



## School Notes

For Immediate Release

April 6, 2016

### NISD School Notes, April 6 – May 26

#### **NISD Named Top Five Digital Districts in Nation**

Northwest ISD ranks fifth in the Center for Digital Education's and National School Board Association's 2015-2016 Digital School Districts Survey. This is the fourth consecutive year NISD has placed in top ten for this ranking. The district is recognized for its use of innovative technologies such as 1:1 laptop initiatives, STEM curriculum, student e-portfolios, digital classrooms and more. The survey recognizes exemplary school boards' and districts' use of technology to govern their district, communicate with students, parents and community and improve the learning environment and district operations.

#### **Technology Department Receives National Recognition for Team Award**

The Northwest ISD technology department is the recipient of an Honorable Mention for CoSN's 2016 Team Achievement Award. The department was nominated by the Texas K-12 Chief Technology Officer Council. The award recognizes a team in a school district for its outstanding achievements using technology. Chief Technology Officer Adam Feind, CTEL accepted the award at the 2016 Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. on April 5.

#### **NISD Sixth Graders Participate in NASA Pilot Program**

Thanks to a partnership with Texas Motor Speedway, Northwest ISD has been invited to pilot a program targeting STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) education in middle schools. With the help of six-time NASCAR Sprint Cup Champion, Jimmie Johnson, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) developed a program that will integrate STEM-related lessons into middle school curriculum.

Northwest ISD is one of three school districts in the country and the only one in Texas invited to participate in the pilot program. NASA hopes the pilot program will lead to a major rollout for the 2016-2017 school year. NISD sixth grade science teachers will receive online training by video conferencing with representatives located at NASA's Langley Center. As a result of our participation, Northwest ISD sixth grade students and teachers will be rewarded with a visit to Texas Motor Speedway for the Duck Commander 500 race and a special question and answer session and visit with Jimmie Johnson. All five of the Northwest ISD middle school campuses are participating.

PHOTO CAPTION [NASA]: Chisholm Trail Middle School sixth graders participate in science, technology, engineering and mathematics challenges, while preparing to join in the Rockets 2 Racecars Texas Motor Speedway partnership.

#### **GE Partners with STEM to Provide Engineering Mentors**

GE Transportation has served as a two-year partner to the Academy of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) donating \$8,000 to cover the costs of the Code N, STEM Robotics team, entry fee and construction for their next robot. STEM students have benefited from mentors provided by GE. Mentors spend the afternoons working with students to help design and construct the robot for competition.

"The mentors are an invaluable part of learning for our team," said STEM teacher Kim Garrett. "Students are able to discuss design choices and strategies, while gaining valuable insight into engineering, design and construction of the robot."

This year, Code N received the United Laboratories Industrial Safety Award at the Dallas regionals competition. In addition to GE, the team is grateful to Rackspace, Dell, FIRST in Texas, NISD CTE and the STEM Academy for their sponsorships.

"We hope that through our partnerships our teams and students will grow through experiences," Garrett said.

PHOTO CAPTION [mentor pic]: Northwest High School junior and Robotics Team Captain Nathan Fusselman benefits from design and construction guidance from GE Transportation mentor Michael Neuenswander.

### **850+ Students Participate in First Career Development Invitational Hosted by NISD**

Northwest ISD FFA's hosted their first annual Career Development Event Invitational Contest. More than 850 students from around the state of Texas descended on the Kelly Box Agricultural Center, and various NISD facilities. Career Development Events build on what is learned in agricultural classes and encourage members to put their knowledge into practice. These events are designed to help a member prepare for a career in agriculture by testing and challenging the student's technical, leadership, interpersonal and teamwork skills as well as their knowledge of the subject matter. Students competed in Veterinary Science, Milk Quality, Poultry, Meats, Floriculture, Farm Business Management, Nursery Landscape Design and Entomology.

### **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](http://www.nisdtx.org/northwestreads).

### **NISD School Board Meeting**

An NISD School Board meeting will be held Monday, April 11 at 7 p.m. in the Board Room at the NISD Administration Building (2001 Texan Drive, Fort Worth, 76247).

