

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

COMMERCE ISD E-LETTER • OCTOBER 15, 2009



*Kindergarten student
Christian Woods places
an apple on the graph
made by his classmates in
Heather Kilgore's room.*

Efforts focus on math and science

With English/language arts and social studies scores reaching the Recognized or Exemplary levels, increasing math and science scores is a top priority across all campuses of Commerce ISD. Steps taken to enhance instruction in those areas include new assessment tools and instructional resources.

The Commerce Curriculum is based on C-Scope, a customized web-based curriculum that helps teachers design lesson plans and activities that are aligned with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). By following the set curriculum, teachers can avoid gaps in instruction and ensure that they are teaching concepts that are tested on the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS).

Safari Montage allows teachers to access a huge database of instructional videos including titles from PBS, The History Channel, National Geographic, Scholastic, Disney Education, BBC and Sesame Street. Teachers can easily search for and show entire programs or small video clips to demonstrate the exact concept they are teaching.

Other resources such as Study Island, Gizmos, Math Solutions and Voyager are used as learning tools to engage 21st century learners.

Assessment tools such as DMAC and the Texas Math and Science Diagnostic System help teachers know what knowledge students have missed to determine a direction for future lessons.

Staff development opportunities are offered after school two days a week to help teachers keep abreast on the latest opportunities to help students succeed.



*New labs at A.C. Williams
Elementary School allow
students access to a safe
environment for scientific
studies. Here, fifth grader Patrick
Williams observes a mixture to
determine if it is a solution.*



**Exemplary
Expectations**



*Left: Stephanie Hall
demonstrates the space elevator
produced in the Scientific
Research and Design class
taught by Wes Roberts at CHS.*

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CMS Student Council members sponsored the canned food drive at their school. Left to right clockwise are eighth graders Chayne Ellyson, Billy McDonald, Bailee Mulcahy, Logan Talley, Myron Fisher, Laney Davidson, McKenna Sims and Kealand Dirks.

Senior Kyle Putman rolled up his sleeve to give blood during the recent drive to benefit a seven-month-old child.

Helping others comes second nature at CISD

Every year various campus organizations and entire campuses join in activities to benefit people in need. Already this year canned food drives and blood drives have been undertaken with great success.

CMS students surpassed their goal of gathering 1000 cans to give to the First Presbyterian Church food bank. The eighth grade class gets to wear pajamas to school one day as their prize for gathering the most cans.

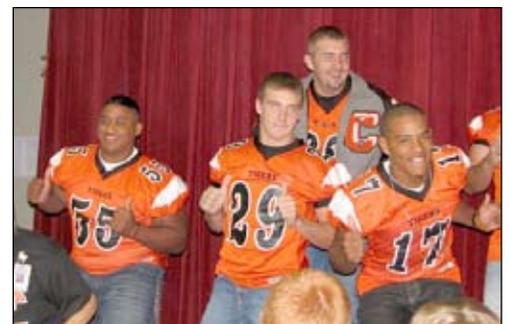
A blood drive benefitting seven-month-old Walker Rainey was held at CHS. Carter BloodCare reported that 100 units were donated.

Other activities will be held throughout the district to help people in need as the holidays approach. Clothe-a-Child donations are being accepted by Belinda Miller at CES. The Friends of Rachel Club and the NHS will help with shopping Dec. 9 and 10.



Tiger football players visit CES

Tiger football players returned to their roots as they visited opening assembly at Commerce Elementary School. The high school students joined in the pledges and sang patriotic songs with the young students. Highlights of the morning were visits to classrooms for breakfast and remembering the “Tooty Ta” song.



Tigers never quit singing the “Tooty Ta” song. Football team members join in the CES morning assembly.

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National Honor Society inducts new members

The annual “tamping” of new National National Society was held in late September where senior members went class to class notifying students that they had qualified for induction into NHS. On October 5, 34 new members were formally inducted into the NHS.

NHS plans to participate in the Mother-Son Pirate Adventure at the Children’s Museum, Clothe-a-Child, Daddy/Daughter Dance, Big Brother/Big Sister and Relay for Life this year.

