



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

HIGHLIGHTS

Our District, Our Students, Our Pride

Fall 2013

Volume 1

2013-2014



Del Rio Freshman 1:1 Initiative for 2013-14

The Del Rio Freshman campus is the focus of a pilot study to provide laptops for all 9th grade students. When the Texas Education Agency allotted extra funds to districts two years ago, it allowed the district to use those funds for instructional technology, which included laptops.

Each 9th grade student is eligible to receive a laptop, and each teacher also receives a laptop to use for instructional purposes. Students are allowed to keep the laptops for the duration of their enrollment at Del Rio Freshman, and they may take their laptops home to use for their studies. While the students may connect to networks outside the district, each computer has been prepped to restrict access to prohibited sites.

This was all made possible by hours of

Continued on page 2

Del Rio Freshman 1:1 Initiative for 2013-14

Continued from page 1

rigorous work from the Technology Department, led by Chief Technology Officer, Abelardo Casillas. He and his team worked during the summer to not only set up the laptops but also set up the wireless infrastructure to be equipped to handle multiple/mass connectivity to over 800 users at the same time. The construction of the extensive wireless network allowed students to connect in each classroom, cafeteria, library, and most sites outside the patio areas. Students and teachers are exposed to the wonders of internet safety, educational research, and entertainment. If it weren't for Mr. Casillas and his teams' hard work and commitment to this project in such a short period of time, this initiative wouldn't have been ready to be rolled out by mid-September.

At the heart of the

instructional aspect of this initiative is Instructional Technology Coordinator, Cheryl Pond, who handles the day to day of the 1:1 Initiative with passion, energy and an enthusiasm for the progression of this program. She handles a wide spectrum of issues whether it is basic tech repair, troubleshooting support or professional development of the program.

While skepticism is expected when any new idea is put on the table, the success of the 1:1 Initiative at the Del Rio Freshman campus has put many worries to rest by maintaining a comfortable balance between instruction and technology. Teachers, parents and students have seen the immense advantages that the laptops provide. Not only are the students equipped with technology that is needed daily in this day



and age, but the use of this technology also presents the students and teachers with a wide array of choices when it comes to pursuing assignments.

Cheryl says that the usage of the laptops helps incorporate technology in real world scenarios and it also helps teachers and students interact by teaching each other new things. It is somewhat a transition for the teacher as the sole

gatekeeper of knowledge to the role of a student in some cases. The laptops have also shown to encourage hands on learning and interactive lesson plans such as "web quests", where students are provided with a lesson syllabus that has instructions and web links for research that have been previously approved and documented.

Cheryl prides herself in dedicating her time to

perfecting the program and not only fixing problematic laptops for the students, but also teaching the students how to troubleshoot minor issues. She wants to help the students maintain independence when it comes to this technology integration.

While this initiative is currently being piloted at the Freshman Campus, anyone can visit the District website at www.sfdr-cisd.org under Instructional Technology, Cheryl has provided a wealth of information that not only can be useful to her colleagues and students but also to parents.

Cheryl is very grateful to be working alongside dedicated educators and students who work very diligently to succeed and that are eager to teach and learn. She believes that is what accounts to the success of the Freshman Campus' 1:1 Initiative.

Athletic Success at DRMS!

SCORE! This year's DRMS volleyball season was a huge success. Over 160 girls tried out this year. The 8th grade blue team ended the season undefeated while the 7th grade blue team had 1 loss. The white teams had a successful season as well. 7th and 8th grade blue teams won the championship and 7th and 8th grade white teams placed at our annual DRMS Volleyball Tournament. The athletes' drive and dedication to the sport of volleyball was one to remember as they worked hard all through the season

on skills and conditioning.

This year's Cross-Country teams consisted of 35 boys and 25 girls. 7th and 8th grade boys and 8th grade girls went undefeated this year and the 7th grade girls were right behind them with 3-1st places and a 3rd place finish. Being Coach Smith's and Coach Thomas' first year coaching this event, they are both extremely proud of the results of both teams.

DRMS football began the year with over 230 players combined 7th and 8th grade. The games have all been hard fought matches

with DRMS winning about as many as we lose. These boys play hard from whistle to whistle. We have a few games left against San Angelo, EPJH and Kerrville before the season ends and the coaches are drilling them daily in the pursuit of perfection.

DRMS Tennis has not played a match yet but Coach Darnell and Coach Solis have what appears to be a solid team fielding 19 boys and 35 girls. Their first match is Oct 24. They are confident their teams will succeed!



North Heights Elementary Receives Honor



Back Row: Student Council Advisors- Chris Cardenas, Angelica Manrique, and Lupita Ortiz. Front Row: Student Council Officers- Gavin Dawson-vice president, Luis Flores-treasurer, Alejandra Flores- Secretary, Carolina Sanchez- President and Mrs. Ruby Adams- principal.

North Heights Elementary School Student Council received the prestigious honor of being recognized by the NAESP on September 26, 2013 at the Student Council Leadership Conference. The mission of The National Association of the Elementary School Principals is to lead in the advo-

cacy and support for elementary and middle level principals and other education leaders in their commitment to all children. Only 70 student councils in Texas were nationally recognized for their outstanding work with the community. Congratulations North Heights Elementary!



North Heights Elementary Takes First Place

North Heights takes first place at the Andale Del Rio School Fitness Challenge. On Saturday, October 5, 2013 at Buena Vista Park ten 3rd grade students from each of the seven elementary schools participated in this event. North Height team included: Joe Villarreal, Kody Kenner, Adrian Cardenas, Alex Cardenas, Kevyn Meza, Sierra Horton, Makayla Lewis, Kathryn Mead, Daryana Galindo, and Carissa Saenz. Principals Ms. Adams and Mr. Mendez proudly supported our team.

