

November 2, 2015

I hope each and every one of you has had a fun, enjoyable and [Happy Halloween](#). Besides the [Trick or Treating](#) that went on for hours, our community had a whole lot to celebrate. This past week was the kind of week that builds up the most memorable photo albums (electronic ones anyway). I started noticing the excitement when I drove by the bonfire site and saw our DRHS [Seniors](#) and their parents building up what turned out to be a perfect bonfire. Besides the community activities that awaited us, I also heard the tremendous excitement about the [volleyball](#) playoffs, the start of the [basketball](#) season for our [boys](#), and of course, and the consistent State qualifying appearance by our DRHS cross country team!

The week's excitement culminated in the [homecoming parade](#), pep rally bonfire and eventual victory against Laredo's United South. As we drove the parade route I was thoroughly impressed with the hundreds and hundreds of [community members](#) that lined Main Street to participate in our [community spirit](#). The [parade](#) was nothing short of a huge success. Many thanks to all of the [schools](#) and [organizations](#) that worked so hard on [costumes](#) and [floats](#). Our community absolutely showed their [support](#)!

What's a parade without a [pep rally](#) to follow? The homecoming pep rally and [bonfire](#) not only gave everyone a chance to participate, it also added to the energy and excitement already being enjoyed by our community. From [football players](#) dancing to [senior](#) skits, everything was a blast. Of course, the main attraction was the [perfect bonfire](#)!

The football game that followed gave us a chance to crown Toby and Mitsy as Homecoming [King and Queen](#). We continue to [celebrate](#) our community, recognize our National Scholars, and of course win a football game in the [rain](#). Congratulations to both [Louis Cadena](#) and [Israel Sosa](#) for being selected as National Hispanic Merit Scholars. Louis Cadena was also recognized as a National Merit Commended Scholar. Congratulations to both of these young men and their families for their successful dedication to academics. On a personal note, it was nice that both Louis and Israel's parents, along with the high school principal and superintendent were all alumni of the distinguished [DRHS Class of '85](#) – homecoming appropriate!

Since my last blog, there have been some pretty impressive events that I would be remised if I did not highlight. First, we had the opportunity to recognize our [Tennis Team](#) at the last Board Meeting, for advancing to [Regionals](#). During the same meeting, the Board voted to rename our tennis complex after a highly motivated and dedicated coach ([Lilly Castellano](#)). Very Impressive! Our [Mighty Ram Band](#) also received across the board First Division ratings – something that had not been accomplished in 10 years. Great Job Band! Finally, I want to send a huge Thank You to our partners, Mr. Allen Gullet and the [Ford Dealership](#) for their continued support of athletic programs – Very Nice!

In closing this blog, I want to review with you the progress related to some of our initiatives. First, I want to report to you that the [Blended Academy](#) is off to a great start. We are already serving students and look forward to an approval from our Board awarding a contract for the additional remodeling of the Old Garfield site this month. The remodeling will allow us to serve up to 200 students in a non-traditional school setting. In the meantime, the current students have found a home, and a lot of [support](#). Next, I encourage you to drive by and view the developing progress at two of our construction sites. The [CTE Academy](#) construction is well on its way. Before you know it, we will see the framing, walls, and windows go up. Finally, I encourage you to drive by the Old Del Rio High School/Old Eighth Grade building on Griner Street. The [progress](#) being made is a site to see.

**“I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples.”
– Mother Teresa**