

October 17, 2016

I want to start this blog by congratulating [Mrs. Kelly Lujan](#), fourth grade writing teacher at Ruben Chavira Elementary, for representing our entire community at the Texas State Teacher of the Year competition in Austin this past week. Before moving on to the state competition, Mrs. Lujan first won the District Teacher of the Year competition and then moved on to win the Region XV Teacher of the Year competition. If we were to ask the judges at the District and Regional level why they picked Mrs. Lujan as their winner, they would all echo the same sentiments. She is creative, passionate, and resourceful. From holding a snake (nonvenomous I am sure) to creating excitement for her students, to applying for all possible grants, to being extremely well prepared, there is very little Mrs. Lujan will not do for her students. Our students, and her colleagues are blessed to have such a creative and resourceful teacher in their midst. It was both a pleasure and an honor to share in the celebration with Mrs. Lujan, [Mr. Lujan](#) (her husband) and [Mrs. Westlake](#), (her principal).

Next, I want to thank everyone who continues to work towards creating opportunities for parents to come into the school. This past week for example, our food service manager promoted a [Pancakes with Parents](#) opportunity. Their goal was not to make money, or even promote our food service program. Instead, their goal was simply to continue to work towards involving parents in their child's education. We are certain, that one of the ingredients for individual and school wide success includes high levels of [parental involvement](#); and opportunities like this will absolutely promote our end goal. "Thank you" to our cafeteria teams and "great job" to everyone who participated in the planning.

How about those [awesome](#) homecoming activities? The [bonfire](#) and the football game were full of [excitement](#) and absolutely a [wonderful](#) way to bring our entire community together. I cannot recall a bigger bonfire or a [larger](#) homecoming [crowd](#) than what we observed this past weekend. [Our Rams](#) being led onto the field by [Del Rio's finest](#) and the [53 points](#) on the board was awesome enough, but it was truly only the icing on a multi-layered cake. The [packed stands](#)! The Homecoming Court! The middle school and [Pee Wee](#) football players! The [middle school](#) drill [team](#) and [cheerleaders](#)! [High School Band](#)! [Belles](#)! Cheerleaders! ROTC! Sapphires! Dance Company! This type of unity is what so many communities dream of, but very few get to experience.

I want to close this blog by encouraging everyone to reflect on this past week's activities and consider how wonderful it was to see everything and everyone come together so nicely. We are hopeful that the unity we experienced will not be exclusive to homecoming activities, the upcoming Fiesta de Amistad celebrations, or a time of crisis. By frequently thinking of how blessed we are to live in a community such as Del Rio, we will certainly be motivated to make our school system (classrooms, hallways, organizations) and our entire community a better place. Trust in one another, knowing that we all have the same end goal – our student's and community's success. We may have different ways of reaching that goal, but by being open to productive conflict we will certainly arrive at the best outcome.

The good we secure for ourselves is precarious and uncertain until it is secured for all of us and incorporated into our common life. – Jane Addams