Cardwell Thanksgiving Family Celebration

Cardwell hosted a Thanksgiving Family Celebration consisting of dancing and singing while reviewing alliteration, patterning, and rhyming skills. In addition, this event promoted an opportunity for children to share a meaningful experience with their parents. Over 530 families participated in this event making it one of the most successful events this year so far.

Dr. Barnes and Dr. Beck, along with 36 graduate level students from the University of Texas Health Science Center Occupational Department completed handwriting screenings and later that afternoon presented research based information to parents and staff. Parents and teachers learned new ways to help children develop fine motor skills at home and at school.

Del Rio High School continues its outstanding preparation of student achievement from college and career readiness to fine arts. Students at DRHS continue to discover their talents beginning with their performances in the play, “Annie” directed by Raquel Martine, Josue Gonzalez in collaboration with Choreographers Diane Rodriguez and Brittany Brandenberger. Thirty five students sang, danced and projected their acting talents for sold out audiences during the week of November 14-17, 2013. The depiction of Mr. Warbucks, played by Joseph Fabian and Miss Hannigan played by Carolina Buentello, had audience members laughing at one moment and crying the next. Annie, played by Clarissa Martinez and Andrea Craig wrapped the audience in silk with their amazing voices and captivated not only the audience’s ears but also their hearts. The Drama club is appreciative of all the support shown by the Del Rio community and is in anticipation for the spring play.

Cardwell Thanksgiving Family Celebration

Cardwell wins $1,000! On Friday, December 6, H-E-B Associates recognize Cardwell as the Book Drive Regional Winner. This funding will be used to purchase more books that focus on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (S.T.E.M) for the library to further promote literacy and love for reading. Every school year Cardwell families read over 35,000 books. Go Cubs Go!

5th Annual Science Fair

The 5th Annual Science Fair was a huge success. Over 149 projects were submitted in the areas of oceanography, meteorology, robotics, chemistry, astronomy, physics, botany, zoology and geology. Three parent trainings are held to review the scientific method prior to the event. Students that participate must explain their experiment to judges from the community allowing them to practice social skills, oral language, and opening their minds through science.

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University of Texas Health Science Center Occupational Department Visits

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University of Texas Health Science Center Occupational Department Visits
Meet Dr. Diana Aguirre, Special Education Director

San Felipe Memorial Middle School’s ELA Department

Kudos! To Mr. Abuelo Castillo, the Department of Technology and Dr. Jorge Garza, of the Department of Instruction, for through them a major change has taken place at San Felipe Memorial Middle School’s ELA Department this scho- larly year. Six graders now have access to improving their writing and reading skills through two awesome programs provided through technology. Students are now able to type their essays on, “The Glencoe On-line Essay Grader”, and at the same time get feedback as to how to improve their writing structure, use a dictionary, and see their score at the end of their final product. Under the essay grad- er helps the students prepare for the writing portion of the STAAR test that they will encounter in their seventh grade scholastic year. In Reading, students are exposed to their reading objec- tives that they are instructed on and will be tested in April on the state mandated test, STAAR, using “The Study Island Program”. Study Is- land gives the students the opportunity to reinforce their reading skills by providing students with a lesson on the objective, an assess- ment, and a game to moti- vate the student to continue to be successful. Students are able to use these programs at school, home, or wherever they have a computer and inter- net access. All of this could not have been possible without the assistance of Mr. Castillo and his technology staff. During the summer they worked hard in setting up another computer lab for the six graders. The ELA Dep- artment continues to strive for student success!!

San Felipe Del Rio CISD val- ues the hard work and ded-ication of the various depart- ments that work consistently to help our students succeed. At the top of each depart- ment is a director. The Special Education de- partment is composed of loyal individuals who work diligently for the well-being of our students. The Spe- cial Education Department Director, Dr. Diana Aguirre, is in charge of Special Educa- tion, Dyslexia and Section 504. She oversees staff that includes school psychologist, educational diagnostician, speech pathologists, dyslexia therapists and numerous re- lated service providers. Born in Laredo, Texas, Dr. Aguirre moved to Del Rio in 1968. She is a proud graduate of our own Del Rio High School. She attended Texas State University, for- mally Southwest Texas State University, and received a Bachelor’s Degree in Political Science. She continued her education and received her Master’s Degree in Education from Sul Ross State Univer- sity and her Doctor of Educa- tion Degree in Educational Leadership from Texas A&M University-Kingsville. Prior to becoming Director of Special Education, Dr. Aguirre served as Assistant Principal at La- mar and Dr. Lonnie Green and was later appointed Principal of Dr. Lonnie Green Elementary. The 2013-2014 school year marks her 36th year in education.

The goal of special education programs is to provide a high quality education for students with disabilities through the use of a comprehensive array of supports and services in the least restrictive environment. It is rewarding to see our students grow and develop and graduate from Del Rio High School”, according to Dr. Aguirre. Her hard work, dedication and loyalty to the students, parents, and staff of San Felipe CISD is appreciated. Educators like her are what keep our district moving suc- cessfully into the future.

