



S.F.D.R.C.I.S.D.

# HIGHLIGHTS

*Our District, Our Students, Our Pride*

Spring

Volume 7

2014-2015



## ***Panther Young Notes!***

The Dr. Lonnie Green Elementary Panther Young Notes performed at Epcot Center/Disneyworld on March 18, 2015. Through hard work, dedication and great sponsors what was once just a dream became reality. Congratulations students.



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Time Warner Channel 39

**STUDENTS TEACHING STUDENTS**

The Child Guidance program is in its third year at Del Rio High School. Working in conjunction with the administration and faculty at Irene Cardwell Elementary and with the approval of DRHS administrators are the Child Guidance students and their instructor, Nancy St. Peter. The high school students are each assigned to a mentor teacher at Irene Cardwell Elementary, where they work directly with the preschool teacher and children. Through this hands-on approach to learning, they are able to reinforce and refine the procedures, personality, skills, knowledge, and management techniques necessary to become an effective early childhood educator. As a result of this program, the high school students are better prepared, confident, and experienced, as they graduate from high school and continue their post-secondary education towards a career involved with the education of our children. The Child Guidance class is an upper level course in the Human Services cluster of the Career and Technical Education Department (CTE.)



**THE ACAP PROGRAM STAFF**

Students in the Alternative Credit Accrual Program have been hard at work with great determination and perseverance in achieving their goal of graduating. Since 2007, ACAP has graduated over 300 young men and women, some being the first in their family to earn a diploma. With the help of our ACAP teachers, Ayde Ashley, Dacia Stidham, and Sabrina Santellanes, that number is sure to rise. The ACAP program is currently located at Del Rio High School in the 900 wing.



**TEACHER OF THE YEAR**

Kathy Smith, NHE 2nd grade teacher, is voted as 2016 NHE Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Smith has been a teacher with SFDRCIDSD for 25 years.



**NATIONAL READ ACROSS AMERICA**

Ruby Lewis and her three daughters, Victoria, Kaitlyn, and Makayla, celebrate National Read Across America and end Dr. Seuss week.



### THE LETTER "E"

Students from North Heights Elementary School kindergarten classes recently studied the letter "E". They read "Elmo, the Elephant" and finished the unit with an "Exciting Elegant Event". Students practiced the rules of etiquette during their breakfast with "E menus" offering elegant eggs, éclairs, and several other delicious edible foods beginning with the letter E as well as exquisite dining with formal attire, soft music and lighting.