Left to right:

Front row:

*Hannah Stotts
Kaitlin Kitchens
Jennifer Velez
Caitlin Yoakum
Elizabeth Tarrant
Rubi Reyna
Lisa Khauu
Molly McDaniel
Catie Selvaggi
Araceli Cabrera
Elizbeth Canzoneri
Sheyla Alvarez*

Second row:

*Ashley Kanaman
Mary Taggart
Jerry Borja
Ilse Hernandez
Shelby McDaniel*

Third Row:

*Nigel Benne
Cheyanne Pattterson
Morgan Morrison
Brandi Elder
Danielle Essix
MaKenzie Ellison*

Elizabeth Jang

*Tamine Chagerben
Levi Muniz*

Fourth row:

*Stephanie Hall
Chelsey Watley
Macy Sims
Kadie Hays
Alex Worley
Daniel Starks
Sierra Patel
Louis Parra
Tadarious Hawkins
Tyler Wells*

Fifth row

*Kody Miles
Payton Moreland
Austin Draughn
Michael Naizer
Victor Masten
Jose Jopez
Jason Anthraper*

Communities In Schools hires CES case manager

Nancy Laws is the new Communities In Schools Dallas Region case manager at Commerce Elementary School.

With Laws in place at CES, each CISD campus now has its own CISDR case manager.

Laws says she looks forward to working with Principal Bobbie Thurman to determine how CISDR can help students at the school.

"The best thing about CIS is that we don't just reach out to students. We help their entire family. Student needs are met to help them achieve academically and become productive citizens," Laws said.

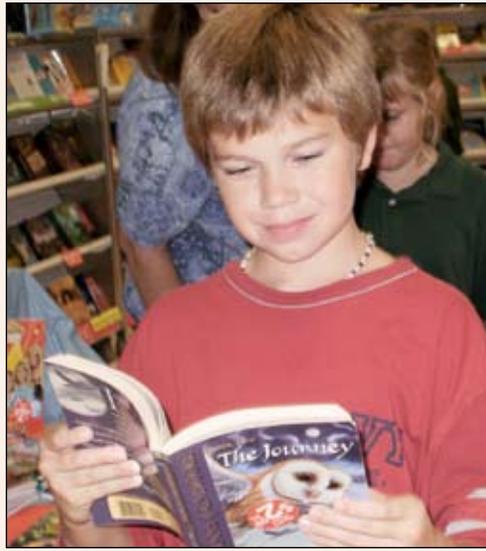
Laws most recently was at Celeste ISD where she taught special education students for five years. Prior to that she taught at DeSoto High School. Laws was a social studies teacher at Commerce Middle School for 15 years.



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Family Reading Night a success at ACW

Over one hundred parents attended the Family Reading Night at A. C. Williams Elementary School October 13. The school kicked off its Families Reading Every Day (FRED) program which encourages students to develop life-long reading habits. Parents and students could also purchase books in the library.



Luke Hooten chose a new book from the vast assortment available at the ACW Scholastic Book Fair, which will be held through October 19.

Band boosters host invitational marching contest

Thirteen bands from 1A to 3A schools participated in the first Northeast Texas Marching Invitational Contest held at Texas A&M University-Commerce, October 7. The CHS Band Boosters staged the event hoping to raise funds and provide additional marching opportunities for small school bands.

Best in class awards were given and although Commerce received the best rating possible, they were not eligible for a best in class award because they were hosting the event.

Over 900 students participated, bringing friends and family to the university campus. The A&M-C band performed before winners were named.

Band booster member Karen Starks, who helped organize the event, said it was a wonderful opportunity for the university to showcase its new music building and its marching band program. "We very much appreciate the university allowing us to use their facilities," she said.

Districts such as North Lamar, Farmersville, Cooper, Leonard, Atlanta, Scurry-Rosser, Kaufman and Kemp participated.



CMS grillers

Assistant Principal Jason Tharp, left, and Principal Patrick Just grilled hamburgers for the students and staff just because they wanted to. Thanks to the CMS PTO for providing funds for staff meals.