

**Summer 2014** 

Volume 4

2013-2014

















**DORA VISITS CARDWELL** 

Dora the Explorer and H.E.B. Buddy visit Cardwell Head Start to promote literacy and fitness. H.E.B. is a firm supporter of the Head Start Program.



**CARDWELL EARTH DAY** 

Cardwell Head Start celebrates Earth Day by releasing butterflies which students observed through their life cycle.



**CARDWELL CAMPUS PEP RALLY** 

Del Rio High School Cheerleaders and DRMS Drum Line help Cardwell Head Start students say "Goodbye" to pre-kindergarten and "hello" to kindergarten in campus wide pep rally.



#### **PROMOTING FITNESS AND WELL-BEING**

Over 300 parents along with their children engaged in a variety of activities to promote fitness and well-being. Among the various community agencies that participated in this event were Bible Way Academy, Home-Depot, H.E.B., Family Care Clinic, Del Rio Fire Department, Del Rio Police Department, DRHS Ready, Set, and Teach Program.



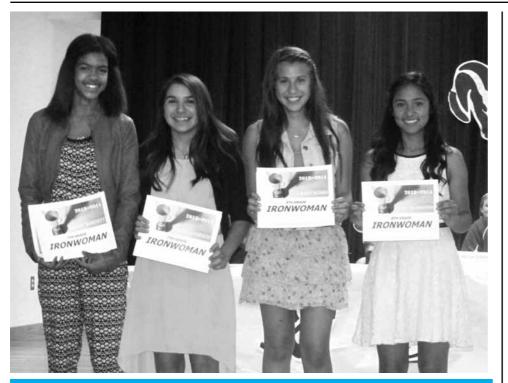
#### **STUDENTS PREPARE FOR KINDERGTEN**

Cardwell Head Start students preparing for the upcoming kindergarten transition visit their assigned elementary school during the month of May. Students become familiar with their future campus and meet their principal, assistant principal, counselor, nurse, coaches, and kindergarten teachers.



#### CARDWELL DISCUSSES TRANSITION TO KINDERGARTEN

Cardwell Head Start hosts school counselors, teachers, and parental aides from Buena Vista, Dr. Fermin Calderon, Ruben Chavira, Garfield, Lamar, Dr. Lonnie Green, and North Heights in an effort to review kindergarten goals, assessment tools, needed school supplies, school rules, and campus procedures with parents as their children transition to a new campus.



#### FROM SNEAKERS TO SPARKLES ~ DEL RIO MIDDLE SCHOOL SPORTS ~

On May 19th, Del Rio Middle girls swapped their shorts, tennis shoes and sports equipment for dresses, jewelry and high heels. Del Rio Middle female sports' participants for the 2013-2014 school year were honored with a Certificate of Appreciation and Outstanding Achievement. Through their talent and commitment, each of these girls was an outstanding role model for the campus this year. The end of the year ceremony included a guest speaker who spoke to the girls about hard work and dedication. During the course of her speech Aneya Torres elicited tears and smiles from the audience and guests of honor. Del Rio Middle coaches are confident that these girls are just at the beginning of their sports careers and will continue to be successful in the years to come.



Second Grade student Ellie Zavala poses with her two projects she completed for this year's GT Exhibit

# **RESEARCH SKILLS AT THE GIFTED & TALENTED EXHIBIT**

The annual Gifted and Talented exhibit showcased students research talents. Their research projects consisted of Communities Long Ago and Today, Regions of the USA, Ecosystems, Enigmas, and Inventors and Inventions. Mrs. Dana Sanders, Lamar's GT teacher, worked many hours with students helping to guide their research. Some examples of projects were researching crop circles, Bigfoot, the Everglades, and the Lochness Monster. Jacob Cowan, a 3rd grade GT student commented that he would love an opportunity to visit the state of Florida as he researched the Everglades for his project. Jacob said, "I would love to see what it's really like there since I did so much research on it."



## **RUBEN CHAVIRA ELEMENTARY STUDENT COUNCIL STUDENT COUNCIL GOES TO AUSTIN!**

Ruben Chavira Elementary STUCO members will visit Austin for a trip filled with learning, teambuilding, and fun. The 4th and 5th grade students will visit the Capitol Building for a guided tour that offers historic information and an interactive experience for our STUCO representatives. As active STUCO members, the students are well aware of the importance of leadership skills and will receive valuable information on their tour about what it takes to be an effective leader. The group will also witness events of Texas history unfold in front of them during a tour of Bullock Texas State History Museum. This educational trip is a well-deserved ending to a successful year serving their school and community through various projects.