The Buena Vista UIL Dream Team

The 2013 UIL theme is, "Oh the Places You'll Go!"



Every great journey begins with a single step...This year's UIL program of academic completion is off and running at Buena Vista Elementary. The program includes five different events for grades 3-5th. These events span the curriculum and are designed to complement and expand upon what the students learn in the classroom. This year Buena Vista's "Dream Team" Coaches are as follows; Selina Limon/Tiffany Perez for Dictionary Skills, Laura Limon/ Angela Leonor for Music Memory, Teresa Gregg for Ready Writing, Olga Calderon for Spelling, Cindy Dunlap/Michelle Klay/Amber Poe for Oral Reading, and Tiffany Perez /Melissa Newman

for Number Sense. Buena Vista has had the honor and privilege of holding the title of "UIL Champs" for four consecutive years! The driving force behind this year's accomplishment will be hard work and dedication. Practices in some events are being held before school, with other events happening after school. The UIL competition will be held on December 14, 2013 at Ruben Chavira Elementary. With days to go, The Mighty Longhorns have taken on a "Don't count the days, make the days count!" approach. Buena Vista invites the Del Rio community to come out and witness the places you'll go, when you dream big and reach for the stars!

Buena Vista Choir UIL



The Buena Vista Choir has started this year with over 35 members. Students are actively involved and reflect the joy of music in every rehearsal and performance. Students receive quality instruction time from certified music teachers who work diligently during and after school to ensure that students are successful.

Success is not just being able to sing and play the various instruments. Students are able to perform alone and with the all district choir and orchestra which involves 7 elementary campuses and over 200 students. The choir stays busy

performing in December and spring with the all district choir. During Christmas they work together with the Student Council to sing carols at the nursing home across the street from the school and lead the school in a sing along.

They also perform at board meetings in appreciation for the community volunteers. Each year varies on the number of concerts as the choir volunteers for different community events. This past year the choir performed 5 times and they are looking forward to many more concerts and performances this new school year.

Lamar Elementary Student Council

Our student council organization has been hard at work as the school year is in full swing. Shortly after holding officer elections in mid-September, officers attended TEPSA's Leadership 'R' Us alongside the rest of SFDRCID's elementary schools, which provides leadership training.

Several activities have taken place since, including helping promote an anti-bullying initiative alongside our counselor, Mrs. Dolores Cowan. Students and all staff are encouraged to wear orange every Wednesday through the end of the school year to take a stand against bul-



lying. The "I Will Stand" campaign hopes to promote unity among our student body and throughout our campus. "We appreciate Student Council taking the lead on this initiative and setting the example for all students at Lamar Elementary," commented Mrs.

Dolores Cowan. Student council President, Anna Carina Rodriguez, stated, "It is very important for our Student Council team to lead the school against bullying. We want a school where everyone respects each other."

In addition, they have also

celebrated our custodians for all of their hard work and dedication. They treated them to lunch and decorated their doors to show Lamar's appreciation for all the contributions they make to our campus. Our student council is truly excelling in recognizing that everyone at Lamar Elementary is part of one team and we are united in achieving one goal: student success!

The rest of the month proves no different. They will begin preparing a float to participate in the annual Homecoming Parade being held at the end of October. Not only will they be preparing their float to

represent Lamar, but they will also be busy leading the student body in Red Ribbon Week, scheduled for the week of October 28th. Red Ribbon Week is a week designated to commemorate the life of Enrique "Kiki" Camarena and the war against drugs. Members of student council will promote a drug-free message throughout the week as students participate daily in activities that demonstrate their dedication to saying no to drugs. "This is the best student council group we have had in the 3 years I have been in student council at Lamar Elementary," explained Anna Carina Rodriguez.

Making Memories at Lamar Elementary

Since the school year started, students have been actively involved in different activities. On Saturday, October 5th, several 3rd grade students, coached by Coach Irma Avalos, participated in Andale Del Rio's Health Fair promoting wellness and good health at Buena Vista Park. Our students competed as a team in an obstacle course against teams from other elementary schools. Students' physical fitness was put to the test and in the end, Lamar Elementary students placed 3rd! It was definitely a great way for our students to demonstrate their athletic abilities. "The kids did great! The kids cooperated well together and we thank their parents for the support. We also were excited that Miss Flores,

our principal, participated as part of the team. She made a basket on her first try!" Coach Avalos said.

On Wednesday, October 9th, members of the Del Rio Fire Department, including Sparky the Dog, visited our campus to inform students about fire prevention. Firefighters demonstrated the proper way to "Stop, Drop, and Roll" and other important things that need to be done to prepare in case of a fire emergency. Students were also given an opportunity to move through a "Smoke House" to help students understand the importance of crawling in a smoke-filled room. In addition, students toured the different fire trucks and equipment used by firemen.

Most recently, La-



mar's Robotics team began practicing for the annual elementary Robotics championship meet in December. Members of the team consist of 4th and 5th graders, alongside sponsors Mrs. Lisa Johnson and Ms. Kelley Bingham. They have been hard at practice as students are required to design, program, and operate all equipment with no teacher guidance or help the day of the competition. Mrs. Lisa Johnson said, "Robotics teaches students how to troubleshoot

and apply critical thinking skills when working with the robots and their peers." Robotics is not only about getting the robots to work, but also developing teamwork skills when multiple students are programming and building the robots."

