



School Notes

For Immediate Release
March 9, 2016

NISD School Notes, March 9 – May 5

Board of Trustees Seeks Input in Superintendent Search

The NISD Board of Trustees is asking for your help as they team with search firm Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates (HYA) to begin the process of searching for a new superintendent. At the January 28 School Board Meeting, Superintendent Karen G. Rue, Ed.D. announced her intent to retire effective July 31, 2016. The NISD School Board values the feedback from the community members during this process.

To complete the survey, go to www.nisdtx.org/supersearch. The website will provide details on upcoming public forums that will provide an opportunity for community members, staff, businesses, parents, and more to share their input in developing the superintendent profile.

NISD Administrators Participate in Shadow a Student Day

Approximately 35 Northwest ISD administrators turned in their briefcase for a backpack and went back to school for the day by participating in the Shadow a Student Challenge the week of February 29-March 4. District leadership from central office and campus principals selected a day, shadowed a student from the first to last bell and had time to reflect on what they learned. Some principals selected students at their own campus. Others selected students at feeder schools nearby.

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Rob Thornell, Ed.D. shadowed a sophomore football player at Northwest High School. Dr. Thornell shares in a post on his blog *Exploring Authentic Learning*, “I learned high school hasn’t gotten any easier in the last 25 years. This was the best day I have spent at work in a long, long time and probably the best professional development I could have experienced. Students will help us transform our schools if we let them. We just need to look and listen.” To read more from Dr. Thornell’s experience, go to <http://robthornell.blogspot.com/2016/03/shadow-student-challenge.html?m=1>.

Sendera Ranch Elementary Principal Suzie McNeese, Ed.D. shadowed a former Sendera Ranch Elementary student now in sixth grade at Truett Wilson Middle School. McNeese said, “The students at Wilson Middle School were impressive. I often hear parents being apprehensive about the transition between elementary and middle school. After my visit today, I can unequivocally reassure them about their child attending Wilson Middle School.”

NISD believes kids come first. This opportunity gave administrators a window into the classroom to learn from our future leaders. To view photos shared from administrators across the school district, follow NISD on Twitter @NorthwestISD #shadowastudent.

PHOTO CAPTION [Suzie_Class.jpg]: Sendera Ranch Elementary School Principal Suzie McNeese shadowed a student at Wilson Middle School as part of the Shadow a Student Challenge.

NISD Wins Certificate of Excellence Award for Financial Reporting

Northwest ISD is the recipient of the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Association of School Business Officials (ASBO). NISD receives this award for having met or exceeded the program’s high standards for financial reporting and accountability. The district was recognized for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ending 2015. Northwest ISD has received this award 17 times.

BNHS Student Council Receives State Award for Dude Be Nice Week

The Byron Nelson High School student council is the recipient of the Texas Association of Student Councils (TASC) Top 10 Project and Video award. The students received this recognition for their Dude Be Nice Week held in November. The project lasted an entire week with each day focusing on a different group of people (students, teachers, staff, community, etc.) that are instrumental in the success of the high school. The hope was to increase school morale and spirit through this

recognition and appreciation for the outstanding work done at the campus. The students and their video will be recognized at the TASC state conference on April 12.

Byron Nelson High School Partners with TD Ameritrade

The partnership between Byron Nelson High School and TD Ameritrade is already paying dividends. More than 15 TD Ameritrade employees – women in finance – volunteered as instructors and mentors for Rock the Street, Wall Street's four-week financial literacy and mentorship program last month. The program culminated with more than 25 BNHS students engaged in a field trip to TD Ameritrade's Fort Worth office last week. Students participated in huddles, interviews and a panel discussion with managers who shared their experiences and offered career advice.

BNHS was the first school in the Metroplex to work with RTSWS's founder and executive director Maura Cunningham.

"BNHS is honored to be the pilot school for the DFW area," Byron Nelson High School Lead Counselor Paige Smith said.

The school plans to offer this opportunity again in the fall and spring of the 2016-2017 school year.

"We have an industry haven in the Alliance area right at our doorstep," Smith said. "We want to foster a partnership and relationship with the business community so that NISD students have opportunities for their futures in our immediate area. We also want the opportunity to produce career ready students that are prepared for the world of work and are employable to the area businesses. These young ladies have the opportunity to partner with a mentor from TD Ameritrade that will not only be with them through high school but through college as well. These are relationships that could last a lifetime."

The Northwest ISD Partners in Education program creates school-support opportunities for parents, businesses and the community by offering a wide variety of options amenable to every schedule, talent and expertise. PIE brings volunteers into Northwest ISD classrooms at each campus and all grade levels. To learn more, please visit www.nisdtx.org/pie.

PHOTO CAPTION [ByronNelsonHighSchoolStudentsParticipate] Byron Nelson High School students participated in a panel discussion with TD Ameritrade managers who shared their experiences and offered career advice on a field trip last week.

More than 65 Students Participate in First AP Super Saturday

The Curriculum and Instruction Department hosted its first AP Super Saturday on March 5. Sixty-six students attended a three-hour session on AP human geography. The study session gave students the opportunity to sharpen their skills as they prepare for their AP test in May. The guest speaker shared resources, strategies for the test and tips for success with both students and teachers. The district plans to build the AP Super Saturday program in the future by adding sessions for other AP courses.

PHOTO CAPTION [supersaturday.jpg]: NISD students spend their Saturday in an Advanced Placement Super Saturday study session to prepare for upcoming tests.

NISD Seeking Readers for Annual Northwest Reads

NISD Partners in Education (PIE) is looking for volunteers to participate in the eighth annual Northwest Reads on Friday, April 29 from 9-10 a.m. Participants will read to pre-kindergarten through fifth-grade students at one of the district's 17 elementary schools. The event provides community members with an opportunity to inspire young NISD students to become lifelong readers. To volunteer to read, go to www.nisdtx.org/northwestreads.

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.

Bad Weather Make-Up Day – Student Holiday on March 25

Friday, March 25 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.

District Sets Dates for Kindergarten Round-Up

Kindergarten Round-Up is scheduled for May 2-5. To register, kindergarten students must be five by September 1, 2016. Parents and students are encouraged to attend this event to meet staff, tour the facility and provide the necessary documents needed to complete the registration process. Please bring the following items in order to complete your child's enrollment:

- Birth certificate
- Immunization records (immunizations must be up-to-date to attend school)
- Proof of residency (housing contract, rental agreement, utility bill etc. – not a telephone bill)
- Student's social security card
- License or other suitable photo ID of the parent/guardian.

If parents do not have access to a computer at home, computers will be available at the campus during this time.

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