball, Northern Oklahoma College, Tonkawa
Rachel Riggs, soccer, University of Arkansas
Gabrielle Saffa, athletic training/sports medicine, Tyler Junior College
Hunter Southerland, baseball, Northeast Texas Community College
Travis Stubblefield, football, Davidson College
Kathleen Williams, cross country, Southeastern Oklahoma State University

Byron Nelson High School

Alexa Bain, soccer, University of Texas at El Paso
Nicole Coetzer, soccer, Midwestern State University
Marchelle Davis, soccer, University of Texas at Austin
Darla Hyde, soccer and track, University of Central Oklahoma
Rana Ryan, cross country, Stephen F. Austin University

This school year, 24 NISD athletes have committed to playing at the college level.

Hatfield Elementary Maintains the Lead in Turn 3 TMS Speeding to Read Challenge

With more than 52,000 books read, W.R. Hatfield Elementary School maintains the lead over Justin and Clara Love elementary schools in the Texas Motor Speedway Speeding to Read challenge. The three campuses have been participating in a year-long reading challenge to promote the importance of reading. The competition will culminate in April where one school will be crowned the winner of the TMS Speeding to Read challenge, receive a championship trophy and 1,000 books for their school library from Score-A-Goal in the Classroom. The top kindergarten through second-grade and third through fifth-grade individuals and classrooms will receive trophies, prizes and tickets to the Texas 500 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series race on April 15. Hatfield, Love and Justin elementary school students have read a combined total of more than 190,000 books since August.

PHOTO CAPTION [turn3.jpg]: Hatfield Elementary Principal Cathy Sager accepts the trophy for Turn 3 in the Texas Motor Speedway Speeding to Read Challenge. Hatfield Elementary students have read more than 52,000 books this school year.

February School Board Meetings

The February NISD School Board meetings will be held February 11 and February 25 at 7 p.m. in the Board Room at the NISD Administration Building (2001 Texan Drive, Fort Worth, 76247).

Student Holiday

Monday, February 18 is a student holiday for Northwest ISD campuses. Classes will resume on Tuesday, February 19.

NISD Students Showcase Technology Trends at Expo

Northwest ISD parents and community members are invited to attend the third annual NISD Techno Expo at Byron Nelson High School (2775 Bobcat Boulevard, Trophy Club, 76262) on Thursday, February 28 from 5 to 8:30 p.m. Selected students will present and demonstrate their use of technology in the classroom during a series of more than 300 breakout sessions. Dinner will be served by students in the district's Academy of Culinary Arts and Hospitality from 5 to 7 p.m., and musical performances will be provided by NISD fine arts students. From animation and digital video to multimedia and website design, student presentations are scheduled from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Door prizes will be given away at the conclusion of the event.

Volunteers Needed for NISD's Annual Northwest Reads

The Northwest ISD Partners in Education program is seeking volunteers for the fifth annual Northwest Reads on Friday, March 1 from 9 to 10 a.m. Participants will choose from a variety of books to read 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. Register online at <http://tinyurl.com/NorthwestReads> by February 22. For more information, call 817-215-0172.

NISD to Host Annual Realtor Luncheon

Northwest ISD is encouraging real estate professionals to join NISD officials on March 7 for the annual Realtor's Luncheon at 11:30 a.m. at the NISD Administration Building (2001 Texan Drive, Fort Worth, 76177). Information on current demographic projections, plans for new schools and the award-winning programs in NISD will be shared. Space is limited. Call 817-215-0175 to reserve a seat.

BNHS Technology Student Association Creates Custom Designs

The Byron Nelson High School Technology Student Association is designing custom note pads. Orders can be made through March 1. Examples of different layouts are available in the online photo gallery at <http://www.nisdtx.org/Page/40985>. For more information, contact Jeff Taylor at jtaylor01@nisdtx.org.

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