



School Notes

For Immediate Release
March 4, 2015

NISD School Notes, March 4 – March 31

NEF Awards 32 NISD Teachers \$99,800+ in Teaching Grants

On February 20, the Northwest ISD Education Foundation Grant Brigade traveled to 12 campuses awarding 32 teachers more than \$99,800+ in innovative teaching grants. To date, more than \$1.4 million have been distributed to teachers in Northwest ISD. The grants are used to fund innovative programs and projects for the classroom.

PHOTO CAPTION [Medlin]: NEF awarded 12 campuses and 32 teachers with innovative teaching grants on February 20. The grant brigade presented oversized checks to educators by surprising them in their classes or at assemblies.

CTMS Student Advances to National Reflections Contest

Chisholm Trail Middle School eighth grader Madison Echols has won the state PTA Reflections contest for photography. Echols will now advance to the national PTA Reflections contest. This is the first Chisholm Trail Middle School student to win state and advance to nationals.

PHOTO CAPTION [Madison Echols]: Madison Echols, Chisholm Trail Middle School eighth grader, will advance to the national PTA Reflections contest after winning at the state level for her photography project.

NISD Awarded Meritorious Budget Award

For the 14th consecutive year, Northwest ISD is the recipient of the Meritorious Budget Award for excellence in budget presentation during the 2014–2015 budget year by the Association of School Business Officials (ASBO) International. The Meritorious Budget Awards (MBA) program promotes and recognizes excellence in school budget presentation and enhances school business officials' skills in developing, analyzing, and presenting a school system budget. After a rigorous review by professional auditors, the award is conferred only on school districts that have met or exceeded the program's stringent criteria.

NISD's Cara Carter Named Finalist for State Award

Instructional Technology Coordinator Cara Carter has been named a top three finalist for Texas Computer Education Association (TCEA) Instructional Technology Specialist of the Year. This award recognizes individuals who work with one or more campuses in technology planning and curriculum integration. Carter was recognized at the TCEA convention in Austin this February.

PHOTO CAPTION [Cara Carter]: NISD's Cara Carter, instructional technology coordinator, is a finalist for the TCEA Instructional Technology Specialist of the Year.

Parent Survey Reveals NISD Parents are Consistently Satisfied

Approximately 2,053 parents responded to the Northwest ISD Parent Survey conducted in December. Parents report that their children's schools are positive, welcoming and safe, while students are excited to go to school and participate in school activities. This report is consistent with results since 2010. Highlights from the survey include:

- 93% feel welcome at their child's school.
- 95% agree their child feels safe at school.
- 97% believe their child's school is clean and well-maintained.
- 92% feel their child receives instruction preparing them for the next level of education.

Each principal and department head will review the survey results for insight on how to be more responsive to the needs of all of our parents. Results of the full report are posted on the Northwest ISD website at www.nisdtx.org or by going to www.nisdtx.org/parentsurvey2014.

NISD Announces New Director of Career and Technical Education

NISD's CyLynn Braswell has been named the new director of career and technical education. CyLynn has worked in NISD since 2010 as an agricultural science instructor and the coordinator at NISD's Outdoor Learning Center. She is a Texas Master Florist and is a former Project Lead the Way engineering instructor. Braswell will begin the transition into her new role this spring.

PHOTO CAPTION [CyLynn Braswell]: NISD announces CyLynn Braswell as the district's new director of career and technical education.

Recharged: District Shares Technology Assessment with Community

Last fall, NISD participated in an assessment with the Consortium for School Networking (CoSN) to provide recommendations for the district in the following technology areas:

- Networking and bandwidth adequacy
- Instructional technology initiatives
- Technology Security – Internal and External
- Wireless Infrastructure
- Server and storage recommendations

The district believes equitable and ubiquitous access to technology is essential. Assessment recommendations are posted on the district's website at www.nisdtx.org. For further questions, please contact the technology division at 817-215-0102.

NISD Announces New Durham Bus Tracker App

Northwest ISD is excited to be the only school district in Texas to partner with Durham School Services to offer a new communication tool. In an effort to improve communication with families who use district-provided bus service, Durham School Services has developed a phone application that will securely allow parents and guardians to view the location of their child's bus in relation to their assigned bus stop. This application will also enable parents and guardians to view multiple stops on an assigned route, including a scheduled arrival time for each stop.

The NEW Durham Bus Tracker:

- is a free download
- is user-friendly
- can view all routes, bus locations, and scheduled stops
- is available for all NISD bus routes
- provides safe and secure access with password protection
- is available NOW!

Go to www.nisdtx.org for information on how to download the mobile app.

Six Destination Imagination Teams Advance to State

Northwest ISD is pleased to announce the following Destination Imagination teams have advanced to the state tournament:

Blastoff Besties – Beck Elementary
Spectacular 7 – Lakeview Elementary
Nerdy Birdies – Roanoke Elementary
Fear the Awesome Jefferies – Seven Hills Elementary
Changed for Good Ninjas – Byron Nelson High School
Merica – Northwest High School

Destination Imagination is a creative problem solving educational organization that strives to promote creativity in students across Texas. These six teams will compete in the state tournament in April.

NISD Closed for Spring Break

All Northwest ISD campuses and offices will be closed for spring break March 9-13. Classes will resume on Monday, March 16.

NISD School Board Meeting

An NISD School Board meeting will be held March 16 at 7 p.m. in the Board Room at the NISD Administration Building (2001 Texan Drive, Fort Worth, 76247).

Connection Luncheon Rescheduled for March 31

Due to possible icy conditions on the roads the morning of Thursday, March 5, the Connection Luncheon has been rescheduled for Tuesday, March 31 at 11:30 a.m. at the NISD Administration Building. There is still time to RSVP to the luncheon. Please RSVP to 817-215-0175 by Tuesday, March 24. We look forward to sharing more about NISD with realtors and businesses.

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