Some other activities that are currently getting underway are our UIL events. Several students in 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade will try-out for different events such as Number Sense, Spelling, Dictionary Skills, and Ready Writing, just to

name a few. Teachers have begun holding practices in order to prepare students for their try-outs. Once teams are finalized, practices will continue as the annual District UIL Meet scheduled for December 14th will arrive very soon. Also, our school choir has been hard at work practicing Thursdays after school. Ms. Beccue, our music teacher, has been working with students to prepare them for the district choir concert. The district choir concert is slated for December 12th.

Lamar Elementary is excited to continue excelling in everything we do. Students, teachers, and staff are working extremely hard together to move towards our goal and shared vision of student success.

IRENE CARDWELL - HEAD START/EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the San Felipe Del Rio CISD Head Start Program is to collaborate with families and community service organizations to provide children and their families with opportunities and support to achieve lifelong growth and change through their individual strengths, needs, and interests.

Early literacy success high quality curriculum, instruction and assessment

Cardwell Head Start/ Early Childhood Programs utilize the Our World of Learning curriculum as a written plan to address the children's goals. Staff implement and individualize the curriculum to support each child's learning and developmental progress.

Observation and ongoing assessment continue throughout the child's enrollment in Head Start. Staff and parents follow each child's

progress, coming to know the child's strengths, interests, needs, and learning styles, to build on prior experiences which support learning and development in the following domains:

- Language and literacy;
- Cognition and general knowledge;
- Physical development and health;
- Social and emotional development; and
- Approaches to learning.

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT is addressed in the following areas:

- Family well-being and positive parent-child relationships;
- Families as learners and lifelong educators;
- Family engagement in transitions;
- Family connections to peers and community; and
- Families as advocates and leaders.



STEM Fatherhood Initiative Training



Fire Safety Training by DRFD



CPR Staff Training



SFDRICISD School Board Members and Head Start Policy Council Program Governance Training

Dr. Lonnie Green Elementary Honor Student Council

by Mrs. Claudia Lopez

Leadership is practiced not so much in words as in attitude and in actions.- Harold S. Geneen

As the dismissal bell rang to mark the end of another day, a group of eager, excited young children hurried into the Dr. Lonnie Green Cafeteria, ready to give their time and their talent for their beloved K-5th grade elementary school. The students weren't just a random group of kids; they are the proud members of the Dr. Lonnie Green Elementary Honor Student Council. As the crowd of smiling students danced their way through a silly song and then prepared to create



posters for a school-wide "Pink Out," there's something special in the air. The year feels brand new, but these kids are stepping into some mighty big shoes. Last year, after assisting with different community and school-wide activities, Dr. Lonnie Green Student Council was one of over 70 student councils state-wide to receive the

Honor Council Excellence Award. With most of the members returning for the 2013-2014 Student Council line-up, there are definitely high expectations in place. With their eyes set on school leadership and with some big goals in mind, great things are in store for this set of young minds!

Buena Vista New Gym

Every elementary school student must be afforded the space required to maximize their physical development. Moreover, the appropriate indoor space is essential in developing physical fitness is a gymnasium. The direct benefits associated to elementary students will include more activities for physical education teachers to conduct that require a confined, controlled environment. Now Buena Vista will have a gym by the start of the school year 2014-2015. Hence, students will learn more meaningful lessons conveyed in this atmosphere. This indoor space is where students can continue to maximize their physical skills. The Buena Vista gymnasium is more than adequate – it is appropriate, vital, and resourceful – to conduct physical fitness activities for elementary school children versus a multi-purpose area (i.e. meeting room, cafeteria, etc.) while also

benefitting the school on a larger scale.

Upon listening to some of the reactions of the Buena Vista students about a new gymnasium, here is what they had to say:

No longer are we having to worry about having to go into the cafeteria if we get bad weather;

We look forward to participating in different and more activities;

We want to play on an indoor wooden basketball court;

We won't have to run far for a stray ball or worry about a ball bouncing over the fence;

Fifth graders are upset that they will not enjoy the gym

Students seem eager and motivated to try basketball or volleyball in the Buena Vista gymnasium. Students are asking when the gymnasium will be completed. They want to know what activities will be taught in the Buena Vista gymnasium.

Ruben Chavira Elementary

Instituted in 1988, Ruben Chavira Elementary (RCE) is one of seven elementary schools in Del Rio, Texas consisting of six grade clusters (K-5), a physical education department complete with a full-size gymnasium and an extensive playground, and two Fine Arts facilities that support keyboarding, strings, choir, and art courses. There are seventy-five Ruben Chavira Elementary employees, including thirty-one Kindergarten through fifth grade teachers, professional and non-teaching support staff, instructional para-professionals, fully staffed food service and custodial departments, and various volunteers. Approximately 600 students from the San Felipe Neighborhood and Laughlin Air Force Base attend Ruben Chavira Elementary. The

commitment to excellence by the Ruben Chavira Elementary family that chiefly stems from the teenager it was named after. Ruben Chavira, son of school board member Roberto Chavira and wife, Carmen, died after being injured in a Rams football game in the early 1980s. As a matter of fact, a proclamation was drafted by the city mayor declaring October 14, 2011 Ruben Xavier Chavira Day while the school celebrated its 25th anniversary. Commitment to excellence is not uncommon at Ruben Chavira Elementary. Teachers at Ruben Chavira Elementary recognize the importance of quality lessons with a zest of fun. Marta Galindo is living proof that this winning combination makes for better learners. Her prowess was recognized at the



democratic recognition is highly valued as much as talent. Each year, students participate in Student Council (STUCO), UIL, Science Fair, Gifted & Talented, Robotics, Youth Power, music, art, track (cross-country), recitals, recycling, and much more. In 2014, for example, RCE's STUCO will be recognized at the Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association summer conference for excelling in campus and community projects. STUCO at Ruben Chavira Elementary features commitment to community, collaboration, and commitment. Students must be nominated by teachers with grades, attendance, and citizenship as prerequisites. Subsequently, the STUCO officers are voted by their peers. Already, the STUCO officers show the leadership and commitment to