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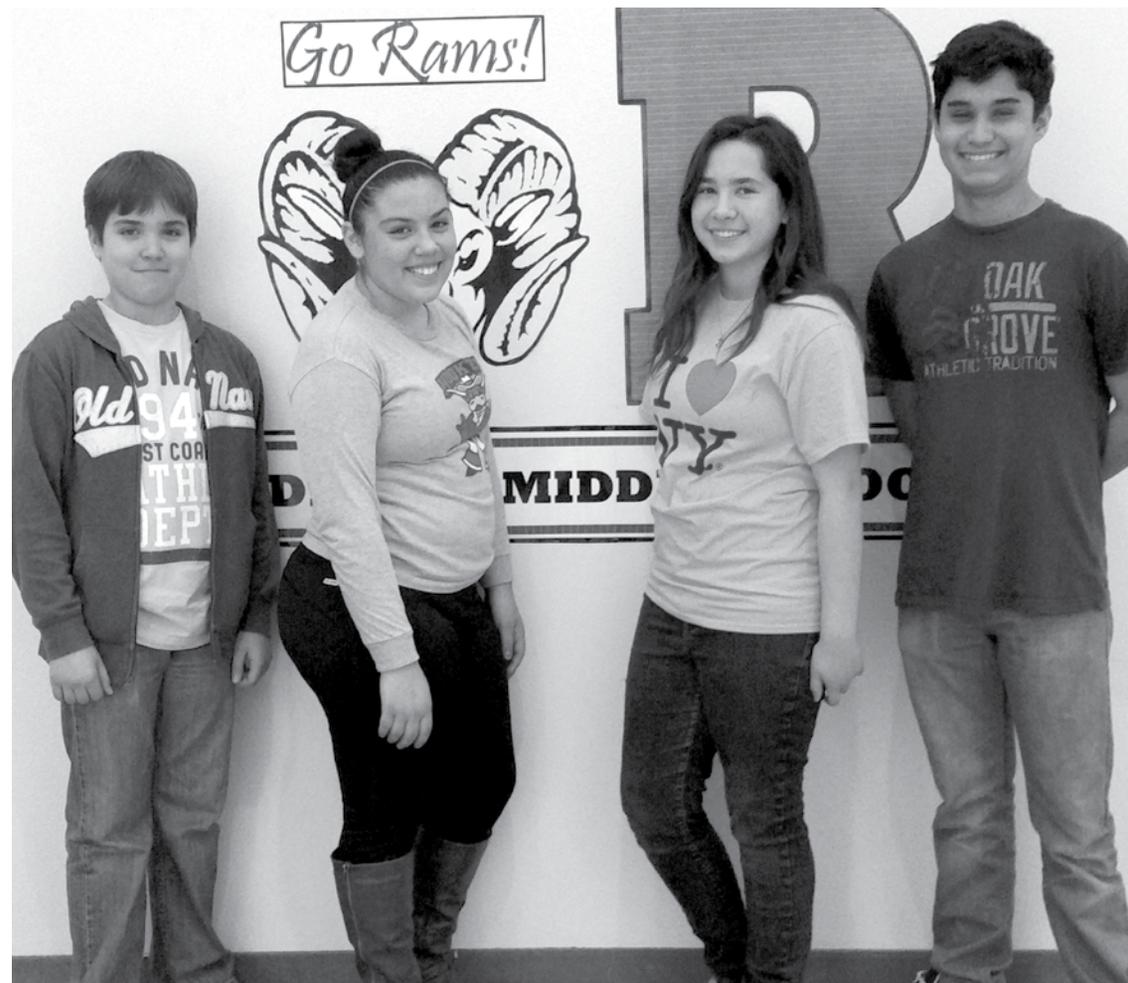
### MATH TO CELEBRATE THE BIG 100TH

Students from Miss Theela Rodriguez' Kindergarten class at North Heights Elementary participated in math activities to celebrate the 100th day of school. Each student brought 100 items in a baggie in which they counted to 100 by creating 10 groups of 10 items. The class continued to participate in other fun and engaging 100 themed activities throughout the day.



### DR. SUESS WEEK AT NORTH HEIGHTS

Mrs. Montoya's first grade and Mrs. Soto's third grade class at North Heights Elementary School celebrated Dr. Seuss Spirit Week by being Wacky. Students wore crazy hair and their clothes backwards. Thank you Dr. Seuss for making reading fun!



Robb Smith, 8th Grade, Number Sense; Nancy Marrufo, 7th Grade, Calculator; Andrea De Leon, 7th Grade, Number Sense; Aaron Escoto, 8th Grade, Science. Best of luck!

### SECURED A SEAT AT THE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Del Rio Middle School will see four of their own compete in UIL at the State Level on April 11, 2015. These students competed in their respective categories and secured a seat at the State Championship.



### U.I.L. CHAMPIONS

The Del Rio Middle School UIL season has been an enormous success. Week after week, the students have been competing in various categories, placing in the top places in their respective events. Del Rio Middle competes against other middle schools from San Antonio and surrounding areas, with each competition hosting 15 schools. Out of six different competitions, Del Rio Middle has brought home two 2nd Place Sweepstakes and four 1st place Sweepstakes. Congratulations to all of the students and their sponsors!



### GARFIELD ELEMENTARY CHOIR STUDENTS

Garfield Elementary choir students, "The Singing Mustangs" were invited to sing the National Anthem at a Del Rio Rams Basketball game. Students performed and showed their Ram spirit. The "Singing Mustangs" are sponsored by choir teacher, Ms. Ristow.



### THE 100TH DAY OF SCHOOL

Kindergarten students at Garfield Elementary celebrated the 100th day of school on February 4, 2015. Students have been actively engaged in their learning for 100 days and we know they are going to be ready for 1st grade and beyond. Students and teachers celebrated the 100th day of school by dressing as their representation of a 100 year old person.