#### **BEAUTIFY THE CAMPUS**

On April 26th, Del Rio High School Student Council helped Ruben Chavira's first grade classes to start off their garden by getting the soil prepared for planting. The students learned how to help beautify the campus to promote a positive school climate.







North Heights Elementrary 5th Grade GT Ventures Out

May 1st and 2nd of this year found our 5th grade Gifted and Talented students participating in an overnight adventure at the MO ranch near Hunt, Texas. The adventure involved our students utilizing the MO ranch's unique outdoor/environmental program, located along the banks of the Guadalupe River in the Texas Hill Country. Our students delved more deeply into the study of reptiles, water ecology, owl study, a challenge course and a games initiative.



Del Rio High School Battle of the Classes

On April 24th, Del Rio High School Student Council hosted the Battle of the Classes where the Freshman, Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors competed in a series of games, singing the school song, and showing class spirit to win bragging rights and spirit stick. The Freshman had a rave theme, the Sophomores had a patriotic theme, the Juniors had a Hawaiian theme in honor of the late Mr. Stolte, and the seniors theme was the hunger games. The Juniors took the win in the Battle of the Classes.



Super Teachers, Super Teams!

North Heights Elementary voted Mr. Chris Cardenas as Campus Teacher of the Year. He is a 4th grade Math and Science teacher who puts his creativity and knowledge into play every day for his students and for his 4th grade cluster, who support him wholeheartedly. He is truly Mr. Incredible when it comes to instructing students, working with Student Council and being a part of our Campus Leadership Team.



Super Teachers, Super Teams!

Welcome to the Q and U Wedding for NHE Kindergarten classes in Mrs. Alejandra Gonzalez and Miss Theela Rodriguez classes. Students were learning the letter "Q" and used the real life activity to demonstrate that "Q and U" stay together forever.



#### Tree Planting Ceremony • Del Rio Middle School

On May 23, Del Rio Middle School Student Council hosted the third annual grow with Tradition Tree Planting Ceremony. With the support and the donation of community members, our students plant trees in honor of our students. Students take part in the planting of trees that will forever serve as symbols of our students growing success. The Grow with Tradition Program was created two years ago with the goal of establishing a tradition for the students so that students gain a sense of pride, unity, and ownership. This represents the foundation of success that was planted while they were students at DRMS. These trees will always stand tall to remind the students that they can endure all types of weather and still grow and prosper. Six trees were donated this year by members of the community: Maria Martinez of Border Federal Credit Union, Christy Hill of Polished Elegance, Sergio Diaz of Brown Nissan, Deborah Smith, Oscar San Miguel, Jr., Cindy Hugill, and David and Yvonne Gomez. These trees will be planted in dedication to the class of 2018. It will be the first reminder to the students that they have planted roots that will forever keep them grounded, a trunk that will keep them strong, and branches to remind them to keep reaching for the stars. We would like to thank Mrs. Aida V. Gomez (Principal), Mr. Jose H. Rodriguez (Assistant Principal), community and the parents for supporting this annual event.



### Del Rio High School 7th Annual Powder Puff Game

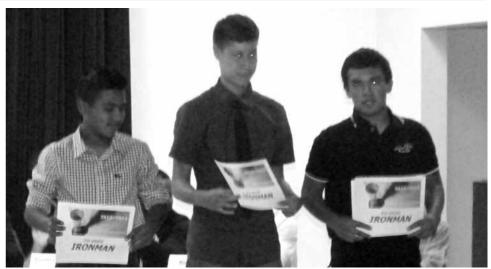
Student council held the 7th annual Powder Puff game on May 2, 2014. The senior girls vs. junior girls played in a friendly game of flag football. The varsity football players were the coaches and the cheerleaders were boys. It was a fundraiser to purchase a battle flag for next school year.



### **Del Rio High School Robotics**

FRC Team 4063 was established in 2012 through the CTE department by Mr. Brad Billeaudeau and Mr. William Davis. DRHS students interested in the fields of science, technology, engineering and/or math are encouraged to join the team to broaden their professional skill set and have fun while doing so.

FIRST, For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology, was founded by Dean Kamen in 1989 as a way to inspire young people's interest and participation in science and technology. Students age 6-18 may participate in various FIRST programs including Jr FIRST Lego League, FIRST Lego League, FIRST Tech Challenge, and FIRST Robotics Competition.