Del Rio High School CATE Nursing Program

Students from the Del Rio High School CATE nursing program visited the kinder classrooms to teach them about effective hand washing procedures. Students were treated to several activities to help keep germs away. They also enjoyed the special visitor, Henry the Hand. Good hand washing techniques will help keep students healthy and in school.

2013-2014 6th Grade Science Fair Winners

San Felipe Memorial Middle School would proudly like to announce the win- ners of this year’s science fair held on November 19th and 20th. The winners were: Alyssa Gonzalez, Sofia Zarazua, Neegan Del Castillo, Raven San- chez, Jacob De La Mota, Sydney Gallegos, Benjamin Nowlin, Joe Taylor, Logan Villareal, Andrea Zambrana, Gabriela Vaclik, Aneesa Segura, Mia Rodriguez, Kyndall Gladson, and Juan Rico. These students will be advanc- ing to the regional competition held at St. Mary’s University on March the 3rd of 2014. The SFMMS Staff wishes them the best of luck at Region. SFMMS would like to thank TSDP Katherine Roberts from the Education Department of The United States Air Force for providing all the judges that helped judge during our science fair.

Science Fair Winners

Our terrific third grade students have been learning about the migra- tion of monarch butterflies from Ms. Jasmine Jones and the Nation- al Park Service. The three-week program is designed with both in- classrom and outdoor lessons. The students have learned about the monarch butterflies migration routes, life cycle, habitat, diet, and predators. They have learned to use a compass to locate the direc- tion of the butterflies’ migration pat- tern.

The Freshman Class participated in this year’s Homecoming Parade and won the first place title for their float “Rock-N-Rums” The theme of this year’s parade was “Rock-N-Rums” and the class officers chose to portray the legendary band Kiss on their float. Special congratulations to the Freshman Class officers and their sponsor, Miss Sarah Flores.

Del Rio Elementary Annual District Cross-Country Meet

Garfield Elementary students and staff stayed healthy during the month of No- vember by participating in the annual district cross-country meet. Several stu- dents received medals and the following Garfield teams placed: 5th grade girls – 2nd, 5th grade boys – 4th, 4th grade boys – 3rd. Later in the month, Garfield families and staff joined together to sup- port the district in a fundraising activity for United Way. Several staff members and students also participated in the SK Fun Run for Health fundraiser.

The Monarch Butterfly
have been hard at work since the start of the championship. Students have been striving for a chance at the district championship for the past couple of months against other elementary schools in the district. Our robotics team competed at the gas Community Center. Participants included our counselors and parental liaisons, who hosted “Coffee with the Principal” at the Cinegas Community Center. Participants included our counselors and parental liaisons, who hosted “Coffee with the Principal” at the Cinegas Community Center.

Lamar Robotics Team Excels

Our robotics team competed throughout the past couple of months against other elementary schools in the district for a chance at the district championship. Students have been hard at work since September working hard in programming robots and building their critical thinking skills. Alongside their sponsor, Mrs. Lisa Johnson and Ms. Kelly Bingham, students have been able to demonstrate their growing robotics skills at each meet they participated in and earning a distinct honor. Our Lamar Robotics team was awarded the “Gracious Professionalism Award” as they showed great leadership skills among their peers from other schools. We are very proud of our team! Go Lamar Po-tomies!

Students from Del Rio High School have participated in classrooms at Lamar Elementary this semester to experience what it’s like to be a teacher. Students from Mrs. Linda Corbett’s “Ready, Set, Teach!” program have taken part in different classroom activities assisting teachers with common classroom duties as well as being given an opportunity to give lessons to students on bullying. These students also put together a small play to help teachers explain what a drama is to students. “They have been a huge help to our teachers and have been ready to assist in whatever way we need,” stated Mrs. Jessica Voss, Lamar’s instructional coach. “We have been so excited to have these high school students help our teachers out. Our students have enjoyed having them around in all areas of the campus as well,” said Miss Maryvel Flores, principal at Lamar Elementary. Students from the “Ready, Set, Teach!” program will finish their work at Lamar at the end of January. “Our teachers and students are really going to miss them when they are done at our campus. We look forward to having them return next school year,” Miss Flores went on to say.

The Dr. Fermin Calderon 2013 E-Cadets Robotics Teams have had a very successful and exciting robotics season. At the November 16, 2013 Tournament, our Viper Steel team placed first place over all, and our other three teams placing in the top 12. At the Final Tournament on December 7, 2013, our Thunderbots, an all-girl team, brought home the second place trophy. Our Viper Steel team tied for fourth place. Ironbots tied for eighth place and the Thunderbots finished ninth out of thirty-one teams. Every Calderon E-Cadet is looking forward to next year’s robotics competitions.