### THE CAMPUS SCIENCE FAIR

Over 300 students in grades K-5 participated in the campus science fair. The top three students in each category were awarded ribbons. Students who placed 1st and 2nd place in their category represented Garfield at the district science fair held on Thursday, February 5th. We are very proud of the amazing science work of all our students. We would also like to thank all the community judges for coming out and supporting our school.

## COUNSELOR APPRECIATION WEEK



Counselor appreciation week was celebrated February 2nd - 6th. Garfield Elementary Counselor, Dora Salinas, was honored with cake from the staff. Students and staff are honored and thankful to have such an amazing person as their counselor.



## 100 DAYS OF LEARNING AT CARDWELL

While practicing counting objects, Cardwell students celebrate one hundred days of school.



## CARDWELL HEALTH SERVICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Cardwell Health Advisory Committee (HSAC) meets for the second time this school year to conduct a safety inspection of the campus and advise the program on various health issues that affect families, children and staff. Members of the HSAC include representatives from the United Medical Center, Frontera Pediatrics, BCFS, Amigo Dentistry, Early Childhood Intervention Program (ECI), Family Care Clinic, Texas Department of Health and Methodist Healthcare Ministries.



## CARDWELL TOP CHEF 2015

Held in February, the 5th Annual Cardwell Top Chef Cooking Competition was dedicated to the late Chief Raymond Haynes. The winners of this competition, held to promote healthy eating, were Leticia Hernandez, Viola Guadiana, Gloria Canales and Robert Estrada. The guests of honor included Lonja Haynes, Amy Haynes and Bill Haynes.



**KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS WINTER CONCERT**

Kindergarten students at Lamar Elementary came together to perform a winter concert and enjoyed time with their families making arts and crafts. Students were led by Mrs. Kelly Jones, Lamar's music teacher, in singing several winter songs. Students then joined their parents at different craft stations for the rest of the evening. Lamar staff volunteered their time to help make the night a success.



**VARSITY QUEENS BASKETBALL TEAM**

The Varsity Queens Basketball team stopped by Lamar Elementary on February 24th so that students and staff alike could wish them luck on their play-off journey. The Queens were set to play in their second play-off game against La Joya Palmview. Students and staff lined the hallways chanting and cheering as the Queens high-fived students. Lamar Elementary is very proud of their efforts in this year's play-off run. Congratulations on a great season!



**IN HONOR OF DR. SEUSS DAY**

Lamar Elementary hosted various activities throughout the week of March 2nd in honor and celebration of Dr. Seuss Day. Students and staff had the opportunity to dress up and participate in activities related to reading. From Stripe Day, to honor The Cat in the Hat, to Dress Up as Your Favorite Book Character Day, the campus enjoyed seeing so many students and staff participate and make connections to reading. A big thank you to our librarian, Mrs. Sandra Garza and our library aide, Mrs. Sandra Tamez, for organizing all the events of the week.



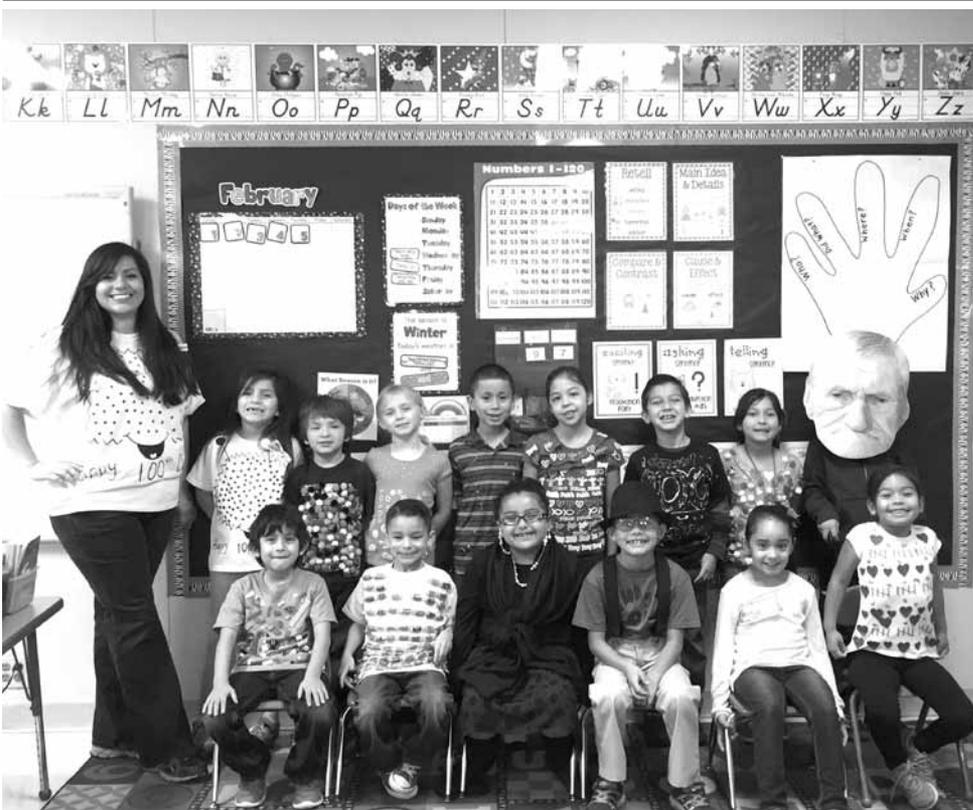
**SATURDAY CAMP IN MRS. P. VILLARREAL'S SCIENCE CLASS**

