



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

HIGHLIGHTS

Our District, Our Students, Our Pride

Spring 2014

Volume 3

2013-2014



Congratulations to the 2014 Alamo Regional Science & Engineering Fair winners from SFDR CISD!!

Students from San Felipe Memorial Middle School, Del Rio Middle School, Del Rio Freshman School, and Del Rio High School participated at the Regional Science Fair on March 3rd & 4th for the junior and senior division. Fifty six of our secondary campus Science fair winners competed with the top magnet and STEM schools in the San Antonio area. 17 of our students placed, and 4 qualified for State!! The 2014 ExxonMobil Texas State Science & Engineering Fair will be held March 21-23, 2014 in San Antonio. Good luck to our 4 qualifiers from San Felipe Memorial Middle School and Del Rio Middle School!

Accelerated Reader program at Buena Vista

The purpose of the Accelerated Reader program at Buena Vista Elementary is to motivate kids to read, read, read! We want children to experience success and growth as readers. Our implementation plan provides for students to participate without experiencing frustration. Staff, parents, older reading buddies, and volunteers may be called upon to help children. Our goal is improved reading and understanding.

Accelerated Reader is a computerized reading management program. It is a unique system for motivating children to read and for tracking achievement. Students select and read books of their choice and take computerized tests when they finish reading. The program keeps track of all the tests taken and points earned for each participating student. The multiple choice tests are made up of 5, 10, or 20 comprehension and recall questions. After completing the test, the student is shown how many questions were answered correctly. The program shows the answers for the questions missed and awards reading points to the student's record.

The AR program is web-based and accessible on computers in each classroom and the Library. Each student has been issued an account with a user ID and password.

Staff members have been given training, and students receive ongoing training, help, and testing opportunities in the classroom. Students and classroom teachers are able to review the students progress at any time by accessing their account.

Congratulations to the following

TOP 10 STUDENTS - ACCELERATED READERS :

1ST GRADE

Addie Weston, Chloe Juarez, Miriam Cantu, Grace Kistler, Kimberly Hernandez, Lucy Reese, Roland Santos De Lara, Wade Cooper, Dylan Dwyer, Adrian Ramon.

2nd GRADE

Nathaniel Gonzalez, Scott Johnson, Sophia Mora, Javier Nino, Peyton Miller, Matthew Robbins, Jesus Salinas, Liana Cantu, Judge Smith, David Allen

3rd GRADE

David Mills, Noah Bliss, Fausto Ramon, Rodolfo Ortiz, Kaleb Gove, Nathan Garcia, Paige Gill, Bianca Martinez, Juliana Somogyi, Delilah Cazares

4th GRADE

Alexander Beattie, Ainsley Rosenow, Samantha Ortiz, William Cooper, Juan Bernal, Chalize Probst, Daniel Ratliff, Youseouf Shafiu, Ana Loza, Camryn Pulliam.