Coffee With The Principal

Students from Del Rio High School have participated in classrooms at Lamar Elementary this semester to experience what it’s like to be a teacher. Students from Mrs. Linda Corbett’s “Ready, Set, Teach!” program have taken part in different classroom activities assisting teachers with common classroom duties as well as being given an opportunity to give lessons to students on bullying. These students also put together a small play to help teachers explain what a drama is to students. “They have been a huge help to our teachers and have been ready to assist in whatever way we need,” stated Mrs. Jessica Voss, Lamar’s instructional coach. “We have been so excited to have these high school students help our teachers out. Our students have enjoyed having them around in all areas of the campus as well,” said Miss Maryvel Flores, principal at Lamar Elementary. Students from the “Ready, Set, Teach!” program will finish their work at Lamar at the end of January. “Our teachers and students are really going to miss them when they are done at our campus. We look forward to having them return next school year,” Miss Flores went on to say.

Garfield Elementary Student Council

October and November were busy months of service for Garfield Elementary Student Council. In October, the Student Council supported our DPHS RAM Football team in the Homecoming Parade. The “Rock ‘in RAMS Diner” themed float earned the school a 3rd place trophy. In November, the Student Council sponsored a Thanksgiving food drive for two of our local assistance providers. Students collected a variety of canned foods in order to help provide a Thanksgiving meal for those in need. The school service project for November was to provide Special Education students in the Life Skills classroom a day of fun learning activities. Student council officers provided centers and prizes for the students.

8th Grade Math Showcase

On November 19th, Del Rio Middle School staff, students, and parents relived the 1950’s with an engaging math showcase. All engaging activities depicted the unforgettable 50’s while reinforcing math concepts. Parents and students were welcomed by the beats of the DRMS drum line. The dance team, dressed in their 50’s outfits, cheerfully danced to the rhythm of 1950’s music, a classic car, and over 300 parents really seemed to mind the wait time for the math showcase. All engaging activities depicted the unforgettable 50’s while reinforcing math concepts. Parents and students were welcomed by the beats of the DRMS drum line. The dance team, dressed in their 50’s outfits, cheerfully danced to the rhythm of 1950’s music, a classic car, and over 300 parents really seemed to mind the wait time for the math showcase. This evening was truly about parental involvement and ENJOYING MATH. Parents joined the fun by participating in all activities with their child. No one seemed to mind the wait time for the activities. Some parents were even dressed up to match the theme of the event. We are anxiously awaiting our next math showcase!

North Heights Pumpkin Carving

North Heights students in Mrs. Thetha Rodriguez’ class participate in the carving of a pumpkin to fill out a class report. The information the students gathered from their project was the weight and circumference of the pumpkin, how many seeds it had, and what the inside of a pumpkin looked like. These activities were related to math concepts such as circumference, measurement, time, dilations and graphing.

Ready, Set.....Teach!!

The Students from Del Rio High School have participated in classrooms at Lamar Elementary this semester to experience what it’s like to be a teacher. Students from Mrs. Linda Corbett’s “Ready, Set, Teach!” program have taken part in different classroom activities assisting teachers with common classroom duties as well as being given an opportunity to give lessons to students on bullying. These students also put together a small play to help teachers explain what a drama is to students. “They have been a huge help to our teachers and have been ready to assist in whatever way we need,” stated Mrs. Jessica Voss, Lamar’s instructional coach. “We have been so excited to have these high school students help our teachers out. Our students have enjoyed having them around in all areas of the campus as well,” said Miss Maryvel Flores, principal at Lamar Elementary. Students from the “Ready, Set, Teach!” program will finish their work at Lamar at the end of January. “Our teachers and students are really going to miss them when they are done at our campus. We look forward to having them return next school year,” Miss Flores went on to say.

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led by Mr. Kenneth Sorge, NHE Music Teacher entitled Veteran’s Day, followed by all 3rd graders singing “America the Beau-

parents, and staff. A student from each class was selected to read a poem in all branches of the armed services. They began their program by hav-

20, 2013. They honored our Veterans and everyone who is currently serving Our wonderful North Heights 3rd graders performed in a P .T .O. on November

Kimmel, illustrated by Janet Stevens and read by 4th grade teacher Carole

folktale “Anansi the Spider and the Moss-Covered Rock” written by Eric A.

literacy celebration by attending a special reading from staff from each of the

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October 22, 2013 was the first of many BOOK WORM nights for North

Our Dr. Fermin Calderon Student Council had a lock-in and engaged in several
team building activities. The purpose of the event was for the students to
learn how to work together and collaborate to make decisions on future proj-

Our Council Sponsors

Submitted by: Coach Yvette Cortinas and Coach Claudia Juarez-Dobbins, Student

Del Rio Health and Fitness Fair

To complete several physical fitness activities which have helped them

the basic rules of flag football. Their favorite part of the volleyball unit was play-

Students have participated in

over the last couple of months, teachers have pro-

teaching concepts like gravity and

of the game. Students divided into groups, and

Students in science

of fact, our principal, Ms. B. Muraira,

at Buena Vista Park on October 5, 2013. The event was a prime example of the importance of being physically active in our community. Our students did a fantastic job, earning 2nd place overall. Our first place students that comprised our team were: Rebekah Alcaraz, Alyssa Cuevas, Nathan Dominguez, Isela Gonzalez, Izra Levrie and Jacob Rodriquez. Each elementary school participated and competed against each other after the 5K race. The students and administrators had to complete several physical fitness activities in order to win. As a matter of fact, our principal, Ms. B. Muraira, was our last leg of the relay, and did an awesome job! Our students performed very well and enjoyed exercising at the same time.

