January 29, 2020

**Woods’ Kudos**

**Harlan teacher named Region 20 LOTE Teacher of the Year**

Claire Plantenga, a French teacher at Harlan HS, was named the Region 20 Language Other Than English (LOTE) Teacher of the Year by the World Languages Educators Institute.

The award was established to recognize the efforts of outstanding educators who are teaching in the LOTE classroom setting. She will be recognized at the second annual LOTE: World Languages Educators Institute conference on Feb. 26.

Plantenga joined NISD in 2017 when Harlan HS opened and she was hired to help develop a new French program.

**Schools welcome future kindergartners**

Elementary schools throughout Northside ISD are holding special Kinder Roundup events in preparation of welcoming more than 7,000 new kindergarten students for the 2020-2021 school year.

Parents are encouraged to pre-register their children during Kinder Roundup, which runs through Jan. 31, in order to secure a seat at their neighborhood school. Kinder roundup activities include classroom tours, meet the teacher opportunities, and a whole host of activities to excite students as they prepare to enter elementary school.

Click here for a complete school-by-school schedule for the Roundup.

Pictured is an excited future Adams Hill ES Patriot, Juliette Cruz.

**NEF celebrates major milestone in 2020**

This year, the Northside Education Foundation (NEF) will celebrate serving as a passport to the future in education and innovation in NISD for 25 years. The Foundation will offer ways the community can learn about its history and forward its mission to award more grants to Northside educators. Since 1995, NEF has awarded over $8 million in grants!

There is still time to apply for two remaining NEF grant opportunities to fund classroom or department programs. The deadline to apply for a NEF Team Grant is Feb. 6, and the NEF Spring Innovation Grant deadline is Feb. 27. Watch these grant winners tell their stories.

To award as many grants as possible, NEF hosts fundraising events such as the annual Pillars of Character Recognition Banquet. As part of the anniversary celebration and because many outstanding pillars in the community are both products of Northside and are employees, the NEF Pillar Selection Committee could select an employee who is a NISD graduate as a Pillar of Character next school year.

NEF is currently seeking 2020-2021 Pillar of Character nominations. The nomination form and list of past and present Pillars, along with photos and biographical information, is located at www.nisd.net/pillars. The deadline for submissions is May 1.

Celebrate, engage, and follow NEF’s journey serving as a passport to the future in education and innovation in Northside on Twitter and Facebook.
United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County

Almost 3,000 NISD employees donated a combined total of $151,000 during the three-week United Way campaign this year. The District’s annual campaign impacts more than 100 United Way partner agencies targeting the greatest challenges families face every day.

A big thank you to all the campus United Way representatives for their hard work and the many who invited a United Way speaker to their campus meetings.

Kuentz students celebrate reading goals

Students and staff at Kuentz ES dressed as their favorite book characters and started the day with a parade as part of their Mid-Way Reading Celebration recognizing students’ meeting their reading goals for the first half of the school year.

Special guest readers also visited classrooms as part of the special day. In Mary Cissell’s kindergarten class, the students were read the book “Llama Llama Red Pajama” by Caitlin Bollier, girls softball and volleyball coach at O’Connor HS (pictured in middle of group of students).

“They understood that this was a rhyming book,” said an impressed Bollier as she left the classroom. “It was a great way to start my day.”

Legendary Super Bowl snacks and stories

Looking for a recipe that will score you points? Order a Northside School Museum Association keepsake cookbook, “Simply the Best, Vol. II”, and find hundreds of game winning recipes and stories about the history of Northside for only $25. Be legendary and order your cookbook here.

Dollar General Youth Literacy Grant

Youth Literacy Grants provide funding to schools, public libraries, and nonprofit organizations to help students who are below grade level or experiencing difficulty reading. Click here for more information on the Dollar General Youth Literacy Grant or contact the Grants and Recognitions Department at 210-397-8562.

Trustees and Superintendents unite

Both current and former NISD Board members and superintendents were treated to a lunch as part of the District’s Board Appreciation Month activities. These men and women have shaped the foundation of the District and continue to work for the benefit of all NISD students.

Pictured are (from l-r, front row) Annie Holmes, Ed Rawlinson, Dr. Brian Woods, Dr. John Folks, and Katie Reed; and (middle row) Karen Freeman, Dr. Carol Harle, David Poole, Terry Zablocki, Dr. Bob James, and Virginia Myers; and (back row) Gerald B. Lopez and Lynn Britton.