### **Council of PTAs to Host Vendor Fair**

The Northwest ISD Council of PTAs will host a Vendor Fair on Tuesday, April 12 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the NISD Administration Building (2001 Texan Drive, Justin, 76247). There will be promotions, mini workshops and door prizes offered. For more information, go to [www.northwestiscouncil.my-pta.org](http://www.northwestiscouncil.my-pta.org).

### **Spring is in the Air**

Northwest ISD's horticulture students at each of the district's comprehensive high schools will host a spring plant sale benefiting students and the horticulture organization at each campus. The sale will feature various flats, pots and hanging baskets. Each sale is located at the high school campus' green house.

#### **Byron Nelson High School Plant Sale**

April 15-14, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

#### **Northwest High School Plant Sale**

April 14-15, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. (Preview Sale April 14 – 20% off entire purchase of \$75 or more)

April 16, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

#### **Eaton High School Plant Sale**

April 14-15, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. (Preview Sale April 14 – 20% off entire purchase of \$75 or more)

April 16, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

### **NISD and Aramark Host Annual Food Show**

On Thursday, April 14, Northwest ISD and Aramark Food Services will host an annual Food Show at V.R. Eaton High School (1350 Eagle Boulevard, Haslet, 76052). This come-and-go event gives the community an opportunity to sample products and provide feedback on the current and potential offerings in the school cafeterias. The school with the greatest number of attendees (parents and students) will win a \$300 Classic Fare Catering Gift Card for their PTA. To attend the event, please RSVP at [www.nisdtx.org/foodservice](http://www.nisdtx.org/foodservice). Click on 'Food Show' and 'RSVP.'

### **Enrollment Online Begins April 18 for 2016-2017 School Year**

Beginning April 18, Enrollment Online will be available for students new to Northwest ISD and students returning to the school district. In order to access the online registration feature, parents of students currently enrolled in the district must have a Home Access Center (HAC) account. Access to the HAC requires an internet connection and a confidential username and password issued to the parent by the school. If you are unsure of your HAC login, contact your child's campus. There will be an Enrollment Online help desk (817-698-1099) available at the NISD Administration Building from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. starting April 18. If you have questions or need assistance, please call the help desk or your child's campus. For more information and to enroll, go to [www.nisdtx.org/enrollment](http://www.nisdtx.org/enrollment).

**Bad Weather Make-Up Day – Student Holiday on April 22**

Friday, April 22 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.

**NISD School Board Meeting**

An NISD School Board meeting will be held Monday, April 25 at 7 p.m. in the Board Room at the NISD Administration Building (2001 Texan Drive, Fort Worth, 76247).

**District Sets Dates for Kindergarten Round-Up – Welcome Class of 2029**

Kindergarten Round-Up is scheduled for May 2-5. To register, kindergarten students must be five by September 1, 2016. Beginning April 18, please go to [www.nisdtx.org/enrollment](http://www.nisdtx.org/enrollment), and select New to NISD Student. 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.

**Registration for Prekindergarten Available Online**

Beginning April 18, registration will be available for prekindergarten students. There are two parts to the registration process: qualification and registration. Students must be four-years-old by September 1, 2016, live in the district and meet one of the qualifications listed on the Eligibility and Documentation form. To view this form and learn more about registration, go to [www.nisdtx.org/prek](http://www.nisdtx.org/prek). If you determine your child is eligible based on the qualifications listed, please make an appointment at a campus. Appointment registration will be available April 25.

**Night of No Limits to Feature NISD Student Presenters**

NISD proudly presents the fourth annual *Night of No Limits* on May 26 from 6-8 p.m. at Northwest High School (2301 Texan Drive, Justin, 76247). The event features kindergarten through high school students presenting their best inquiry-based, cross-curricular and problem-based learning experiences. NISD's career academies and other programs will highlight their projects, curriculum, and accomplishments as well. Save the date for this evening that showcases the extraordinary learning that happens throughout Northwest ISD!

**NISD Announces Summer School Opportunities**

NSID offers a variety of programs for prekindergarten through high school students to enhance their educational experience in the summer. Registration is now available. To view a listing of courses and for information on how to register, go to [www.nisdtx.org/summerschool](http://www.nisdtx.org/summerschool).

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