

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

COMMERCE ISD E-LETTER • MARCH 11, 2009



CHS staff Kathern Aimes and Ron Dizer were honored as Woman of the Year and Man of the Year.



Rev. Aleze Fulbright asked CHS students to "upgrade" their lives.



The CHS Choir of Hope sang "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing" and "A Change Gonna Come."



Exemplary Expectations

Black history celebrated at CHS and CMS

The celebration of Black History Month across CISD was even more meaningful this year as Martin Luther King's dream became reality when Barack Obama was elected 44th president of the United States.

Organized by Junior Ashley Conley, the CHS program featured a play about Buffalo Soldiers written by Business Technology Teacher Earvin Larry and performed by Daniel Starks, John Long and Spanish Teacher Vicki Delgado.

Guest speaker was the Rev. Aleze Fulbright, associate pastor at the First United Methodist Church. Fulbright played the Beyonce song "Upgrade" and encouraged students to "upgrade" their thinking, attitude and outlook to make themselves and the world better.

A student choir sang and other students performed a step dance. The program was narrated by Devia Rodgers, an instructional aide.

"The theme running throughout the assembly was that this is not just Black History, but it is American History," Principal Virdie Montgomery said.

Commerce Middle School fine-tuned its annual program to become what Principal Wes Underwood called, "the best ever." Eighth grader Chanel Cooper sang the Black national anthem, "Lift Every Voice." Other students sang and read poems and excerpts from speeches by Dr. Martin Luther King and Barack Obama. Eighth grader Baley Chastain shared photos of his trip to President Obama's inauguration and the Black Tie and Boots Gala. Always a crowd pleaser, the CMS Women Steppers performed with rhythmic precision.



CMS women steppers are always crowd pleasers.



CMS honored district employees Shirley Williams, Betty Brown, Tina Bronson and Shawn Bronson for their contributions to the school and community.

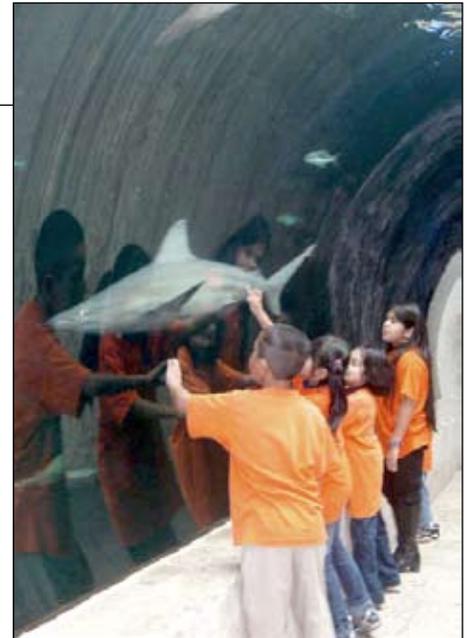


CMS rappers Brianna Brock, Cheyenne May and Madison Beene wrote and performed a poem.

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

CES students expand their world at Dallas aquarium

First and second grade ESL (English as Second Language) students expanded their life experiences and their vocabulary as they visited the Dallas World Aquarium in mid-February. Teachers helped students prepare for the trip by having them watch a video and discuss the different animals they would see. The students enjoyed seeing sharks, anacondas, all varieties of birds and jellyfish, according to ESL teacher Tina Loper. Since the trip, they have been talking, drawing and writing about their experiences. Even the trip to Dallas will filled with vocabulary lessons about parking meters, skyscrapers, parking garages and mix masters, according to Loper. Teacher Stephanie Moreland planned the trip.



Experiencing life under the sea, CES ESL students were in awe as they watched the sea creatures at the Dallas World Aquarium.

Thirty-six first and second graders visited the Dallas World Aquarium in mid-February.



Danny Fairweather, associate pastor at Cross Trails Cowboy Church, visited CES and read a story to Barbie Cockrell's prekindergarten class.

