



## School Notes

For Immediate Release  
November 18, 2015

### NISD School Notes, November 18 – November 30

#### **NISD Named to National AP Honor Roll**

For the second consecutive year, Northwest ISD has been named to the national College Board AP Honor Roll. Districts are selected based on increased participation in advanced placement courses and performance. NISD is one of 23 districts in the state to receive this recognition.

Making the decision to take an advanced placement course signals to college admission officers your child has taken the most rigorous class a high school has to offer. To learn more about advanced placement and college and career readiness in Northwest ISD, go to [www.nisdtx.org/collegeready](http://www.nisdtx.org/collegeready).

#### **Wishes Come True for Two NISD Students**

On November 13, two wishes came true for two Northwest ISD students. Haslet Elementary School student Lauren Vogel was selected by the North Texas Make-a-Wish Foundation to have her Disney World wish granted. Hughes Elementary School student Aubrey Warren has been selected by the Kidd Kraddick Morning show to go on the KIDD's Kids trip to Disney World. Vogel and Warren found out at surprise assemblies at their campuses.

PHOTO CAPTION [makeawish]: Haslet Elementary School's Lauren Vogel, pictured with her family, is going to Disney World thanks to the North Texas Make-a-Wish Foundation.

PHOTO CAPTION [KiddsKids]: Aubrey Warren, Hughes Elementary School second grader, is pictured after learning she was selected to go to Disney World on the KIDD's Kids trip.

#### **NISD Seeks Feedback for 2016-2017 Calendar**

Northwest ISD requests community feedback on the 2016-2017 school calendar options. Recent changes made to the Texas Education Code will affect the way the school calendar is developed. House Bill 2610, passed by the 84<sup>th</sup> Legislature, strikes language in the Texas Education Code requiring 180 days of instruction and replaces this with language requiring districts to provide at least 75,600 minutes of instruction. This bill allows districts to add minutes as necessary to compensate for minutes of instruction lost due to school closures caused by inclement weather.

Each year the District Education Improvement Committee (DEIC), made up of parents, teachers and community members, develop and submit calendar option for the upcoming school year with additional input from staff, parents and community to the NISD Board of Trustees. DEIC will consider all input in developing the final calendar options for school board approval. There are two options for the 2016-2017 school calendar. Both calendars include a 440 minute school day and three bad weather days built into the calendar. Go to <http://www.nisdtx.org/calendaroptions> to view the calendars, a list of frequently asked questions and to complete the survey.

#### **NISD's Kim Becan Named Principal of Cox Elementary**

At the November 16 Northwest ISD School Board Meeting, Kim Becan was approved as the new principal for Northwest ISD's Wayne A. Cox Elementary School. Currently, Ms. Becan is the assistant principal at Northwest ISD's Clara Love Elementary School. She has worked in Northwest ISD since 2007 where she served students as a first and third grade teacher and a campus instructional teacher at NISD's Prairie View Elementary School. Additionally, she has worked as an elementary math instructional teacher in Northwest ISD.

PHOTO CAPTION: Kim Becan has been named the new principal for Northwest ISD's Wayne A. Cox Elementary.

### **Sharing the Road with Large Trucks**

Some lucky Northwest High School students had a rare opportunity to get behind the wheel of a full-sized semi-truck without a CDL certification. The event was part of ProDrivers 'Teens and Trucks' presentation held in the Northwest High School parking lot. The program focuses on educating young drivers on the proper techniques of sharing the road with large semi-trucks and trailers. Many young drivers assume truck drivers have the same field of vision as they do in their own passenger cars. This is not the case. To provide a firsthand experience, ProDrivers brought a full-sized semi-truck with trailer and positioned multiple cars within the blind spots of the truck driver. By sitting in the driver's seat of the large truck, each student realized just how easy it is for a car or truck to disappear in blind spots. It was an eye-opening experience for all of the students.

The presentation also covered the topic of texting and driving which plays a large factor in accidents involving teen drivers. ProDrivers Director of Safety, Jim Smith, takes the training personal. "I almost lost my very own son in a texting and driving incident. It's a feeling I will never forget and I have the pictures to remind me just how lucky he was to not be seriously injured," said Jim. For more information on the Teens and Trucks program visit their website at <http://www.prodrivers.com/safety/teens-and-trucks.aspx>

PHOTOS INCLUDED [ProDrivers and ProDrivers2]

### **NISD Students Donate 18,000 Pounds of Food to Local Food Banks**

Thanks to the generosity of NISD students and families, approximately 18,000 pounds of food was collected and will be distributed to local food banks in the second annual Fill the Bus food drive, a partnership between Aramark Food Services, Durham Transportation and NISD. On November 16, a school bus stopped by each campus to load items collected. Each bus was weighed and the heaviest bus won the Fill the Bus competition. This year's winner was Roanoke Elementary School. Roanoke Elementary students collected more than 3,700 total pounds of food. All food items will be donated to the Roanoke Food Pantry, Justin Food Pantry, and Community Storehouse.

