

HotSync

Volume 2 Issue 2 ■ December 2009
NTH@Coppell PT50 Newsletter

Gold Performance Acknowledgements

The Texas Education Agency gave NTH an Exemplary rating for 2009. NTH proudly earned a Gold Performance Acknowledgement award for every data set we qualified.

For more information visit <http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/perfreport/account/2009/districtlist.srch.html>

PSAT Score Report Meetings

Junior Parent Meeting,

Tuesday, December 15th at 6:00 pm

NTH@C will host Junior Parent Meeting to review PSAT Score Reports and discuss how they can be used as a preparation tool for the SAT

Sophomore Parent Meeting

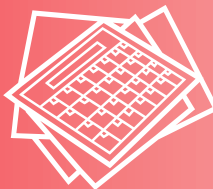
Wednesday, December 16th at 6:00 pm

NTH@C will host a Sophomore Parent Meeting to interpret PSAT Scores and discuss using the score report as a tool to prepare you for National Merit and the SAT.

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SAVE THE DATE



Mosaic Writing Competition Deadline..	December 9
Roller Skate Lock-in	December 11
PSAT Junior Parent Meeting.....	December 15
PSAT Sophomore Parent Meeting	December 16
Early Release.....	December 18
Winter Break.....	December 21-31
Exams/Early Release.....	January 14-15
Professional Staff Development/No Classes.....	January 18
CHS School of Engineering Main Event Fundraiser	January 24
Yearbook Pre-Order Deadline.....	January 31

Dual Credits for Juniors

It is time to begin planning for the spring semester of dual credit courses. CISD has added some new courses to the approved list of dual credit courses. To view the course schedules offered this spring view the following link: <http://www.northlakecollege.edu/schedule/2010/spring/index.html>

- Nov. 17th – Registration opens for all learners currently taking dual credit classes
- Nov. 23rd – Registration opens for all learners new to dual credit at Northlake
- Jan. 18th – Registration for Spring semester closes
- Jan. 19th – Spring semester begins at Northlake

CHS School of Engineering Fundraiser

CHS School of Engineering has lined up a fun evening at the Main Event in Lewisville on Sunday, January 24th from 4:00 to 9:00.

For a flat fee of \$20, any NTH@C or CHS student will enjoy an evening of bowling, laser tag and other games. Main Event will be closed to the public, and will only be open to NTH@C and CHS students. You must show your student ID.



Learner Lock-In December 11

NTH will host a Roller Skate Lock-in on Friday, December 11 at Interskate in Lewisville. Mark your calendar

Watch for more details coming soon.

Yearbooks

Yearbooks are available for purchase, via the web, for \$45 through January 31st.

To place an order, visit <http://jostensyearbooks.com/REF=A01106380>. The price of the yearbook goes up to \$50 for those orders place after February 1.

Crafts Club Needs Your Supplies

Are you cleaning out this holiday season? Do you have more crafting items than you have space for? The Craft Club is taking crafting supply donations in Ms. Spannagel's room 406 during the month of December. They are looking for yarn, scrapbook supplies, fabric, thread, etc. for the many projects they are crafting this year.

Technology

NTH@C is doing an excellent job of preparing our learners by using 21st century resources! Many learners have been introduced to various presentation tools, such as Prezi and Dippity, in order to expand their knowledge of available resources and allow them to develop some engaging project presentations.

We are also in the process of implementing new classroom management software campus-wide, which will allow our facilitators to monitor activity on the laptops and increase the transparency that is an essential part of our campus culture. NTH@C is continuing to be progressive and serve as leaders in our district for technology utilization.

Additional information for many of the topics included in this newsletter may be accessed on the school website at www.coppellisd.com/newtech. Be sure to visit the site on a regular basis for updates and more NTH@C news.

Recycling

On October 29th and 30th, the entire campus joined forces to "Go Green for Halloween." All of our learners and facilitators agreed to go completely paperless for two days, in an effort to conserve resources. All of the printers were turned off, and facilitators and learners found digital alternatives to printing and using hardcopies. We are hoping these digital alternatives started some great green habits. Thanks, NTH@C!

