

# CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

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## New device enables essay refinement

Gone are the days of using pen and paper for writing essays. Students are more apt to revise and rewrite their compositions when technology makes it easier.

Commerce ISD sixth-grade language arts teacher Sherry Rector felt going to a computer lab daily would be inconvenient and using iPads was difficult. Chromebooks became the answer to her problem when she discovered students could write and revise essays easily on them.

Rector proposed a grant to the Commerce Schools Educational Enrichment Foundation to buy 27 Chromebooks. The Foundation funded her proposal and this semester students began using the new devices.

Chromebooks start in seconds and students are able to begin assignments immediately. Five students use each device throughout the day. Each one signs in, so work remains separate. Only apps needed

by the students are downloaded, but students can Google definitions or make other inquiries.



*Sixth-graders enjoy the ease of writing essays using their Chromebooks. Their user-friendly keyboards allow students to "revise, revise, revise" easily, according to Sherry Rector, CMS language arts teacher.*

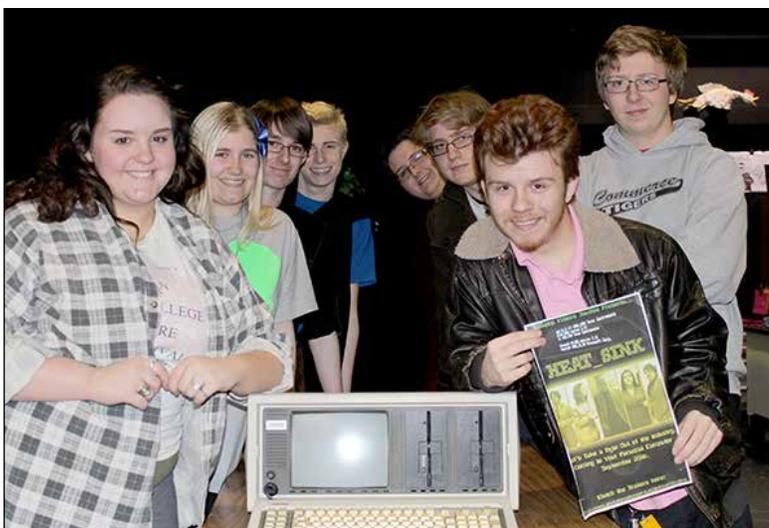
Rector said the students adapted well to using the Chromebook, but she learned typing was a challenge. The one or two-fingered texting approach students were using was not efficient. Students now begin each class with an online typing lesson.

Rector recently taught students about making revisions to their essays. She explained that author Ernest Hemingway changed the last page of one of his novels 39 times before he was satisfied.

"We are fortunate to have the tools we need in this class. I wanted

students to have the ease of using the Chromebooks. Editing is so much easier with this device. I encourage students to write and revise until they are completely satisfied with their essays," Rector said.

"It's a habit that will serve them well throughout their lives," she added.



## South by Southwest bound

Two videos produced by Senior Daniel Coomer-Neel (right) were selected for the UIL Young Filmmakers Event in Austin February 18. Out of the 649 films entered, only six narratives were selected.

◀ Daniel is shown with the cast and crew of *Heat\_Sink*.





**Dressed for success** The CISD Special Olympics team is sporting new track suits compliments of the Sigma Chi fraternity. Students from CHS, CMS and ACW will compete in at least three track meets this spring, according to CHS special education teacher Terry Buckley.

## CMS Marketplace

Several CMS students are hosting the third annual CMS Marketplace to raise funds for their upcoming trip to Washington D.C. and New York City.

The bazaar-like event will be held from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 21 in the CMS gym. New and used merchandise will be on sale.

With a great turnout the last two years, sponsor Rebekah Jacobson promises it will be even bigger and better. Funds are generated from booth rental fees; however, the students will accept donations to help defray the cost of the trip. Vendors receive 100 percent of their profits from each booth.

Booths are still available by contacting Rebekah Jacobson at CMS. Community vendor booths are \$20. CISD organization and trip participant booths are free. CISD employee booths are \$10.

## Spring Events Calendar

Staff development day/  
 Student holiday ..... February 27  
 Public Schools Week ..... March 9–13

### OPEN HOUSES

ACW ..... 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.... March 9  
 CHS ..... 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.... March 9  
 CES ..... 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.... March 10  
 CMS ..... 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.... March 10  
 Spring break ..... March 16–20  
 Early release ..... April 3  
 Bad weather make-up ..... April 6, May 22  
 Memorial Day holiday ..... May 25  
 Graduation ..... June 5

**Mark your calendar for CSSEF Boots & BBQ Celebration and Fundraiser  
 Saturday, April 11, 6 p.m., CHS**



## Tech team shares and learns at TCEA

CISD teachers along with Director of Technology Al Shipp and Heather Kilgore, district technology specialist, attended the Texas Computer Educators Association conference in Austin in early February. The group always comes back excited to share the new tools and tricks they learned that will enhance student learning. The conference is a venue for networking to learn what other districts are doing and also share how CISD uses technology in the classroom. Pictured left to right standing are Shipp, Sondra Feduccia, Shelbie Embro, Margaret Pierce, Christi Coplin, Shelia DeMidio, Lisa Lipstraw and Kilgore. Kneeling are Stephanie Pullen and Misti Gardner.

## CISD teachers, students to receive Dan and Jalinna Jones Education Awards

Twenty CISD students and teachers will be honored during the third annual Dan and Jalinna Jones Education Awards February 22 at Texas A&M University-Commerce.

Students were nominated by their school administrators because of their academic performance, school involvement, excellence in education, school attendance or leadership. They include Cindy Nguyen, Ashley Shipman, Ana Polk, Brain White Jr. and Jordyn Dowdy at CES. Jewel Williams, Jaxson Deason, Chance Knight, Meghan Green and Quenton Finney represent ACW. Morgan Guinessey, Sejal Bhasin, Zykeria Williams, Jaydon Harris and Toyanna Harris are from CMS and Darien Redd, Jaystin Wilson, Mason Harper, Keyera Bloodsoe and D'Lance Sharp represent CHS.

CISD teachers who will be honored include Tina Bronson, ACW; Geary Walker, CHS; and Rebekah Jacobson, CMS.



*Fifth-grade students were surprised with a visit from Mr. Q-U-E, a hip-hop educational performer and song writer.*

*ACW teacher Carol Adams uses his songs to motivate students in math classes. After Mr. Q-U-E learned how much he had influenced ACW students, he dropped by the school for a short performance on his way to another engagement. The Los Angeles-based performer, born LaMar Queen, writes and performs songs to motivate children and create a love of learning.*

# CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

## Celebrating **100** days of learning

One of the most fun activities at CES is the annual 100th day of school celebration. Students design and craft projects which feature 100 items. Students whose projects were selected as one of the top 10 won the opportunity to assist school personnel for 100 minutes. Before returning to class, they were served pizza and cookies for lunch.



▲ Head Start Coordinator Alison Walker with a 100-item winner.



▲ Nurse Jennifer Speulda shared time with a top-ten winner.



◀ Lunch is festive for the 100th day.



▲ Kindergarten students proudly displayed their 100 days attire.



► Police Chief Joe Venable shared 100 minutes with a second-grader.



## Artistic science at CHS

Students in Tina Christian's AP biology class are working on a project to reintroduce hummingbirds into areas of the western United States. The class will also be sending plants that attract the little hummers to the west for planting.

Here, students display mobiles they made in conjunction with their hummingbird project.