

October 20, 2014

This past week was certainly a Fiesta week. As our beautiful city of Del Rio celebrated its sisterhood with Ciudad Acuña, San Felipe Del Rio CISD also had plenty to celebrate. Not only did we have the opportunity to celebrate a win against Laredo Alexander at Friday night football, but that same evening, we had the privilege of celebrating seven National Hispanic Recognition Program Scholars. It was wonderful to honor these students ([Ana](#) Hernandez, [Adrian](#) Ortiz, [Alexander](#) Navarro, [Jose](#) Ricardo Rueda, [Kaitlin](#) Smith, [Victoria](#) Sanchez, and [Nadia](#) Ford) alongside their parents during halftime. What made this night even more amazing was having the pleasure to stay after the winning game to watch the [Del Rio Mighty Ram Band](#) showcase their performance prior to earning division one ratings that qualified them for Area competition. I look forward to traveling this coming Saturday as they compete for a spot at the State showcase. Congratulations to Mr. Ricardo [Rios](#) (band director), his staff and all our students. Best wishes to our band!

The week started off with a well-deserved break for our students. With this break came a staff development opportunity for our teachers. Elementary through secondary, we have continued to make every effort to meet the needs of our District through the improvement process of teaching and learning. Research indicates that teaching quality and school leadership are the most important factors in raising student achievement. Staff development ranged from ensuring our [support staff](#) is well versed in Study Island, to our [Physical Education](#) teachers learning the latest trends, to promoting the next phase of [Leader In Me](#) - our District initiative to establishing a culture of leadership.

With technology being such a critical component of what we do for our 21st century learners, I'd like to take the time to highlight [Mr. Milender](#), physics teacher at Del Rio High School, who has gone above and beyond with the use of the Venue Pros and our 1:1 initiative. He has worked on developing his own [webpage](#) and has seen [great success](#) with [students](#) utilizing these tools for their own learning. Great job Mr. Milender! This is a great opportunity for our students, and I commend you for going the extra mile.

Tuesday thru Friday I had the opportunity to start off my mornings by meeting with teachers for morning coffee and conversation. Hearing first hand from our teachers about the campus needs that should be prioritized has been a tremendous help. As long as I was at the campuses, I enjoyed observing what students were up to. At Cardwell, I ran into [Ruben](#) and his mother while they were both enjoying the change of seasons and the décor that goes with it. At the high school I ran into students in Mr. Poole's [Environmental Systems class](#). These students were on a quest to catch some pretty interesting critters. I also had the opportunity to visit Mr. Wardlaw's [Sociology class](#). It was nice to see him tackle such a difficult topic (adolescence) in a manner that made it engaging and enjoyable for students.

This week I also had the opportunity to make a State of the District presentation to the Commissioners Court and to the [San Felipe Lions Club](#). Although it has been a high paced calendar, I have enjoyed bragging about our students and staff to our community and look forward to making a few more presentations this week. As busy as the week was, I made it a point to enjoy a girls' volleyball game alongside the faithful [fans](#).

On Thursday I took time to visit the C&I building to encourage those teachers engaged in curriculum review for elementary. The collaborative approach involved teachers reviewing a framework for the Road Map, assessment checks, and the completion of the Learning Target and Guiding Question Planning Guides. This week, Secondary groups will be coming in for this same process. We continue to build upon this process and thank you, [teachers](#), for your willingness to be an active part of the development and review process.

Friday I was invited to participate in a local radio talk show which encouraged our community to get to the polls and vote in the November election. I want to borrow just a couple of lines from this blog and encourage each of you to take time and participate in the [early voting](#) opportunities extended to you. As I was returning to the central administration building I noticed some of our employees lining up to receive their annual [flu shot](#). It is nice to see so many take advantage of the health and wellness opportunities provided to them.

Next, I traveled to the Lake Amistad Dam to participate with lots of our [student body](#) in the traditional [Abrazo](#) Ceremony before joining the rest of our community at our Friday night football game. The game was exciting from beginning to end. First, our congressman, [Pete Gallego](#), honored our team and [fans](#) by tossing the coin to begin the game; next, the football team honored some of their [teachers](#) by asking them (John [Wardlaw](#), Lisa [Johansson](#), [Gabriela Padilla & Stephanie Packouz](#), Enrique [Santillan](#), and Gene [Poole](#) to lead the team on to the field and on to victory; at half time the band presented [Al Arreola](#) and [Gisselle Limon](#) as their Band Beau and Band Sweetheart; and of course who can forget the tough game. Thankfully [Webb](#) Ashley and [Cesar](#) Escajeda scored the necessary touchdowns to give us the victory.

After a long week, it was nice to wake up to a Saturday morning that was perfect for a parade. To ensure the parade started with the required protocol and some excitement, our [ROTC](#) paraded the [colors](#) while our Queen City [Belles](#) followed shortly behind. The Fiesta de Amistad parade would not be complete without the [Honor Court](#) or the participation of our High School Robotics or our Middle School students. [Del Rio Middle School](#) provided presentations from their [band](#), [cheerleaders](#), [Pom](#) Team, and [Flags](#).

As you can see through these notes, our students are involved in many activities. Although I wish I could highlight every event that occurs every day of every week, I find it so rewarding to provide a small recap that shows San Felipe Del Rio CISD students are actively involved in great things every day. Please know that for their success and our community's success, we have our educators to be thankful for. Our student's success, both academically and socially, is so dependent on the commitment of each and every one of you. Let's keep up the great work!

In order to manage children well, we must borrow their eyes, and their hearts, see and feel as they do, and judge them from their own point of view. - Eugenie De Guerin