



School Notes

For Immediate Release
January 7, 2015

NISD School Notes, January 7 – January 22

District Celebrates NISD School Board

January is School Board Recognition month, and NISD would like to say ‘thank you’ to its seven-member Board of Trustees. Each school board member is committed to the district’s vision and beliefs, putting kids first in every decision. Each year, the NISD Board of Trustees dedicate countless hours to serving and leading the school district, while providing a place where students can thrive and be prepared for their futures. The 2014-2015 Board of Trustees are President Josh Wright, Vice President Mark Schluter, Secretary Devonna Holland, Anne Davis-Simpson, Ph.D., Judy Copp, Lillian Rauch, and Mel Fuller.

Tidwell Middle School Receives CREST Counseling Award

John M. Tidwell Middle School is one of 56 schools in Texas to receive the CREST award. CREST stands for Counselors Reinforcing Excellence for Students in Texas. In 2005, Texas School Counselor Association began a program called CREST to recognize schools with outstanding counseling program. CREST looks at the counseling program in 7 areas: Principal’s Support, School Counseling Advisory Council, School Climate and Safety, Student Results, Major Achievements, Community Partnerships and Resources, and Parent Collaboration. Tidwell Middle School will be honored during the School Counselor Conference in Galveston this February.

Gene Pike Middle School Wins \$1,000 Grant

Gene Pike Middle School is the recipient of a \$1,000 grant from the Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA). TMEA provides wonderful opportunities for educators and students across the state. A new initiative was created this year, which provided several music programs the opportunity to receive a grant for music. The TMEA Executive Board approved \$500,000 in funding for grants to benefit middle school music programs across the state. Funds must be used by middle school band, orchestra and/or choir teachers (grades 6-8) to purchase music for full ensemble performance. The Pike Middle School band and choir programs were awarded the maximum grant amount of \$1,000.

Chris Jones Named TMEA Distinguished Administrator

Gene Pike Middle School Principal Chris Jones has been named a Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) Distinguished Administrator. He was surprised with the recognition of his award in a staff meeting on December 19. Jones was nominated by his band director Jack Forbis. Jones has been selected for this honor from educators across the state for his support in preserving quality music education programs on his campus.

PHOTO CAPTION [Chris Jones]: Chris Jones, Gene Pike Middle School principal, has been named a Texas Music Educators Association Distinguished Administrator. Jones was nominated for his support of the fine arts program by Pike Middle School band director Jack Forbis.

NISD Sets Early Release Days

Northwest ISD campuses will dismiss early on Thursday, January 15 and Friday, January 16 at the following times:

Elementary Schools: 12:15 p.m.
Steele AHS and Special Programs Center: 1:05 p.m.
BNHS and NHS: 1:15 p.m.
Middle Schools: 2 p.m.

NISD to Host EdCamp

Northwest ISD will host EdCamp, a form of unconference designed specifically for teachers and their needs. Unlike traditional conferences, which have schedules set months in advance by the people running the conference, EdCamp has an agenda that is created by the participants at the start of the event. Instead of one person standing in front of the room talking for an hour, people are encouraged to have discussions and hands-on sessions. People could pay hundreds of dollars to attend another conference, or they could go to EdCamp for free.

NISD's EdCamp will be held Saturday, January 17 at James M. Steele Accelerated High School (606 North Walnut Street, Ronaoke, 76262) from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

NISD Closed January 19

Northwest ISD offices and campuses will be closed Monday, January 19 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Classes will resume Tuesday, January 20.

Volunteers Needed for NISD's Annual Northwest Reads

The Northwest ISD Partners in Education program is seeking volunteers for the seventh annual Northwest Reads on Friday, January 23 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 17 elementary schools. This event provides community members with an opportunity to inspire young NISD students to become lifelong readers. To volunteer, go to <http://www.nisdtx.org/northwestreads>.

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