

March 30, 2015

The week after a long vacation is always filled with meetings, emails, more meetings and lots of other catch up items. Although this past week was exactly that, it was also tremendously exciting. A couple of things occurred which are a first for our District and our community. Having the opportunity to share these things with each of you makes writing these notes so much more meaningful.

First, our very own [John Reed](#), CTE teacher at Del Rio Middle School, was recognized at Monday's Board meeting for being named the Alamo First Tech Challenge (FTC) Mentor of the Year. John and a huge group of supporters have done a great job building the Robotics program in our Middle Schools since 2008. The praise and admiration was evident as [students](#), [parents](#), and the [rest of us](#) turned out to congratulate Mr. Reed at a surprise [celebration](#) held in his honor this past Wednesday. Great job Mr. Reed!

Another first for our District was the [Sweepstakes](#) our Del Rio Middle School Orchestra students achieved at the recent Orchestra competition in San Antonio. This past Wednesday, I had the opportunity to stop by the [Orchestra](#) room at Del Rio Middle School and congratulate the students who brought this great honor to DRMS. I told them that most successful school organizations have dedicated students who are willing to work hard; and second, a dedicated leader who ensures their success. Our DRMS Orchestra students have a great leader in [Mr. N. Cepeda](#). Worthy of recognition indeed!

This next item is not a first for our community, but certainly worth noting. This past week we received notification that our District has won another competitive grant for one of our schools. The Texas Center for District and School Support (TCSS) at Region 13 [announced](#) that DRMS has been awarded the Building Capacity in Rural Schools Grant. As a recipient of this grant, DRMS will receive \$500,000 in the form of onsite technical assistance, professional development, and funding over a three and a half year period. Because we are 3 for 3 on winning these grants, I can say with a high degree of confidence that we have broken the code on winning competitive grants. I am pleased to congratulate Mr. Jorge [Limon](#), Mrs. Sandra [Hernandez](#), and the rest of the team that worked on this grant.

Perhaps the most exciting event which occurred this past week, revolved around the SFDRICISD Education Foundation. The Foundation held its first ever major Fundraising Event, [Dinner on the Creek](#), which consisted of an informal evening in casual attire (similar to golfing attire) on the second-hole fairway of the San Felipe Country Club. Attendees enjoyed creek side [dining](#) while they listened to live music performed by our student groups and graciously contributed their money through donations, an auction and/or raffle tickets.

Besides the fact that the evening was an entire fundraising success, it is worth noting that the Foundation was assisted by student groups who came through like true professionals. First, [Mr. J. Ramos](#) and his [Electrical Trades](#) students set up generators, built a [center pole](#), and strung up fashionable lighting for the evening. Thanks to prior proper planning they performed all of this under time constraints – they couldn't get on the golf course until the District Golf Meet ended at 3:00 PM. Excellent job!

The [Business Professional Students](#), under the direction of [Mrs. L. Garanzuay](#), arrived early to help welcome and seat the evening's guests. Like true professionals they added class and elegance to the evening.

Next, [Culinary Arts students](#), under the direction of [Mrs. T. Salinas](#), served a fancy dinner (Steak or Salmon) prepared by volunteers to 200 guests. Although they had served before, this large project was a first for them and absolutely a first for the Foundation. Great job team! You were awesome.

Finally, the Fine Arts department under the direction of Mr. Nañez provided top notch entertainment. The [mariachi](#) was phenomenal, the orchestra was fabulous, and [Jazz Choir](#) was in a league of their own. Much thanks to everyone that helped make this evening a tremendous success.

While we celebrate all these success stories, it is worth noting that the rest of the School District and our traditional activities carried on as normal. Our Girls and Boys Soccer Teams won Bi-District competition and are advancing to Area competition. Our One Act play is also advancing. We clearly are surrounded by great talents here in Del Rio.

We have a wonderful School District - wonderful students and a wonderful staff. Let's stay focused and continue to perpetuate the incredible success of our community. Thank you for all that you have done and will continue to do.

When you believe in a thing, believe in it all the way, implicitly and unquestionable. – Walt Disney