Recycling Technology Makes Us \$Green\$ At the end of last school year, PTSO collected items of technology (cartridges, cell phones, laptops, etc...) to be recycled. We are continuing with that effort throughout this school year. In the Media Center at New Tech, you will find a unit of black, well marked stackable drawers to place any of the below listed items in for recycling. At various times throughout the year, we will send the items in to Cartridges for Kids organization and receive cash for them. It's not a huge fundraiser for the school, but every little bit helps and it makes us better stewards of our technology. And some might even say it makes us "green". You can collect these items from your home, business, family, neighbors and friends. So bring any of the following items into the media center and help us be "green" and get green\$\$\$!!!

- Used Cell Phones
- Video Game Consoles
- Video Games (include case)
- Empty InkJet Cartridges
- Empty Laser Cartridges
- Digital Cameras
- Laptops (include power cords)
- PDAs/Palm Pilots (include accessories)
- iPods (include all accessories)
- DVD Movies (include case)

All District Tennis Awards

The CHS varsity tennis team (District Champions) traveled to Abilene recently to compete in the beginning rounds of the State Playoffs. CHS defeated El Paso Coronado in the round of 64, 10-2. CHS then lost to Abilene in the round of 32, 10-2. This is from a team that was not favored to even advance to the Regional tournament in the pre-season. The CHS team tennis season is ranked 19th in the State. NTH@C student **Sam Wade** was named 2nd Team All District. The CHS team tennis has advanced to the playoffs for the last 13 years and had been District Champs 8 of 9 years. The District record since moving into our phenomenal tennis facility is 73-5.



Mosaic Creative Writing Competition

Students in grades 3-12 may share their talents and enter the Mosaic Creative Writing Competition. The works from ALL contest winners will be published in a hardbound book to be released in Spring, 2010.

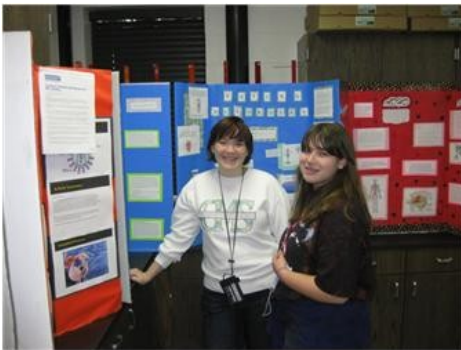
Writing Categories include:

Fiction • Non-Fiction • Poetry • Graphic Novel/Comic

Deadline is December 9, 2009 by 12:00pm, noon.

For rules and additional details, go to www.CoppellGifted.org

Around Campus...



Exploring the Body Systems

By: Chelsea Troiano

Biotech Ethics New Tech High, the freshmen in Biotech Ethics started a project on the relations between health fair issues and the body systems relating to them. For this project, learners were asked to group up and select the health issue of their choice. These issues ranged from teen pregnancy and abuse to sexually transmitted diseases and anorexia. After each group decided upon their health issue, they then had to select from cardiovascular, digestive, endocrine, excretory, immune, integumentary, muscular, nervous, reproductive, respiratory, and skeletal, which two body systems were directly involved with their health issue. Now that each learner had created the foundation for their project, they were able to begin on the visual aspects of their assignments. This included creating a tri-board on the Teen Health Issue and two brochures for their selected body systems. Intriguingly, the majority of the grading was done either by peers and health professionals in the area.

While the learners were responsible for grading two to three brochures, the appointed health professionals evaluated the health fair tri-boards. This method of grading ensured a wide range of critics for each project. In the end, the freshmen at New Tech High learned a few things while also getting more involved with their peers. The test following this project demonstrated what each learner learned. The results speak for themselves. Tune in next time for the next project evaluation!

