

## November 17, 2014

Although this week marks the beginning of the third six weeks grading period, most of us are thinking that this week mainly signifies the week before the long Thanksgiving Holiday. I really can't believe how fast time has flown by. If it were not for the pleasantly cold mornings, the beginning of basketball season, and of course football playoffs, I might have not realized that almost three months have passed since the beginning of our school year.

As I reflect on the passing of time, I am pleased to reflect on how grateful I am for everything that we have been blessed with these last three months, especially here in our District. Although this past week was filled with long days and long hours, it was mainly filled with experiences that I truly consider blessings. Monday, for example, I was able to join our Cabinet for a lunch celebrating one of our Cabinet member's birthdays – the young one in the bunch turned 35. We, as a [Cabinet](#), handle so many difficult decisions and I am grateful that at the end of the day we can still consider ourselves friends and enjoy each other's company.

Tuesday, November 11 was filled with [Veteran's Day Celebrations](#) that started with a parade on Main Street. The day wasn't extremely cold, but the [wind](#) sure did make it seem like it was. Nonetheless, our [student groups](#) were not deterred from [participating](#). From our [youngest](#) students at [Cardwell](#) Elementary to our [high school students](#), everyone came out to express their [gratitude](#) for those who have served in [defense](#) of our country. Are any of you old enough to remember when Veterans' Day was known as Armistice Day (prior to 1954)?

Immediately after the parade, I stopped by North Heights Elementary where I was presented with a [Thank You](#) card made by our NHE students. I along with other [Veterans](#), who are now [parents](#) of our North Heights students, were honored with tasty treats. Later that evening I enjoyed the first Girls' Basketball game of the season. Before the [game](#) started, the [players](#) came out and presented the Veterans with [American Flags](#) and thanked us for our service. It was absolutely nice. A huge thank you to everyone who participated in thanking our Veteran's.

Although Wednesday was mainly filled with meetings, I did have an opportunity to meet with a groups of teachers to discuss the process for establishing continuous communication with our teachers – the [Teacher Communication Council](#). The intent of this group is to present to the Superintendent and Cabinet particular needs or concerns of their campus and/or teachers. I hope each of you will participate with your campus representatives in this process. I promise you that if you bring needs or concerns to our attention, we will do everything possible to take action.

A couple of weeks ago, Dr. Zuniga and I discussed the possibility of having a campus wide ice cream social to say Thank You to all our students who have participated in the "Whole School" program (Fine Arts, ROTC, Athletics, etc.). We can all proudly say that our students have represented our High School and our Community with pride and dignity. In the end, we decided to invite all high school students to a grand [ice cream social](#). Little did we know it was going to be so darn cold; nonetheless, the ice cream was ordered and could not be traded for hot chocolate. It just so happened that this social coincided with a [pep rally](#) for our football team. It was so nice to see so many [students](#) stay after school and join in the [celebration](#). Thank you students for representing our community so well.

Later that same evening it was "Date Night" for my fifth grade daughter, [Emma](#), and I. We stopped by the Little Theater to enjoy a play put on by our Drama Club – "The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee". Little did I know that a few of us were going to participate and quickly be eliminated from the Bee. It was so much fun to be on stage with Dr. Zuniga, Mrs. Milender, and a parent to one of our students, Mrs. Geis. A huge thank you to [Mrs. Martine](#) and [Mr. Gonzalez](#) for directing our awesome [students](#) in such a fun performance.

Although there were many activities on Friday, none was more memorable than our trip to Laredo. The [Band](#), [Belles](#), [Cheerleaders](#), [students](#) and [parents](#) saw our [Mighty Rams](#) achieve what most sports writers along the Rio Grande Valley had not predicted. [Aldo](#) - #6, [Cesar](#) - #7, [Webb](#) - #1, [Gus](#) - #40, and [Tyler](#) - #7 combined for 30 points to emerge victorious against McAllen Memorial. I wish I could describe the thrill each play created for our crowd. We were all truly honored to participate in the excitement and then witness the post-game celebrations. Congratulations to our [players](#) and [coaches](#).

In closing this blog, I want to thank each of you who work so hard to create memorable experiences for our students, co-workers, and the larger Del Rio community. I am excited about what we do on a daily basis for so many students (especially the teaching), and even more excited about the plans we as a District are making for the future. Great Job!

*As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them. – John F. Kennedy*