

# CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

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*As the end of May approached, campuses showcased their activities during special performances and had field days to just have good ol' fun.*



*The Kindergarten Circus is always a highlight of the year at CES.*

## Students, staff celebrate successful year

After a long school year came to a close, students and staff took opportunities to enjoy their successes. Although success can be measured in many ways, the standard measure applied to Texas public schools is the Texas Education Agency rating system. In this comparison with other schools across Texas, Commerce ISD will improve its standing. No longer will Commerce High School have the label of “unacceptable.” In fact, the school is within just a few points of skipping over the acceptable rating to reach the recognized status.

Gains as much as 24 percentage points were seen in tenth grade math and science scores. In a year-to-year comparison of the same students, 11th graders made a 30-percentage point gain in science up from 53 to 83 percent passing. Other scores show positive gains, with only a few areas showing decreases by a small number of percentage points.



*ACW fourth graders shared their knowledge of Texas history as they performed a play and cowboy dances.*



*JenAnne Shumway honored Shawn Bronson as being an inspirational person in her school career at the Catalyst Top Ten Dinner.*



**Exemplary  
Expectations**



*CMS students had time to have old-fashioned, low-tech fun during a tug of war.*

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## District Improvement Council brainstorms key issues



*Tom Etkorn, Glenda Henderson and Bobbie Thurman spell out their ideas for improving professional development during the Districtwide Improvement Council meeting May 26.*

Gathering input from stakeholders to improve Commerce ISD is the cornerstone of the site-based decision making process set up by the Texas Legislature. The Districtwide Improvement Council, as it is called in CISD, met for the second time this year and reviewed the status of the district and also brainstormed ideas for improving curriculum, professional development, parental involvement, facilities/campus needs, safety and TAKS scores.

Teachers, administrators, parents, community members and business representatives serve on the committee. CMS Principal Wes Underwood, who heads the committee, said the ideas generated would be used to develop the district improvement plan for next year.

He also explained that CMS and CHS would apply for Title I status to ensure that stimulus funds can be used on those campuses. Title I campuses receive additional federal funds because of their large low socio-economic populations.

## Tiger coaches hold camp at elementary campus

Commerce High School football coaches, led by Head Coach Scott Wells, held a football camp in late May especially for third through sixth graders. Over 45 students participated in the three-day, after-school camp where they learned basic procedures and the fundamentals of the sport.

“We want to promote the Tiger spirit in these young players. We hope to add another star to our helmets one day,” Wells said referring to adding another state championship win for the Commerce Tigers.

Coaches Chris Loper, Thurman Blake, Jeff Davidson, Travis Milsap, Philip Burnett, Kyle Abshire, Wesley Cooper and Barri Mulkey introduced the students to drills designed to increase their agility, speed and toughness.

Participants left the camp with t-shirts provided by Chicken Express, Guaranty Bond Bank, Lone Star Eatery and Peek Financial Services.

A camp for incoming eighth and ninth graders will be held from 8 to 11:30 a.m., July 27-30 at CHS. Cost is \$30.



*Head Football Coach Scott Wells rallies young Tiger football players.*



*Coach Travis Millsap teaches tackling skills.*



*Third through sixth grade students participated in the spring Elementary Tiger Football Camp.*

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## Staff honored at annual recognition lunch

After the students are dismissed each year, faculty and staff gather to celebrate the end of a successful school year. Commerce High School hosts the event and maintenance workers pitch in to grill burgers and hot dogs while the food service staff prepares all the fixins. It's time to honor hard work, perseverance and excellence.

Superintendent Blake Cooper announced the District Teachers of the Year. Stephanie Moreland was named Elementary Teacher of the Year. She is a physical education and reading teacher at CES. Karri Anderson, the theater arts teacher at CHS, was named Secondary Teacher of the Year. These teachers, who were first selected by their peers as campus teachers of the year, were chosen based on their essays and personal interviews with the selection committee. They will be honored in August at

the Regional Teacher of the Year luncheon and at a Texas Rangers game.

James Martin was presented a rocking chair as a retirement gift. Martin has been a crossing guard since 2002. Others retiring include Susan Erwin, CHS; Anne Mills, Tri County; and Herb Clark, transportation.



*Campus teachers of the year were Stephanie Moreland, CES; Diane Stegall, ACW; Valerie Roberson, CMS; and Karri Anderson, CHS.*



*Teachers of the Year: Stephanie Moreland (left) Elementary, Karri Anderson, Secondary*



*Fifteen-year service honorees were David Douglas, CHS; and Ludonna Smithers, Central Office.*



*Paraprofessionals, bus drivers and maintenance, custodial and food service workers were recognized for exemplary service in the Commerce ISD STAR program. Staff nominated Diane Hampton, CES; Joyce Pannell, ACW; Jacqueline Amos, CMS; and Tim Watson and Rogene McCrummen, CHS; to receive special recognition.*



*In recognition of ten years of service, employees received a pin and \$35. Those included Kathern Aimes and Paula Lott, CHS; Linda Grubert, ACW; Al Shipp, technology; and Melissa Ritter-Towne, CES.*



*Five-year service awards were presented to Christin Allgood, CHS; Betty Brown, Central Office; Stephen Netsch, CMS; Jerry Sturch and Tim Watson, CHS; and Cari Sturch, CES. They received a lapel pin and a \$25 check. Other five-year employees who were not honored will be honored August 17 at the back-to-school district event.*