

NISD Introduces New Board Member



Anne Davis-Simpson, Ph.D
Board Member

2012. Dr. Simpson was elected to Place 3 with 62 percent of voter approval.

“It is such a privilege to serve the students, staff and community of Northwest ISD,” says Dr. Simpson. “Having grown up in Northwest ISD, I have seen many wonderful changes, and I am excited to be a part of the growth the district is experiencing.” Dr. Simpson is no stranger to NISD. She and her husband are both NISD graduates and their children attended school in the district. Currently, she is a professor at Texas Women’s University.

“I have the utmost respect for the staff and families of this district,” Dr. Simpson says. “I hope to offer positive leadership, to listen and to support.” NISD’s seven-member Board of Trustees is responsible for establishing policies for the district, ensuring financial viability, employing the superintendent, approving the budget, setting the tax rate and calling for bond elections. Trustees provide service to the NISD community without financial compensation.

Northwest INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
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Northwest Vision INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
Teamwork | Pride | Excellence
Keeping You Connected to Northwest ISD
Summer 2013

Grads Earn \$15 Million in Scholarships
Congratulations Class of 2013 Graduates!



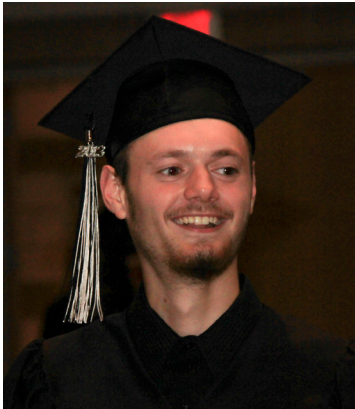
Byron Nelson High School valedictorian Morgan Schmidt (left) and salutatorian Jenna Erickson (right) pose for a picture during the commencement ceremony on June 11.

Friends, family and faculty cheered as more than 950 seniors walked across the stage at Byron Nelson and Northwest high school commencement ceremonies on June 11. Northwest High School graduated approximately 505 students. “Thank you for making this year a year to remember,” said Northwest High School Valedictorian Caren Stuebe. “We left a foundation for excellence that cannot be destroyed.” The BNHS Class of 2013, made up of 446 students, is the first group of students to attend four consecutive years at Byron Nelson High School.



Northwest High School valedictorian Caren Stuebe addresses the crowd during the commencement ceremony on June 11.

on June 6 honoring 15 seniors. Since opening its doors in 2010, every Steele Accelerated High School graduate is either employed, serving in the military or enrolled in college. The campus was designed as an opportunity for students to accelerate their studies. “We are so blessed to be graduating today as prepared as we are, said Steele Accelerated High School Highest Ranking Graduate Raigan Hanna. “There will be challenges ahead. Be strong and courageous Class of 2013!”



James M. Steele graduate Austin Lackey is an early graduate and plans to join the Navy.

“Class of 2013, you are different. You are winners, and you will continue to lead as your journey begins,” said Byron Nelson High School Principal Linda Parker at the Bobcat commencement ceremony.

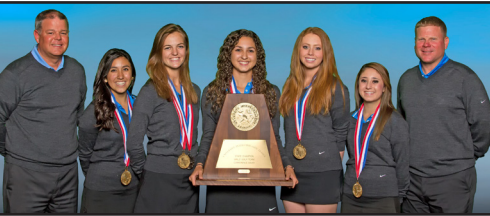
James M. Steele Accelerated High School held its graduation ceremony

At the heart of Northwest ISD is the desire to prepare students for their futures. The district’s vision is for every student to graduate future ready: ready for college, ready for the global workplace and ready for personal success. As Superintendent of Schools Karen G. Rue, Ed.D. certified the class of 2013 she said, “You truly are future ready.” This year’s seniors earned a combined total of more than \$15 million in scholarships. Congratulations to the Class of 2013.

Northwest ISD Survey Reveals
Parents are Pleased

Nearly 2,500 parents responded to the NISD Parent Survey conducted in February. According to K12 Insight, a national firm who conducted and managed the survey, results show perceptions across the top areas continue to remain highly favorable. NISD parents report their children’s schools are positive, welcoming and safe. Students are excited to go to school and participate in school activities. In addition, if children have a problem, NISD parents believe they have someone with whom to speak. These results are consistent with results since 2010. To view the district survey results and a breakdown by campuses, go to www.nisdtx.org/yourvoice. Thank you for making your voice heard in Northwest ISD.

