



## School Notes

For Immediate Release  
September 23, 2015

### NISD School Notes, September 23 – October 26

#### **NISD Communications Office Wins Three National Awards**

The Northwest ISD communications department has won three national awards in the National School Public Relations Association (NSPRA) annual publications and electronic media competition. The following awards were received:

Award of Merit – Partners in Education Annual Report  
Award of Merit – The Source Staff Newsletter  
Honorable Mention – Northwest News enewsletter

There were more than 900 publications and electronic media entries submitted across the nation this year.

#### **NISD's Data Service Team Recognized for Innovation in Information Technology**

In August 2015, former Data Service Associate Coordinator Donna Steele was recognized as an Information Technology Innovator in SunGard K-12 Education's Lead without Limits Awards Program. From nominations from educators and school administrators across the county, Steele was selected as the individual who best leveraged technology to innovate operations. Steele spent 21 years supporting students and staff in the Northwest ISD Data Services department. She recently retired from NISD in the late summer.

In 2013, the Texas Legislature passed Texas House Bill 5, which made substantial changes to the state's curriculum and graduation requirements, assessment program, and accountability system. To support Northwest ISD in meeting these new requirements, Steele implemented eSchoolPLUS Career Planner. Through her considerable effort and innovative thinking, she created a model for other districts in the state to follow.

Career Planner is a tool for developing and tracking an academic path for each individual student. Based on the plan chosen, users can select from a list of courses that will meet that plan's requirements. The software solution enables counselors to create course requests years in advance and to ensure that students are working toward meeting graduation requirements. Through Home Access Center, students and parents and/or guardians can enter course requests and track their progress toward graduation.

The Lead without Limits Awards Program recognizes school districts, schools, departments, administrators, and educators that leverage technology to help improve student achievement and/or school or district efficiency.

#### **Northwest ISD Offers eSchoolPLUS Family App for Parents**

The eSchoolPlus Family mobile app is now available for Northwest ISD parents. The mobile application is a free download features activities, notifications, classwork, report cards, schedule, attendance, alerts and more. The eSchoolPLUS family app is available for the iPhone, iPad, iPod touch, Android and Kindle Fire. Download the app on your choice of device on the App Store, Google Play or Amazon. For instructions on how to download the mobile application, go to [www.nisdtx.org/eSchoolPLUSFamilyApp](http://www.nisdtx.org/eSchoolPLUSFamilyApp).

#### **I Love NISD Campaign**

To show your support and secure your "I Love NISD" package, visit [www.northwestef.org](http://www.northwestef.org), or call the NEF office at 817-215-0173. With your purchase you will receive a 12"x18" yard sign, decal, and t-shirt. Your donation will benefit the Northwest Education Foundation and the Northwest Council of the PTAs. With your \$40 purchase you will be showing your support and pride in NISD, and also helping provide critical resources to ensure that every NISD student has the opportunity to be future-ready.

### **NISD School Board Meeting**

The Northwest ISD Board of Trustees will meet on Monday, September 28 at 7 p.m. at the NISD Administration Building (2001 Texan Drive, Fort Worth, 76177).

### **Speeding to Read Kickoff, September 29 at Texas Motor Speedway**

Three NISD elementary schools, Beck Elementary, Peterson Elementary and Sendera Ranch Elementary, will participate in the Speeding to Read challenge, along with several other schools from area districts. The Kickoff event will begin at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, September 29, at Texas Motor Speedway, 3545 Lone Star Circle (corner of I-35W and Highway 114) in Fort Worth.

### **NISD Sets Early Release Times for October 9**

Northwest ISD will dismiss early on Friday, October 9 at the following times:

- Elementary Schools: 12:15 p.m.
- Steele Accelerated High School/Special Programs: 1:05 p.m.
- Northwest and Byron Nelson High Schools: 1:15 p.m.
- Middle Schools: 1:25 p.m.

Monday, October 12 is a student holiday. Classes will resume Tuesday, October 13.

### **NISD Offers Gold Card Program**

To show appreciation for their years of support, Northwest ISD provides senior citizens living in the district the opportunity to be part of the district's Gold Card program. In addition to a free annual luncheon scheduled for October 13, Gold Card members receive free entry into district-sponsored events, performances, and athletic competitions. If you are 65 years of age or older, become a member of the NISD Gold Card program today. To join, please call 817-215-0175 or go to [www.nisdtx.org/goldcard](http://www.nisdtx.org/goldcard).

### **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](http://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.

### **NISD October School Board Meetings**

The Northwest ISD Board of Trustees will meet on Monday, October 12 and Monday, October 26 at 7 p.m. at the NISD Administration Building (2001 Texan Drive, Fort Worth, 76177)

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