Speaking of talent, students at Ruben Chavira Elementary are known for their musical, choral, and instrumental flairs. Endowed with fantastic music ability, our music teacher, Maria Delarosa, exhibits RCE students at school and in the community any chance she gets. For instance, RCE students have performed for teachers at teacher appreciation ceremonies and The Rotarians. They have also presented Winter performances at the Paul Poag Theater in downtown Del Rio, the Civic Center, and spread Christmas cheer at the Val Verde Regional Medical Center in December for staff and patients.

Plus, Ruben Chavira Elementary students are no strangers to scientific investigations and challenges. In point of fact, Ruben Chavira Elementary students have surpassed the campus expectation for excellence in science and have done extremely well at the San Felipe Del Rio CISD Regional Science Fair.

All in all, the staff and student body

at Ruben Chavira Elementary form a well-rounded school community that is devoted to helping (100% United Way participation), learning (Youth Power character traits), and excellence (State accountability distinction). Visit Ruben Chavira Elementary when you get a chance. You will be greeted with excellent customer service and we'll even give you a tour of our new gymnasium, library, and improved counseling/parental department.



total number of extra-curricular opportunities, community projects, and enrichment experiences at Ruben Chavira Elementary present the students with a dynamic avenue for both academic and social development. Plus, employees and community volunteers find the range of activities offered throughout the year beneficial and rewarding.

Ruben Chavira Elementary is the home of the Cougars. The mascot logo is a cougar paw that you will see proudly displayed all over the campus, vehicles, homes, and apparel. Ruben Chavira Elementary colors are black and gold, which you will also see prominently worn by just about everyone every Monday. These symbols manifest the long-lived pride and ongoing com-

highest levels by President George W. Bush and First Lady Laura Bush in Washington, D.C. in 2002 when she was awarded the Elementary Teacher of the Year and national nominee. Ruben Chavira Elementary is set apart by her accomplishments and those of her colleagues as they pave the way for students and set the pace for new teachers. For example, Mrs. Galindo and Mrs. Kelly Lujan were selected to participate in the Earth System Science for Elementary Teachers (ESSET) high-quality professional development program in climate literacy and best practices in teaching science.

Ruben Chavira Elementary's commitment to excellence offers the best of two worlds. Namely, aca-

democratic society. The school is extremely proud of them!

The University Interscholastic League (UIL) elementary program combines leadership with academic aptitude. UIL students at Ruben Chavira Elementary must decide what academic competition they want to challenge: dictionary skills, number sense, spelling, reading, music memory, and writing. Students practice for several months and compete against students from the other seven elementary schools. One meet in December is held, which will take place at Ruben Chavira Elementary in 2013.



San Felipe Memorial Middle School Honor, Tradition, and Pride SFMMS 2013-2014 U.I.L. Academics

RED RIBBON WEEK October 28th – November 1st

Red Ribbon Week is the oldest and largest drug prevention campaign in the country. SFMMS will continue to join the efforts to protect children from the dangers of alcohol and other drugs.

- Monday, Oct. 28 – Kick off Red Ribbon Week – Wear RED
 Tuesday, Oct. 29 – “Team Up Against Drugs” –
 “Twinkie Day” Dress alike with a friend
 Wednesday, Oct. 30 – “Give Drugs the Boot” – Dress up Western
 Thursday, Oct. 31 – “Sock it to Drugs” – Wear Crazy Socks
 Friday, Nov. 1 – “Stay in the game, Be Drug Free” –
 Wear your RAMS shirt



SFMMS 2013-2014 Science Fair

San Felipe Memorial Middle School will be holding the campus Science Fair on November 19 & 20, 2013 in the school gymnasium. All students enrolled in a Science Advanced class are required to participate and it will be a part of their Science grade. All SFMMS student are eligible to participate in the Science Fair. If your child is interested in

participating, or if you have any questions regarding the Science Fair, please contact their science teacher.

A Science Project Workshop will be held on Saturday, November 2nd from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in SFMMS Cafeteria. Parents are welcome to come to the Science Fair and view the projects on November 19 & 20. An awards

ceremony will be scheduled to recognize the amazing job our SFMMS students have done. The Top 15 projects will advance to the Region Science Fair in San Antonio, Texas which will be held on March 2 – 4, 2014.

The Top 3 from Region will advance to the State Science Fair in San Antonio, Texas which will be held on March 20 – 23, 2014.

We would like to recognize and thank in advance the Education Office from Laughlin Air Force Base who sends their airmen every year to serve as judges for our campus Science Fair.

It is always a great honor to have these men and woman who graciously serve our country volunteer their time at SFMMS.