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Del Rio Health and Fitness Fair

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Heights Elementary. Parents and students were encouraged to join in our

literacy celebration by attending a special reading from staff from each of the
grade levels. Pictured is a group enjoying a reading of the whimsical African

tale “Anansi the Spider and the Moss-Covered Rock” written by Eric A.

Our wonderful North Heights 3rd graders performed in a P .T .O. on November

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**Parental Involvement program at Buena Vista Elementary**

Buena Vista field three parent trainings during the month of November. The topics included “Positive Parenting”, “Breakfast in the Classroom”, and “Title I Annual Review”.

The school believes that the more the parents are involved in the education of their child, the more academically successful the child will be. Our parent involvement program’s goal is to give the parents the tools and resources necessary for them to help their child at home.

Parents, teachers, and the school working together in this way gives the child the best possible support for doing well in school.

**District Annual Elementary Cross Country Meet 2013**

Buena Vista was the big winner at the 12th Annual Elementary Cross-Country Meet, sponsored by Texas Community Bank and Tri-Ventures. The meet was held on Thursday, November 14th at the Ram Stadium. The cold weather did not stop BV students from coming out to compete! Buena Vista took home four trophies that evening in the following categories: 3rd Grade Boys Champions, 4th Grade Girls Champions, 5th Grade Girls Champions, and Highest Participation.

**Advanced Theater Class Brought the House Down!**

On November 6-8th, Buena Vista Elementary 5th grade students took their annual “Lessons on the Lake” field trip. During this trip to Amistad National Recreation Area, park rangers and volunteers provided the students with a guided nature hike that exposes them to some of the local flora and fauna. Afterwards they were treated to a houseboat ride in which they were taken up the Devils River to experience more of the local wildlife, as well as the logical features that Lake Amistad has to offer. (Lesson of the Lake Field Trip 5464 Pictured from left to right: Shalimar Juarez, Renee Salas, and Isabella Ferguson)

**5th grade House BoatTrip 2013**

Buena Vista 2013 Annual Thanksgiving Luncheon

With over 500 parents in attendance, our Thanksgiving Luncheon was a great success. Pictured above the Trevino family and Mr. and Mrs. Meza with their granddaughter.

**Del Rio Freshman Toy Drive**

This 2013-2014 school year, the Del Rio Freshman FCCLA chapter has been reaching out to students as they teach them how to build self-confidence and to be happy with the person they are. The main focus for this project has been to promote positive self-image and self-esteem. This project was inspired by Shane Koyczan’s poem “Instructions for a Bad Day”, reach out to more CTE classes, host a workshop at San Felipe Memorial High School, and to students that attended an after-school workshop. The project has been successful as they have reached out to 76 students with their various activities and presentations. In their future endeavors they plan to provide an annual holiday tradition at Del Rio Freshman as has been a toy drive to benefit local needy children. This project, spearheaded by Mrs. Alice Lopez, Mrs. Melva Corz, and Mrs. Angela Wolski, offers the students an opportunity to bring cheer to those less fortunate within our community. Teachers offer the students an incentive, and describe how many families during the holidays are unable to celebrate. Many of the students are interested and donate because they are familiar with people who they believe may live under these circumstances. They are extremely eager and proud to out as much as they can every year.

**A Night of Jazz**

During the Holidays many of our musical groups and other organizations take the time to showcase their talents. One group that deserves recognition is the Del Rio High School Jazz Band. On December 10, 2013, SFDRCISD had the opportunity to have the Del Rio High School and Del Rio Middle School Jazz Bands perform music for the holidays. This was only the second time the DRMS Jazz band had performed and it was exciting to see the talent of our students. A special recognition to Atilio Morales, Jazz band director, for his dedication to DRMS students.

**Panthers “Heart” Reading**

The Dr. Lonnie Green Library offers a monthly after school program called “Panthers Heart Reading” to any student on campus who would like to participate. Panthers Heart Reading creates an extra opportunity for students to spend time learning, exploring and enjoying their school library. Students participate in story time, craft activities, games, movies and puzzles.
The Robotics team at Garfield Elementary finished on a positive note. The team, sponsored by Deborah Smith-Tamayo and Amber Diaz, were awarded the coveted “Gracious Professionalism Award.” This award goes to a team who not only does well with the programming component of the competition, but also exhibits every aspect of professionalism: teamwork, respect, dedication, consideration of others and always willing to give a helping hand.