Students in Mrs. P. Villarreal's 5th grade science class recently had an opportunity to participate in a Saturday camp where they took their learning to the next level. Students applied their knowledge of science and how it relates to everyday objects. Students worked with toys of different types to determine the kinds of energy each toy demonstrated while in use. In addition to understanding the different types of energy, students were also able to determine if the toy used friction and had potential energy stored. "We learn a lot of information in class and have a lot of science labs to show students how to apply what they are learning to their daily lives. This is just one example of how students get to do that." said Mrs. Villarreal.



**BASKETBALL AND SOCCER SKILLS**

The PE classes at SFMMS spent the fourth six weeks learning and improving basketball and soccer skills. To improve their teamwork for both sports, they played Ultimate on the many bad weather days.



### DR. LONNIE GREEN ELEMENTARY HONOR STUDENT COUNCIL SHOWS SCHOOL SPIRIT

The Honor Student Council at Dr. Lonnie Green Elementary is always busy helping in different ways. The group is committed to building and fostering leadership skills in students. This semester, the student council took on a school spirit project in which the students dedicated themselves to motivating students for upcoming STAAR assessments. They worked in teams to create posters with motivational slogans which will be displayed throughout the hallways where students can be reminded of the importance of these exams.



### DR. LONNIE GREEN ELEMENTARY HONOR STUDENT COUNCIL SHOWS SCHOOL SPIRIT

Students at Dr. Lonnie Green Elementary celebrated the 100th day of school. The teachers and staff created many counting activities that lined the hallways of the school. Students worked on counting, sorting, and grouping 100 articles at each of the stations. They were also encouraged to bring in displays of what the number 100 meant to them. Some of the creative displays were showcased in clothing or posters decorated with 100 items.



### SEMINOLE CANYON VISIT

The fourth grade students at Dr. Lonnie Green Elementary were treated to an incredible outdoor experience. They visited Seminole Canyon in Comstock, Texas. The students enjoyed hiking, nature viewing, and historical studies of some of North America's oldest Native American pictographs and one of the oldest cave dwellings. Rangers at the park also introduced the students to some of the weapons, wild life, and art work native to that area.



### FAMILY NIGHT SERIES AT DR. LONNIE GREEN ELEMENTARY

Dr. Lonnie Green Elementary hosted a Family night on January 21, 2015. Parents and students enjoyed a special presentation from Mr. Hector Guerra and Mr. Jesus Guerrero from the Texas Department of State Health Services and Mr. Fernando Perez from the Department of Public Safety. The presentation was titled, Ready or Not? Have a Plan! The families learned about the importance of emergency preparedness. All families in attendance received an emergency preparedness kit along with other helpful tools they can implement at home.



### CREATING LIFELONG READERS AT CARDWELL

Enthusiasm for reading was evident during Dr. Seuss birthday celebration. Students and staff participated in various activities throughout the week including a Storybook Hat Contest. Go Cubs Go!