North Heights Elementary Makes Good Use of Grant

North Heights Elementary was awarded a grant targeting our community's development of a healthy lifestyle. We titled our event "WALK AND BIKE TO SCHOOL". Our kick-off ceremony was held on Wednesday, October 9 and featured such VIPs as Del Rio city Mayor Bobby Fernandez and SFDR Superintendent Dr. Car-



los Rios. They each told relating stories of how important it is to be active and strive for good health. Many other community associations were involved. As a group participants walked a block around our school to model how easy it is to walk 20 minutes. The participants included students, parents and teach-



ers.

All students received an activity log to keep track of mileage (20 min walking or 13 min running = 1 mile) Cool prizes are awarded after every 25 miles. 100

miles will get you a chance to win a bike! Every 100 miles earns another entry to the drawing.

North Heights Elementary ENCOURAGES all of us to walk or bike daily for

several reasons—learn safe pedestrian skills, be aware of how our school truly is “within” our community, reduce traffic congestion and pollution for the benefit of all.

San Felipe Memorial Middle School Honor, Tradition, and Pride SFMMS 2013-2014 U.I.L. Academics

San Felipe Memorial Middle School 2013-2014 UIL Academics is running full speed ahead. The last several weeks teachers and students have been working super hard to establish our UIL 2013-2014 Teams. UIL members have started a fundraiser selling candy. The funds that the students raise will go to the purchase of t-shirts for all the members. The students and coaches will be wearing

these t-shirts to the meets we will be attending from January to March 2014. The funds will also go towards a pool party for the UIL members to celebrate their hard work and successes. If enough money is raised we would also like to pay for charter buses for the students to travel to the meets. Teacher and UIL Coordinator for SFMMS, Lena Keeton, would like to praise the UIL Coaches

and students for the dedication they will show in the hours they spend preparing for each meet, giving up many Saturdays and representing our school so well. Traditionally SFMMS has achieved numerous awards and recognitions in multiple events. We look forward to this group of students keeping up the tradition and bringing home 1st place titles.



UIL EVENTS AND SPONSORS

UIL Coordinator – Ms. L. Keeton
Solo Serious – Ms. C. Briones
Duet Serious – Ms. C. Briones
Math – Ms. T. Acosta
Number Sense – Ms. T. Acosta
Ready Writing – Ms. R. Montgomery
Oration – Ms. S. Cienega
Maps, Charts, & Graphs – Mr. G. Gomez
Dictionary Skills – Mr. G. Gomez
Duet Humorous – Ms. L. Jimenez
Science – Ms. L. Jimenez
Solo Humorous – Ms. L. Keeton
History – Ms. M. Morrell
Poetry – Ms. MA Ortiz
Prose – Ms. MA Ortiz
Spelling – Ms. L. Keeton
Duet Pantomime – Mr. A. Ortiz
Calculator – Mr. A. Ortiz

UIL MEET SCHEDULE

January 25, 2014 Legacy MS, San Antonio
February 1, 2014 Briesemeister MS, Seguin
February 8, 2014 Scobee MS, San Antonio
February 22, 2014 McNair MS, San Antonio
March 1, 2014 Bush/Qualifier, San Antonio
March 8, 2014 Tejada MS/Qualifier, San Antonio
STATE MEET/TMSCA – April 2014



No Place for Hate

The No Place for Hate organization is a group that is committed to prevent bullying and promote acceptance of other students. Through planned events and programs students work at creating a culture of kindness and respect for others. Some events this year will include "Diversity Week" in the month of November. This event allows members to create murals,

posters, and t-shirts promoting uniqueness and diversity. In the spring semester, a No Place for Hate Newspaper will be created in which students can express themselves through drawings, writings, or photographs on the topic of acceptance. No Place for Hate is not only dedicated to promote equality and tolerance, but to create lasting friendships and bonds amongst stu-

dents. The first meeting for No Place for Hate was held on October 1, 2013, after school where a group of SFMMS students who met and joined the coalition. All students, parents, or community members are welcome to join No Place for Hate Coalition at SFMMS. If you are interested please contact Jessica Ponce, SFMMS Counselor.



Empowering Students to Succeed

Garfield Elementary students and staff have kicked off the 2013-2014 school year by focusing on our mission statement. Garfield Elementary exists to empower students to form, embrace and achieve a vision for successful, lifelong learning by establishing a nurturing environment that promotes high expectations and positive relationships among family, school and community. We are in the business of empowering students to succeed. We want every student at Garfield to work and live up to their full potential. We have established not only our school mission statement but have asked each classroom to create their class mission which shows the commitment that each class has in order to reach our school goals. For example, Mrs. Cardenas' 5th grade class mission states, "we will work as a team and give a 100% every day to be the leaders of the future." Students have signed their class mission statement to show their dedication to becoming the best. It is definitely an exciting time at

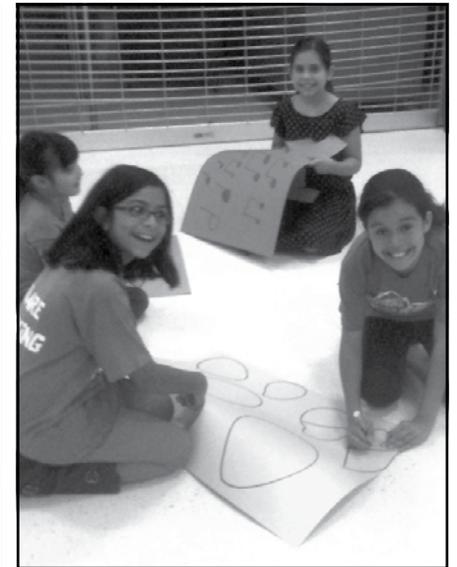
Garfield. There is evidence of our school and class mission statement throughout the school and throughout the day. Students are focused on making positive choices for their future every day, whether it be in the classroom, in the hallways, during electives or specials, our students are actively engaged in learning and working towards success. A new component of our school day which we believe is going to enhance student learning and success is our elective period. During this time, teachers plan for the best and most effective lessons for our students meanwhile the kids have an opportunity for enrichment and intervention by going to the library, computer lab, writing lab or our new KIDS ZONE, which includes fun literacy centers. The students are truly having a great time and learning too! Empowering students to succeed is not an easy task but one that we realize is crucial. At Garfield Elementary we are committed to student success.