NISD Students Set
District and State Records



BNHS Girls’ Golf Wins State Championship
The Lady Bobcat golf team won the 4A state championship in Austin this May. The girls’ win marks the first team state championship for Byron Nelson High School and NISD.

NHS Junior Sets State
Record at Meet

Desiree Freier, Northwest High School junior and reigning 2012 pole vault champion, was named the 2013 pole vault champion at the 5A state tournament in Austin. Freier set a state meet record of 13 feet and nine inches.



The BNHS girls’ golf team and Freier represent a group of approximately 600 NISD students recognized at the annual Board of Trustee awards for state, national and international achievements.

New Leaders in Northwest ISD

NISD has a goal to recruit, develop and retain exceptional, highly motivated staff to enhance student engagement and learning. The district introduces the following new principals and administrators:



Sandy Conklin
Samuel Beck Elementary



Deborah McCune, Ed.D.
Wayne A. Cox Elementary



Yolanda Wallace
Prairie View Elementary



Jofeé Tremain
O.A. Peterson Elementary



Cynthia Webber
Haslet Elementary



Emily Conklin
Director of Communications



Melissa DeSimone, Ed.D.
Director of Research, Assessment & Accountability



Michael Griffin, Ed.D.
Exec. Director of Elementary Education

Enrollment at Your Fingertips
Online Registration Begins Aug. 1

Northwest ISD is pleased to introduce paperless enrollment beginning with the 2013-2014 school year. Enrollment Online, an online registration and information verification process, is now available for students new to Northwest ISD. Parents of returning students can begin the registration process on August 1. This will replace the back-to-school packets issued on the first day of school.

In order to access the online registration feature, parents of students currently enrolled in the district must have a Home Access Center (HAC) account. Access to the HAC requires an internet connection and a confidential username and password issued to the parent by the school. If you are unsure of your HAC login, you may contact your child’s campus. For more information, go to www.nisdtx.org/enrollment.

“We are committed to establishing trust and transparency in our communication methods and believe this new technology tool will provide flexibility for our families,” Data Services Coordinator Sharla Stockard says.

Opt in to Receive SMS Messages
If you would like to receive SMS messages from NISD to your cell phone, please list a cell phone number in the cell text category on the enrollment online forms. NISD uses SMS messaging for emergency notifications, district-wide events and inclement weather closings. For more information, go to www.nisdtx.org/enrollment.

Back to School
Mark Your Calendars
Tuesday, August 27
www.nisdtx.org/backtoschool
For attendance boundary information, go to www.nisdtx.org/attendanceboundaries.

Northwest INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
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The Northwest Vision is published by the NISD Communications Department.

Stay Connected!
NISD to Launch New Communication Tool
NISD is recognized nationally and across the state for its communication tools. To receive emergency notifications, district news, and visit the district’s website at www.nisdtx.org, or connect with us on social media sites. “We know an informed community leads to increased support and improvement in student learning,” says Director of Communications Emily Conklin. “The goal of the communications department is continuous improvement in communication methods through a variety of channels in order to build mutually rewarding relationships.” This issue of the Northwest Vision will be the district’s last printed newsletter mailed to homes. “We are living in an information age and we are living in an information age.”

Cox Elementary to Open in August

Construction Begins this Summer at New High School

In August, NISD will open its 17th elementary campus, Wayne A. Cox Elementary School, in Roanoke in the Fairways Ranch housing development. Cox, former Northwest ISD educator and longtime resident of Justin, served his community as a Justin city council member and later led the city as mayor.

Funds from the 2008 bond referendum have been used to construct the 103,926 square-foot campus. The school will feature an expanded cafeteria and gymnasium, open space, enclosed courtyard, flex spaces and energy efficient amenities. Cox is expected to open with approximately 350 students and is designed for the optimal capacity of 850. "Our projections show the student enrollment could double in size by the 2017-2018 school year," explains Assistant Superintendent for Facilities, Planning and Construction Dennis McCreary. "We anticipate this to be one of the fastest growing schools in our district over the next couple of years."

The school's colors, gray and gold, and mascot, the cougars, were selected by a group of incoming fifth grade students.

Construction is complete at the Sheers of Steele Salon located at James M. Steele Accelerated High School. Steele is home to the district's fifth career academy, The Cosmetology Academy. The academy provides first-hand experiences in hair, nails and skincare as well as business and entrepreneurship trainings. After a four year plan of study, students can graduate as certified cosmetologists.

Northwest ISD is opening the enrollment for James M. Steele Accelerated High School to students across the metroplex.



A group of incoming Cox Cougars are pictured in front of their new elementary campus.

