



School Notes

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.

Steele Accelerated High

School/Special Programs: 1:05 p.m.

Northwest, Eaton and Byron Nelson

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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