5th grade students reading class mission statement



Doing our best in the Keyboard Lab



Student Council - poster making at the Lock-in

Becoming Highly Effective Students

Garfield students have been introduced to the seven habits that will help them become the leaders of tomorrow. For the first six weeks of school we encourage and taught students what it means to be PRO-ACTIVE. The focus was on making good choices, taking initiative and choosing the correct actions, attitudes and moods. We spoke to students during an assembly about not blaming others for our poor choices and doing the making the right choices without being asked and even when no one is looking. The habit for the 2nd six weeks is BEGIN WITH THE END IN MIND. Students will learn

about the importance of planning ahead and having goals. They will understand the importance of a winning attitude at all times. Students will learn that they can make a difference and they are a contributing member to our school's mission. As we continue throughout the school year, we will implement additional habits, such as, Put First Things First, Think Win Win, Seek First to Understand Then to Be Understood, Synergize and Sharpen the Saw. In working with students on developing these habits, we hope to give students the tools that are vital for success in life and being a leader.

Garfield Team Effort: Bringing VIPs (Very Important Parents) Into Our School

Our VIP program, Very Important Parent Volunteer program continues for the 2013-14 school year. We are very proud of our VIP program and know that parents, school and community will help us with our continued success and implementation of our mission statement. We believe that the partnership of parents and educators supporting the educational needs of the students contributes to making our school a success. The many hours of service generously donated each year enables us to be successful in achieving

our campus goals while making parents an active and ongoing participant in the education of our students. Parents bring a special kind of enthusiasm to the school. Our VIPs take on many responsibilities when volunteering, they can be found working in classrooms, helping in the office or library and at special school functions. It's not too late to join, contact Dina Sanchez, our parental aide, if interested. Along with our VIP program, we will continue with our monthly parental meetings as well as our PTO meetings.



Breakfast Matters In SFDR-CISD!

Research confirms hungry children cannot learn effectively. With the Breakfast in the Classroom (BIC) program implemented in ALL district elementary schools (K-5) and the Universal Free Breakfast available for ALL secondary students (6-12), no child should start their school day hungry and unable to focus on their primary task of learning.

Our mission is to feed the minds and bodies of our students and since the implementation of the BIC pilot program in 2010, BIC campus breakfast student participation has increased from a low 18% - 20% daily to 89% - 97% (campus variations) daily. Teachers, nurses and administrators report a decrease in student tardiness, fewer student trips to the nurse's office and fewer hunger related classroom disruptions. These are all documented and proven benefits of the BIC program.

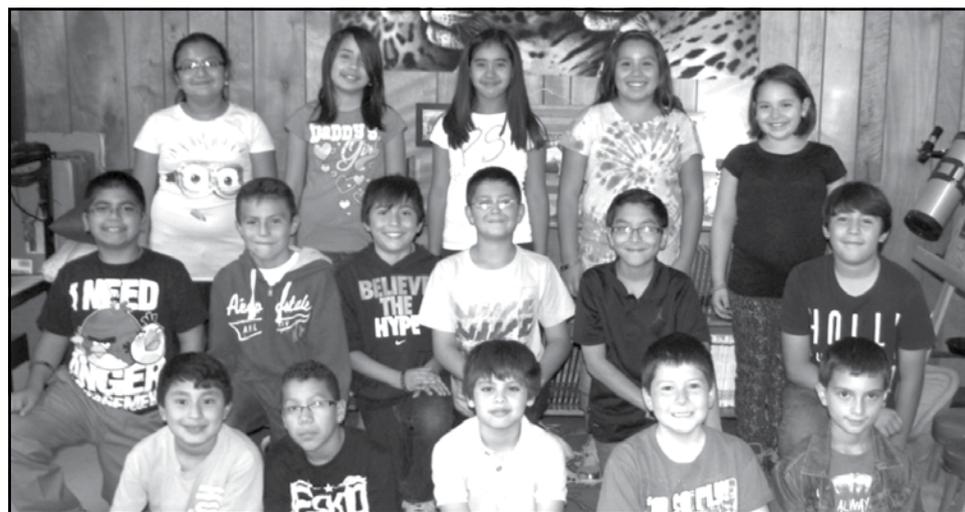
All menus are in strict accordance with USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) standards and include all components necessary to construct a complete, healthy breakfast. Nutrikids nutritional software is also utilized for weekly meal analyses. Fruit, whole grain bread/cereal products, protein and 0-1% milk are offered daily. The color coded C.A.T.C.H. (Coordinated Approach to Child

Health) breakfast and lunch menus and nutrient analyses are posted monthly on the Food Service page of the district web site and hard copies are sent home by individual campuses. Parents have the opportunity to review the menus and choose with their child whether or not to eat breakfast at home or school that day, as this is an optional program for students to participate in.

The BIC carts are available for pick up from the cafeterias by 7:30am daily and are returned no later than 8:05-8:10am. BIC menus are constructed for quick, easy, non-messy consumption and take no more than 10 minutes from dining start to finish prior to the start of, and during the first few minutes of class when attendance is being taken, homework is being turned in and campus announcements are beginning.