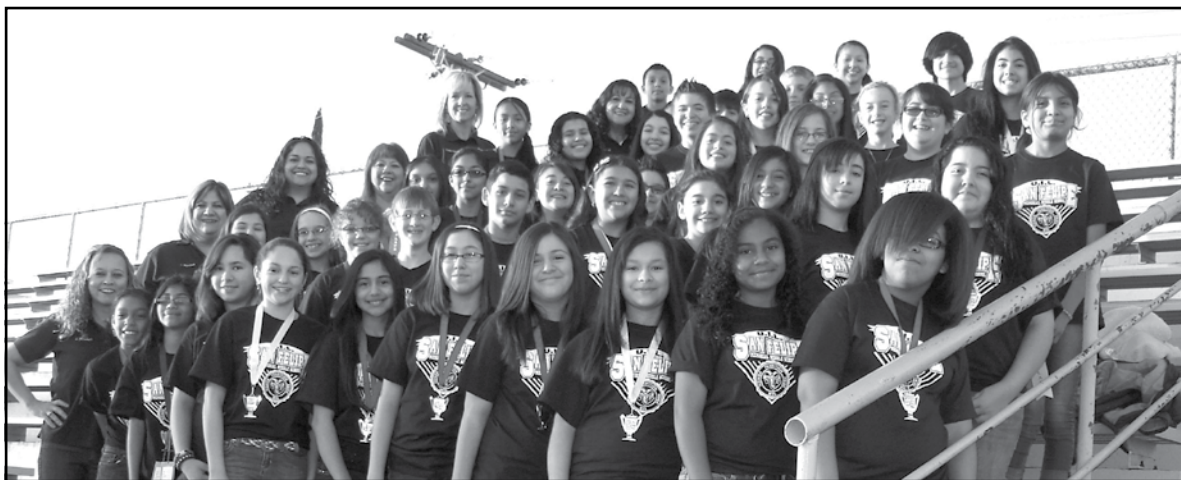
5th GRADE

Samantha Kresge, Chloe Mills, Patrick Whitley, Hector Garcia, Kacey Randall, Reginaldo De Luna, Evan Peters, Alyssa Gallegos, Mary Hudgens, Aaron Peters



Dr. Fermin Calderon Elementary

Dr. Fermin Calderon Elementary hosted Family Literacy Night on Tuesday, February 27, 2014 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the campus cafeteria. Our wonderful Kindergarten, First and Second grade teachers presented 17 sessions designed to help parents learn new ways to help their children with literacy at home. Some of the topics included: Choosing a Good Book, Read Aloud, and Reading Comprehension. Parents chose three sessions to attend and then enjoyed a spaghetti dinner. Books donated by H.E.B. were raffled to our students and every child left with a book in hand. The Calderon family would like to give a big thank you to H. E. B. for supporting literacy and the education of our children. We would also like to thank all the parents and family members that also joined us! Mrs. Maribel Ruiz, 1st grade teacher, was sharing her lesson on Fantasy and Reality with parents.



The San Felipe Memorial Middle School UIL program involves academics and performing arts. The first series of competitions are part of South Texas Academic Literary League or STALL. During the 2014 competition season, SFMMS participated in three STALL meets. Placing first through sixth place at a STALL meet qualifies students to compete at the Tournament of Champions which ends the STALL season. The first three meets were held at Legacy Middle School and Scobee Middle school in San Antonio and Briesemeister Middle School in Seguin. While competing at these meets, SFMMS students earned a total of 15 first place, 21 second place, 14 third place, 12 fourth place, 8 fifth place and 10 sixth place medals. A total of 61 students earned 78 places at the Tournament of Champions. The Tournament of Champions was held at McNair Middle School on February 22. Students earned a total of 5 first place, 8 second place, 9 third place, 7 fourth place, 7 fifth place and 6 sixth place medals. While students excelled in almost all areas, the students in Dictionary Skills and Maps, Charts, and Graphs made a clean sweep and won all six places in the competition. Over all, San Felipe Memorial Middle School won all 3 first place trophies at the STALL meets. All schools participating during the 2013-2014 STALL season were given a participation trophy at the Tournament of Champions. Now, all students in an academic event will attend Texas Math English Science Academic competitions – TMSCA. Event competition includes: Math, Number Sense, Calculators, Science, History, Dictionary Skills, Spelling, and Maps, Charts, & Graphs. The points earned at these meets will earn the winning school trophies. Students competing in Math, Number Sense, Calculators and Science are trying to earn a chance to compete at the state level. Students qualify for state by scoring a specific score in each event.



North Heights Elementary Science Fair Winners

North Heights Elementary is proud of our Science Fair winners! Events such as these help encourage the curiosity of future scientists who may help save the planet. We thank the judges, comprised of personnel from Laughlin Air Force Base, as well as campus coordinators, staff, parents and students for making North Heights Elementary Science Fair such a success!



Buena Vista Wins Big at the District Science Fair!

Buena Vista students took the stage at the District Science Fair that was held on February 6th at the Del Rio Civic Center. More than 300 Buena Vista students participated in the campus science fair that was held on January 28th for grades Kinder-2nd in three categories and January 29th for grades 3rd-5th in eight categories. First and second place winners had the opportunity to compete in the district fair. The stage was filled with "BV Pride" as twelve students received a medal for 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place during the evening ceremony.

