



School Notes

For Immediate Release
May 6, 2015

NISD School Notes, May 6 – August 15

CTMS Student Wins National PTA Reflections Contest

Chisholm Trail Middle School eighth grader Madison Echols won an Award of Excellence in the National PTA Reflections Contest for her digital photography. This year's theme was *The World Would Be a Better Place If...* Echols is invited to attend a Reflections Awards Luncheon at the National PTA Convention in North Carolina this June. Her work will be featured in the Reflections Gallery at the National PTA Convention and at the art exhibit opening in January 2016 at the U.S. Department of Education in Washington, D.C.

PHOTO CAPTION: Madison Echols, Chisholm Trail Middle School eighth grader, is a National PTA Reflections Contest award winner for digital photography.

District Recognizes Employees at Annual Inspire Celebration

On May 1, NISD recognized 51 employees at the district's fifth annual Inspire Celebration. Maggie Walsh from Beck Elementary School was named the Elementary Teacher of the Year, and Joanna Kysar from Chisholm Trail Middle School was named the Secondary Teacher of the Year. NISD Exemplar Educators were selected from all 26 campuses based on their leadership, motivation and effectiveness in the classroom. The district also recognized three employees of the year: Instructional Support Employee of the Year Linda Dunn, Administrative Support Employee of the Year Kimberly Prax and Support Services Employee of the Year Josh Embry. The district recognized 18 retirees and five 25 and 30 year service award recipients.

PHOTO CAPTION: Elementary Teacher of the Year and Secondary Teacher of the Year

Board Recognizes Participants in Latino Family Literacy Project

At the April 27 school board meeting, the Board of Trustees recognized 28 parents for their participation in Northwest ISD's Latino Family Literacy Project (LFLP). LFLP is a reading program designed to benefit the entire family by using books that are appropriate for reading levels (first through fourth grade) depending on the literacy levels of the student. It teaches parents the importance of establishing a family reading routine with their children, how to share the book and helps both parents and students learn English vocabulary, verbs, grammar and conversation. Participants will leave with the skills needed to share literature and to be involved in the learning process with their child. This year's LFLP was hosted at Prairie View and Roanoke elementary schools and was geared for families who participate in NISD's dual language program and are native Spanish speakers. For more information, go to www.nisdtx.org/lflp.

PHOTOS INCLUDED: 7Hills and Roanoke

Beck Elementary Librarian Debuts Published Novel

Beck Elementary can now add 'Published Author' to their list of staff members. Librarian, Jennifer Martin, debuted her Young-Adult/Teen novel, *Tracked*, published by Penguin-Random House. The book is an action-packed sci-fi thriller with a blend of dystopia and racing; *Hunger Games* meets NASCAR. Jennifer is also a member of the Freshman Fifteens, a group of first-time Young-Adult authors published in 2015. As the Freshman Fifteens coordinator, Ms. Martin initiated the Adopt-a-Library project to grant two libraries working with teens with a full Freshman Fifteens library—one copy of each debut—along with Freshman Fifteens swag. As a result, NISD's Denton Creek High School will receive a complete collection of the novels.

"I'm so excited to represent Beck and Northwest ISD as librarian/author, and would love to do anything I can to use my media presence and voice to highlight the importance of literacy, and how my skills as an author enhance my ability to serve students as Beck. We do so many writing and reading projects here, and I'm lucky to be able to collaborate with teachers on writing lessons to help develop young authors.", says Ms. Martin.

Martin will also facilitate a Teen Writing Workshop series this summer to help young writers explore and develop their own unique writing style and voice. Ms. Martin will be signing pre-release posters and bookmarks at Taste of Byron on May 25th. There will also be an official *Tracked* book launch party, Saturday, May 9th, at 5 p.m. at the South Irving Public Library, and an additional event--a book signing--at the Southlake Barnes and Noble, on May 10th, from 1-4 p.m. Both events are open to the public.

PHOTO CAPTION [Jenny Martin headshot new]: Beck Elementary School librarian Jenny Martin debuts new published book *Tracked* this weekend.

