



School Notes

For Immediate Release
December 10, 2015

NISD School Notes, December 10 – January 5

BNHS FFA Receives State Leadership Honors

Members of the Byron Nelson High School Future Farmers of America (FFA) Chapter received top honors in the Texas FFA's Leadership Career Development Events on December 4. A total of 5,973 entries began the statewide-tournament in 13 different events which reflect classroom instruction in basic leadership skills. The team received the following awards:

- Greenhand Quiz Team – placed fifth
(team members include Brandon Michealis, Lauren Hartman, Catherine Sheehan, and Haley James)
- Senior Quiz Team – placed sixth
(team members include Dalton Howard, Jennie Powell, Kylie Scott, Madison Stabb, and Bailey Storeormer)

Greenhand and Senior Quiz Teams qualified for the state competition by finishing first or second in one of the state's 57 district competitions and first or second in one of ten area competitions. The students made NISD history by being the highest placing team and the most students taken to a state contest.

The Texas FFA is the nation's largest state FFA associations with a membership of more than 113,000 active FFA members. FFA programs teach skills in leadership, career development and personal growth. FFA gives students the opportunity to practically apply classroom knowledge to real-world experiences through local, state and national competitions.

PHOTO CAPTION: Byron Nelson High School FFA team receives state leadership honors.

Volunteers Needed for AVID Tutoring for Middle School Students

AVID is an elective class and NISD program that supports students in college readiness and careers. Part of the support for students is a focused small group tutorial session two days a week during the class. NISD is in need of volunteers to come in and work with seventh and eighth grade students in this tutorial process. Interested volunteers must complete a background check by going to www.nisdtx.org and clicking on the Volunteer Background Check on the left-hand side of the page under Quick Links. Contact Medlin Middle School Assistant Principal Paige Cantrell (pcantrell@nisdtx.org or 817-215-0543) to express your interest in volunteering, and attend an AVID tutor training session on Monday, January 4 at the NISD Administration Building (2001 Texan Drive, Justin, 76247) from 8-4 p.m. If you are unable to attend the January 4 training, Keller ISD is offering a training on Saturday, January 9 at Hillwood Middle School from 8:30-4:30.

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 84th 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.

Thank You For Supporting PIE Angel Tree

NISD is pleased to announce ALL of the angels on this year's Partners in Education Angel Tree have been adopted. Thanks to your support the district was able to serve a record number of students, approximately 1,200. Thank you so much for your donations and generosity.

As a reminder, please return your Angel Tree items, including a printed copy of the details, to the NISD Administration Building (2001 Texan Drive, Justin, 76247) as soon as possible. If you are interested in volunteering and assisting with gift sorting and distribution, please call 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, 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.

December School Board Meeting

The December Northwest ISD school board meeting is Monday, December 14. School board meetings are held at 7 p.m. in the NISD Administration Building Board Room (2001 Texan Drive, Justin, 76247).

Mentors Matter

Did you know you can make a difference in a child's life in just 30 minutes a week? The NISD mentoring program brings together individual students with caring adults who have made a commitment to meet on the school campus to listen and offer encouragement to students. If you are interested in becoming an NISD mentor, please call 817-215-0172. Mentors are required to complete a background check, a mentor application and attend an orientation. Please go to www.nisdtx.org/pie for more information. The next orientation is Thursday, December 17 at 12 p.m. at the NISD Administration Building (2001 Texan Drive, Justin, 76247).

BNHS 5th Annual Holiday Show

Byron Nelson High School is pleased to announce its fifth annual holiday show "Coney Island Christmas." Join the Byron Nelson High School theatre department on Thursday, December 17 and Friday, December 18 at 7 p.m. at the Byron Nelson High School Performing Arts Center. General admission is \$5, and NISD employees and Gold Card members are free.

NISD Closed for Winter Break

Northwest ISD offices and campuses will be closed December 21 – January 1 for Winter Break. Monday, January 4 is a student holiday. Classes will resume Tuesday, January 5.

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