

Sunray Middle School

Principal's Report

March 2015

➤ Student trip to Washington, D.C.

During our spring break, Mrs. Pipkin led a group of students and adults on an educational trip to Washington, D.C. There were eight students and six adults in the group. It was an action-filled four days of touring the famous war memorials, Arlington National Cemetery, the National Archives, Capitol Hill, the Lincoln Memorial, Jefferson Memorial, the Library of Congress, Mount Vernon, and more. Much was learned about the history of our country and the men and women that have helped to shape it. Memories were created that will last a lifetime. Many thanks to Mrs. Pipkin for doing all that she does to give these experiences to our students.

➤ Mrs. Carney led a workshop at Region 16

Katherine Carney recently was asked to lead a workshop at the Region 16 site on Bell Street in Amarillo. She led classroom teachers in preparing a dynamic set of review lessons to thoroughly prepare students for the upcoming STAAR math tests. Each teacher that attended went back to their classrooms with plans for three weeks of review and preparation to help their students succeed on the Math STAAR tests.

➤ Outstanding Speaker Coming for Middle School Girls

Mrs. Brandy Hollaway, 7th grade ELAR teacher, has been concerned this school year about the number of girls that we have in Junior High that seem to have low self-esteem or are victims of mean acts from other girls. She approached the PTO about helping to fund a speaker to visit with the middle school girls about issues they face in public school settings. The PTO members agreed that young girls need a positive model and motivating persona to which they can look for answers and direction. We will have one dance (hopefully May 2) to help raise a portion of the funds, and the PTO has agreed to finish out the expense. Keisha Howard, a passionate speaker and girls' self-esteem enthusiast, will be visiting our middle school the first week of May. She is the founder of Pearl Girls and a certified teacher in Texas. She attended the University of North Texas and is also a certified school counselor. If you wish to know more, her website is www.coachkeisha.com.

➤ Teachers and students working hard for STAAR

All of our teachers involved with the tested subject areas as well as the support staff are working diligently to prepare for STAAR. Teachers are making the most of each moment of instruction and scheduling after-school tutorials for students in need of extra help.