Dr. Lonnie Green School Robotics

Dr. Lonnie Green Elementary has been working very hard to gear up for success. The Robotics program is more than building robots. The program gives the students opportunities to understand challenges and learn about “gracious professionalism” in the discipline of engineering and design. Our students showed excellent team work, attention to detail, scheduling, and most especially, the ethic of hard work.

Congratulations go out to Dr. Lonnie Green Robotics team for bringing home the third place trophy at a competition sponsored by the DRHS Career and Technology Education department. The Dr. Lonnie Green Robotics team is under the direction of Rebecca Castro-Chavez. There were 31 robotic teams that participated in the championship competition.

Our E-Cadets Robotics team at Dr. Lonnie Green Elementary has been working very hard to gear up for success. The Robotics program is more than building robots. The program gives the students opportunities to understand challenges and learn about “gracious professionalism” in the discipline of engineering and design. Our students showed excellent team work, attention to detail, scheduling, and most especially, the ethic of hard work.

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Garfield Elementary Robotics

The Robotics team at Garfield Elementary finished on a positive note. The team, sponsored by Deborah Smith-Tamayo and Amber Diaz, were awarded the coveted “Gracious Professionalism” award. This award goes to a team who not only does well with the programming component of the competition, but also exhibits every aspect of professionalism: team work, respect, dedication, consideration of others and always willing to give a helping hand.

Dr. Lonnie Green School Robotics

Our E-Cadets Robotics team at Dr. Lonnie Green Elementary has been working very hard to gear up for success. The Robotics program is more than building robots. The programs gives the students opportunities to understand challenges and learn about “gracious professionalism” in the discipline of engineering and design. Our students showed excellent team work, attention to detail, scheduling, and most especially, the ethic of hard work.

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The Robotics program at San Felipe Memorial Middle School is in its second year and still growing. The competition is involved with the FIRST Lego League which stands for, “For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology.” The object of the FLL is to introduce young students to the ideas of engineering and real world math and science concepts.

The robotics program differs from the elementary campus as far as competitions. The team travels to a qualifying tournament in San Antonio once a year in order to compete against other teams from the region. If the team qualifies then they continue on to the finals which are also held in San Antonio. This year San Felipe Memorial Middle competed at the Alamo Qualifier on December 7, 2013.

The FLL competitions are a combination of three elements. There is the robot game which includes the use of the LEGO MINDSTORMS robot on a thematic game mat, the FLL core values and a project portion. These three elements give students the opportunity to research and present science ideas to judges. This school year includes a large number of students participating in the program. Ms. L. Jimenez has been the Robotics sponsor for the team since starting from 2011 to present time. The students enjoy using their knowledge of science and math in order to share ideas for problem solving and programming. The team works well together and has developed a sense of friendship coming from diverse backgrounds.

ULI Academics

Rodriguez is our Spelling coach and her participants learn spelling words and rules. Melissa Martinez is our dictionary skills coach and she teaches students how to use the dictionary. Marisol Chavez is our Oral Reading coach and her students learn how to read with expression with a given selection. Each group is currently practicing each week and preparing for their success at the Elementary ULI meet on December 14, 2013.
Posters and fliers. Tiffany and Logan announced and made inspiring shop, given daily, encouraging an-
tance and to be happy with the per-

This 2013-2014 school year, the Del
Rio Freshman FCCLA chapter has
been reaching out to students as they
teach them how to build self-confi-
dence and to be happy with the per-
son they are. The main focus for this
project has been to promote positive
self-image and self-esteem. This proj-
ect was inspired by Shane Koyczan’s
poem “Instructions for a Bad Day”,
where he gives an insightful message
of self-esteem in young people’s lives.

In their future endeavors they plan to
participate in story time, craft activities, games, movies and puzzles.

Dr. Lonnie Green Elementary Library News
by Mrs. Jacqueline Looney

Panthers “Heart” Reading

Buena Vista held three parent trainings during the month of November. The
topics included “Positive Parenting”, “Breakfast in the Classroom”, and “Title
I Annual Review”.

The school believes that the more the parents are involved in the education
of their child, the more academically successful the child will be. Our parent
involvement program’s goal is to give the parents the tools and resources
necessary for them to help their child at home.

Parents, teachers, and the schools working together in this way gives the
child the best possible support for doing well in school.

A Night of Jazz

During the Holidays many of our musical groups and other organizations take
the time to showcase their talents. One group that deserves recognition is the
Del Rio Middle School Jazz Band. On December 10, 2013, SFRDCISD had
the opportunity to have the Del Rio High School and Del Rio Middle School
Jazz Bands perform music for the holidays. This was only the second time the
DRMS Jazz band had performed and it was exciting to see the talent of our
students. A special recognition to Atdila Morales, Jazz band director, for his
dedication to DRMS students.