Earth • K-2nd

1st place: Dylan Dwyer
2nd place: Lucy Reese

Life • K-2nd

1st place: Adrian Del Rio
2nd place: Marlene Najera

Physical • K-2nd

2nd place: Scott Johnson
3rd place: Curtis Preedom

Behavioral/Social • 3-5 Grade

1st place: Alex Beattie
2nd place: Yousuf Shafiu

Botany • 3-5 Grade

3rd place: Hector Garcia
2nd place: Evan Peters

Chemistry • 3-5 Grade

3rd place: Tamika Gonzalez
2nd place: Damian Garcia

Earth/Space • 3-5 Grade

1st place: Reginaldo De Luna
2nd place: Daniel Peterson

Environmental • 3-5 Grade

2nd place: Luis Montemayor
2nd place: Nathan Sanchez

Physics • 3-5 Grade

3rd place: Bobby Moore
2nd place: Aaron Peters

Zoology • 3-5 Grade

1st place: Renee Salas
2nd place: Brandon Galvan

Medicine/Health • 3-5 Grade

3rd place: Chloe Mills
2nd place Selema Soliz / Annie Markowitz



Dr. Louie Amezcua of the U. S. Army, and uncle to Student Council member Alex Amezcua, addressed the North Heights Student Council. He explained the different types of illnesses and diseases that young children can contract. He also spoke about the importance of immunizations in children.



2013 Lonestar Math Cup Region 15 Champions

Ms. Tess Casarez' 3rd grade class won the Region XV Lonestar Math Cup Challenge. The class is the Region XV (of Texas) Champion and won this award by completing the most lessons during the contest. They were awarded a banner stating they are the Champions of Region XV, a Pizza Hut Party, and T shirts. North Heights Elementary has won this contest two years in a row.



ANNUAL CELEBRITY READING DAY

It has been often said "reading is fundamental", and on Feb. 28 students at Buena Vista Elementary celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday and national Read Across America Day. Students were read to by our administrators, local celebrities, and community service personnel. Buena Vista believes in engaging young children with quality books in order to set the stage for creating reading magic. We acknowledge that it is the first step in building a lifelong interest in reading. Reading aloud to children changes their lives and has a very positive impact on their future achievement. Local celebrities, community service personnel and parents were invited to join Buena Vista teachers in promoting reading at the event.



Buena Vista Congratulates the Four Students that have Achieved Perfect Attendance from Kinder-5th Grade.

Renee Salas, Cesar Rodriguez, Hector Garcia, Luis Montemayor

North Heights Elementary kindergarten enjoys celebrating achievements with our staff, students and their families. The awards ceremonies for all grade levels are one way of reinforcing successful learning. These students are realizing the importance of giving their personal best at an early age.



North Heights Elementary Bookworm Night

North Heights Elementary Bookworm Night involves entire families in an evening of sharing literacy. From Dr. Seuss, to presidents, to original student authored drama. North Heights Elementary offers a wide variety of activities for our neighborhood classes. Watch for notices of our upcoming Bookworm event at North Heights Elementary!



Creating A Safer Tomorrow

The Del Rio High School UIL Academics team started off their 2013-2014 season by attending a Student Activity Conference on September 29th in Austin, Texas. While there, they learned all the new rules and regulations for the 20 academic competitions that are to be held this year. Students and Coaches were instructed by state directors about specific rules and guidelines for their events. We have competed from October to February and have ranked in the top three schools overall in all invitational meets! We wrapped up our invitational season with a first place sweepstakes on Feb 22nd. The District 29-5A Championship meet will be March 21-22 at Laredo Alexander High School. We expect for many students and teams to advance to the Region IV Championship Meet in San Antonio on May 3rd. The last four years, we have advanced to the state championship in Austin, and we have every intention of carrying on the tradition by going to state again this year. We thank the school district for their continued support!



100th Day

The students in Mrs. Rizo's and Ms. Cortez' kindergarten class "had a ball" celebrating 100 instructional days at North Heights Elementary. They brought in 100 items and used them to meet their Language Target of counting to 100. They sorted 100 little snacks and had a classroom discussion of what they would purchase if they had one hundred dollars.



