

Thinking of the multitude of teacher and student activities that have gone on in the district over the past few days I was immediately reminded of the Duck Analogy. The duck always looks graceful as it glides over the water, but only the duck knows how fast it's paddling its feet below the surface. Much like the duck, SFDRCSID has enjoyed some pretty neat (graceful) activities we can be proud of. These activities (Teacher Celebration, National Honor Society Induction Ceremony, Field Trips, and many more) have been successful because of the behind the scenes (paddling below the surface) work that has been undertaken by so many people.

Over the last couple of weeks many of our students have enjoyed field trips; for example, our elementary [GT students](#) across the district enjoyed their annual overnight trip to the MO ranch near Kerrville, TX, while all of our fifth grade students have participated in a [house boat](#) ride at Lake Amistad. I guarantee that for every hour of [learning](#) and [fun](#) that each of our students enjoyed, our teachers and staff dedicated an equal amount of time in preparing for these trips.

Our Teacher Appreciation Celebration this past week was phenomenal! It was awesome to see the excitement displayed by each campus as their representative for Teacher of the Year was presented. Congratulations to each teacher that was nominated to represent their campus. A huge "thank you" to all of our staff who worked so hard; everything from the selection process, to planning for the event, to decorating on the day of the event that took many hours and helped to make this event a success. I would venture to say that everything from the meal to the decorations to the flow of the event was a big hit! Special congratulations to our winners. [Rocio Peña](#) will be representing our elementary teachers and [Maria Hudgins](#) will be representing our secondary teachers at the next level of competition.

Last week I had the pleasure of attending the [National Honor Society](#) induction [ceremony](#) at the Carl Guys Gymnasium. The gym was filled with supporting parents and family members who came to celebrate their student's tremendous academic [accomplishment](#). I can't imagine too many other events that top this end of the year activity. On a personal note, it was nice to have the opportunity to participate with the families as they captured such an [important](#) in their child's life. Many thanks to the Mrs. Janice Harding and the entire faculty selection committee; many hours were dedicated to reviewing each application and making their final selection.

I walked away from the National Honor Society ceremony tremendously happy for every student who was recognized. I couldn't help but be especially mindful of one student, [Cesar Moreno](#), who was one of the students inducted into NHS. Cesar is one of those students who are easy to write a letter of recommendation for. He has clearly distinguished himself as an all-around student. Coach Rick Smith said it best, "Cesar is one of those kids who comes around once in a lifetime." He has earned a 4.386 GPA, is ranked near the top of his class (24 out of 576), and has qualified for State competition in track and cross country a combined 5 times (four times in Cross Country and one time in the two mile race). I can't think of a more decorated student in the history of Del Rio High School. Congratulations to his family for raising such a well-mannered and dedicated young man. Best of luck to [Cesar](#) as he competes at the state track meet this coming Saturday.

I finished the week by traveling to Laredo where I enjoyed a wonderful Saturday evening in the company of so many Del Rio Rams [baseball](#) fans. Our Ram baseball team has made it to the playoffs for a second straight year. Although the Rams fell short of a victory, it was exciting to see them come back from a 6 run deficit to actually be leading at the end of the sixth inning. The dedication of each of these kids and their coaches was inspiring.

In closing my blog I want to put in a “plug” for Operation Graduation. The entire Del Rio community and LAFB are in full force in planning for this great event. I am certain they will welcome anybody that is willing to volunteer their time or donations. Please contact Mrs. Sara Howard, Garfield teacher, via email if you are able to help.

As we move forward through these last few weeks of school, our students will have the opportunity to enjoy so many closing events; none more exciting than graduation. In advance I want to thank each of you who will participate in the planning and organizing of these activities. You clearly will go above and beyond your job description and your students will forever have memories that will sustain them in the years to come. Thank you!

**What really counts is not the immediate act of courage or of valor, but those who bear the struggle day in and day out - not the sunshine patriots but those who are willing to stand for a long period of time.” - John F. Kennedy**