Buena Vista was the big winner at the 12th Annual Elementary Cross-Country
Meet, sponsored by Texas Community Bank and Tri-Ventures. The meet was
held on Thursday, November 14th at the Ram Stadium. The cold weather did
not stop BV students from coming out to compete! Buena Vista took home
four trophies that evening in the following categories: 3rd Grade Boys Cham-
pions, 4th Grade Girls Champions, 5th Grade Girls Champions, and Highest
Participation.

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necessary for them to help their child at home.

Parents, teachers, and the schools working together in this way gives the
child the best possible support for doing well in school.
North Heights 3rd Graders Veteran’s Day Performance

Our wonderful North Heights 3rd graders performed in a P.T.O. on November 20, 2013. They honored our Veterans and everyone who is currently serving in all branches of the armed services. They began their program by having a student from Mrs. Soto’s class, Kathryn Mead welcomed all veterans, parents, and staff. A student from each class was selected to read a poem entitled Veteran’s Day, followed by all 3rd graders singing “America the Beautiful.” A student from Mrs. Soto’s class, Kathryn Mead welcomed all veterans, parents, and staff. A student from each class was selected to read a poem entitled Veteran’s Day, followed by all 3rd graders singing “America the Beautiful.”

Wellness classes at SFMMS have been working hard once the first day of school. During the first six weeks, students learned daily routines, how to quickly divide into groups, participated in different fitness activities to get back into shape, and practiced for the Spring FitnessGram assessment. The second six weeks saw the Wellness classes splitting their time between flag football and volleyball. Out on the field, students learned to throw and catch a football, and the basic rules of flag football. Their favorite part of the football unit was playing ultimate football. Back in the gym, students learned to serve, bump, set, spike, and block the volleyball, how to organizes, goals, and the basic rules of volleyball. Their favorite part of the volleyball unit was playing with the goal of being physically active in our community. Our students did a fantastic job, earning 2nd place overall. Our team were: Rebekah Alcaraz, Alyssa Cuevas, Nathan Dominguez, and Beto, Jasmine Flores, Elida Govea, Mikayla Pond, Janice Losoya, Taylor Hurley, Jadyn Padilla, Joseph Williams, Isabella Hernandez, Jacob Villegas, and Rudy Cerna, and José Martinez.

Our Dr. Fermin Calderon Student Council had a lock-in and engaged in several team building activities. The purpose of the event was for the students to learn how to work together and collaborate to make decisions on future projects for this school year. Students exhibited their leadership skills and have been excellent role models for other students. Our group is very excited and dedicated in building their positive leadership abilities and contributing them to our campus.

Del Rio Health and Fitness Fair

On October 5, 2013, the event was a prime example of the importance of being physically active in our community. Our students did a fantastic job, earning 2nd place overall. Our first six weeks, students learned daily routines, how to quickly divide into groups, participated in different fitness activities to get back into shape, and practiced for the Spring FitnessGram assessment. The second six weeks saw the Wellness classes splitting their time between flag football and volleyball. Out on the field, students learned to throw and catch a football, and the basic rules of flag football. Their favorite part of the football unit was playing ultimate football. Back in the gym, students learned to serve, bump, set, spike, and block the volleyball, how to organize their goals, and the basic rules of volleyball. Their favorite part of the volleyball unit was playing with the goal of being physically active in our community. Our students did a fantastic job, earning 2nd place overall. Our team were: Rebekah Alcaraz, Alyssa Cuevas, Nathan Dominguez, Isela Gonzalez, Isreal Levine and Jacob Rodrigues. Each elementary school participated and competed against each other after the 5K race. The students and administrators had to complete several physical fitness activities in order to win. As a matter of fact, our principal, Ms. B. Muriera, was our last leg of the relay, and did an awesome job! Our students performed very well and enjoyed exercising at the same time.

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Wellness at San Felipe Memorial Middle School

Over the last couple of months, teachers have provided different opportunities for students to experience science in different ways. Students have participated in a variety of activities which have helped them understand the world of science a little bit better.

In Mrs. Patty Villarreal’s class, two game wardens from the Texas Department of Public Safety provided lessons to students on the different animals that live in our surrounding area. Mrs. Isaac Puz and Mr. Andrew Banda explained to students the different tracks that certain animals leave behind. In addition to this lesson on Texas wildlife, members of the City of Del Rio’s Gas department provided lessons on natural gas to 5th and 2nd grade students in science classes. Mr. Juan Ondrio, Javier Ramirez, Juan Garcia, and Toby Glibby were in attendance to help educate students on the safety surrounding natural gas, as well as informing students of where natural gas comes from and the different uses of it. Mrs. Patty Villarreal’s class also got an opportunity to pose for a picture with “Toby Glibby,” the company’s mascot.