Students Excel in Health and Fitness

Students at Garfield Elementary attend physical education classes three times per week for forty-five minutes. During the physical education class, students participate in rigorous physical activity that is aligned to their learning target. Units of study in physical education include: football, basketball, tennis, volleyball, softball, running and conditioning, and dance. Along with physical activity, students are asked guiding questions to promote critical thinking about their fitness and health. The activities that students participate in during physical education also prepare them for the state Fitness-Gram assessment. The Fitness-Gram assessment requires students to work at different centers on physical assessments such as: curl-ups, push-ups, stretches, trunk lift, shoulder stretch and a one mile walk/run.



Kindergarten Valentine's King & Queen Coronation

Students in Kindergarten had the opportunity to participate in the Valentine's Day King and Queen fundraiser. The selection of the King and Queen was by a penny a vote. Students and their families held different fundraisers and the students who raised the most money were honored at the parent/teacher meeting on February 14, 2014. Each participant received a prize. The Queen received a tiara, sash and bouquet of flowers and the King received a crown and sash. Runner ups received a sash with their title along with a teddy bear and a rose. Money raised will go back to the kindergarten students for different activities such as their kindergarten graduation and end of year fun day celebrations. The 2014 Kindergarten Valentine's Day Court is as follows: King-Victor De Los Reyes, Queen-Sian Meza, Prince-Dario Carrizales, Princess-Nelly Saldivar, Duke-Jaime Baldaras, Duchess-Olivia Garcia, Count-Michael Ruiz, Countess-Gabriella Fuentes



Career Awareness

Throughout the year students have been discussing college and career readiness. College and career readiness is built into the school mission statement as well as classroom mission statements. Students have been encouraged to research and study about their future possible careers. As part of our focus, all students participated in the Del Rio High School Career and Technical Education Art program. During the students art class, students did their best art representation of the career they would like to pursue. Campus winners were selected and then represented Garfield at the district level. The campus winners were: Kindergarten – Salvador Sanchez; 1st grade – Gerardo Gonzalez; 2nd grade – Magea Santana; 3rd grade – Maximiliano Moreno; 4th grade – Andrea Gallegos and 5th grade – Emmalee Diaz