PHOTO CAPTION [Roanokefood]: Roanoke Elementary School is the winner of the second annual Fill the Bus contest, collecting more than 3,700 pounds of food to give to the Roanoke Food Pantry.

### **NISD School Board Receives 2015 Texas School Board Excellence Award**

The Northwest ISD Board of Trustees is the recipient of the Dr. John R. Hoyle Memorial Administrative Leadership Institute's Texas School Board Excellence Award. The board was recognized November 11 during a reception and dinner at the Annenberg Presidential Conference Center in College Station. The John Hoyle R. Memorial Administrative Leadership Institute is a prestigious organization recognizing excellence in education annually. The organization recognizes a school board, school district and legislator annually and is sponsored by the Texas Association of School Administrators and Texas A&M University.

PHOTO CAPTION [SchoolBoard2015]: The Northwest ISD Board of Trustees is the recipient of the Dr. John Hoyle R. Memorial Administrative Leadership Institute's Texas School Board Excellence Award.

### **15 Seniors Participate in Signing Day Ceremonies**

On November 17, 15 Northwest ISD students participated in NCAA signing ceremonies to commit to play at the collegiate level. The following seniors have committed:

#### **Northwest High School**

Tuesday DerMargosian, University of Texas, softball  
Dustin May, Texas Tech University, baseball  
Zach McCarthy, Holy Cross College at Notre Dame

#### **Byron Nelson High School**

Jacey Allen – Softball at Missouri University of Science & Technology  
Alexandra Batista – Golf at Stephen F. Austin University  
Molly Cross – Cross Country at Tarleton State University  
Delaney Duis – Volleyball at Colorado School of Mines  
Edie Fairchild – Softball at Rogers State University  
Jazmine Hall – Acrobatics & Tumbling at Baylor University  
Adam Koster – Swimming at Texas A&M University  
Rachel Ley – Gymnastics at Missouri University

Chelsie McClure – Softball at Texas Woman’s University  
Leilyn Miles – Track at Texas Christian University  
Mara Miller – Softball at University of Montevallo  
Bryan Seamster – Baseball at University of Mississippi

PHOTOS INCLUDED – Provided by Mike Fisher

### **BNHS Student Participates in National Youth Leadership Conference**

Kera Biggers’ eyes sparkle as she shares about the unique experience she was treated to five days this past month while attending the National Security - National Youth Leadership Forum in Washington D.C. Attending FBI & CIA focused forums with 232 other students from the United States and Puerto Rico, Biggers, a sophomore this year at BNHS, learned about career opportunities in defense, diplomacy, and the intelligence fields of the United States Government. Students were divided into groups with whom they participated in simulated events. Biggers’ simulation centered around DEA trained officials overtaking a drug cartel during a drug-related heist. Students were provided with mock intel from which they had to formulate and make decisions within a selected timeframe. Biggers commented, "It was an amazing opportunity to travel Washington D.C. and work alongside other high school students who share my interest in national security; this conference confirmed my interest in pursuing a career in the intelligence field."

PHOTO CAPTION [Biggers]: Byron Nelson High School sophomore Kera Biggers attends National Security National Youth Leadership Forum in D.C.

### **More than 300 Angels Need Your Support**

You can help make the season brighter by adopting one or more angels off NISD’s Partners in Education Virtual Angel Tree. Northwest ISD uses the Virtual Angel Tree as a way for teachers and staff, student organizations, local churches and businesses to offer their assistance anonymously to any family who needs assistance with clothing and holiday wishes. This year, the district will serve a record number of approximately 1,200 students. Here is how you can help:

1. Go online (<http://angeltree.nisdtx.org/>) to access the Northwest ISD Virtual Angel Tree
2. Make your selections.

The Virtual Angel Tree items, including a printed copy of the details, will need to be delivered to the NISD Administration Building (2001 Texan Drive, Justin, 76247) by Friday, December 4. Having trouble accessing the site from the link above? Copy and paste <http://angeltree.nisdtx.org/> into your browser. Volunteers are needed to help sort and distribute Virtual Angel Tree items. Please call Partners in Education with your availability at 817-215-0175.

### **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 Closed for Thanksgiving**

Northwest ISD offices and campuses will be closed the week of November 23-27 for Thanksgiving break. Classes will resume Monday, November 30.

###