Spanish 2 learners just finished up a very fun, but very difficult music video and commercial. We have just launched a very important project in which the learners will become Spanish-speaking tour guides for some visitors from Mexico that are coming to visit our school in January. The project is going to take a lot of hard work and dedication, but I have no doubt that our Spanish 2 learners will impress our Mexican visitors with their professionalism and their Spanish content knowledge.

Spanish 4 learners have been granted an awesome opportunity this year to participate in a week long Cultural and Language Immersion Program in Queretaro, Mexico. This program gives learners an insight into Mexico's language, culture and history from an insider's perspective. All learners will be placed with 1-2 other New Tech High learners in a caring homestay family and take exciting classes in the morning (completely in Spanish) to improve their fluency. Learners will visit Guanajuato, San Miguel de Allende and take a tour of the world famous pyramids of Teotihuacán (Pyramids of the Sun and Moon). They will experience colonial Mexico's art, architecture, food and history. The entire trip is conducted completely in Spanish giving the learners the invaluable opportunity to make global connections, while increasing their Spanish knowledge. The learners in Spanish 4 are excited and have been preparing for "survival Spanish". They have been working on projects that have included airport, airplane, passport, hotel, and travel vocabulary.

Film and Improv Day



New Tech learners were treated to a day that started with laughs at an improv comedy show featuring the talents of Ad-Libs, one of the country's longest running improv comedy teams. Ad-Libs customized the program to feature some of our learners and activities at NTH; and then held breakout sessions that focused on oral communication to help with learner's presentation skills. They also provide student workshops that may be of interest to your learner (www.Ad-Libs.com)

Other rotation stops included publicist Carole Gayler of Gayler-Smith Company who discussed film publicity and marketing and the direction that a learner interested in a career in marketing might want to follow. John Meyers, a film critic for Pegasus News (www.pegasusnews.com), discussed his life as a writer and then answered numerous questions from all the learners about recent and upcoming films.

The Dallas Film Society was also present with their Director of Education Lisa Stabler and Director of Programming, James Faust. They showcased the Dallas International Film Festival that will be held in April and will allow community service opportunities for our learners. DFS also has a monthly round table meeting that is open to all high school students interested in going into the entertainment industry. Carie Spannagel will continue to work with them as learners prepare documentaries of this year's "Touch A Life" activities that they plan to enter in a film festival upon completion.

To complete the rotations, the original short film that became "Napoleon Dynamite" and the marketing campaign for "NP" were screened and learners discussed a possible New Tech Film Festival project with Mrs. Branum and their networking classes.



Job Shadowing

One of the junior requirements at New Tech is 10 hours of job shadowing. It's a great opportunity for a student to begin exploring career options. The following is NTH@Coppell Learner, Kristin Miller's shadowing experience.

Kristin most enjoys Spanish and writing. She especially enjoys writing "position papers" where she is given a point of view to defend. Kristin determined that jobs that might include writing or Spanish would include writing for a newspaper, a writing speeches for a politician, or teaching Spanish. After emailing a number of people, she was invited to work with the Chief of Staff for Texas Senator Florence Shapiro and an editor at the Dallas Morning News.

On November 9, Kristin visited the state capital in Austin, Texas for a "day in the life of the chief of staff (and speech writer) of a politician". The Capital was incredible to visit, and the staff as gracious as if Kristin were a visiting dignitary. They provided her a desk, with an engraved, personalized name plate, and a PC. She spent several hours with Jennifer Ransom Rice, understanding the role and duties of the chief of staff, and reviewing the speeches and position papers that Jennifer was tasked with writing. They also discussed the career path for this position, including college degree options and intern positions available to college students. Finally, Kristin was given a packet for one of the position papers to be written and was asked to prepare a document. Jennifer was pleased with the result and asked Kristin if she could be available for more assignments.

Kristin wrapped up the day with pizza for dinner at Mellow on Guadalupe Street bordering the UT campus, and a quick trip to Taylor's Sporting Goods for a few t-shirts. It was a great day for Kristin, one that will be long remembered.