Missing breakfast has many negative consequences for children and child hunger has a direct impact on a student's ability to learn. Through the SFDR-CISD Breakfast in the Classroom and Universal Free Breakfast Programs we are ensuring that our participating student population is well nourished, educated on the importance of proper, balanced nutrition and ready to start the school day with their minds focused on achieving academic excellence.

E-Cadets Robotics



Submitted by: Monea Meck-Fortunato, Robotics Sponsor

Students, robots, graciousness, professionalism, cooperation and competition are an amazing mixture being stirred up at Dr. Fermin Calderon's E-Cadets Robotics club. While designing Lego Mindstorm NXT Robots to perform given challenges by the CTE program taught by John Reed, Brad Billeaudeau and William Davis, elementary fourth and fifth grade students are learning how to work professionally in teams. Emphasis in the program is on how to successfully compete while displaying good sportsmanship to all, presenting one professionally,

and always being willing to help another competitor.

E-Cadet Teams at Dr. Fermin Calderon Elementary include the Ironbots: Jackie Cazares, Houston Esquivel, Mauro Garza, Josie Murillo and Gabe Zapata; Viper Steel: Hugo Moreno, Austin Ramirez, Jerrod Stranick, Emmanuel Vela, and Aldo Veliz; the Netherbots: Oscar Duran, Hector Gomez, Juan Lopez, and Adrian Sanchez; and the Thunderbots: Damien Arrambide, Dalinda Dominguez, Clarissa Gonzalez, and Stephanie Zapata.

Chess Club



Submitted by: John Fitzmorris, Chess Club Sponsor

Students at Dr. Fermin Calderon Elementary have a fun time learning to play the king of board games - CHESS. This game not only builds cognitive ability but teaches the importance of competition. Students learn how to record their games using chess notation and practice learning a game opening. Our Chess club members sharpen their game skills and have lots of fun playing each other in our weekly free play time. Our free play time is divided between timed and untimed play. Students dedicate their time and practice twice a week after school. The Dr. Fermin Calderon Chess Club will also conduct two tournaments this school year.

Today's Dedication, Tomorrow's Success

Exciting things are happening around the most crucial component of student success: Instruction. The implementation of the Planning Protocol, a district led reform movement, is supporting the development of teacher created lessons that moves students beyond gaining simple knowledge into a the type of learning that prepares our students for college and career readiness. At the rate of a mile a minute, teachers, staff, students, and administrators are in full swing of authentic learning.

In preparation of this dedicated reform, instructional coach positions were created to spearhead the depth of teacher collaboration required for student success. We are proud to welcome



Middle School Math Instructional Coach, Yvonne Uriega discusses instruction for week three lessons with the 7th grade math department.

It is powerful to hear the conversations and see the collaboration that takes place at each 45 minute session. Teachers share ideas, strategies, strengths and weaknesses all geared towards one common goal: Student Success.

As Jenna Larsen, Middle School Science Instructional Coach states: Since we plan everyday together, lessons flow and

livery of the lessons.

Even more empowering is the shift in the role of our administrative teams from managers of schools to leaders of instruction. It is a priority to implement this type of reform, as research suggests that when instruction is at its best, positive climate and culture within the campus will follow suit.

Giving teachers the time to talk about instructional practices, motivating them to continue their own learning, and challenging them to think with the end in mind is moving our district towards developing a community of success that reaches far into the future. Eliza Diaz, Garfield Elementary Principal, is excited about what she sees happening at her campus as noted below:

The district initiative of the Planning Protocol has led to effective teacher planning so that there is an increased level of student engagement in the classroom and authentic learning opportunities. This systemic approach is going to lead to an increase in student achievement.

student engagement has increased from where we were last year, to where we are this year. In talking to a first year teacher during one of the sessions, it was noted that this type of planning is powerful in building teacher knowledge in instructional practice and more importantly, in the de-



Jane Villarreal, Dr. Lonnie Green Elementary Principal, leads a planning session with the 2nd grade Reading teachers.

to our team, eight secondary and seven elementary instructional coaches. Their primary role consists of leading the implementation of the Planning Protocol by meeting daily with teams of teachers to design lessons geared towards rigorous levels of learning for our students.

Staying active at Dr. Lonnie Green Elementary

by Mrs. Rosalinda Lira

The 3:00 pm bell has just rung. The students at Dr. Lonnie Green Elementary get ready for their after-school activities. Some students get in the bus to go home, some stay for student council, robotics, UIL, and this year many get to Zumba as fast as they can! The afterschool program lead by physical education teacher Rosalinda Lira is a dance fitness program that combines dance and aerobic activity. As soon as she walks into the gym, feeling like a celebrity, students run to their spots and get ready for a fun, high-tempo Zumba workout. The coaches at Dr. Lonnie Green Elementary believe that good health and physical exercise is just as important as academics. For



this reason, the afterschool zumba exercise club was created. "It's so exciting to hear that students are talking about Zumba throughout the school day. We hear from teachers that the Zumba students are showing off their moves" says Coach Lira. It's not too late to join Zumba. All students, boys and girls and parents are welcome to come by and participate on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays right afterschool till 3:30pm. Let's Zumba!!

