

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

COMMERCE ISD E-LETTER • DECEMBER 9, 2009



The Central Office shares in the fun as Executive Secretary Bonnie Hunter decorates a Tiger Christmas tree.

Holiday Concerts

CHS Band, Dec. 10, 7 p.m.

CMS Band, Dec. 15, 7 p.m.
Spaghetti Dinner
Fundraiser, 5 to 7 p.m.



**Exemplary
Expectations**

CISD prepares for the holidays

It's a season of celebration around CISD campuses as students and teachers mix a little holiday fun with their regular studies. Decking the halls and helping others in need are important activities this time of year.

Students will be dismissed at 1 p.m. December 18 for the holidays.

Classes will resume January 5.



Kindergarten students find small prizes left by Sinter Klaas in their shoes, just like children in the Netherlands.



Each ACW student designed artwork to display on their helping hands Christmas tree.

The FFA entry (with teacher Chase Tyndell, left) won the prize for the best float in the annual Commerce Christmas Parade held December 3.



CES Holiday Store open

Each year the CES PTO stocks and mans a holiday store for children wanting to buy inexpensive gifts for friends and family. It's open daily from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

The ACW Life Skills Class will also operate a Holiday Store December 9, 10 and 14.

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Middle school fundraisers win fun afternoon

Commerce Middle School students who sold more than 10 cookie dough items were treated to an afternoon of fun and games by Principal Patrick Just. Laser tag, giant hamster balls and video games were available for students to enjoy.



Gamers flocked to the Games2U van which was equipped with student video favorites at CMS.



Principal Patrick Just swears this giant hamster ball (above) is not a new form of CMS discipline, but it is just one of the activities students enjoyed December 1.

Lion's Club mobile eye clinic visits CISD

A total of 26 students, staff and community members received free eye exams and glasses courtesy of Lions Club International. District 2-X1 provides the mobile clinic and visits Commerce two times a year to help children see better.



Clockwise from upper left: Jack Euwer, Dr. Joel Elsten, Tony Nixon, Larry Towne.

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District Improvement Committee studies parent involvement, 10-11 calendar

The District Improvement Committee which is made up of parents, staff and business and community representatives met in early December to look at ways to increase parent involvement and discuss the 2010-2011 school calendar.

When asked to list current opportunities for parents at school, the group was pleased to acknowledge many events are already taking place.

Overcoming parents' impressions of school based on their prior experiences was noted as an obstacle to parent involvement. Lack of transportation, lessened interest as a child approaches high school and the busyness of society as a whole were also cited as contributing to parents not becoming involved in their children's schooling.

Additional days were built into the proposed 2010-2011 school calendar for staff development activities. Superintendent Blake Cooper discussed the possibility of having an optional extended year where students who had passed the TAKS would be released up to 10 days early or throughout the school year to give teachers more time to help struggling students and also offer an incentive to students to put their best effort forward.

FFA members participate in leadership events, shows

The Commerce FFA participated in the Area Leadership Development Events at Crowley High School. Two Commerce teams placed tenth in their events — Chelsi Green in Junior Creed Speaking and the Radio Team including Elizabeth Tarrant, Ashley Stegall and Macey McQueary.

Ashley Kanaman, Grayson Dykes and Blake Madewell have been showing animals at various shows and have won several ribbons. Tyler Humphries showed his bench at the Texas State Fair.



Julia Robinson, Director of Curriculum, Special Programs and Grants, talks with parents Marie Humphries and Niesje Cooper about ideas to get parents involved in their child's education.

The CHS Theatre Department presented "Unwrapped," a play by Charles Lovett. The dinner theatre production was well received during its two-performance run. At left, students perform to Michael Jackson's 'Thriller.'



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Commerce Middle School hosted its first Masquerade Ball on December 4. Over 200 students attended and Jabaree Jackson and Laney Davidson were named Mr. and Miss CMS.

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Clothe-A-Child volunteers plan early morning shopping

Volunteers will gather at Wal-Mart at 5:30 a.m. Wednesday, December 9, to help around 400 children each select \$50 worth of clothing in this year's Clothe-A-Child project. Commerce project coordinator Belinda Miller says more families than ever are being helped by the generosity of others.

CMS weight room moved to new location

Strength training just got a lot safer and more convenient for Commerce Middle School athletes and their coaches. A recent move from the old fieldhouse behind A. C. Williams Elementary School to the converted food service warehouse behind CMS is saving in transportation costs and also providing an enlarged area for the strength building program, according to Coach Robert Wallace.



How many gumdrops does it take?

Students assembled gingerbread houses in Karen Davis' classroom. Ms. Davis was as excited as the children as she gathered the ingredients.

State of the art



CISD Director of Technology Al Shipp and Commerce Middle School Librarian Kathy Campbell prepare laptops for classroom distribution. A total of 140 laptops, 140 Promethean Boards and 170 projectors have recently been installed in Commerce classrooms with funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Every teacher in a core subject area has access to this state-of-the-art technology, with most other teachers having access as well.