



## School Notes

For Immediate Release  
November 5, 2014

### NISD School Notes, November 5 – December 15

#### **NISD STEM Students Host Annual Pumpkin Chunkin'**

On October 30, NISD's Academy of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics students hosted the third annual pumpkin chunkin' at the district's Outdoor Learning Center. Each grade level designed challenges, and the final round included student-made trebuchets. The STEM academy offers a unique classroom experience by incorporating cross-curricular projects and authentic learning experiences such as this that are not part of a traditional classroom. To see posts and pictures from the event, use #nisdolc.

PHOTO CAPTION [pumpkin chunkin']: STEM students launch pumpkins using student-designed trebuchets at the third annual pumpkin chunkin,' October 30.

#### **Defending Speeding to Read Champion Roanoke Elementary Takes the Lead in This Year's Contest**

Roanoke Elementary took the first step in defense of its championship as the Rangers grabbed the Turn 1 lead among the seven schools participating in Texas Motor Speedway's Speeding to Read program for the 2014-2015 school year. Roanoke Elementary is competing in the Frontstretch Division and jumped out to the early lead with 96.5 percent of its student body meeting or exceeding their reading goals in the opening five weeks of this year's competition. Nance Elementary leads the Backstretch Division with 81.4 percent of its students meeting or exceeding their reading goals. The seven schools, which consist of more than 3,500 kindergarten through fifth grade students, combined to read 99,427 books through Turn 1.

#### **Harlem Globetrotter Sweet J Spends the Day in NISD**

Harlem Globetrotter Sweet J Ekworomadu visited Schluter and Prairie View elementary schools and Chisholm Trail Middle School as part of the Harlem Globetrotter's community outreach program, The ABCs of Bullying Prevention. The program focuses on action, bravery and compassion. Additionally, students were able to join in on a few of the famous Globetrotter basketball tricks.

PHOTO CAPTION [Sweet J]: Harlem Globetrotter Sweet J Ekworomadu showed off some of the famous Globetrotter basketball tricks with Chisholm Trail Middle School students while promoting the Globetrotter's program, The ABCs of Bullying Prevention at three campuses in NISD on October 29.

#### **Northwest ISD Transfers to New Software for Job Postings**

Northwest ISD has converted to a new online application system, AppliTrack, beginning Monday, November 3. To apply for a position in Northwest ISD, go to [www.nisdtx.org](http://www.nisdtx.org) and click on the Employment tab. Then, click on the Online Application/Job Postings link. If you have an application in the old system, SearchSoft, please access the AppliTrack system and create a new application for future openings. External applicants, including current student teachers and substitutes, need to complete an external application. Only current, full time NISD employees will create a transfer application through the internal application link.

#### **Sidekicks Present Homecoming Mums to Special Needs Students**

The Northwest High School Sidekicks drill team created homecoming mums for the special needs class at Northwest High School. On October 31, drill team members presented the mums to the students to wear on homecoming day. The Sidekicks have been creating mums for this class for five years.

PHOTO CAPTION [group photo]: Northwest High School's drill team presented homecoming garters and mums to the special needs class on October 31.

**Northwest ISD Angel Tree Program Underway**

This year's Northwest ISD Partners in Education Virtual Angel Tree has more than 780 children who need assistance this holiday season. To adopt an angel, please contact Phil Beckman at [PBeckman@nisdtx.org](mailto:PBeckman@nisdtx.org) or 817-215-0172 or go to <http://angeltree.nisdtx.org/> to make an online selection. Please deliver the Angel Tree items to the NISD Administration Building (2001 Texan Drive, Fort Worth, 76177) by Friday, December 5. Partners in Education is looking for volunteers to assist with sorting and distributing gifts. If you are interested in serving, please call Phil Beckman at 817-215-0172.

**We Want Your Feedback! Parent Survey Coming Soon**

In the 2014-2015 parent survey, Northwest ISD is seeking feedback of parents to identify strengths and areas needing improvement at each campus. The survey will be available December 1-15 online and will focus on topics regarding campus climate, safety, communications, instructional programs and support services. Answers will remain confidential and anonymous. A parent without Internet access may access the survey at any NISD campus. A paper survey may be requested by calling 817-215-0171. Thank you in advance for your participation in helping the district work toward achieving its mission of providing all students a premier education.

**Recharge: Preparing for the Future**

NISD recognizes parents, community members and staff have been experiencing difficulties with connectivity to the Internet, network and wireless access. The district believes equitable and ubiquitous access to technology is essential. In the next two months, NISD will participate in an audit with the Consortium for School Networking (CoSN) to provide recommendations for networking and bandwidth adequacy, instructional technology initiatives, security, wireless infrastructure and server and storage recommendations. Learn more about the steps NISD is taking to improve by going to [www.nisdtx.org](http://www.nisdtx.org).

**Calling All Veterans! Apply for a High School Diploma**

Texas Education Code provides for a school district to issue a high school diploma to certain veterans. Find out more about eligibility requirements, the application and necessary documentation at [www.nisdtx.org](http://www.nisdtx.org). Northwest ISD will recognize veterans receiving their high school diploma at an upcoming NISD School Board Meeting. More information will be provided soon. For questions, please contact 817-215-0171.

**Fill the Bus NISD Food Drive**

Aramark food service and Durham transportation are partnering to conduct an NISD food drive supporting the Roanoke and Justin food pantry. Now through November 18, NISD schools will compete by bringing canned, non-perishable food items to see which campus will win the Fill the Bus competition. At the end of the food drive, a school bus will stop by each campus to load the items collected. Each bus will be weighed and the heaviest bus will win the Fill the Bus competition. To learn how you can join in the fun and help NISD fill the bus while giving back to the community, go to [www.nisdtx.org/fillthebus](http://www.nisdtx.org/fillthebus).

**Mentors Matter**

Did you know you can make a difference in a child's life in just 30 minutes a week? The NISD mentoring program brings together individual students with caring adults who have made a commitment to meet on the school campus to listen and offer encouragement to students. If you are interested in becoming an NISD mentor, please call 817-215-0172. Mentors are required to complete a background check, a mentor application and attend an orientation. Please go to [www.nisdtx.org/pie](http://www.nisdtx.org/pie) for more information. The next orientation is Tuesday, November 18 at 5:30 p.m. at the NISD Administration Building (2001 Texan Drive, Justin, 76247).

**November School Board Meeting**

The November Northwest ISD school board meeting is Monday, November 10. School board meetings are held at 7 p.m. in the NISD Administration Building Board Room (2001 Texan Drive, Justin, 76247).

**NISD Closed for Thanksgiving**

Northwest ISD offices and campuses will be closed the week of November 24-28 for Thanksgiving break. Classes will resume Monday, December 1.

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