NISD to Open New High School in 2015

In November, voters approved the \$255 million bond referendum which includes construction of a new high school named after Wise County resident and rancher V.R. Eaton. Eaton served as a member on the first Northwest ISD school board and assisted in the organization of the district's consolidation. Construction will begin this summer, and the campus will open in 2015.

This three-story, 520,000 square-foot building boasts geothermal heating and air conditioning, career academies, athletic fields, collaborative learning

Steele Reveals New Cosmetology Salon

Construction is complete at the Sheers of Steele Salon located at James M. Steele Accelerated High School. Steele is home to the district's fifth career academy, The Cosmetology Academy. The academy provides first-hand experiences in hair, nails and skincare as well as business and entrepreneurship trainings. After a four year plan of study, students can graduate as certified cosmetologists.

The campus accepts ninth through twelfth-graders and targets students with a desire to accelerate their studies. Thanks to a partnership with North Texas Community College, students can take expanded dual credit classes receiving college credit while taking their high school courses. The NISD Collegiate Academy will provide students with opportunities to enhance and accelerate their education and graduate high school with an associate's degree.

To submit an application, go to www.nisdtx.org/sahs. For more information, contact 817-698-5800.



Sheers of Steele will debut in August, providing one year of training prior to opening for business in 2014.

spaces and wireless access throughout the building. V.R. Eaton High School will open in the north Fort Worth/Haslet area and will be located next to Schluter Elementary School and a future middle school site. Funds for the future middle school were also included in the 2012 bond referendum.

The selection process will begin in the spring of 2014 to determine school colors and select the mascot. Attendance boundaries are expected to be approved by the NISD Board of Trustees in a few months.

"The growth in Northwest ISD has flourished over the past eight years," says Superintendent of Schools Karen G. Rue, Ed.D. "We are so appreciative of the support our community continues to provide."

The district is projecting more than 19,000 students for the 2013-2014 school year.

Elementary Building Additions

In 2011, the Board reestablished the optimal capacity for buildings with 450 students to 650 and 650 students to 850. Clara Love Elementary School building additions include classrooms, art and music rooms and expansions to the gymnasium and cafeteria. Building additions at Lakeview Elementary School include a new gymnasium that connects to the cafeteria, additional classrooms, new library, collaboration space as well as new carpet, roof and paint throughout the building. Additions are expected to be complete in August.

Building additions at Lakeview Elementary School will feature a new collaboration space.



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49 Educators Honored at Inspire Celebration

NISD Thanks Champions and NISD Education Foundation for Support

More than 400 people watched as Northwest ISD recognized retirees, 25-year and 30-year service award recipients, Exemplar Educators from each campus, and its Employees and Teachers of the Year at the district's annual Inspire Celebration on April 18. Northwest ISD would like to thank Champions and the Northwest ISD Education Foundation for their contributions and support for the 2013 Inspire Celebration. The Inspire recognition program was designed to recognize and celebrate dedicated educators and support staff for the important contributions they make to the students and community of NISD.

Northwest ISD named the 2013 Teachers of the Year at the third annual Inspire

Celebration. The District recognized Elementary Teacher of the Year Jairia Diggs, and Secondary Teacher of the Year Charles E. Cooper, II. Exemplar Educators were selected from all 25 campuses based on their leadership, motivation and effectiveness in the classroom.

Northwest ISD also recognized its three Employees of the Year, who were nominated by their co-workers and selected by a committee. Amy Davis, Instructional Support Employee of the Year, Thelma Graves, Administrative Support Employee of the Year, and James Monroe, Support Services Employee of the Year, were named 2013 Employees of the Year.



Pictured from left to right are Elementary Teacher of the Year Jairia Diggs, Superintendent Karen G. Rue, Ed.D., Secondary Teacher of the Year Charles E. Cooper, II and NISD School Board President Mel Fuller at the annual Inspire Celebration.



Pictured from left to right are Support Services Employee of the Year James Monroe, Administrative Support Employee of the Year Thelma Graves, Superintendent Karen G. Rue, Ed.D. and Instructional Support Employee of the Year Amy Davis.



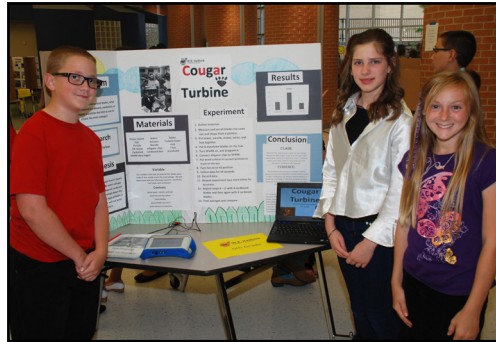
Exemplar Educators, representing 25 campuses in NISD, were recognized for their leadership, motivation and effectiveness in the classroom at the Inspire Celebration.