# BOY, OH BOY! ~ Del Rio Middle School Sports ~

Del Rio Middle male athletes were honored for their athletic abilities and their dedication to Del Rio Middle School sports at an end of the year ceremony on Tuesday, May 20th. The boys and their guests were honored to have Del Rio High School Senior, Coalson Brown, as their guest speaker. They spent the evening celebrating each other's accomplishments. Del Rio Middle coaches recognized the parents along with the student athletes. The coaches applauded the parents for instilling the values the boys need to participate as a part of a team and to strive for success daily. The coaches look forward to witnessing all the successes these athletes are sure to have in the future.



# **Preparing For Spring**

Kindergarten students with Mrs. Acosta, Miss Castellanos, Mrs. Gonzalez, Mrs. Hernandez, Mrs. Rizo and Miss Rodriguez performed in a Spring Musical Program and dazzled their family and friends through singing and dancing as they welcomed in Spring 2014!



#### **Appreciating Teachers**

North Heights Elementary School celebrated Teacher Appreciation as "The Incredible Chiefs" with parents and community members providing a delicious breakfast and treats all week. Teachers such as Mrs. Gonzales and Miss Rodriguez would like to thank everyone for their thoughtfulness and generosity. Ethan Brody Soto, Kindergarten student at North Heights Elementary, knows how to show appreciation for teachers—Yes, we can have our cake , and eat it, too! This delectable treat was a wonderful reminder made from his family showing that teaching is a sweet profession!



# **Students helping Students!**

It is truly a team effort at NHE! Students in Kinder, 1st and 2nd are paired with a class in 3rd, 4th and 5th grade where they mentor and assist each other through various campus wide activities. In this picture, students from Mrs. Rizo's class are supporting their partner class of Mrs. Soto's as they wish them "Good luck on STAAR".



#### Let's Hear a Cheer

For the Lunch Heroes and Custodial Staff of North Heights Elementary, we honor you! The ladies of the cafeteria are truly heroes to the students for they ensure that each student has the opportunity to eat fresh, delicious, and nutritious food at least twice a day. Both cafeteria ladies and custodial staff serve our community with a smile every day of the week. We thank you. You are a blessing to our community and our school!



#### **Buena Vista's TOP Accelerated Reader Students**

Buena Vista believes the Accelerated Reader program is a great tool for an effective differentiation in the classroom. The students are tested for their reading level and are assigned a personalized goal appropriate for their individual reading level and ability. Strong readers are allowed to read more challenging books and got a goal set higher, while struggling readers are assigned a lower point goal and books of a lower level. This allows an effective customization of free reading without demanding time consuming plans from the teacher and allows each student the sense of accomplishment of working towards, and achieving, an attainable goal. Students are required to take a comprehension computerized test after reading the book.

# Buena Vista's TOP three Accelerated Reader Students per Grade Level for the year.

Kindergarten: Jacob Ortiz – 57 points, Madeleine Davis – 53 points, Jorge Linan – 42 points. 1st Grade: Addie Weston – 747.7 points, Chloe Juarez – 696.3 points, Lucy Reese – 358.9 points 2nd Grade: Matthew Robbins – 228.5 points, Nathaniel Gonzalez – 219.3 points, Jude Smith – 200.0 points 3rd Grade: Noah Bliss 534.1 points, David Mills 517.3 points, Bianca Martinez 303.4 points 4th Grade: Alexander Beattie 419.00 points, William Cooper 408.80 points, Samantha Ortiz 369.0 points 5th Grade: Chloe Mills 1279.8 points, Samantha Kresge 906.3 points, Patrick Whitley 867.3 points



#### Dr. Fermin Calderon Elementary Art Winners

Our students participate in all art contests available and their hard work has paid off! Congratulations to Ms. Stone's ART students at Dr. Fermin Calderon Elementary in the annual Texas Education Art Meet 2014! Students were judged not only on the artwork, but also by a series of questions that each had to answer regarding the use of the elements of art in the art piece, such as: line, color, shape, form, and space. All students did a fantastic job! Students that received Exemplary honors were: Yolisbeth Flores (1st Grade), Belinda de la Fuente (2nd Grade), Jessica Martinez (5th Grade), Mia Ibarra (2nd Grade), Hanna Garcia (3rd Grade), Carlo Torres (3rd Grade) Gino Deleon (4th Grade). The following students received Good honors: Sara Medina (Kinder), Kenna Gonzalez (1st Grade), Alyssa Valadares (2nd Grade), Mindy Sanchez (3rd Grade).



