

October 3, 2017

Whether we reflect on the recent earthquake in Mexico City which affected so many of our friends and relatives, Hurricane Harvey which struck our own state of Texas, Hurricane Maria which created a disastrous condition in Puerto Rico, or the recent episode of violence in Las Vegas, none of us can ignore the tremendous devastation and grief our country has endured. Although Del Rio is no stranger to natural disasters, we are thankful that it has not been us who have been directly affected in this last wave.

Instead, our students continue to enjoy the opportunity to come to school every day and have the liberty to thrive in all their endeavors. At [North Heights](#), for example, [Mrs. Sunderland's](#) fifth grade class celebrated 20 days of perfect attendance; as did [Mrs. Solis'](#) first grade bilingual class, and [Miss Gomez's](#) second grade class at [Buena Vista](#). Congratulations to these teachers and their students. Having an entire group of students be encouraged to come to school every day is extraordinary and has everything to do with the teacher. Awesome job ladies!!!

Also, all of our elementary student council officers gathered for a "[Leaders R Us](#)" workshop at Chavira Elementary this past week. [Buena Vista](#), [Calderon](#), [Garfield](#), [Lamar](#), [Lonnie Green](#) and [North Heights](#) received a trophy for the 2017 NAESP Honor Council; and [Lamar](#) also received a trophy and recognition for winning the 2017 Theme Song which will be used at upcoming Leaders R Us workshops all over the state. Very nice!!!

Because we recognize our [blessings](#) and remember our own [hardships](#), we have decided as a District to adopt another school district similar to ours. Santa Fe I.S.D., located in Santa Fe, Texas, is a 5A district within Galveston County. Santa Fe I.S.D. had minimal destruction to their district facilities; however, roughly 30% of their faculty and students either suffered extensive damage to their homes or lost their homes altogether. While many of our school organizations have come forward wanting to offer assistance to various hurricane relief funds, we decided to consolidate our efforts and make a significant impact in one community. Over the next two weeks, each campus and department will fundraise as much as they are able to, and before the end of the month, we will be able to make a sizeable contribution to Santa Fe I.S.D. Thank you!!!

Next, I want to congratulate [Mrs. Cynthia Salas](#) and [Dr. Jose Perez](#) for being selected as the elementary and secondary Principal of the Year. Mrs. Salas was able to lead Lonnie Green during the 2016/2017 school year to five academic performance Gold Stars, and Dr. Perez led Del Rio High School through various stages of transformation Both Dr. Perez and Mrs. Salas are highly deserving of their awards. Congratulations!!!

In closing this blog, I want to share with you a poem (author unknown) that speaks about collaboration. At this point in our journey, when so many initiatives are in place, I absolutely know that our District's road to excellence will have more to do with how we choose to collaborate than with any other factor. I encourage each of you to continue to dialogue with your principal, especially when initiatives seem unclear; to collaborate with your cluster leader or department head in developing rigorous and engaging lessons, especially when it means doing something different; and to collaborate with each of your colleagues, especially when they are in need of assistance.

Happenstance – The Cold Within

Six humans traveled by happenstance through the dark and bitter cold.

Each one possessed one stick of wood, or so the story goes.

The first woman held her back, she could tell by the faces of the five that one of them was Black.

The next man sitting across the way saw one not of his church and could not bring himself to give the fire his stick of birch

The poor man sat back and gave his coat a hitch. Why should his stick of wood be used to warm the rich?

The rich man sat back and thought of all the wealth he had in store. Why should

“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.” – Helen Keller

his stick of wood be used to warm the lazy, shiftless poor?

The Black man’s face bespoke revenge as the fire passed from his sight because all he saw in his stick of wood was a chance to spite the White.

The last man of this forlorn group did nothing except for his gain. Giving only to those who gave to him was how he played the game.

Their logs held tight in their now stilled hands is proof of human sin, because they did not die from the cold without. They died from the cold within.