

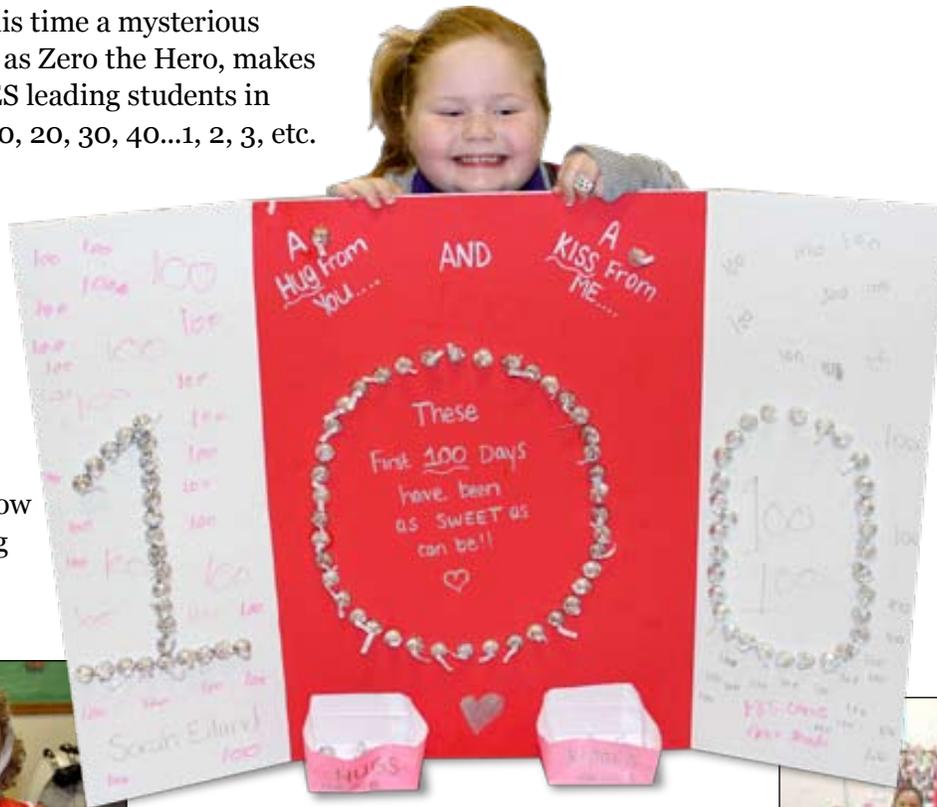
# CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

COMMERCE ISD E-LETTER • FEBRUARY 18, 2013

## Elementary schools celebrate 100th day

Every year about this time a mysterious visitor, known only as Zero the Hero, makes his way through CES leading students in counting chants....10, 20, 30, 40...1, 2, 3, etc. It's a fun day as students and staff join in.

Students bring posterboards with displays of 100 stickers, Hershey kisses, or words. Their creativity is amazing as they show their understanding of the number 100.



*CES student thinks school is a sweet as can be with her candy display.*

*ACW student proudly show their 100-cup masterpiece.*



*Fellow pseudo centenarians prepare for a great day in kindergarten.*



*Zero the Hero is a welcome guest at CES each year.*



*ACW teachers Meagan Hubbert, Keiondra Simpson and Kortney Clayton try to display 100-year-old teachers.*



## Sixth graders on board for 'Hatchet' project

How do you engage middle school students and make reading fun? Veteran teacher Sherry Rector knows the answer is by providing a book students can identify with and then ask them to do a project based on their own interests.

"Hatchet" is a Newbery Honor book written by Gary Paulsen and Rector says sixth graders absolutely love the story about a 13-year-old boy who survives a plane crash in the Canadian wilderness alone.

Rector says the students used the text and events in the story for reading and writing activities, and at the end, they present a project.

Each student chose his/her own project to demonstrate his/her knowledge of the book and presented it to the class. The choices were as follows.

1. Do research on the Cessna 409.
2. Create a map of the area where the boy was stranded. Show the important elements of his stay there.
3. Research some of Canada's wild animals.
4. Create a travel brochure for Canada
5. Learn about and create a survival guide that might have helped the boy.
6. Create a board game with rules using situations and characters from the novel.
7. Design their own project.



*Sixth grade girls made a game out of learning.*



*Justin Caldwell (center) was named an honorary assistant coach by the CHS girls basketball team during Senior Night. Caldwell is a avid Lady Tigers supporter.*

## Texas Public Schools Week Open Houses



**EDUCATION. It's BIGGER Here.**  
CELEBRATE TEXAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Monday, March 4 · 6 – 6:45 p.m.  
A.C. Williams Elementary

Tuesday, March 5 · 6 – 6:45 p.m.  
Commerce Elementary School

Tuesday, March 5 · 6:45 – 7:30  
Commerce Middle School  
7:30 p.m. CMS Band Concert



*Senior Audrey Anderson received a letter of commendation from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.*

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS! UPCOMING EVENTS

- Mar. 11–15 ... Spring break
- Mar. 21 ..... Board of Trustees meeting, 7 p.m.
- April 6 ..... CSEEF Foundation Boots & BBQ Fundraiser, 6 p.m., CHS
- April 12 ..... Bad weather day (no school)
- April 15 ..... Board of Trustees meeting, 7 p.m.
- May 11 ..... Board of Trustees Election 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. City Hall

## Educators visit Computer Educators Conference

Every year the Texas Computer Educators Conference welcomes thousands of teachers eager to see the latest technology tools and learn new ways to use technology in the classroom. Eleven CISD teachers attended this year and were not disappointed in the offerings with each bringing back new ideas for engaging students.

With so many new tools and ideas, teachers could easily become overwhelmed, but CHS teacher Lisa Lipstraw said keynote speaker Peter Sheahan from Change Labs helped her with this by explaining that teachers should pick one thing about technology and learn it well and once it's comfortable and easy they can add something new. If someone tries to do everything at once it's overwhelming and they will fail, she learned.

One new application that ACW teacher Sondra Feduccia plans to implement will be the use of QR codes. Through this application, she can use an app to record a student explaining a project, make a QR code which is then copied and attached to the project. Parents and visitors can scan the QR code to hear or see the student explain the project. She plans to display student projects in the hallway with QR codes attached and parents and visitors can scan as they tour the school during open house on March 4.

## The play's the thing

Nineteen Theatre Arts and Drama Club students attended the Pegasus Theatre production of *XSR: Die!* at the Eisemann Center in Richardson Saturday, Jan. 20th.

The play, a comedy murder-mystery written by Kurt Klienmann and directed by Michael Serrecchia, was presented in *Living Black & White™*. After the play, the group went to Joe's Crab Shack for dinner and a romp on the playground.

