

Woods' Kudos

McKenzie named Region 20 finalist



Dr. Scott McKenzie, principal at Rayburn MS, has been selected as the Region 20 Middle School Principal of the Year by the Texas Association of

Secondary School Principals (TASSP). He will now be considered for the Texas State Principal of the Year Award. The TASSP Principal of the Year program annually recognizes outstanding school leaders who have succeeded in providing high-quality learning opportunities for students. They are acknowledged by their peers for the exemplary contributions they have made to the profession.

Regional winners will be recognized at the Josten's Night of the Stars dinner in June 2018.

Mireles choir to perform at TMEA

The musical ensemble at Mireles ES, The Noteworthy Orff, has been invited to perform at the Texas Music Educators Association's (TMEA) 2018 Convention to be held at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center in San Antonio on Feb. 14-17. Mireles ES was the only San Antonio school invited to perform.

Brandeis students receive special national recognition

Three students from Brandeis HS were honored for their Senior Group Documentary during the 38th annual National History Day contest in Maryland this summer. Their documentary, titled "Desegregation yet Separate: Standing Together for Integration" earned a place in an elite showing in the Oprah Winfrey Theater at the National Museum of African American History and Culture. The award-winning students are Kumaran Arulmani, Matthew Perez, and Tuan Pham.

Bernal fills backpacks to assist others



Pictured (from l-r) are Naima Bayardo and Alyssa Mendez, both eighth graders, filling some of the backpacks. Also pictured are the backpacks loaded and ready for delivery.

Many of us have been glued to the news the past couple of weeks watching the destruction and devastation in the Houston and Beaumont areas due to Hurricane Harvey.

Glenda Munson, principal of Bernal MS, challenged her teachers and students to collect backpacks for students who are sitting in shelters with nothing of their own and with nothing to do. Her goal was to collect and deliver 30 to 35 backpacks. Donations were organized in three groups: Kindergarten to second grades, third to fifth grades, and sixth to eighth grades.

Seventy-six backpacks were filled with grade appropriate books, games, and school supplies and were delivered by Munson to southeast Texas over the weekend.

"I was amazed at the outpouring of love and support," Munson said. "This just shows, no matter your age, you can make a huge difference in the life of a child."



NISD chefs rise to a culinary cook-off challenge



Just nine school days after meeting in the culinary classroom at brand-new Harlan HS, a team of students and their teacher spent a Saturday morning taking part in a "Top Chef" style competition at the Culinary Institute of America (CIA).

NISD was one of six school districts to compete in the first Go Public Back-to-School Cook-off. The team included Harlan HS students Yaheidy Anaya, Destinee Mosley

(and alternate Camille Johnston), along with culinary teacher David La Boy and Superintendent Dr. Brian Woods.

Teams were given one hour to prepare food and plate it for a panel of judges. They were required to use certain ingredients – flat iron steak, cucumber, and fingerling potatoes – but the rest of the menu was up to them to create.

Paired mainly with Mosley, Woods was responsible for chopping ingredients like potatoes, onions, and basil. "I brought marginal cooking skills and I was assigned very appropriate tasks," Woods said.

"It was really fun, but yeah a little scary telling the superintendent what to do," Mosley said. "My favorite part was working with him and I could tell he was having fun too. I think we did pretty well."

Ultimately judges awarded the NISD team second place but the experience for the students was more than just a competition.

Pictured are (from l-r) Dr. Woods, David La Boy, and Destinee Mosley.

To read the entire story, [click here](#).

AROUND THE DISTRICT

**Mark your calendars!
Apply for NEF grants**

The Northside Education Foundation (NEF) has been an inspirational NISD partner for 22 years, working tirelessly to generate additional resources for District staff, including awarding various grants. The NEF Resource Grant is the first of the school year and awards up to \$750. The application deadline is Sept. 28. [Click here](#) to apply and learn more about other NEF grant opportunities. [Click here](#) to see photos of last school year's NEF Resource Grant winners.

Student athletes model servant leadership



Athletes from Brandeis HS are teaching what it is to be good role models and leaders by mentoring their younger peers at Steubing ES.

Led by new Head Baseball Coach Eric Jupe, seven team leaders visited with first grade students at Steubing ES.

"We are called to 'pay it forward' because of those that have made a difference in our own lives," says Stan Laing, executive director of NISD Athletics. "We live in a world today that needs servant leaders more than ever – someone who is willing to be selfless and put others before themselves. Our most valuable resource is our young people, and I cannot think of a better group to teach this valuable lesson to our students than other students."

The two schools hope that this program grows to include other athletic teams. In addition, the team hopes to initiate a process for elementary students to be bat boys or girls at Brandeis HS games later this year.

"When the students came into the first grade classrooms, you would have thought that movie stars had arrived," said Melinda Valdez, first grade teacher. "These players shook each child's hand, were helping them with writing, and making personal connections by talking about themselves."

"One of the best moments was that one player is a former kindergarten student of mine," Valdez added. "What a full-circle moment!"

Pictured with some of the first graders are members of the Brandeis Broncos Baseball team (from l-r) Javier Cantu, Zac Vooletich, Manny Luna, Jesse Benavidez, Damien Ovalle, Jacob Montejano, and Jacob Ramirez.

**PERK
OF THE WEEK**

Get formal

For homecoming or other special occasions, Rex Formal Wear is offering NISD employees, with a valid employee ID, \$50 off any in-house tuxedo rental and 20 percent off any retail item purchased. The offer is available at the 7219 San Pedro Avenue store. For more information, please call 824-2889.

Grant of the Week

Target Field Trip Grant

Target Field Trip grants for \$700 are now available. Deadline to apply is Oct. 1. For more information, contact the Grants and Recognitions Department at 397-8562 or go to their Employee Connection site [clicking here](#).

[Target Field Trip Grant website](#)

Hurricane Harvey delays annual NEF Pledge Drive

Please read this important message from Northside Education Foundation (NEF) Board President Cathy Naiser: *In light of recent events at our sister districts across the Gulf Coast and knowing the generous nature of NISD employees, the NEF Board of Directors has decided to postpone the NEF Pledge Drive to Nov. 7 – Dec. 1. Payroll deduction will be December 2017 – April 2018. Stay tuned for more information about the Pledge Drive closer to the new kickoff date. As always, thank you for your support of the Foundation.*

Also, please be aware that the annual NISD United Way campaign will be moved to Feb. 13 – March 6, 2018. Payroll deduction will be May 2018 – September 2018. More information will be forthcoming.