Book Worms Sighted At NHE

October 22, 2013 was the first of many BOOK WORM nights for North Heights Elementary. Parents and students were encouraged to join in our literary celebration by attending a special reading from staff from each of the grade levels. Pictured is a group enjoying a reading of the whimsical African fable “Anansi the Spider and the Moss-Covered Rock” written by Eric A. Kimmel, illustrated by Janet Stevens and read by 4th grade teacher Carrie Triser. This NHE initiative in sharing literacy with families is an example of dedication in improving reading skills throughout the community.

Student Council Lock-In

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Coffee With The Principal

Del Rio Middle School mission to improve parental involvement knows no boundaries. On November 7, 2013, our counselors and parental liaisons hosted “Coffee with the Principal” at the Cane-gas Community Center. Participants and community people who had the opportunity to sit with Mrs. Aida Gomez while enjoying a fresh cup of coffee and discussing relevant school matters such as progress reports, tutorials, attendance, and other important issues that impact our youth. DRMS counselors, Carolina Cardenas and Jesse Garcia and Assistant Principal, Mrs. Maria Correa, were also present to participate in the discussion.

Ready, Set.....Teach!!

Students from Del Rio High School have participated in classrooms at Lamar Elementary this semester to experience what it’s like to be a teacher. Students from Mrs. Linda Corbell’s “Ready, Set, Teach” program have taken part in different classroom activities assisting teachers with common classroom duties as well as being given an opportunity to give lessons to students on bullying. These students also put together a small play to help teachers explain what a drama is to students. “They have been a huge help to our teachers and have been ready to assist in whatever we need,” stated Mrs. Jessica Voss, Lamar’s instructional coach. “We have been so excited to have these high school students help our teachers out. Our students have enjoyed having them around in all areas of the campus as well,” said Miss Maryvel Flores, principal at Lamar Elementary. Students from the “Ready, Set, Teach” program will finish their work at Lamar at the end of January. “Our teachers and students are really going to miss them when they are done at our campus. We look forward to having them return next school year,” Miss Flores went on to say.

Lamar Robotics Team Excels

Our robotics team competed throughout the past couple of months against other elementary schools in the district for a chance at the district championship. Students have been hard at work since September working hard in programming robots and building their critical thinking skills. Alongside their sponsors, Mrs. Lisa Johnson and Mrs. Kelly Bingham, students have been able to demonstrate their growing robotics skills at each meet they participated in and earning a distinct honor. Our Lamar Robotics team was awarded the “Grazious Professionalism Award” as they showed great leadership skills among their peers from other schools. We are very proud of our team! Go Lamar Po-tahs!

Dr. Fermin Calderon E-Cadets

The Dr. Fermin Calderon 2013 E-Cadets Robotics Teams have had a very successful and exciting robotics season. At the November 16, 2013 Tournament, our Viper Steel team placed first place over all, and our other three teams placing in the top 12. At the Final Tournament on December 7, 2013, our Thunderbots, an all-girl team, brought home the second place trophy. Our Viper Steel team tied for fourth place. Ironbots tied for 8th place and the Netherbots finished ninth out of thirty-three teams. Every Calderon E-Cadet is looking forward to next year’s robots competitions.

Garfield Elementary Student Council

October and November were busy months of service for Garfield Elementary Student Council. In October, the Student Council supported our DRHS RAM Football Team in the Homecoming Parade. The “Rock ‘n RAMS Diner” themed float earned the school a 3rd place trophy. In November, the Student Council sponsored a Thanksgiving food drive for two of our local assistance providers. Students collected a variety of canned foods in order to help provide a Thanksgiving meal for those in need. The school service project for November was to provide Special Education students in the Life Skills classroom a day of fun learning activities. Student council officers provided centers and prizes for the students.

North Heights Pumpkin Carving

On November 19th, Del Rio Middle School staff, students, and parents relived the 1950s with an engaging math showcase. All engaging activities depicted the unforgettable 50’s while reinforcing math concepts. Parents and students were welcomed by the beats of the DRMS drum line. The dance team, dressed in their skirts, cheerfully danced to the rhythm of 9 cadence. The 1950’s music, a classic car, and over 300 parents really set the stage for a fun-filled evening. The showcase was held in the awe-somely decorated DRMS cafeteria. Parents and students enjoyed activities such as hopscotch, vanilla ice cream making, bubble gum blowing, hula hooping, making root beer floats, and graphing on the common 50’s checkered patterns. All activities were related to math concepts such as circumference, measurement, time, dilations and graphing.

8th Grade Math Showcase

This evening was truly about parental involvement and ENJOYING MATH. Parents joined the fun by participating in all activities with their child. No one seemed to mind the wait time for the activities. Some parents were even dressed up to match the theme of the event. We are anxiously awaiting our next math showcase!
Meet Dr. Diana Aguirre, Special Education Director

Kudos! To Mr. Abelardo Castillas, the Department of Technology and Dr. Jorge Garza, of the Department of Instruction, for through them a major change has taken place at San Felipe Memorial Middle School’s ELA Department this school year. Six graders now have access to improving their writing skills through two awesome programs provided through technology. Students are now able to type their essays on, “The Glances Online Essay Grader”, and at the same time get feedback as how to improve their writing structure, use a dictionary, and see their score at the end of their final product. Under this essay grader helps the students prepare for the writing portion of the STAAR test that they will encounter in their seventh and eighth grade year.

