



School Notes

For Immediate Release
February 10, 2016

NISD School Notes, February 10 – March 21

Board Approves 2016-2017 Academic Calendar

At the February 8 School Board Meeting, NISD Board of Trustees voted to approve the 2016-2017 school Revised Calendar Option A as recommended by the District Education Improvement Council (DEIC), a committee made up of parents, teachers and administrators. In December, community members had an opportunity to vote and provide feedback for the 2016-2017 school calendar, recommended by the DEIC. From the 1,500 responses, the majority, 71%, supported Calendar Option A with the primary objective of ending first semester before winter break. In order to continue providing time off for the traditional holidays, to which the community has become accustomed, while meeting the required instructional minutes by the state (75,600), the school times for elementary were extended by 20 minutes and 10 minutes for middle and high school.

In January, the DEIC reviewed and considered all feedback from the survey. With a focus on what is educationally best for all students, the council modified Calendar Option A for their final recommendation to the school board at the January 28 School Board Meeting. The modifications included:

- Combining two of the early release days into a full day for a student holiday and staff development day
- Moving an early release day from a Wednesday to Friday

The 2016-2017 school calendar contains 175 instructional days totaling 75,800 minutes. To view the approved school calendar and a list of frequently asked questions, go to www.nisdtx.org/calendars.

NISD Technology Department Receives State Recognition

On February 2, The Consortium of School Networking (CoSN) recognized the NISD technology division with the Team Award. The award recognizes school districts for their transformative impact on technology in the classroom and work to improve student learning, opportunities, and access. Chief Technology Officer Adam Feind, CETL accepted the award on behalf of the department. The team will now advance to the National CoSN Team Award and will be notified of results in April.

Devon Energy Surprises Seven Hills Elementary School Library Media Specialist with Grant Award

Devon Energy made a surprise visit on February 5 and awarded Seven Hills Elementary Library Media Specialist Melissa Quisenberry a \$10,000 grant. Quisenberry wrote the grant, part of Devon's Science Giants grant program, to purchase mobile STEM and maker space labs and be used to build a foundation level of resources to support the school's STEM Education initiative.

This year, the school began transforming its library into a learning commons, housing all STEM resources for student and teacher engagement. The Devon Science Giants Grant will support the seamless integration of applied math and sciences into classroom instruction, through the addition of mobile STEM labs filled with the necessary resources to provide authentic and relevant learning experiences for students.

PHOTO CAPTION [LibrarianSurprised]: Devon Energy made a surprise visit on February 5 and awarded Seven Hills Elementary Library Media Specialist Melissa Quisenberry a \$10,000 grant. Pictured from left to right: Becky Escott, Melissa Quisenberry, Shelly Harrison, Wendy Wharton, Ryan Madden, Jay Ewing, Amanda Beard and Chance Wilson.

NISD Receives \$18,000+ to Benefit Physical Education

In December 2015, Northwest ISD hosted the 8th annual Reindeer Romp. The 5K and 1-mile fun run benefits the Northwest ISD physical education departments and is a partnership with Fieldhouse Fitness in Justin. With more than 3,600 participants in this year's race, the district set record numbers for attendance. Tim and Marika Scrivner with Fieldhouse Fitness presented a check for \$18,310 to the school district at the February 8 School Board Meeting, which will benefit the physical education programs. Accepting the check on the district's behalf were NISD elementary physical education teachers Tiffanie Morrow, Preston Maclin, Kelly Brown, Debra Nesbit, and Renee Saettel. Thank you to Fieldhouse Fitness for your partnership and support in this event for our students.

PHOTO CAPTION [Reindeer Romp]: At the February 8 School Board Meeting, Tim and Marika Scrivner with Fieldhouse Fitness presented a check for \$18,310 to NISD from proceeds through the partnership for the Reindeer Romp. Accepting the check on the district's behalf were NISD elementary physical education teachers Tiffanie Morrow, Preston Maclin, Kelly Brown, Debra Nesbit, and Renee Saettel. Pictured left to right are Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Rob Thornell, Ed.D., NISD Board President Josh Wright, Assistant Director of Athletics George Lutkenhaus, Executive Director of Athletics Joel Johnson, Fieldhouse Fitness representatives Marika and Tim Scrivner, elementary physical education teachers Preston Maclin, Tiffanie Morrow, Debra Nesbit, Kelly Brown, Renee Saettel and Superintendent of Schools Karen G. Rue, Ed.D.

Bad Weather Make-Up Day – Student Holiday on February 15

Monday, February 15 is a student holiday and staff development day. This date was scheduled as a bad weather make-up day, and since the district has not had to close for inclement weather, it will be a student holiday. Classes will resume on Tuesday, February 16.

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 Thursday, February 18 at 12 p.m. at the NISD Administration Building (2001 Texan Drive, Justin, 76247).

NISD School Board Meeting

An NISD School Board meeting will be held Monday, February 22 at 7 p.m. in the Board Room at the NISD Administration Building (2001 Texan Drive, Justin, 76247).

NISD Students Showcase Technology Trends at Expo

Northwest ISD parents and community members are invited to attend the fourth annual NISD Techno Expo at Northwest High School (2301 Texan Drive, Justin, 76247) on Thursday, February 25 from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Selected students will present and demonstrate their use of technology in the classroom during a series of breakout sessions. For event details, answers to frequently asked questions, and more, go to <https://sites.google.com/a/nisdtx.org/techno-expo/>.

NISD School Board Meeting

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

NISD to Host Annual Connection Luncheon

Northwest ISD is encouraging real estate and business professionals to join NISD on March 10 for the annual Connection Luncheon at 11:30 a.m. at the NISD Administration Building (2001 Texan Drive, Justin, 76247). Information on current demographic projections, plans for new schools and the award-winning programs in NISD will be shared. Space is limited. Call 817-215-0175 to reserve a seat.

NISD Closed for Spring Break

All Northwest ISD campuses and offices will be closed for spring break March 14-18. Classes will resume on Monday, March 21.