



School Notes

For Immediate Release
April 28, 2016

NISD School Notes, April 28 – May 26

NISD Announces Teachers of the Year, Celebrates Employees at Annual Recognition Event

At the sixth annual Inspire Celebration on April 21, Monica Maynor from Roanoke Elementary School was named *Elementary Teacher of the Year* and Brittany Harper from Byron Nelson High School was named *Secondary Teacher of the Year*. Maynor and Harper will go on to compete in the Region XI Teacher of the Year competition where a finalist will be chosen to advance to the state contest. At the district's annual employee recognition celebration, NISD also recognized 27 campus Exemplar Educators, 17 retirees celebrating more than 400 years of service, 25-year and 30-year service award recipients and district employees of the year: Beverly Fowler, Administrative Support Employee of the Year, Randy Bray, Support Services Employee of the Year, Pat Bishop, Instructional Support Employee of the Year.

PHOTOGRAPHS: Retirees.jpg, Exemplar Educators.jpg

30 year.jpg: Prairie View Elementary School teacher Patricia Smith

25 year.jpg: (left to right: Executive Director of Communications and Government Relations Jerhea Nail and Justin Elementary School teacher Colleen Reynolds)

Employees of the Year.jpg (left to right: Pat Bishop, Instructional Support Employee of the Year from Steele Accelerated High School, Randy Bray, Support Services Employee of the Year from Eaton High School, Beverly Fowler, Administrative Support Employee of the Year from Sendera Ranch Elementary School)

Elementary Teacher of the Year.jpg (left to right: Executive Director of NISD Education Foundation David Hester, NISD School Board President Josh Wright, 2016 Elementary Teacher of the Year from Roanoke Elementary School Monica Maynor, 2015 Elementary Teacher of the Year from Beck Elementary School Maggie Bell, Superintendent of Schools Karen G. Rue, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Rob Thornell, Ed.D.)

Secondary Teacher of the Year.jpg (left to right: Executive Director of NISD Education Foundation David Hester, NISD School Board President Josh Wright, 2016 Secondary Teacher of the Year Brittany Harper from Byron Nelson High School, 2015 Secondary Teacher of the Year Joanna Kysar from Chisholm Trail Middle School, Superintendent of Schools Karen G. Rue, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Rob Thornell, Ed.D.)

Penny Bowles Named Nance Elementary School Principal

At the April 25 School Board Meeting, Superintendent Karen G. Rue, Ed.D. recommended Penny Bowles as the new principal of Sonny & Allegra Nance Elementary School. The NISD Board of Trustees unanimously approved the hiring of Bowles at the meeting on Monday evening. Bowles has served Northwest ISD for 11 years as a third grade teacher, campus instructional teacher, summer school principal at Seven Hills Elementary School and an assistant principal at J. Lyndal Hughes Elementary School. Ms. Bowles replaces Anita Chaney who will retire in June. Bowles will begin transitioning into her new role as principal this spring.

PHOTO: Penny Bowles

Northwest High School Debate Student Receives National Bid

Northwest High School senior Austin Hille will advance to the National Speech and Debate Association Tournament in Salt Lake City this June after winning first place in dramatic interpretation at the National Qualifier in Plano earlier this month. Hille has chosen to perform “Wave of Destruction,” by Kristy Thomas, about a man who loses his wife and family in a Tsunami that hit Thailand in 2004. Additionally, Hille placed second in program of oral interpretation. The National Speech and Debate Association is the oldest and largest high school speech and debate honor society in the world and was established in 1925. Each year, the organization provides competitive speech and debate activities, resources, scholarship opportunities and advanced recognition to more than 130,000 students and coaches.

PHOTOGRAPH (debate national bid): Northwest High School senior and national speech and debate qualifier Austin Hille is pictured with his debate coach Amberley Ferrell.

Gene Pike MS Varsity Choir selected as Conference Honor Choir

The Gene Pike Varsity Women’s Select Choir has been selected as one of only three treble choirs in the entire state to perform on May 7 for the 2016 Middle School/Junior High National Conference for Choral Music. The conference is hosted this year by the University of North Texas Cambiata Institute and Dr. Alan McClung.

The Varsity Select Choir is made up of 49 highly auditioned treble singers. This is the first National Honor Choir invitation for Gene Pike Middle School. The performing choirs at the National Choral Conference were selected by a panel of judges, who chose the best choirs from the state of Texas and beyond. The current Varsity Choir owes their selection to the singers from last year’s Varsity Treble choir, it was their audition recordings which impressed the judges.

Dr. Alan McClung, UNT Choral Profession and conference coordinator, indicated that the Treble Choir submissions were of especially high quality and made the selection very competitive. The conference is designed for Middle School Choir directors to attend workshops and concerts directly aimed at the middle school choir program.

The Choirs at Gene Pike Middle school are under the direction of Suzanne Hughes, assisted by Tyler Adcock, and Northwest High School director Kaitlyn Carty. Principal at Gene Pike Middle School is Chris Jones.

Photo by Russell Hughes Photography. Photo location - Speedway Club at Texas Motor Speedway. Used with permission of Texas Motor Speedway.

PHOTO CAPTION (Gene Pike Varsity Women's Select Choir.jpg): The Gene Pike Varsity Women’s Select Choir will perform at the Middle School/Junior High National Conference for Choral Music at the University of North Texas on May 7.

Tidwell Middle School Exemplar Educator Throws First Pitch at Rangers Game

Northwest ISD staff and community members watched as Tidwell Middle School eighth grade U.S. History teacher and Exemplar Educator Michelle Jennings threw out the ceremonial first pitch at NISD Night at Globe Life Park in Arlington on April 27.