Sendera Ranch Students Participate in Engineering Forum

On Friday, May 1, fourth graders at Sendera Ranch Elementary participated in an engineering forum. Volunteers from different fields of engineering were on hand to speak to students about what they do as engineers and how they serve their communities by solving problems. Kevin Reed, from Abbott Diagnostics, spoke to students about his role as a systems engineer and the work he does with machines that run blood tests, including how his designs have impacted the medical field. Shaila Haque, of DreamWorks Animation, provided a virtual presentation about her work as a Technical Director for DreamWorks, complete with video clips and behind the scenes action of some favorite animated features. Jimmy Moore, a senior systems engineer at Lockheed Martin, discussed how engineers work together to meet the needs of our armed forces, and showcased some of the technology his team has helped design at his facility. Mark Schluter, a civil engineer with Aguirre & Fields, explained how engineers take budget and materials into careful consideration when designing and building our local roads and bridges. Each speaker incorporated artifacts for the students to view and interact with, truly bringing these jobs to life.

Students ended the day engaged in a STEM challenge facilitated by senior STEM students from Northwest High School, under the direction of NHS teachers, Jim Brown and Casey Helmick. Fourth graders worked in teams and utilized the Engineering Design Process to build a free-standing tower made with only the materials provided. It was an incredible day of exploring, creating, and learning for the fourth graders at Sendera Ranch Elementary.

PHOTOS: Sendera1 and 2

May School Board Meetings

A Northwest ISD budget workshop is scheduled at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, May 11 followed by a school board meeting at 7 p.m. The next school board meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 26 at 7 p.m. All board meetings are held at the NISD Administration Building (2001 Texan Drive, Justin, 76247).

Keeping Your Kids Safe Online

Due to the inclement weather in March, Northwest ISD has rescheduled the Keeping Your Kids Safe Online meeting to Wednesday, May 13 at 7 p.m. at the NISD Administration Building (2001 Texan Drive, Justin, 76247). The meeting will feature guest speaker and Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Texas Aisha Saleem.

STEM Presents Annual Showcase

The Academy of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) proudly presents the annual STEM Showcase on Thursday, May 14 from 6:30-8 p.m. at Northwest High School Main Street East Entrance (2301 Texan Drive, Justin, 76247). Watch as students celebrate their best work from the 2014-2015 school year.

NISD Presents the Night of No Limits

NISD proudly presents the third annual Night of No Limits on May 28 from 6-8 p.m. at Byron Nelson High School (2775 Bobcat Boulevard, Trophy Club, 76262). Kindergarten through high school students will present their best inquiry projects and problem-based learning experiences. Families can experience the Perot Museum's Portable Universe and Meteorologist Jeff Jamison will also showcase the Mobile 11 Storm Chasing vehicle. All of NISD's Academies will be present to highlight their programs as well. Please join us for a night showcasing the extraordinary learning that happens throughout NISD.

NISD Sets Second Bad Weather Make-Up Day

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) is requiring school districts that used days for inclement weather to make up two days in order to apply for a waiver for the third missed day. Northwest ISD used Friday, April 3 as the first make-up day. The second make-up day will be Memorial Day, Monday, May 25. The district will apply for a waiver for the third day. For more information about the district calendar, go to www.nisdtx.org/calendars.

District Announces Summer School Opportunities

NISD offers a variety of programs for pre-kindergarten through high school students to enhance their educational experience in the summer. Registration is now available for summer opportunities for students. To view a listing of courses and for information on how to register, go to <http://www.nisdtx.org/Page/1262>.

NISD to Host Third Annual Back to School Fair

Northwest ISD is partnering with United Way of Denton County to host the third annual Northwest Back to School Fair on Saturday, August 15 from 9 a.m. to noon, at Pike Middle School (2200 Texan Drive, Justin, 76247). School supplies will be distributed to families who need extra assistance, based on their financial need (verified by their registration for free or reduced lunch), at the Northwest Back to School Fair where they can also receive free services, community health information and get to know local service providers. By partnering with individuals, businesses, and community organizations, we hope to provide these students in Northwest ISD with a set of age appropriate school supplies and a new backpack.

We Need Your Help! Please consider partnering with us and conducting a school supply drive for loose supplies or participate in our Stuff the Bag Campaign and help us ‘stuff the bus’ on August 6.

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