

**September 28, 2015**

Congratulations to our [Boys](#) and [Girls](#) Tennis Team for their incredible Team Tennis District Title. Over the weekend, while some of us celebrated or reflected on the wins and losses of our high school, college and professional football teams, our very own [Del Rio High School Tennis team](#) made history in Laredo. On Friday our tennis team traveled to Laredo and beat LBJ; then woke up Saturday morning determined to beat Alexander. Without a doubt, this victory is huge!

We don't know when the last time was, or even if there was a last time, that we had a District Championship in Tennis, but we are certain we have one now. Team Tennis has been in existence since 2002 (14 years), and in these many years we have had wonderful players, but until now had not been able to claim a district title or qualify for Area competition.

[Coach Castellanos](#) explained to me that to win a team tennis competition you have to win 10 out of 19 matches (6 boys singles, 6 girls singles, 3 boys doubles, 3 girls doubles, 1 mixed doubles). In the case against Alexander, the score was tied 9 to 9 with only one match remaining. Sophomore student, [Maria Onofre](#), had the composure and determination to contribute the tenth win and ensure what they absolutely had worked so hard for. Picture time!

I ended my blog last week by reminding everyone about how blessed we are to live in this community and encouraged everyone to continue to work together to improve our community. This Tennis Championship is just one more reminder of the wonderful [student population](#) that regenerates itself. However, we cannot be satisfied or content with the [awesome](#) success of the few. More importantly, we cannot be derailed or distracted by “naysayers” who are unwilling to commit to progress. Instead we need to move forward in a spirit of cooperation knowing that this entire District and community is much bigger, and certainly more important than the perception or opinion of the few.

The issues that have to be solved, whether these be transportation, curriculum, instruction, rezoning, or bilingual require continued and committed collaboration. This is why I am tremendously pleased when I see [teachers](#) and [district leaders](#) come together as they did this past week to complete a [curriculum review](#). I am equally pleased when I am able to hear from students as I did this past week when the [Superintendent's Student Advisory Council](#) came together. Yes, they ate a lot of pizza, but the insight they gave into having a late start for secondary students was priceless. I am especially moved when I stepped into a [classroom](#) and saw student engagement to such a degree that I cannot tell the difference between an instructional aide, a [student teacher](#), or the actual teacher.

Although so much of what we do is “hard work” and often times requires a commitment that can move mountains, I am certain that the benefits are [beyond this world](#). I encourage everyone to strengthen your commitment by finding and maintaining a balance in your life between work, [family time](#) and even some time for yourself. I am absolutely thankful to work for an organization that contributes to my balance. After a day's work I am often able to enjoy family time participating in our own student [competitions](#). If you have not stopped by a [volleyball game](#), I encourage you to do so. Seeing our girls [spike](#) the ball with such [strength](#) and velocity is awesome. Seeing our [band](#) perform with precision and perfection is entirely uplifting; and seeing our [football players](#) run across the [goal line](#) is beyond vicarious.

**For every hundred men hacking away at the branches of a diseased tree, only one will stoop to inspect the roots.  
– Chinese proverb.**