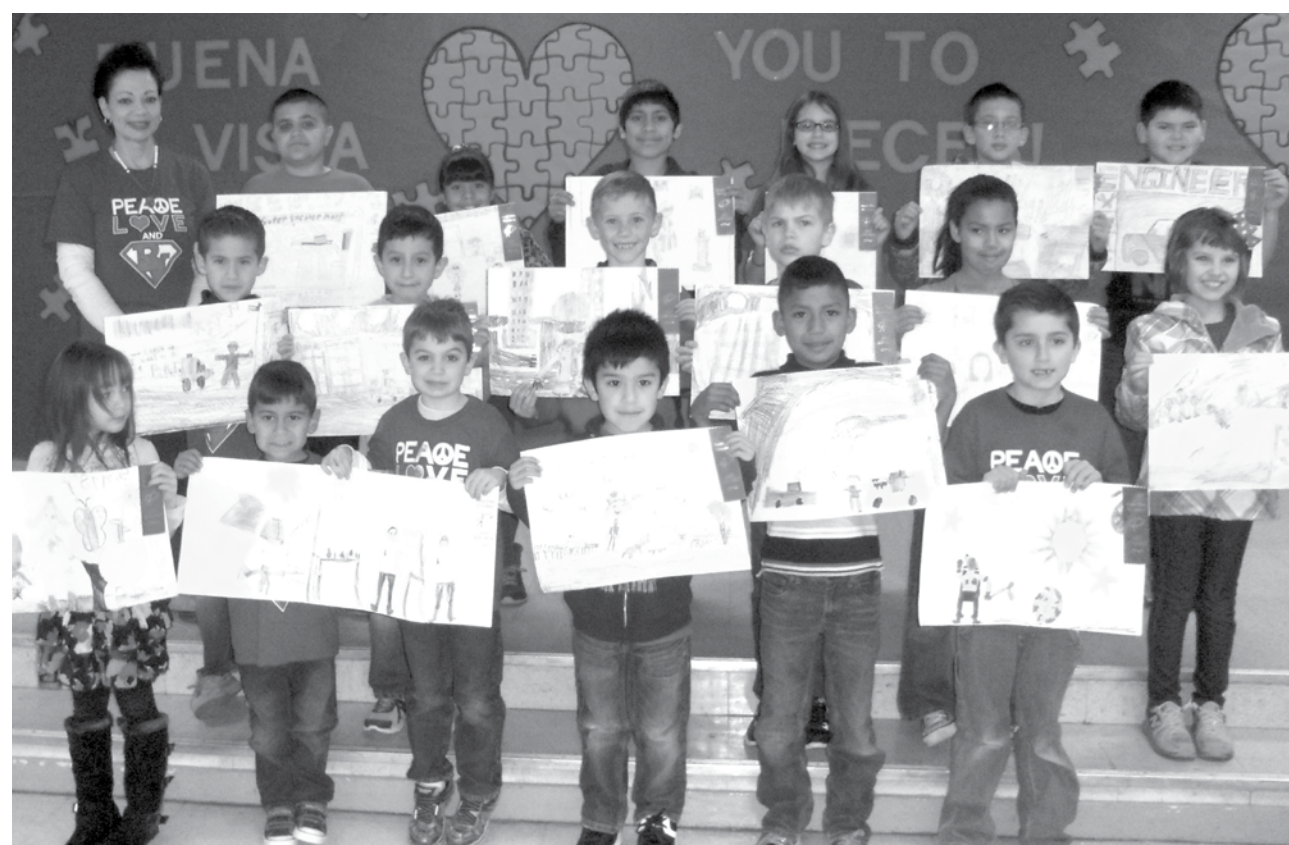
Science Mania at Del Rio Middle School

8th grade students and parents, at DRMS changed our understanding of the universe as they tested Newton's three laws of motion during their showcase. Teachers facilitated experiments for the students to demonstrate to their parents. The stage was set up to represent a science lab while Dr. Alanna Talamantez, dressed with her lab coat, directed the science show. Students also dressed in their science coats, followed the science process to prove their theories and perform for the audience at the same time. This evening was about parental involvement and enjoying SCIENCE. Parents and students enjoyed their evening and joined the fun by participating in activities with their child. The tables were set up to be individual labs for the parents to use. Another victorious performance at Del Rio Middle School!



7th Grade ELA Showcase

On February 13, 2014, staff, students, and parents in 7th grade participated in, "Greek" evening to remember. All activities depicted Greek Mythology and used language arts objectives to engage their audience. Parents and students were welcomed by their sons and daughters, some dressed in togas or their Greek shirts. The dance team performed throughout the night to Greek music. Parents enjoyed a fun-filled evening where stations were set up to target objectives such as context clues, and academic vocabulary. The showcase was held in the elaborately decorated Del Rio Middle School cafeteria. Parents joined the fun by participating in all activities with their child. There were numerous displays of students work, and Gods and Goddesses. The stage was set up where parents could take pictures with their children with the Greek Mythology backdrop. Parents were invited to participate in a toga dress up contest! Thank you to all parents for their support. The evening was about parental involvement and it was a great success!



Students at Buena Vista Elementary participated in the CTE Poster Contest-"When I Grow up...". Students showed interest in illustrating the career they wanted to have as grown-ups. Among entries were paintings, drawings, and multi-dimensional collages. Congratulations to the following winners of the CTE art contest:

KINDER: 1st place John Montalvo, 2nd place Andrea Perez, 3rd place Logan Sodsom

1ST GRADE: 1st place Nico Waller, 2nd place Joel Alderete, 3rd place Jose R. Moncivaiz

2ND GRADE: 1st place Cole Soderstrom, 2nd place Jesus Salinas, 3rd place John Paul Galan

3RD GRADE: 1st place Juliana Somogyi, 2nd place David Mills, 3rd place Nadia Cazares

4TH GRADE: 1st place Samuel Leonard, 2nd place Karen Palacios, 3rd place John David Bernal

5TH GRADE: 1st place Hannah Kabel: 2nd place Marcus Cazares: 3rd place Mark Andrews



Ruben Chavira Elementary School hosted a Veteran's Day event outside by the flagpole honoring all veterans.

Reno Luna, the RCE Student Council president, recited a poem as a tribute to the veterans and introduced some of the guests. Many local veterans were in attendance and recognized for their military service. RCE highlighted one of their own teachers, Mrs. Lynn White, for her military service before entering the teaching profession.