“I was so nervous when I headed out to the mound,” Jennings said. “I just kept thinking of all my friends and co-workers voices saying, “Don’t bounce it!” When I threw the ball and realized it was actually a decent pitch, I was ecstatic! Throwing the first pitch at a Rangers game was something I would have never conceived having the honor to do. The fact that I got to do it as a representative of NISD and Tidwell Middle School made it even better!”

NISD Academy of Media Arts and Technology students produced a one-minute commercial that aired prior to the game.

Jennings’ name was drawn at NISD’s Inspire Celebration on April 21. “When my name was called out at the Inspire banquet, I was shocked,” Jennings said. “I was waiting to cross the stage and my biggest worry was tripping in front of 600 people. How would I be able to throw a pitch in front of 30,000 people? But then, too, I couldn’t pass up the opportunity to represent the district and the school that I love. I knew that my co-workers would be so excited and I wanted to make everyone proud which meant I needed to start practicing...right away!”

PHOTO CAPTION [NISDExemplarEducator]: Northwest ISD staff and community members watched as Tidwell Middle School eighth grade U.S. History teacher and Exemplar Educator Michelle Jennings threw out the ceremonial first pitch at NISD Night at Globe Life Park in Arlington on April 27.

18 Seniors Participate in Singing Day

NISD is pleased to announce 18 seniors signed their NCAA Letter of Intent to play at the collegiate level on Thursday, April 28. The following Byron Nelson and Northwest high school seniors signed scholarships:

Northwest High School

Football

Willie Callum – Wayland Baptist

Brandon Keck – Austin College

Cross Country

Rebekah Christman – Southeastern Oklahoma State

Trevor Bohr – Dodge City Community College

Softball

Amanda Healer – Weatherford College

Soccer

Alexandria Francis – Eastern Oklahoma State College

Michelle Coker – Eastern Oklahoma State College

Carrie Warner – Eastern Oklahoma State College

Delaney Marrs – Murray State University

Rachel Matte – Texas A&M – Texarkana

Basketball

Tara Crumpton – East Central Oklahoma

Byron Nelson High School

Golf

Dominic Hardison – Missouri Valley College

Brendan Johnson – McLennan Community College

Softball

Cameron Conrad – Eastern New Mexico University

Baseball

Jack Waggoner – University of the Ozarks

Soccer

Cole McPherson – Oral Roberts University

Basketball

Ryan Wheeler – Southwestern University

Cross Country & Track

Caleb Card – Tarleton State University

During the 2015-2016 school year, a combined total of 33 seniors have committed to play sports in college.

PHOTOS INCLUDED (NHSSigningDay2016 and BNHSSigningDay2016)

Dallas Zoo Visits Medlin Middle School

Students from Medlin Middle School had an opportunity to get up close and personal with wildlife from the Dallas Zoo. Thanks to a sponsorship from AT&T, the Animal Adventures Outreach Program tours school districts and campuses around the North Texas area. The program essentially brings the Dallas Zoo to students who may not have the opportunity to visit the zoo in person. The 45-minute interactive program is hosted by professionally-trained staff who bring up to eight

different mammals and reptiles for the presentation. Texas House Representative Tan Parker open the show for the Dallas Zoo. He is an advocate for public education and reminded students of the importance of staying in school.

Linda Caram is AT&T's Regional Director for External Affairs and proponent for the educational programs offered by the Dallas Zoo. "The Animal Adventures Outreach presentation can be customized to tie into current curriculum exercises that students are learning in class. This makes the experience that much more meaningful for the students and staff." said Linda.

After witnessing a short flight by the horned owl, a climbing display from a South American anteater and learning the true source of a flamingo's pink color, some students had a chance to hold a ten-foot red-tailed boa constrictor for a closing act. It was an educational experience students from Medlin Middle School will remember for quite some time.

PHOTO (MedlinZoo2)

L-R / TX House District 63 Rep. Tan Parker, Medlin Principal Eric Drewery

PHOTO (MedlinZoo)

CAPTION: Dallas Zoo staffer and Medlin students hold a red-tailed boa constrictor.

NISD Recognizes Staff and Community Ambassadors

At the April 25 School Board Meeting, the Board of Trustees recognized a group of 36 community members and 68 staff members for participating in the district's community and staff ambassador training academy. Eight years ago, Leadership NISD, a program to promote the vision of the district, develop community leadership and serve as a resource for community input, was developed and many graduates expressed a desire to have an advanced component to the program. NISD partners with Friends of Texas Public Schools to offer a closer look at what's really impacting schools and how the community and staff can advocate for education. The academy has four sessions, each two hours in length, and focuses on sharing strengths and achievements of our public schools. The district trains new staff ambassadors yearly, along with new teachers. Community ambassadors meet twice a year, and a new group is trained every other year.

PHOTOGRAPHS INCLUDED: (CommunityAmbassadors and StaffAmbassadors)

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. Go to 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

Registration is available for prekindergarten students by going to www.nisdtx.org/enrollment. 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. 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.

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 School Board Meeting

An NISD School Board meeting will be held Monday, May 9 at 7 p.m. in the Board Room at the NISD Administration Building (2001 Texan Drive, Fort Worth, 76247).

NISD Presents Parent Resources Night

Northwest ISD's One Voice One Choice committee is sponsoring NISD's Parent Resource Night on Thursday, May 12 from 6-8:30 p.m. at Eaton High School (1350 Eagle Blvd., Haslet, 76052). Learn more about help for anxiety, motivation, stress, ADHD and test preparations. Presentations will be available for parents with students of all ages on depression and suicide, teens and dating violence and more.

NISD School Board Meeting

An NISD School Board meeting will be held Monday, May 23 at 7 p.m. in the Board Room at the NISD Administration Building (2001 Texan Drive, Fort Worth, 76247).

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.

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