



## School Notes

For Immediate Release  
December 16, 2015

### NISD School Notes, December 16 – January 19

#### **NISD Announces New Executive Director of Construction**

At the December 14 School Board Meeting, Sarah Stewart was named the executive director of construction. Stewart has served Northwest ISD, assisting with more than three million square feet of construction and renovation projects, for the past eight years. Prior to a career in Northwest ISD, she worked for CM Architects and SHW Group. She is also a Northwest High School graduate. Sarah will begin her new role immediately.

PHOTO CAPTION: At the December 14 School Board Meeting, Sarah Stewart has been approved as the district's new executive director of construction by the Northwest ISD Board of Trustees.

#### **NISD Announces Holiday Greeting Card Winner**

All Northwest ISD students are encouraged to enter the holiday card art competition each year. This year's winner is Northwest High School junior Makayla Patton. Patton's art is featured as the cover artwork on the NISD 2015 holiday greeting card. The card is sent to district staff members, local businesses, state senators and representatives and many more organizations across the state. Runners up include Stephanie Hilgendorf, Alexa Dendy, Ethan Le and Averie Zamora.

PHOTO CAPTION: Makayla Patton's artwork was selected to be featured as the NISD 2015 holiday greeting card. Patton is a Northwest High School junior.

#### **Real Talks – Dealing with Stressful News**

Each month, the Northwest ISD counseling department provides an article, *Real Talks*, dedicated to addressing issues our children face and strategies parents can use at home if their child has questions or concerns. This month, *Real Talks* addresses dealing with anxiety. Northwest ISD encourages parents to partner with the school district by utilizing the resources provided as strategies or tips to guide the conversation with their children. To read this month's article, go to [www.nisdtx.org/realtalks](http://www.nisdtx.org/realtalks).

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

**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.

**BNHS 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

**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](http://www.nisdtx.org/pie) for more information. The next orientation is Tuesday, January 19 at 12 p.m. at the NISD Administration Building (2001 Texan Drive, Justin, 76247).

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