Very Important Parents at Ruben Chavira Elementary

Parents are an extremely important part of the school culture at RCE. The school is proud to have a group of almost 20 parents who consistently volunteer their time and talents at the school to enrich lessons and assist teachers. Parent volunteers meet in the resource room and assist teachers with lessons, activities, and other classroom preparations. The teachers and students appreciate these parents and all that they do to help our school!



Ruben Chavira Elementary School Teams Up With Sul Ross University

Ruben Chavira Elementary School is hosting Saturday Camps in March and April to help ensure student success. Sul Ross University volunteers are lending a supporting hand. Over 200 3rd – 5th grade students have been invited to attend a Saturday Camp in the area of reading, math, writing or science. Between RCE staff and several Sul Ross volunteers, students enjoy games, activities and interactive lessons geared toward increasing academic achievement. RCE is thrilled to use the talents of the community to promote learning and enthusiasm.



Parental Workshops at Ruben Chavira Elementary

Parental involvement increases student achievement. RCE routinely offers workshops for parents to take advantage of in order to stay informed on how to help their children be successful learners. On February 24th, RCE parents were invited to take part in a workshop put on by Val Verde County Library and RCE on Early Literacy. The meeting explored ways parents could encourage their young children to become lifelong readers while enjoying a spaghetti dinner at school. At RCE, we love our dedicated parents!



3rd grade students donate a recycling project to the Lamar Elementary Library.

Recycle, Reuse, And Reduce!

Mrs. Belinda Lopez, a 3rd grade teacher, began a recycling project to help beautify Lamar Elementary. Students have been collecting empty water bottles to create chandeliers. Their last project was donated to the library in an effort to promote the importance of recycling.



Kindergarteners in Mrs. Osen De Leon's class take part in activities to celebrate 100 Days of School

Celebrating 100 Days of School

Students in our kindergarten cluster celebrated 100 Days of School. Students participated in activities where they counted to 100. Students in Mrs. Osen De Leon's class showed off their counting skills throughout the day. 100 Days of School is the celebration of being in school for 100 days and marks a milestone for students and teachers alike that the school year is well over halfway completed.



Searching for Clues: DRPD Lends a Hand to Students about Being a Good Detective

Students at Lamar Elementary have been very busy engaging in exciting learning activities. Students in the 3rd grade cluster participated in an activity where they discovered how to be a detective. Officers from the Del Rio Police Department were on hand to provide information to students surrounding skills and knowledge needed in order to be a good detective. Officers Roberto Guzman, Esteban Valdez, and training cadets provided useful tips on how to be a good detective. Students have been working on researching evidence in science class to draw conclusions based on facts presented. Students from Mrs. Lisa Johnson's 3rd grade class listen as Officer Roberto Guzman gives tips on how to be a good detective.



February: Career and Technical Education Month

Career and Technical Education (CTE) started off the month with a bang by participating in the grand opening of the CTE/Fine Arts Exhibit Center in Plaza del Sol mall. CTE Student Ambassadors were present to share information about each of the 13 career clusters and student work was displayed. The Exhibit Center is open every weekend for community members to learn more about our programs. During the second and third weeks of the month, CTE held three course fairs for freshman students, eighth grade students, and for parents and members of the community. This was done, in large part, to educate incoming freshman on the choices they will have for endorsements. The new graduation plan created by House Bill 5 will require all incoming Freshmen to select one of five endorsements. Three of the options are directly related to CTE courses and career pathways: Business and Industry, Public Services, and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). For more information on the courses offered through CTE, please view our CTE video on the school district website: www.sfdr-cisd.org <<http://www.sfdr-cisd.org>> .