### CARDWELL CELEBRATES THE CHINESE NEW YEAR

Students from Mr. Olivo and Mrs. Brijalba class and several staff members participated in the annual Chinese New Year's celebration. This year's festivities included a parade and a presentation at the Paul Paog Theater.



### TEXAS GAME WARDENS

Members of the Texas Game Wardens and Parks and Wild Life provided a hands-on learning experience to Mrs. P. Villarreal's Science classes of 5th grade students on Friday, February 27th. Students explored different animal species of Texas while having the opportunity to see skeletal remains of the animals up, close and personal. Tany Petruney provided important information to students about the animals that live in the surrounding area. Students also had the opportunity to determine the types of animals that were represented by the skeletal remains. Mr. Isaac Ruiz and Mr. Andrew Banda, Game Wardens with the State of Texas, helped students understand the different animals.



### AEROBIC CAPACITY

SFMMS students are hard at work on their FitnessGram test. Students are administered 6 tests in aerobic capacity, body composition, flexibility, muscle strength, and muscular endurance. Students who are rated in the Healthy Fitness Zone in at least 5 of the 6 measures are eligible for President's Youth Fitness recognition.



## CULTURAL AWARENESS IS MUSIC TO OUR EARS!

Casa de la Cultura and Ruben Chavira Elementary School celebrated cultural diversity with Andean style music featuring Acmed Tuesta FOCO originally from Lima, Peru. The audience was in awe as they listened to the unique sounds of the Andes and learned how the music is made.



## READY, SET, LEARN!

Saturday Campus are in full swing at Ruben Chavira Elementary School. A different atmosphere is apparent at R.C.E. on Saturday mornings as students devote part of their weekend to the love of learning. The first through fifth grade students are not the only ones learning and having fun though. Del Rio High School "Ready, Set, Teach" students volunteer their time to incorporate games, hands on activities and excitement into the learning process for the younger students. Teachers from R.C.E. and the high school volunteers work together to provide additional opportunities for students to be successful.



## REVISITING THE PAST

Ruben Chavira Elementary School's fourth grade students attended an informative field trip to Seminole Canyon. The National Park Service sponsors the trip for all fourth grade students in Del Rio. Along with hiking down the canyon, students used the scientific method to make paint in a similar way to that of previous times. Students used the newly made paint to create their own "cave paintings" to tell their unique stories. Weathering, erosion and deposition were additional topics reinforced on the field trip. Students have been exploring these topics in their science classroom all year, so the hands on experience helped make the topics even more concrete for them. After the physically challenging and fun filled field trip, the National Park Service followed up with a visit to Ruben Chavira Elementary School. During this visit, students were shown how to correctly use binoculars to identify various birds and butterflies. The experiences the National Park Service gifted to the fourth grade students is one that sparked interest and will stay with them for years to come.



### SCIENCE FAIR PARENT TRAINING

The Science Fair Parent Training held at Buena Vista Elementary was a huge success. The speaker, Mrs. Ana Leyva/Parent Community Coordinator for Federal Programs gave a wonderful presentation to over 50 parents in attendance. Mrs. Leyva went on to explain to the parents the scientific method. She explained that it is the process all scientists use to investigate science questions. It involves identifying a problem, learning what is already known about that problem, thinking of a solution or answer (called a hypothesis), doing an experiment to test your hypothesis, and reaching a conclusion based on what you learned. Mrs. Leyva empowered the parents with all the information needed to know to conduct a proper science fair experiment/research. Parents were engaged by asking questions. A trifold was given to all parents that showed up to the training.



### BUENA VISTA SCIENCE FAIR

Each year, Buena Vista students come together to share personal interests in science and technology in preparation for the campus science fair. Students applied their knowledge of science and technology to the world around them and conducting research in the form of a science fair project. Students worked hard, they received support in designing and conducting research for their projects from their teachers and families. They increased in knowledge, improved their organizational skills, enhanced their thinking skills, and had fun along the way. Over 200 Buena Vista students presented their projects at the school's campus science fair on January 2015. All qualifying projects, 1st and 2nd place advanced to the SFDRCIDSD District Science Fair.

