

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

COMMERCE ISD E-LETTER • APRIL 15, 2009

CHS students advance to UIL regionals

Eleven Commerce High School students are advancing to regional UIL competition April 25 at Texas A&M University-Commerce.

At the District competition April 4 at North Lamar High School, 19 students represented CHS and brought home a third place finish in the overall competition. Results of the District competition include:



CHS students advancing to regional UIL are (front row, left to right) Rebecca Dickerson, Jessica Jobe, Caitlin Ferrell, and Benn May. Second row: Cody Mann, Michael Naizer and back row Tyler Short, Aaron Van Every, Jason Anthraper, Elizabeth Canzoneri and Sarah Hays.

third advance to regional; Rebecca Dickerson fifth.

Spelling and Vocabulary – Elizabeth Tarrant, seventh.

Social Studies – Elizabeth Tarrant, ninth.

Science – Michael Naizer, first overall, first Biology, first Physics advance to regional; third place team: Michael Naizer, Elizabeth Green, Jarred Turner.

Literary Criticism – Caitlin Ferrell, fifth; Benn May, sixth; Cristan Shamburger, seventh; Second place team: Caitlin Ferrell, Benn May, Cristan Shamburger.

Calculator Applications – Lisa Khau, seventh.

Ready Writing – Caitlin Ferrell, first advance to regional; Benn May, third regional.

Current Issues and Events – Rebecca Dickerson, second advance to regional; third place team: Rebecca Dickerson, Devin Felts and Jarred Turner.

Math – Michael Naizer, second advance to regional; Jason Anthraper, sixth; second place team: Michael Naizer, Jason Anthraper and Elizabeth Green.

Computer Science – Michael Naizer, third; Cody Mann, fourth; Tyler Short fifth; first place team advances to regional: Michael Naizer, Cody Mann, Tyler Short and Aaron Van Every.

Computer Applications – Jason Anthraper, first advance to regional; Elizabeth Canzoneri, third advance to regional.

Number Sense – Michael Naizer, second advance to regional; third place team Michael Naizer, Tyler Murphy, Jason Anthraper and Lisa Khau.

Journalism – Second place team Sarah Hays, Rebecca Dickerson, Jessica Jobe, Benn May, Cristan Shamburger, Dakota Rogers.

Feature Writing – Sarah Hays, fourth; Rebecca Dickerson, fifth.

Editorial Writing – Benn May, fourth; Cristan Shamburger, fifth.

Headline Writing – Sarah Hays, third advance to regional; Cristan Shamburger, fourth; Benn May, fifth.

News Writing – Sarah Hays, first advance to regional; Jessica Jobe,



**Exemplary
Expectations**

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS



Students portrayed Pablo Picasso and his wife for CLI and for Texas Public Schools Week visitors.

Commerce Leadership Institute visits the District

Members of the 2009 Class of the Commerce Leadership Institute (CLI) were the first official visitors to the new A. C. Williams Elementary School. Current ACW Principal Julia Robinson explained safety features of the school and technological opportunities available for students.

CLI also visited Commerce Middle School where they learned about the 21st Century Learning Grant which provides after-school activities for sixth through eighth graders. Activities include cooking, jewelry making, keyboarding and Tae Kwon Do.

At Commerce High School, Principal Virdie Montgomery explained Rachel's Challenge, a program that encourages students to be kind and compassionate toward each other. Students Ainsley Bruton, Mary Taggart

and Macey Sims explained how Rachel's Challenge had made positive changes to the climate at the school.

A.C. Williams had its walls decked out for its annual art show held in conjunction with Texas Public Schools Week. Students studied famous artists and their work and painted works in the style of the artists. Students also researched the lives of the artists and portrayed them for the CLI visit.

ACW Principal Julia Robinson proudly showed CLI visitors the new ACW building.



Three CHS students place in Four-Way Speech Contest

Three CHS students participated in the Rotary Club Four Way Speech Contest this year. Seniors Benn May and Elizabeth Tarrant and Junior Caitlin Yoakum all placed in the competition.

The purpose of the speech is to solve an ethical problem using the principles of the Four Way Test. The ethical problem to be solved should be something from the speaker's personal experience or general knowledge.

May placed first and received a \$100 and advancement to district competition. Yoakum placed second and received \$50 and Tarrant placed third and received \$25.



CHS students Caitlin Yoakum, Benn May and Elizabeth Tarrant placed in the Rotary Club Four Way Speech Contest.

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

FRED families party at Children's Museum

Families participating in FRED (Fathers Reading Every Day) at CES were treated to a party at the Northeast Texas Children's Museum in early April.

Donors were Northeast Children's Museum, Domino's, Brookshire's, Black Jack BBQ, Lisa Jones from the Beauty Bar, Morris Rec Center, Planetarium, Texas A & M University-Commerce, Walmart Portrait Studio-Greenville, Commerce Parks & Rec, DB's Bowling, Movie Gallery and Pizza Hut.



Third graders learn about their community on walking tour

A brisk morning turned into a beautiful day for the third graders in early April as they walked through the downtown area studying places of interest in the community. Stops included Commerce City Hall, the Police Station, Fire Department, Huffman's Farm Store, Personalized Printing and the Chamber of Commerce. Students were in small groups for the visits and they met at the City Park for lunch and a little free time.



KUDOS!

Great Job!
CMS Honor Band received a rating of 1 (Superior) in Concert and Sight-Reading at the UIL Region 3 Contest April 2.



CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS



Assistant Planetarium Director Cheri Davis (kneeling) gets the attention of pre-kindergarten students before entering the planetarium.

TAMU-C scientists host CISD students

It must have been Commerce ISD Day at the Texas A&M University-Commerce Science Building as three different CISD student groups visited the planetarium and worked on experiments in biology, chemistry and physics labs.

PreK students were welcomed by Assistant Planetarium Director Cheri Davis and were led into the planetarium to see *Kaluoka'hina, The Enchanted Reef*. The children were in awe of the spectacular underwater scenery as they tried to help the characters solve the puzzle of touching the moon.

Project SPARK hosted an all-day event for fifth grade students. Students conducted an experiment using prism glasses, watched tadpoles under a microscope and experimented in labs throughout the day.

Sixth graders visited physics labs and saw a gyrocompass in action and watched a demonstration of momentum. Even CMS Principal Wes Underwood participated by lying on a bed of nails, proving another scientific concept.



Does looking through a prism distort your vision? The fifth grade students above learned the answer to the question as they took turns trying to hit a target with a small ball while wearing prism glasses.

Special Olympics teams from ACW and CHS have been busy this spring participating in events in Rains County and at Texas A&M University-Commerce. Students proudly brought home gold, silver and bronze medals from many events.



Dr. Charles Rogers, professor and head of the Signs and Systems Laboratory at TAMU-C, showed a gyrocompass to CMS sixth graders and explained that airplanes must account for the movement of the earth and therefore cannot fly a straight route to a distant city.