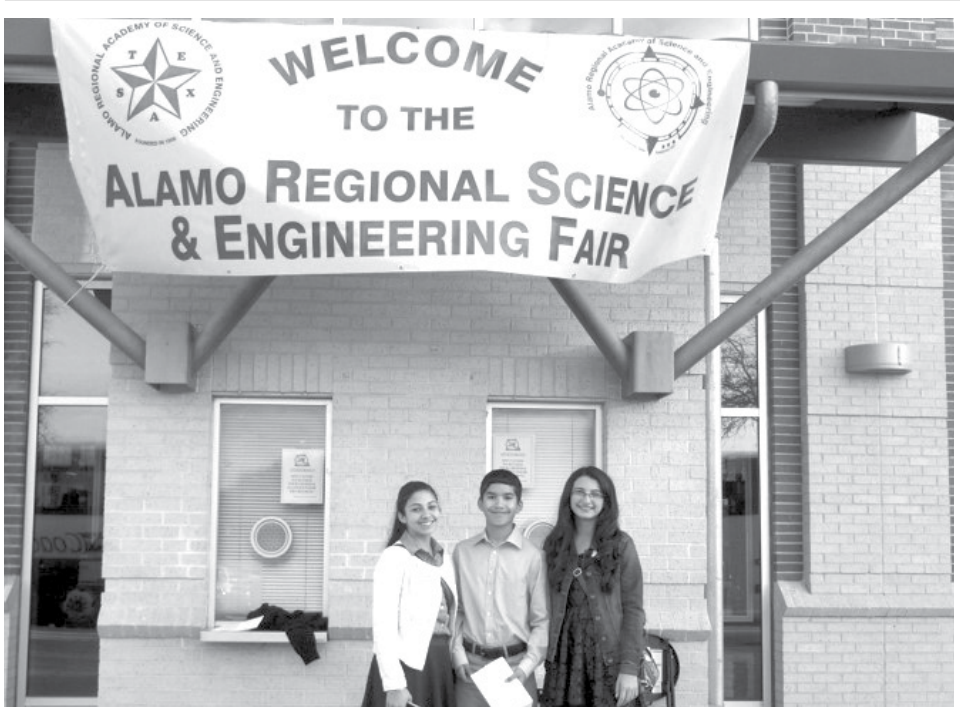
Freshman Students Preparing for College

This past February, a group of Freshman students participated in a college tour at Texas A&M International University (TAMIU) in Laredo. This trip was sponsored by the GEAR UP program. Upon arrival to the campus, the university's greeting committee welcomed the students with a Texas sized banner. The students enjoyed several fun activities related to college readiness, study abroad programs, and the campus organizations. The planetarium on campus presented a 3D galaxy show. Students also enjoyed a tour of Laredo's Center of the Arts and Webb County Heritage Museum.



Freshman Students Excel at V.A.S.E.

This year's Art I students under the direction of Mrs. Calvetti participated in VASE (Visual Art Scholastic Event) which is under the supervision and direction of the Texas Art Education Association (TAEA). A group of twelve students from Del Rio Freshman participated in the event and seven students were awarded a top score. The purpose of the event is to recognize student achievement in visual art through individual and original expression of ideas. This year's contest was held in Brady, Texas.



Freshman Students at Regional Science Fair

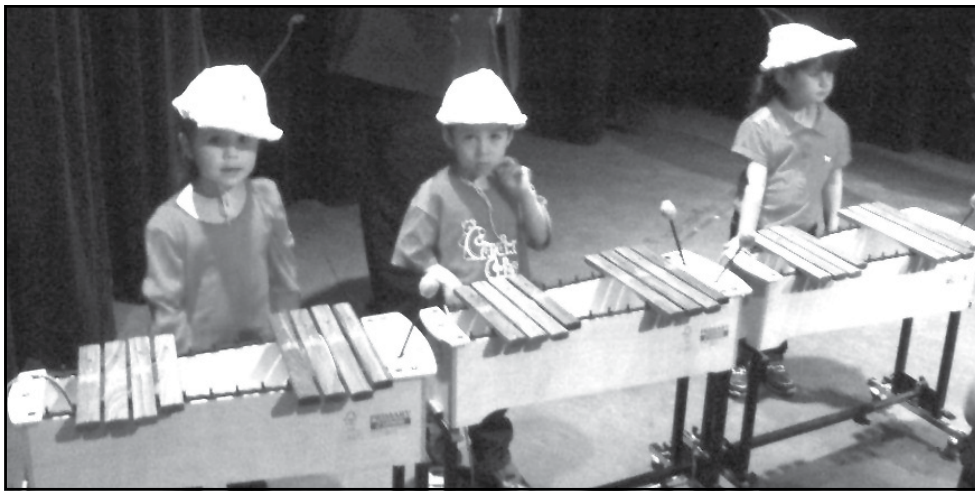
Three students from Del Rio Freshman advanced to the Alamo Regional Science and Engineering Fair which was held March 2-4, 2014 at St. Mary's University in San Antonio, TX. These students participated in the Senior Division in the following categories: Joshua Lopez – Math and Computer Science, Rhyne Gallegos – Behavioral Science and Valeria Faz – Medicine and Health. Joshua Lopez was awarded 4th place for his entry. Their Biology I Pre-AP teacher is Mrs. Melva Cortez.



