

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

COMMERCE ISD E-LETTER • NOVEMBER 14, 2008



Principal Julia Robinson (center) introduces the candidates as Republican Philip Weise and Democrat Matt Hargrove



The Chief Supreme Court Justice, Lisa Coffey, swears in the newly elected president Philip Weise.



As delegates to the electoral college, students voted in their home state.

How to elect a president, ACW style

On Election Day, A.C. Williams Elementary School students were led through the entire election process. It's a learning opportunity that only comes around every four years and students are fortunate to experience it at ACW.

Students learned about the different political parties from Harriet Williams, counselor. Principal Julia Robinson explained the process of national conventions and candidates Philip Weise, (Republican) dressed as Uncle Sam, and Matt Hargrove (Democrat) explained their party's platform. Students could give pretend money to fill the campaign coffers to purchase air time and ad space to get the candidate's message out through the media.

The candidates participated in a debate on education and detailed what they thought would enhance the learning experience. Students could then use their voter registration card to cast votes as delegates to the electoral college by sticking a sticker on the huge U.S. map.

At the end of the day, election results were revealed as the shaded U.S. map showed more red states than blue. Teacher Lisa Coffey, acting as the chief supreme court justice, swore in the newly elected president. Students then learned about Francis Scott Key, the author of the Star Spangled Banner, and they sang three patriotic songs. It's doubtful that more patriotism could be packed into a single day!

Eighth graders visit TAMU-C for Veterans' event

On Friday Nov. 7th, eighth grade students were able to participate in the Texas A&M-Commerce Veteran's Vigil. This year's vigil honored the Coast Guard. Students heard Robyn Hollis of the Veterans Vigil Committee speak about the U.S. Coast Guard and the history of the Vigil. Betty Rogers Bryant spoke in honor of her father WWII POW/MIA. After the opening ceremony students broke into smaller groups

and were able to speak with Veterans from WWII, Korea and Vietnam. Susan Laning also spoke to students about Audie Murphy and his contributions in WWII. After speaking with veterans, the students visited the vigil site and were given an explanation of the different memorial pieces on display. Students then took a few moments to remember the veterans, MIA/POWs.



Left to right Kristen Yates, Dylan Borders, Thomas Horn, Mr. Mike Spaight (US Air Force Retired), Bianca Barrentos, Nancy Hernandez, and Mirley Vicente

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Above, CHS students Benn May (left) and Caitlin Ferrell (right) assist Mad Scientist and Chemistry Teacher Susan Erwin conduct an experiment.



Susan Erwin lets students feel the heat generated in the glass as the penny dissolved.

Magical scientific experiments entrance students

With her caldron steaming, Commerce High School chemistry teacher Susan Erwin showed her students that learning chemistry can be a lot like performing a magic show. “Magicians are really good at chemistry and physics,” she said, decked out in her mad scientist lab coat. “Chemistry is not magic. Magic is chemistry,” she added.

The chemistry and biology students sat mesmerized to see chemical reactions involving dry ice, carbonic acid and a common copper penny. The students talked about chemical and physical changes and watched the penny dissolve in an exothermic reaction.

She encouraged students to believe that they could do anything that they wanted to do. She explained, “In high school, I was told I was too dumb to take chemistry. Now look at me, I’m teaching it.”



Susan Lampe’s kindergarten students had a surprise visit November 3 from Wuzzy Bear. Wuzzy explained in a letter how he would visit often to help students learn about how to take care of their bodies, especially when they don’t feel well. The curriculum, which will be used in all kindergarten classes, was introduced by CISD Health Services Director Jennifer Speulda who saw a need for children to learn why they get bellyaches, earaches and other common childhood maladies. The students were excited to meet Wuzzy and eager to hug him at the end of the lesson.

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Grooming Lil' Tigers for greatness

Commerce Elementary School students visited Commerce High School to experience a real high school pep rally and CHS students didn't disappoint their young fans. The festivities of Halloween added to the spirited event.

CHS students were rewarded for good behavior and were allowed to dress in Halloween costumes.



Special bowlers bring home awards

The Life Skills classes from Commerce High School and A.C. Williams Elementary School brought home several medals from the Special Olympic Bowling Competition in Dallas on October 30.

Gold medal winners were Brian Dalton and Amery Cantera at ACW. Gold medal winners at CHS were Laquintes Day, Clint Sneed, Haley Perry, Justin Johnson and Antonio Hearn.

Silver medal winners at ACW were Sarah Taylor, Sasi Lewis, Jeremiah Edington, and Anthony Frey. Silver medalist for CHS was Julius Brown and bronze medalist was Elmer Crosby.

There were also two athletes that came home with fourth place ribbons—Bobby Edwards at the High School and Kiieren Cantera at A. C Williams.

The athletes were coached by Cyndi Edington, Misty Belcher and September Estrada at Commerce High School and by Tricia Dempsey, Brenda Kelly and Jennifer Lawwill at A. C. Williams Elementary School.

The athletes pictured are from A. C. Williams Elementary and were awarded special congratulations gifts made by the Commerce High School "Tiger PAWS. Floral, Horticulture and Gifts." They are: (back row) Brian Dalton, Sasi Lewis, Sarah Taylor and Amery Cantera; (front row) Kiieren Cantera, Anthony Frey and Jeremiah Edington.

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KUDOS!

Individual band members excel



▲ Senior Alex Castro (above) has won the honor of being a member of the All-State Jazz Band. Alex will perform with the band in San Antonio February 11–14. Four students, Raevaughn Cook, Jordin Bolin, Cody Mann and Alex Castro, performed with the Area Jazz Band in Quinlan November 10–11.



▲ Seniors JenAnne Shumway and Allie Stauffer were named best AAA Drum Majors at the Plano Marching Festival, October 11.

Ag students bring home State Fair awards

CHS FFA members represented Commerce well at the 2008 State Fair of Texas. Toby Humphries won Reserve Grand Champion in the Ag



Mechanics contest with his 1956 Ferguson tractor. The Commerce FFA 20-ft gate was second overall in its division.

Commerce FFA also exhibited livestock where students had a strong

showing against tough competition. Ashley Kanaman exhibited a market goat in the tough heavyweight division and was tenth out of 51 exhibitors. According to sponsor Mike Lilley, she did an outstanding job in the show ring with showmanship and slowly worked her way to the top of the class. Patrick Vickery exhibited two heifers in the Junior Heifer Show. He brought home third and fifth place honors.

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Upcoming student holidays

Thanksgiving week : November 24–28

Christmas Holidays : December 22–Jan. 2