

January 19, 2015

Today indicates a midway mark for the 2014-15 school year. Today is also a break most of our students are likely grateful for, as they spent last week rounding out the end of the first semester with six weeks and/or semester exams. I will venture to say that it is also a great day for teachers to input grades, finalize lesson plans, and make any necessary adjustments to start off the second semester. It is unbelievable just how fast the second semester came upon us!

This past week was extremely busy for each and every campus as the semester came to a close, but it also was a week unlike any we have had since 2011. Due to our current status under PBMAS, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) spent last week visiting campuses and meeting with district level team members and additional staff. Although a visit from TEA often times brings about a negative perspective of the District, it is safe to say that they provided validation that the direction we are headed in is on the right track; and also provide insight as to how we can improve our process, especially in the areas of bilingual and Special Education. We will be sharing the preliminary information shared with us at tonight's board meeting.

With that said, the majority of the week was spent in meetings, but I did manage to enjoy two nights of basketball and a retirement celebration. On Tuesday evening, the [Queens](#) hosted Laredo Alexander and played an exciting game. [Home](#) court advantage definitely allowed the Queens to pull an upset over Alexander to start off [District](#) competition with a win.

On Thursday afternoon I walked over to the high school to help celebrate the retirement of two fine ladies. [Delores San Miguel](#) (High School Principal Secretary) and [Margo Rosenow](#) (High School Librarian) have decided, after 21 and 36 years respectively, to begin the next chapter of their lives. Each of these ladies can enjoy retirement knowing full well that they have already earned their place in heaven. Congratulations to each of them.

On Friday, the Rams basketball teams kicked off District here at home. The [JV](#) and Varsity basketball games were both [exciting](#). Just like our Queens, our Rams were also able to start district competition with a [win](#). Being that it was also Parents' Night made the event especially memorable. I, along with many [parents](#), were proud to stand on the court alongside our [children](#). It was an honor to be part of this small recognition. Our student athletes dedicate so much time to represent our District well, but most cannot do it without the help and support from loving parents/guardians. Thank you to each parent that goes the extra mile for their children and our students! On a final note, much thanks to the [Buena Vista](#) teaches and students who came out as a group to support our Rams!

I ended my week on Saturday with a trip to DRMS where I was able to observe some pretty impressive [math training](#). A huge thank you to our teachers who are dedicating the extra time to obtain a higher math certification.

While at DRMS, I was also able to witness the first ever Battle on the Border FTC event (Robotics Competition). [Del Rio](#) hosted several teams of dedicated students from places such as Austin [Westlake](#) and [Flower Bluff](#). The energy and passion these students displayed was beyond amazing. A special thanks to [Mr. John Reed](#) who organized the event, to all the community volunteers, and to the San Felipe Lions for providing lunch for all of the judges and students who attended the FTC event. It was most definitely a packed [lunchroom](#), along with a fun-filled, energized, dedicated robot showdown in the gym.

Although tonight's Board Meeting will be filled with routine presentations and agenda items, there is one special ceremony worth mentioning. Tonight we will honor seven community members (our [School Board of Trustees](#)) for their commitment to our community and our children. School Board Recognition is that time of year when we recognize the time, energy, and sacrifice each member commits to their position. On a personal note, I would like to thank each of them for their continued guidance as we work to serve our most loved community members – our students.

**"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."
- [Martin Luther King Jr.](#)**