NISD Named National 'Top Five Digital District'

Northwest ISD ranks fifth in the large student population district category for the Digital School Districts Survey Award. The survey showcases exemplary school boards' and districts' use of technology to govern the district, communicate with students and the community, as well as improve district operations. NISD was recognized at the National School Boards Association's Annual Conference in San Diego. This is the second year NISD has ranked among the top ten digital school districts in the nation.

For the past four years, NISD has issued

more than 8,000 netbook computers to secondary students as part of the district's vision to prepare every student for their futures. The NISD Board of Trustees approved the Long-Range Technology Plan which includes a Dell Latitude 10 Tablet for secondary students. Also included is a class standard of Latitude 10 Tablets for secondary teacher use and an Apple iPad for elementary teachers. The NISD Long-Range Technology Plan is a three-year plan that is created to ensure students and teachers are receiving relevant technology tools to assist in today's digital classroom.



W.R. Hatfield Elementary School students Tyler Ford, Ashley Fouts, and Bailey Johnson show off their technology skills during a presentation at NISD's inaugural Night of No Limits.

P.I.E. Back-to-School Health Fair

Northwest ISD Partners in Education, in partnership with Heavenly Supply Depot, will host a Back-to-School Health Fair at Northwest High School on Saturday, August 3 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The fair will help prepare children in need to go back to school through services provided by community agencies specializing in assisting children and families. This one-stop destination will provide free assistance to children in the following ways:

- backpacks and school supplies (PreK-12)
- health screenings and health insurance information
- dental information, toothbrushes and toothpaste
- vision screenings
- haircuts
- sports physical
- family-friendly games and activities
- financial aid workshops and college/university/trade school information
- community resource booths
- information on NISD services

Register for the 2013 Back-to-School Health Fair at www.hsdtx.org. Families must pre-register for this event to ensure students receive a backpack full of supplies.

Thank you to all of our Partners in Education. Visit www.nisdtx.org/partners for a complete list of our partners.

NISD Student Wins a 2013 Chevy Camaro

Car alarm sounded, more than 4,600 NISD high school students cheered and tweets were spread across the social media realms as BNHS sophomore Megan Stonely won a 2013 Chevrolet Camaro at the Northwest ISD Strive N Drive Car Giveaway on Friday, May 24. Stonely's ticket was one of 25 drawn from the hopper which contained tickets high school students earned throughout the year for academic success and good attendance. The other 24 students received a new Dell Latitude 3330 laptop, and all 25 students received a pair of tickets to Hawaiian Falls. The 2013 NISD Strive N Drive Car Giveaway was made possible through a cooperative relationship between Moritz Chevrolet, Dell, Hawaiian Falls, NISD Education Foundation and NISD PIE.



The NISD Partners in Education Stuff the Bus Supply Drive was created to ensure NISD students have the tools they need for a successful school year. PIE is asking community members to host school supply drives at their businesses and places of worship, or donate school supplies at the NISD Administration Building (2001 Texan Drive, Justin, 76247). An NISD school bus will travel to local businesses and churches to collect donations on **Friday, July 19**. For donations, learn how to hold a drive or volunteer, visit www.nisdtx.org/pie or call 817-215-0172.

For the third consecutive year, Kay Granger Elementary School has been recognized as the NISD Partners in Education (PIE) Campus of the Year. The campus has logged approximately 10,296 volunteer hours from August 2012 to March 2013. Results have been determined based on total hours logged per student. The current estimate for the value of a volunteer hour is \$22.14, according to Independent Sector, the nation's largest non-partisan coalition of nonprofit organizations. The volunteers of Granger Elementary have contributed the equivalent of approximately \$227,953.44 to NISD.

"Not a day goes by that I don't see a friendly face volunteering in our building," says Principal Kimmie Etheredge. "Our campus was named a National School of Character. Our students see examples of service daily from their parents as they spend tireless hours serving in our building."

NISD provides numerous opportunities to engage parents and the community in the education of children. Currently, the district has more than 7,000 approved volunteers. If you would like to volunteer in Northwest ISD, please visit www.nisdtx.org/volunteercheck.



PIE Specialist Phil Beckman is pictured with representatives from Granger Elementary and Superintendent Karen G. Rue, Ed.D.