### #TOGETHERWEAREGREEN



Did you know that paper can account for as much as 60 percent of school waste? After coming across this alarming statistic, the Del Rio Freshman Family, Career, Community Leaders of America (DRFS FCCLA) decided to take an initiative to help reduce their school's environmental footprint. The easiest and most sensible way to do this was to start a recycling program on the campus with the main goal being to promote greener living among the community. Two members, Rodrigo Chacon and Jorge Valenzuela, decided to become Environmental Ambassadors for the school and take on the recycling project known as "#TogetherWeAreGreen".



### DISTRICT SCIENCE FAIR BV WINNERS!

The District Science Fair was held on February 5th at the Del Rio Civic Center where 10 students won 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place. Buena Vista Elementary proudly thanks all participants for taking the opportunity to model the work of professional research scientists. Special thanks to all judges, LAFB personnel, campus administrators, staff and parents for making this event a wonderful success! K-2nd/Life Science 1st place Camryn Nowlin, 2nd place/Physical Science Matthew Garza, 3rd place/Physical Science Grace Kistler 3rd-5th grade 3rd place/Behavioral Social Yousuf Shafiu, 2nd place/Earth Space Emma Rios and Samantha Ortiz, 3rd place Earth Space Charlize Probst, 1st/Environmental Science Alyssa Sanchez, 2nd place/Environmental Science Jacob Mitchell, and 3rd place/Zoology Sebastian Martinez.



### 6TH GRADE ART STUDENTS

After a successful art exhibit at the Del Rio Bank and Trust the San Felipe Memorial Middle School art students will exhibit their art work at the school's office. The art students are from left/right; Front- Adriana Rodriquez, Hanna Rodriquez, and on back standing- Meleane Galindo, Emily Oyama, Mary Hudgins and Cesar Rodriquez. The art teacher is Mr. Luis E. Leyva.



### CALDERON WINTER OPEN HOUSE

Dr. Fermin Calderon Elementary hosted their Winter Open House in January, where parents visited classrooms and saw the many great things their child has accomplished their first semester of school. Parents were also able to pick up their child's report card. Earlier in the evening, students did an excellent job at the Winter Musical Performance. Choir and Strings students in grades 3, 4, and 5, performed and played several musical songs such as "Let it Go" under the direction of Mrs. Andrea Reed, Music Teacher and Ms. Selina Gonzalez, Strings Teacher. Great job everyone!



### SCHOOL'S CAREER DAY GIVES STUDENTS VIEW OF OPPORTUNITIES

Potential careers were showcased to students in grades K-5 at Buena Vista Elementary as part of the school's Annual Career Day on March 6th. Students at Buena Vista heard from 26 speakers-from local business owners to parent professionals-on potential careers. The day's event was built around our goal of having 100 percent of students exposed to fantastic obtainable careers. Among the school's career day guests were bank managers, pilots, pharmacists, Val Verde Medical Center/ER, a story writer, dentists, doctors, firefighters, a rancher, a welder, several community directors, and representation from all law enforcement agencies.



### PARK RANGERS

Dr. Fermin Calderon Elementary students visited Seminole Canyon and enjoyed the expertise of park rangers who shared a variety of information. Students enjoyed the Fate Bell Shelter which contains some of North America's oldest Native American pictographs and is one of the oldest cave dwellings in North America. Students also visited the Park Center which has exhibits relating to the history of the

surrounding area. Students took the Fate Bell Shelter hike to the bottom of the canyon and then up to the shelter to view many wonderful examples of American Indian rock paintings. Students also viewed throughout the park, the natural wild life such as, white-tailed deer, raccoons, armadillos, and squirrels. Seminole Canyon is still being created - deepened and widened year after year.

## STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL 2014-2015



SFDRICISD has heard the voice of their students through the designation of the Superintendents Student Advisory Council. The Student Advisory council is made of students in various school organizations that share their concerns, suggestions, and needs of SFDRICISD students. They are the sounding board for ideas the district would like to provide students such as programs, courses, as well as, their thoughts on dress code, internet and cell phone access, and other policies.

The Student Advisory Council has been a successful implementation this school year as it has been an invaluable way for district administration to take a pulse on district initiatives and how it impact students. The communication between these students has been instrumental in the development of the district vision for the future.