# Dr. Fermin Calderon Elementary's TOP Accelerated Readers for 2013-2014

All of our students at Dr. Fermin Calderon Elementary have worked hard all year reading their Accelerated Reader books. We are very proud of all of their hard work and dedication this school year. The top Accelerated Readers for the entire 2013-2014 school year are: Sara Medina (Kinder with Mrs. B. Rodriguez), Alfonso Gomez (First grade with Ms. Fabela), Leonardo Delgado (Second grade with Mrs. Ortiz), Nevaeh Martinez (Third grade with Mrs. V. Garza), Yadhira Mauricio (Fourth grade with Mrs. Viesca), and Jerrod Stranick (5th grade with Ms. Tillman). Keep reading!



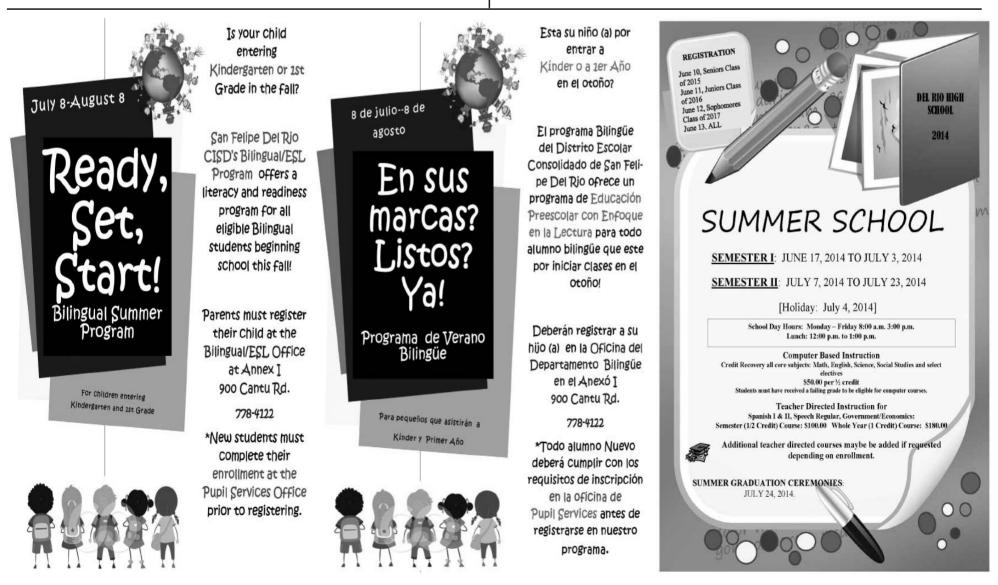
**DIFFERENT ORGANIZATIONS: HOW DO THEY WORK?** 

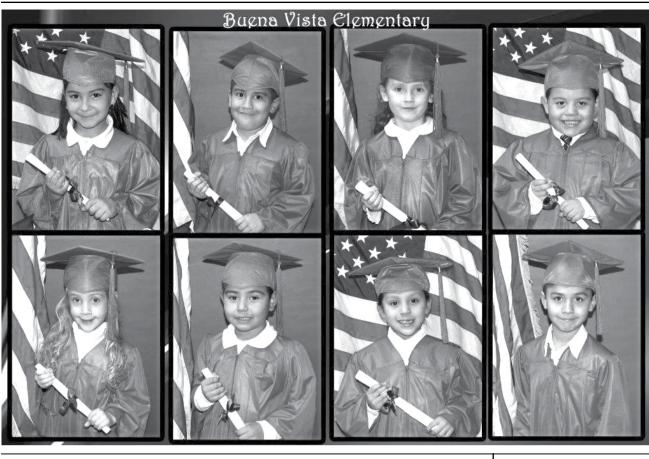
Fourth grade students at Lamar participated in two different activities that help expand their learning during the week of May 19th. Councilwoman Liz Elizalde and SFDRCISD school board member Ceci Martinez-Lozano visited our campus to speak about the duties they have as elected members of different organizations. Students were given an opportunity to ask questions and gain insight of the responsibilities elected officials have and how their particular organizations work. Fourth grade teacher Mr. Eli Ozuna wanted students to get some real-world experiences for their social studies class.



**RUBEN CHAVIRA SUPERHEROES STAAR PEP RALLY** 

Two local celebrities joined Ruben Chavira Elementary teachers and staff in wishing the students great success on their STAAR assessments. Mr. Rowland Garza, a city councilman and corporate government and public relations director for KTDR, addressed the students about their upcoming test and explained to the students that they will be tested throughout life and not just in school. Coach Frenchy McCrea, DRHS Rams football coach, pumped up the students with an enthusiastic speech about following their dreams and believing in themselves. Students and staff appreciate these two celebrities joining them for the pep rally.





