

Stuck in a Rut?

By David Truitt, Superintendent

By now, I think everyone in town knows that I love Chick-fil-a. For me, it's not just the chicken, waffle fries, and tasty lemonade, but also their desire to serve and go the "Second Mile" for their customers. I love how each and every employee says "my pleasure" after taking an order. In a listserv email I received a few weeks ago, education blogger, George Couros, emailed out a link to a new Chick-fil-a commercial. It wasn't the traditional "Eat more Chicken" cows, but a spin on how we can sometimes get complacent in our lives and forget to "stop and smell the roses."

In this commercial, Tom, a Chick-fil-a employee, is "stuck in a rut" in the employee breakroom. To make their point, Tom is literally standing in a large chasm dug deep into the carpet. The other employees are coming in and out to get coffee and breakfast and are pretty much ignoring him. Life is just passing Tom by while he hangs out in his rut sipping coffee and missing out on the idea that chicken is a delicious option for breakfast. Obviously, he is oblivious to his predicament, and even states that he "...thought it was a groove." His coworker responds, "Classic rut thinking." Ha, I love it!

Chick-fil-a always gets me thinking about my life and our school district and work. This commercial just reinforced for me how easy it is for educators and even our families and students to get in a "rut" this time of year. We may think we are in a groove, but like the commercial said... that is classic rut thinking. You see, we are between the Easter Break and the end of school with the state's STAAR tests just around the corner. Our dual credit McLennan Community College final exams and semester exams are coming fast as well. The days start to drag for some as we get caught up dreaming about the summer break and our vacation plans. Future time at the Playdium Pool, fishing, and different summer camps consume our minds over the pertinent math, English, science, and social studies lessons.

It is easy to get stuck in a "rut" this time of year, and all the while we thought we were in a groove. The 2016-2017 school year will be over before we know it. My heart's desire for everyone in the community is that we "finish strong" with the best interest of all of our students at the forefront of our hearts, minds, and work. Also, I think it is important that we "stop and smell roses" and enjoy the many exciting activities and events happening all across West ISD.

If you are feeling like "Tom" and like you are "stuck in a rut", here are a few ideas to get you focused again on the prize and finishing the school year on a strong note. First, the West High School baseball and softball teams are once again finishing up championship seasons. With the playoffs just around the corner, you can come out to our new turf fields at the high school campus to watch a game. The area track meet is upon us as well. Next, our fine arts programs will be showcased throughout the month of May. From theater performances to choir concerts to band events, the talents and gifts of our amazing students will be on full display in our new auditorium. We have even scheduled a STEM Showcase for Monday, May 8. Third, Prom is on Saturday, April 22, in our new cafeteria, followed by our Top 10% Senior Breakfast on Friday, April 28, at First Baptist. West Elementary is set to host "Muffins with Mom" on Thursday, May 16, and Baccalaureate is on the calendar for Sunday, May 21. Fourth, we have Awards Ceremonies for the High School on May 8 and Middle School on May 22. Finally, we have our Brookhaven Graduation scheduled for 2:00 PM on Wednesday, May 24, Kindergarten Graduation at 9:30 AM on Thursday, May 25, and West High School Graduation at 2:00 PM on Saturday, May 27, at Baylor University.

You name it... it's happening in West ISD over the next month. If you are stuck in rut, let the Trojans help you hit your groove. There are incredible things happening in West ISD, and we would love for you to be a part of the fun. Stop by and cheer on our kids!