"Paw"fect Parents at Dr. Lonnie Green Elementary: Partners for Student Success

by Mrs. Claudia Lopez

Together Everyone Achieves More is the mantra the parent volunteers at Dr. Lonnie Green Elementary School believe in. Our parents share the school's vision of Learn Today – Lead Tomorrow. This year the Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) is busy helping Dr. Lonnie Green Elementary school in achieving its goals by volunteering their valuable time. Our "Paw"fect parents help teachers with their daily lessons by assisting with several projects. Our parent volunteers check in on a daily basis with the school's parental aide to see what help they can give teachers, student programs, or the library.

Fortunately, there are many opportunities for parents to assist our school. The relationships we build with parents helps teachers, staff members, families and students have a better appreciation of each other and gain a better understanding of how they can work together to help raise student achievement. Aside from helping teachers in preparing daily materials, parents are also assisting with programs such as Robotics, Student council and the library.

Home visits performed by the school's Parental Aide have proven to be a powerful way to build positive relationships among families and the educators who serve their children.

The rain did not deter over 500 students and parents from attending College Night at Del Rio High School Tuesday, October 15, with unmasked enthusiasm.

Andrea Martinez-Campos (11th), along with her parents Rodger and Sara Paxton, stood at the Texas Tech table "to look for a good college." And look she did! Over 40 colleges, universities and government agencies were present at the event.

Students lined up to visit representatives from universities as close as just across the street (Sul Ross State University) to as far away as Winter Park, Florida (Full Sail University). Recruiters from the U.S. Armed Forces and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement were also on hand to answer questions about careers in their field. Regina Bocanegra (11th) stood with her mom and listened to the University of North Texas Admissions officer Joe Posada as he informed them about UNT's music education program.

"I want to teach music, be a pianist and be a professional singer," she said without hesitation.

College Night is held every year to make students more aware of the options that are available to them.

Austin Rogers (11th) who is in band and ROTC attended the college fair to gain more information on institutions of higher learning.

"I would like to pursue my dreams, and the best way to do that is to get educated," he said.

George Forester (11th) picked up over 20 brochures from the colleges and universities at the fair.

Del Rio High School provides multiple opportunities



Andrea Martinez-Campos and her parents Rodger and Sara Paxton asks questions at the Texas Tech table during College Night at Del Rio High School, October 15.

for students to learn more about colleges and universities. The College and Career Readiness Center allows seniors to visit universities around Texas free-of-charge.

Hard working, committed, dedicated and tenacious are but a few words that describe the 2013 Varsity Queens volleyball team. Their current record is proof that the hard work has paid off. The Queens are currently in the running for their first ever district championship.

The team consists of five seniors, two juniors, six sophomores, and two freshmen. The Queens have established a reputation of being a force to reckon with. Not only are the Queens considered a "tall" team, they are acknowledged as being one of the toughest teams in this district to oppose. Led by vocal senior setter Avianna Galvan, the Queens' defense and offense have been deemed unstoppable. The Queens' front row, averaging 18 kills per game, is led by senior

outside hitter/middle blocker Kyla Gladson, standing at 5'10", sophomore middle blocker Kendall Alsup, standing at 6'2", junior middle blocker Lauren Brown, standing at 5'11", freshman outside hitter/middle blocker Melanie Morin, standing at 5'11". Both sophomore outside hitter Brenda Duran and sophomore outside hitter Martha Ibarra juggle hitting at the net and from behind the 10-foot line. The defensive specialists are led by senior Kelly Carranza and senior Sabrina Gomez, senior Aneya Torres, junior Kianna Briones, and sophomores Aileen Morales and Yesenia Pena, average 30 digs a game. The Queens' great leadership both on and off the court has united the team. With a back row that can receive every serve and dig every hit and a front row that can block almost every hit and kill every ball, the Queens are on the verge of making history by becoming district champions.

Ninety-five Del Rio High School students have been

preparing since the start of the school year for rigorous academic competitions. The University Interscholastic League allows students across Texas to compete against each other in 22 academic competitions.

"These activities ... are designed to motivate students as they acquire higher levels of knowledge, to challenge students to confront issues of importance, and to provide students with the opportunity to demonstrate mastery of specific skills," states the UIL website.

The Del Rio High School students compete in Accounting, Calculator Applications, Computer Applications, Computer Science, Current Issues and Events, Literary Criticism, Mathematics, Number Sense, Ready Writing, Science, Social Studies, Spelling and Vocabulary, Prose, Poetry, Informative Speaking, Persuasive Speaking, One-Act Play. This year the students have an opportunity to compete in a new event called Student Congress. Student Congress models itself af-

ter the U.S. Congress and will allow students to take a bill from its inception all the way to its enactment through a series of presentations and debates.

This year the students' first competition is Oct. 26 at O'Connor High School in Helotes, Texas. Student Congress competitors will begin their competition on November 9th in San Angelo, and another 20 students will compete for the first time in the One-Act Play event in January.

"All of them will give it their best to bring home the gold to Del Rio and push on to district and state," said Terri Arons, Del Rio High School UIL Campus Coordinator.

The Del Rio High School UIL team won the district championship in 2011 and has had students advance to the state meet in the last three consecutive years. Two years ago, Sean Santellanes placed first in state in Social Studies. Last year, Santellanes made it to state once again along with Isela Esquivel and Edmundo Ramon. Ramon is currently a junior and Arons hopes he is able to represent Del Rio at the state competition again this year.

Both Santellanes and Ramon are already eligible to apply for the Texas Interscholastic League Foundation (TILF) Scholarship. Students who have competed at the UIL Academic State Meets during his/her high school career may apply. TLIF has a database of over 600 scholarships that range from \$500 a semester to \$10,000 a year.