#### **KINDERGARTEN GRADUATES**

We have come to the end of our current school year and in honor of the time our students have spent together and what the future holds, we celebrated with a fun, simple, but very memorable Kindergarten graduation. During their time at Buena Vista, students grew and learned so much that it was simply amazing. We didn't want the last days of their time in Kindergarten to just come and go as if it weren't significant. We wanted our students and their parents to know that their time in school was precious and that we valued every second of it. Buena Vista Elementary wanted to offer students and parents the chance to celebrate the closing of their Kindergarten year and the beginning of new experiences to come. Our graduates are moving on to new discoveries and new accomplishments but they take with them the many discoveries and accomplishments we shared together and this is all worth celebrating.



#### **CAREER DAY AT LAMAR ELEMENTARY**

Representatives from different professions from our community took time from their busy schedules to participate in Lamar's Career Day. Students had an opportunity to see the different careers available to them in the future. Lamar would like to thank all the members that participated which included Laughlin Air Force Base, the Del Rio Fire Department, US Border Protection, Texas Parks and Wildlife, the Honorable Judge Robert Cadena, Attorneys at Law, David Ortiz and Greg Flores, Texas Game Wardens, the Del Rio Police Department, Val Verde Sheriff's Office, the Whitehead Memorial Museum, Southwest Texas Junior College, Val Verde Regional Medical Center, Vanessa Salas Photography, and Del Rio High School Head Football Coach Frenchy McCrea. School counselor Dolores Cowan organized the event for this year. "This is an opportunity for our students to get exposure to the variety of careers available to our students as they grow. I believe our Lamar students are never too young to start thinking about their future. We are very thankful that we have such a great support from our community. Our students really enjoyed the experience" stated Mrs. Cowan.



#### **BUENA VISTA FIELD DAY**

Students at Buena Vista Elementary prepare for Field Day Activities by using a variety of physical and mental skills as they participate. The emphasis in a few of the activities is on skill; but the emphasis in all the activities is on achieving success and having fun!

Students will participate in the following field day activities: Buena Vista's K-2nd Grade will participate in the Bean Bag Relay, Backward Roller Ball Relay, Walk the Ball Relay, Pass the Ball Relay, Step Bounce Pass Relay, Bounce Dribble Relay, Sack Race Relay, Bucket Relay, Double Baton Relay, Junk Relay, Stepping Stone and 25 Yard Relay.

Buena Vista's 3rd-5th Grade will participate in the Survival Relay, Football Pass Relay, Center Pass Relay, Backward Roller Ball Relay, Soccer Relay, Basketball Relay, Basketball Dribble Relay, Sack Race Relay, Bucket Relay, Double Baton Relay, Junk Relay.



**Ruben Chavira Elementary School's Learning GROWS!** 

Thanks to a grant from Wal-Mart, first grade students at RCE are digging in the soil, spending time outside, developing a sense of community, and learning what it takes to tend to a flower and vegetable garden. In addition to adding beauty to the school, the garden is a starting point for first grade classes to study the parts of a plant and learn which flowers attract the most butterflies. Their lessons have included plants' overall benefits to humans. Gardens are a valuable educational tool and an enjoyable experience for students. RCE is proud of their little gardeners!



Del Rio High School 2014 Relay For Life

On May 16th, along with other DRHS clubs, Student Council participated in the 2014 Relay for Life at the Del Rio Middle School. Students carried the baton and walked all night to help raise awareness for cancer victims, their friends, and families. The Student Council had a Hawaiian theme for their "embrace your story" to honor the passing of Mr. Stolte, a Del Rio High School physics teacher.



**Student Council Excellence** 

Garfield Elementary was recognized for the outstanding efforts and hard work of their student council. This is the first year Garfield Student Council received their award. The award recognizes their contribution to their school and their community. At the May board meeting they were presented with their certificate for STUDENT COUNCIL EXCELLENCE.



# Lizzie Sider Relays Anti Bullying Message

Lizzie Sider, singer and song writer, relayed her anti bullying message to students at Garfield Elementary. Students heard her message and listened to her sing about the importance of respecting one another and accepting people's differences. Students had the opportunity to join Lizzie in song. Together they sang her song "Butterfly" which focuses on not being afraid to be yourself. Lizzie also reminded students that "no one has the power to ruin your day."