

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

COMMERCE ISD E-LETTER • DECEMBER 5, 2008

After-school program captivates students

Walking up and down the rows of students clad in the traditional dress of Tae Kwon Do devotees, Instructor Scott Compton engages each one in conversation as they perform their warm-up stretches. Compton is in his second year teaching Tae Kwon Do every Wednesday as part of the Commerce Middle School's 21st Century Learning Center Grant after-school program.

This class along with classes in cooking, global positioning satellite systems, quilting, theatre arts and piano keyboarding have engaged students for the past five years and helped them cope with the hours after school before their parents arrive home.

Although most classes are taught by CMS teachers, the Tae Kwon Do classes are lead by Compton of S & S Martial Arts, whose home is in Commerce. Maribeth Nottingham, a former CISD teacher, is the campus manager for the program.

CMS has received approximately \$700,000 during the past five years to purchase materials and equipment, including laptops and other technology.



Jewelry making is another fun class in the after-school program.



Students learn the skills to advance to the next level of Tae Kwon Do in Commerce Middle School's after-school program.

KETR proves 'kids say the darndest things'

Tune in to KETR 88.9 FM to hear CES and ACW students answer thought-provoking questions about the holiday season. The station will use the sound bites in programming leading up to Christmas.



First-grader Maggie Robinson says she knows a lot about reindeers because she has a reindeer dictionary.



Dalton Hampton, second grader, thinks that one reindeer is named Caliop and he wants Santa to bring an electric ATV.

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Giving spirit alive and well at CISD



Above, CHS students Hunter Rumbaugh, Kyle Woodson, Kyle Putman and Peyton Young add cans to the CHS drive.

As the holidays grow nearer, the District is filled with the giving spirit. Thanks to many different organizations, community members have multiple opportunities to give back.

The first of these charities at Commerce High School is Operation Christmas Child. Operation Christmas Child has been in operation since 1993 and gives Christmas presents to underprivileged children all around the world. This year CHS was challenged to participate. Each person takes a shoebox and fills it with small gifts such as coloring books, stickers, socks, and school supplies appropriate for a boy or a girl.

There is also a fundraiser at CHS for Friends of Rachel — the Turkey Leg Vote. There are pictures of six turkeys and each turkey has the legs of a different administrator on them. Each picture has a bucket underneath it and the students vote via spare change on which pair of legs they like the most. The proceeds go toward different Friends of Rachel activities.

Clothe-A-Child is a countywide project with a goal of providing clothing to 1887 children at Christmas and throughout the year as needs arise. Commerce organizer Belinda Miller says they still need about \$2000 to meet their goal.

“Commerce has made a great contribution to the project. It has exceeded my expectation,” Miller said.

Volunteers and members of the CHS National Honor Society will meet at Wal-Mart at 6 a.m. December 11 to help children select clothing. Each student gets \$50 worth of clothing and Wal-Mart gives the organization a \$5 discount for each child.

Adopt a Soldier is also going on at CHS. Adopt a Soldier is a volunteer-based program that connects deployed soldiers with people back home. Students and their families may bring up different items of need such as drinks, food, candy, health products, and miscellaneous items such as batteries and gum for the soldiers overseas. The students then put in newspaper clippings from their hometowns along with a note of thanks. The soldiers love any news from the outside world.

Canned food drives also take place on several campuses. Students bring nonperishable items to school and these items are taken to the local food pantry for distribution to needy families. CES holds their canned food drive in May to help families during a time when resources are limited.

—Contributions by Cristan Shamburger, CHS senior



CMS students collected 780 cans for their drive. Here National Junior Honor Society members boxed the goods for the Lion's Club to pick up.

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Above left, “Big Daddy” Knox demonstrates his guitar picking mastery for CES students.

Above right, “Blue Shoes” Dyson explains how the electric guitar was derived from the kora, an early 21-string instrument played in West Africa.



Elementary students sing the blues during assembly

All the music we love today had its beginning with the blues, according to Michael “Blue Shoes” Dyson and Marquise “Big Daddy” Knox, members of The Blue Shoe Project, which visited elementary students in early December.

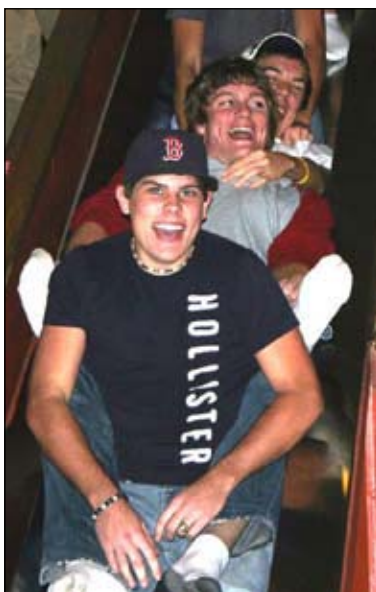
Music teacher Angela Neal brought the young men to the school by way of a grant from the Commerce Schools Educational Enrichment Foundation (CSEEF).

Students learned that the blues had roots in West Africa and the people brought their memories of the sound and the instruments to the South.

Children enjoyed the sound of the electric guitar and the harmonica and they joined in singing, “The Blues had a baby and they called it Rock ‘n Roll.”

Neal will expand on the presentation by reading books about jazz at CES and creating centers for projects at ACW.

Last year, members of the Fort Worth Opera also visited elementary students through funds provided by the CSEEF.



The annual senior trip to Trail Dust Steakhouse in Mesquite allows students and staff to enjoy a kicked-back good time.



Traditional holiday programs continue to be a highlight of the season. Here, Sara McCarthy’s prekindergarten class pretended to be elves.

*School Holidays
December 22-Jan. 2
January 19-20*