Freshman FCCLA Members in Action

Del Rio Freshman Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) members have been hard at work since competing at Regionals in January. Members Jada Hudson, Ashley Robles, Tiffany Gonzalez, and Logan Medow have worked together to educate their peers on various issues that teenagers face, such as bullying and self-esteem. The Del Rio Freshman FCCLA members are planning an upcoming workshop called "The Selfie Project". The project was inspired by Dove and members plan to use it to encourage their peers to accept themselves for the unique and beautiful individuals that they are so that they don't feel pressured to ignore behaviors such as bullying. With social media and mobile web giving rise to the phenomenon called the "Selfie", FCCLA members decided that they would take advantage of how young people use "Selfies" to get a self-esteem boost and teaching them how to redefine beauty and feel more comfortable with their appearance through the use of self-portraits or "Selfies".

Cardwell Presents the Empowered Mind of the Young Child at the Paul Poag Theater



A Night to Remember

On the evening of March 5th the Cardwell children presented a showcase of success in the integration of music, math, and science. The presentations included a showcase of talent from the following three and four year old classrooms: Mr. Don Olivo, Miss Flor Romo, Ms. Melinda Brijalba, Mrs. Elizabeth De La Mota, Mrs. Alva Nieto, Mrs. Juanita Sandoval, Mr. Jose Nieto, and Miss Vanessa Luna.

Teen Pan/Steel Drum at Cardwell

Reyna J. Sandoval, a student in Mr. J. Nieto's classroom, played the steel pan drum as the grand finale at the Paul Poag Showcase on March 5th. The steel pan is a musical instrument, created in the Caribbean Island of Trinidad in the 1930's. Cardwell is the only school in the school district to utilize it as a tool to teach students rhythm, pattering and letter recognition.



CARDWELL FOURTH ANNUAL TOP CHEF AND FIRST ANNUAL BAKING COMPETITION

Cafeteria, instructional, parental, and office staff were challenged to cook a nutritious dish low in sodium, fat, and preservatives. The overall goal was to share tasty recipes to stay fit and healthy.



CARDWELL DADDY & ME WALK/ CROSS COUNTRY MEET

The special guests of this year's Cross Country Meet was Coach Ric Smith and members of the Cross Country Team. Over 190 fathers, grandfathers, uncles, and stepfathers kicked-off the event by participating in the Daddy and Me Walk. The event's overall goal is to instill the love of physical activity at home and perhaps to recruit the future DRHS Cross Country Team.



Honor Student Council Campus Clean up

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 winter the student council helped pass out water to runners that participated in the MDA 5K run/walk. The students also helped with clean-up duties after the event. They also held a campus clean-up to beautify their school. These students are dedicated to grow as leaders by giving back to both the community and their school.



Dr. Seuss Week

The community at Dr. Lonnie Green Elementary took time to recognize Dr. Seuss' life and books during the week of March 3 – March 7, 2014. Each day students and staff celebrated one of Dr. Seuss' works along with a fun activity for the day. On Monday, the focus was a book titled Green Eggs and Ham. Students were encouraged to wear green that day. On Tuesday, the hallways were red and blue like the book One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish was the focus. Silly hair and silly hats were the theme on Wednesday, in recognition of the book titled The Cat in The Hat. Students wore silly socks on Thursday to highlight the book titled Fox in Socks. On Friday, students wore pajamas as Horton Hears a Who was the celebrated book.



100 Days of school Celebration

Kindergarten students at Dr. Lonnie Green Elementary celebrated the 100th day of school. The teachers and staff created many counting activities for the students that lined the hallways in the Kindergarten section of the school. Students worked on counting, sorting, and grouping 100 articles at each of the stations. The students were encouraged to bring in 100 items to display. Student were creative in the creation of their displays. Some students brought in clothing decorated with 100 items. Other students brought in posters decorated with 100 items as well.