For Immediate Release
January 13, 2016

NISD School Notes, January 13- February 7

NISD Superintendent Named Finalist for National Leadership Award
Northwest ISD Superintendent of Schools Karen G. Rue, Ed.D. has been named a finalist by AASA, The School Superintendents Association for the 2016 Women in School Leadership Award. The award, co-sponsored by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, is designed to recognize exceptional leadership of active, front-line female administrators who are making a difference in the lives of students every day and pay tribute to the talent, creativity and vision of outstanding women educational administrators in the nation’s public schools.

Rue joined NISD in July 2005 as Superintendent of Schools. She is leading a transformational change in education at NISD and in Texas to ensure all students are equipped for the digital age in which we live. She was named the Region XI Superintendent of the Year and is currently serving as President of the Texas Association of School Administrators (TASA). The winner will be announced during the AASA 2016 National Conference on Education, February 11-13 in Phoenix, Arizona.

PHOTO INCLUDED [Dr. Rue 4.jpg]

NISD Fine Arts Students Set Record for State Achievements
Northwest ISD is proud to announce 12 students have made the Texas Music Educators Association’s (TMEA) All-State roster. The following students will perform at the TMEA Clinic/Convention on February 13 in San Antonio:

**Byron Nelson High School**
- Joe Caskey, choir
- Gini Choi, orchestra
- Rachael Freed, choir
- Zachary Garcia, choir
- Collin Napper, band
- Keith Weaver, band

**V.R. Eaton High School**
- Ryan Young, choir
- Sarah Zimmerman, choir

**Northwest High School**
- Sebastian Davis, choir
- Cynthia Kaniki, choir
- Sean Riggen, band
- Jonathan Sneed, choir

This is the largest number of students in NISD history to be selected to the TMEA All-State choir, orchestra or band.

Two NISD Teachers Selected to Participate in National Project Brain STEM Research
Byron Nelson High School Academy of Biomedical Sciences teachers Monica Valenta and Patrick Matouse have been selected to participate in a pilot program working with secondary biology students to map neurons in fly brains. This project will take place at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute’s Janelia Research Campus in Ashburn, Virginia, January 24-31. This is the first time research at this level has been done in the nation. The teachers will be able to take what they have learned through this professional development and implement lessons for sophomore through senior advanced
placement courses. Valenta and Matouse will work with science project strategist Jason Osborne. Osborne recently led a
day of science professional development for approximately 30 NISD teachers at the district’s Outdoor Learning Center.

**NISD Receives School Safety Certification**
Northwest ISD has received a School Safety Certification by the Texas School Safety Center at Texas State University, in
conjunction with the School Safety Task Force. The purpose of the school safety certification program is to award a school
safety certificate to school districts that have met criteria specified by the Texas Unified School Safety and Security
Standards. School districts are assessed on their safety and security practices and emergency management. The standards
are mapped to the four phases of emergency management: mitigation/prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery.
NISD’s School Safety Certification is valid for two years. As the recipient of state and national recognition for its safety
and security programs, NISD has maintained a commitment to providing a safe environment in which students can learn.

**NHS Senior Receives Honors from Hispanic Heritage Foundation**
Northwest High School senior Austin-Tyler Navarrette received a silver award from The Hispanic Heritage Foundation.
Navarrette was one of 21 recipients at the Dallas Regional Hispanic Heritage Youth Awards ceremony on December 7. As
the silver medalist in the engineering and mathematics category, Navarrette received a $2,000 scholarship to support his
plans to pursue a degree in civil engineering at Case Western Reserve University.

PHOTO INCLUDED [Navarrette.jpg]: Austin-Tyler Navarrette, Northwest High School, at the Dallas Hispanic Heritage Youth Awards.

**Medlin Donates to Summer Santa**
The holiday season may be over, but the Medlin Middle School student council was still in a giving mood as they held a
special ceremony to present the Summer Santa organization with a $4000.00 check on January 11. As part of a community-
based charitable project, Medlin Student Council sponsor, Julie Hinshaw and her students wanted to help local students
within Northwest ISD. The Summer Santa program provides year-round assistance to students in the North Tarrant County
area to cover the costs of school supplies, physicals, summer camps and field trips. Since the organization has no paid staff,
virtually every dollar raised goes directly to a student in need.

“Selecting the recipient of the donation was just the first step,” said Ms. Hinshaw. “Planning, organizing and holding the
Winter Carnival proved to be the real accomplishment. The students did all of the research, designed all of the games, made
special prizes and pulled off one of the most successful events we have ever had.”

Presenting the check to Summer Santa was the most satisfying part of the class project. Summer Santa Vice-Chairman
Charles Inman was moved by the efforts of the Medlin students. “The funds will allow children to have experiences they
might not otherwise be able to afford,” Charles said. “Summer camp scholarships and field trips can turn into life-changing
experiences.”

PHOTO INCLUDED: [SummerSanta5.jpg]

**NISD Early Release Days**
Northwest ISD campuses will dismiss early on Thursday, January 14 and Friday, January 15 at the following times:

- Elementary Schools: 12:15 p.m.
- School/Special Programs: 1:05 p.m.
- High Schools: 1:15 p.m.
- Middle Schools: 1:25 p.m.

**NISD Closed January 18**
Northwest ISD offices and campuses will be closed Monday, January 18 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.
Classes will resume Tuesday, January 19.
Volunteer in NISD Schools
Interested in joining a group of 7,000 individuals who make a difference in the lives of NISD students and staff each day? Be an NISD volunteer! Here’s how:

• Log on to www.nisdtx.org, and click the Volunteer Background Check link under Quick Links.

• Once your background check has been approved, you can access your Virtual Volunteer account to sign up for opportunities to serve.

For more information, call 817-215-0172.

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 for more information. The next orientation is Tuesday, January 19 at 12 p.m. at the NISD Administration Building (2001 Texan Drive, Justin, 76247).

Eaton High School Presents Inaugural Musical Performance
V. R. Eaton High School is excited to announce the show times for its first musical performance “You’re a Good Man Charlie Brown.” This musical is produced through the Eaton Players Theatre Company at Eaton High School at the new, state-of-the-art Eaton Performing Arts Center. Show times are January 21-23 at 7 p.m. and January 24 at 2 p.m. at the V.R. Eaton High School Performing Arts Center (1350 Eagle Boulevard, Fort Worth, 76052). Tickets are $5 for senior citizens, students and children over the age of four, $10 for adults and free for Gold Card members and NISD staff.

BNHS Announces Seventh Annual Musical
The Byron Nelson High School theatre department presents Tales of the South Pacific on January 28-30 at 7 p.m. and January 31 at 2 p.m. Performances are at the Byron Nelson High School Performing Arts Center (2775 Bobcat Boulevard, Trophy Club, 76262). Tickets for adults are $10 and students and senior citizens are $5. NISD employees and Gold Card members receive free admission. To purchase tickets online, go to https://www.ticketracker.com/store/events/284.

NHS Theatre Presents The Music Man
The Northwest High School theatre department presents The Music Man on February 4-6 at 7:30 p.m. and February 7 at 2:30 p.m. All performances will be held at the Northwest High School Vernon Solomon Performing Arts Center (2201 Texan Drive, Justin, 76247). Tickets are $10 for adults, $5 for students and senior citizens, and free for employees and Gold Card members.

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