CES program encourages male role models for Pre-K students

Commerce Elementary School is encouraging reading at home with its new Fathers Reading Every Day (FRED) program. The program is designed for fathers, or a positive male role model, to read to Pre-K students at home every day for 15 minutes. Male volunteers will be available for children who need someone to read to them. Parents may contact Christi Condor at 903 886-3757 if they need someone to read to their child at school. The program was originally designed to get dads involved but moms, grandmothers, aunts and sisters are also welcome. A party will be held April 2 at the Northeast Texas Children's Museum for participants.

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

Visiting engineers spark interest in math, science

Career planning can never begin too early as seventh-grade students learned during presentations by engineers from L-3 Communications. Called DiscoverE, the program encourages students who have an interest in math and science to consider engineering as a career. During one presentation, engineer Emily Mathews staged a model bridge building contest for students.

Millard Veal, a systems engineer at L-3 Communications, spoke with Lois Pritchard's seventh-grade science class as part of the DiscoverE program, sponsored by L-3.



Sassy Saturday a hit

Commerce Elementary School's Relay for Life team collected over \$800 during Sassy Saturday, where girls, ranging in age from pre-k to fourth grade, were brought to the school to have their make-up, hair and nails done. The girls also participated in activities such as karaoke and cheerleading.

Members of the CHS Friends of Rachel Club assisted in the project. Meyghan Kaufman, a freshman at CHS, said that her favorite part of the event was, "Knowing that the money was for the American Cancer Society and that our hard work was for a good cause."



A. C. Williams Elementary School was named Elementary School of the Year by the Hunt County African American Leadership Conference and Rotary Club of Commerce during its Martin Luther King Day recognition. The school was cited for making a difference for African American students in the community. Shown with the award are Counselor Harriet Williams, Principal Julia Robinson and Assistant Principal Trish King.

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS



CMS students prepare for the art show and sale held March 9.



Fourth graders exhibit artwork for the annual ACW art show and sale held March 10.

Art shows feature student talent

Artistic talent abounds throughout Commerce ISD and two art shows and sales promise to bring out proud parent patrons and curious gallery viewers alike to events during Texas Public Schools Week March 9-13.

A. C. Williams Elementary School has hosted its art show and sale during Texas Public Schools Week for the last six years. This year each class designed and produced projects for sale. Proceeds from the sale will be used to purchase two display cases for the new ACW building. Several students will portray artists such as Jackson Pollock, Georgia O’Keefe and Vincent Van Gogh during Open House. Much of the student art is done in the style of the featured artist, according to art teacher Lonnie Plunkett.

Students in Debora Lytle’s art classes at Commerce Middle School have been preparing for weeks for the upcoming show

and sale. Students have donated their artwork to help raise funds for art supplies. The work includes charcoal, color pencil and pastel drawings and abstract tempera paintings. Items will remain on display throughout the week and will not be priced over \$5.

Campuses select Teachers of the Year

To be recognized by peers is one of the greatest accomplishments and honors one can receive. Such is the case for four CISD teachers who were selected by their fellow teachers to be named campus teachers of the year.

Commerce Elementary School selected Stephanie Moreland, a seven-year teacher, who currently is teaching physical education.

Diane Stegall was honored at A.C. Williams Elementary School. Diane has been teaching third grade in the district for three years. Prior to that she taught in Fannindale ISD.

Valerie Roberson is the eighth grade English/Language Arts teacher at Commerce Middle School. Valerie is in her second year of teaching.

Karri Anderson has taught theater arts at Commerce High School for six years. She is also the UIL coordinator.

From this group, an elementary and a secondary teacher of the year will be selected and announced during the end-of-year staff luncheon June 5. Those winners will compete in the Regional Teacher of the Year selection process through Region 10.



Stephanie Moreland
CES



Diane Stegall
ACW



Valerie Roberson
CMS



Karri Anderson
CHS