In Reading, students are exposed to their reading objectives that they are instructed on and will be tested in April on the state mandated test, STAAR, using “The Study Island Program”. Study Island gives the students the opportunity to reinforce their reading skills by providing students with a lesson on the objective, an assessment, and a game to motivate the student to continue to be successful. Students are able to use these programs at school, home, or where ever they have a computer and internet access. All of this could not have been possible without the assistance of Mr. Casillas and his technology staff. During the summer they worked hard in setting up another computer lab for the six graders. The ELA Department continues to strive for student success!!

San Felipe Middle School’s 6th Grade Science Fair Winners

Our terrific third grade students have been learning about the migration of monarch butterflies from Ms. Xiomara Jones and the National Park Service. The three-week program is designed with both in-classroom and outdoor lessons. The students have learned about the monarch butterflies’ migration routes, life cycle, habitat, diet, and predators. They have learned to use a compass to locate the direction of the butterflies’ migration pattern.

San Felipe Memorial Middle School would proudly like to announce the winners of this year’s science fair held on November 19th and 20th. The winners were: Alyssa Gonzalez, Sofia Zarazua, Keegan Del Castillo, Raven Sanchez, Jacob De La Mota, Sydney Gallegos, Benjamin Nowlin, Joe Taylor, Logan Villareal, Andrea Zambrana, Gabriela Wade, Aneesa Segura, Mia Rodriguez, Kyndall Gladson, and Juan Rocio. These students will be advancing to the regional competition held at St. Mary’s University on March the 3rd of 2014. The SFMMS Staff wishes them the best of luck at Region. SFMMS would like to thank TSTP Katherine Roberts from the Education Department of The United States Air Force for providing all the judges that helped judge during our science fair.

The Freshman Class participated in this year’s Homecoming Parade and won the first place title for their float “Kiss the Eagles Goodbye”. The theme of this year’s parade was “Rock-N-Rams” and the class officers chose to portray the legendary band KISS on their float. Special congratulations to the Freshman Class officers and their sponsor, Miss Sarah Flores.

Garfield Elementary students and staff stayed healthy during the month of November by participating in the annual district cross-country meet. Several students received medals and the following Garfield teams placed: 5th grade girls – 2nd; 5th grade boys - 4th; 4th grade boys – 3rd. Later in the month, Garfield families and staff joined together to support the district in a fundraising activity for United Way. Several staff members and students also participated in the SK Fun Run for Health fundraiser.
Cardwell Thanksgiving Family Celebration

Cardwell hosted a Thanksgiving Family Celebration consisting of dancing and singing while reviewing alliteration, patterning, and rhyming skills. In addition, this event promoted an opportunity for children to share a meaningful experience with their parents. Over 530 families participated in this event making it one of the most successful events this year so far.

Cardwell Wins $1,000

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The 5th Annual Science Fair was a huge success. Over 148 projects were submitted in the areas of oceanography, meteorology, robotics, chemistry, astronomy, physics, botany, zoology and geology. Three parent trainings are held to review the scientific method prior to the event. Students that participate must explain their experiment to judges from the community allowing them to practice social skills, oral language, and opening their minds through science.

Dr. Barnes and Dr. Beck, along with 36 graduate level students from the University of Texas Health Science Center Occupational Department completed handwriting screenings and later that afternoon presented research based information to parents and staff. Parents and teachers learned new ways to help children develop fine motor skills at home and at school.

Del Rio High School continues its outstanding preparation of student achievement from college and career readiness to fine arts. Students at DRHS continue to discover their talents beginning with their performances in the play, “Annie” directed by Raquel Martine, Josue Gonzalez in collaboration with Choreographers Diane Rodriguez and Brittany Brandenberger. Thirty five students sang, danced and projected their acting talents for sold out audiences during the week of November 14-17, 2013. The depiction of Mr. Warbucks, played by Joseph Fabian and Miss Hannigan played by Carolina Buentello, had audience members laughing at one moment and crying the next. Annie, played by Clarissa Martinez and Andrea Craig wrapped the audience in silk with their amazing voices and captivated not only the audience’s ears but also their hearts. The Drama club is appreciative of all the support shown by the Del Rio community and is in anticipation for the spring play.

Cardwell Wins $1,000

On Friday, December 6, H-E-B Associates recognize Cardwell as the Book Drive Regional Winner. This funding will be used to purchase more books that focus on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (S.T.E.M) for the library to further promote literacy and love for reading. Every school year Cardwell families read over 35,000 books. Go Cubs Go!

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