

# CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

COMMERCE ISD E-LETTER • JUNE 2015

## CHS graduates 85 students this spring

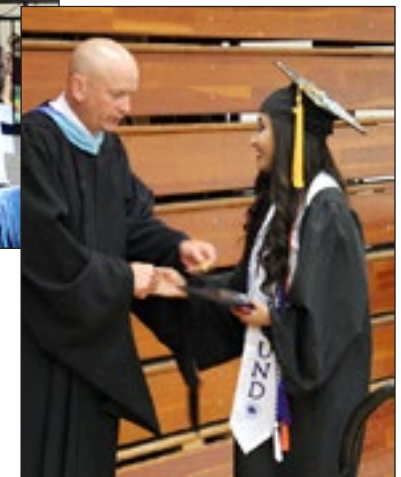
Although 85 students graduated this spring from Commerce High School, 81 students accepted congratulations and handshakes from CISD Board of Trustees members, Superintendent Blake Cooper and CHS Principal Steve Drummond. Graduation ceremonies were again held at the Texas A&M University-Commerce Fieldhouse.

Valedictorian Jacob Fairweather and Salutatorian Amelia Martin addressed the audience but spoke most directly to their classmates regarding their futures.

This graduating class was unusually small with numbers normally ranging in the 110-120 range.



◀ CHS Student Council President Tabatha Wooten addressed the audience.



▲ CHS Principal Steve Drummond congratulates a graduate.

◀ Kaitlyn Nicholson, Christyan Sherwood and Kaitlynn Baxter made the top ten list.



## First Special Olympics track meet was a huge success

The CHS Special Education Department produced a successful Special Olympics track meet at Texas A&M University in April with over 500 people participating.

The following CISD students competed in at least two events: Sam Adams, Amery Cantera, Kiieren Cantera, Nicholas Dennis, Steven Deuterman, Genesis Figueroa, Anna Jewel, Karmella Martinez, Jordy Morado, Christopher Riddell, Curtis Shinn, Gabby Speight, Delvin White and Keyvonte Young.

The Board of Trustees recognized students and staff who organized and produced the successful track event at the May Board meeting. Staff includes Terry Buckley, CHS teacher; Misty Belcher, CHS instructional aide; Brenda Kelly, ACW teacher; Keisha Edwards, ACW instructional aide; Nick Smith, CMS teacher; and Franca Eye, CMS instructional aide.



◀ *Gabby Speight competed in the 50-meter dash and turbo javs.*

▲ *CISD students proudly led the Special Olympics opening ceremonies.*

## Food service promotes healthy eating

The CISD Food Service Department ran a breakfast promotion during the month of April to encourage healthy eating. Every student eating breakfast 15 or more times in the month of April would be entered in a drawing for basketballs signed by the basketball teams.

Basketballs given to the CHS winners were signed by the A&M-Commerce men's (24-8) and women's (14-14) basketball teams.

Basketballs given to CMS and ACW winners were signed by the CHS boys and girls teams.



▲ *CHS winners were Keyandre Robertson and Markel Bailey. Pictured left to right are Coach Jeff Cleveland, Keyandra Roberts, Donna Lunsford, Food Service Director Gene Weinkauf, Markel Bailey, and CHS Principal Steve Drummond.*



▲ *CMS winners were Maygen Wymore and Starlynn Ponder. Pictured left to right are Jackie Amos, Maygen Wymore, Gene Weinkauf, Starlynn Ponder and Coach Kirby Jackson.*



◀ *A.C. Williams winners were Kemariya Runnels and Tyshon Harris. Photo left to right: Gene Weinkauf, Tyshon Harris, Stephanie Booth. 2nd. Kemariya Runnels, Stephanie Booth.*

## CMS Student Council project cleans up courtyard

CMS Student Council students performed an end-of-the-year service project by cleaning up the CMS courtyard. CMS Student Council students were responsible for all the work and acquiring donations for the project. One sponsor, Commerce Fix & Feed, donated all the paint to put some new life in the CMS picnic tables. The courtyard is now clean and screams Tiger spirit, according to sponsor Rebekah Jacobson.



## End-of-the-year fun at CES

CES celebrated school's end with field day carnivals and end-of-the-year picnics. Students had fun with pig races, a bounce house, a maze and skeet ball. Parent volunteers helped with the field day activities. At Eddie Moore Park, Prek students enjoyed the beautiful weather.



## All A's at ACW



All A's three years in a row is a daunting task but it was accomplished this year by four enterprising young students at ACW. McMichael McWhorter, Meghan Green, Emma Dobbs and Aubrey Clayton were awarded the Presidential Award for making straight A's from third through fifth grades during ACW's awards assembly.



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## FFA officers set for 2015–2016

FFA officers for next school year include (left to right) Taylor Belcher, historian; Allison Coker, student advisor; Delayna Bearden, sentinel; Jesse Burt, reporter; Brenna Jackson, vice president; Haley Vargas, president; Dustin Rex, secretary; James Vaughn, treasurer; Ty Herman, parliamentarian; and Marcus Rogers, chaplain.

## Register online for 15–16



Parents will be able to register their children for the 2015–2016 school year from the comfort of their own home online beginning July 27.

Parents must sign up at the school office for Skyward Family Access immediately for online registration access. An email message will remind parents this summer to register for the new year.

On-site registration will still be offered on August 6–7 at CHS for those without technology access; however, online registration is highly recommended. New student registration will be conducted from noon to 6 p.m., August 6 and from 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on August 7 at CHS.



**Reduce, Reuse, Recycle** Kortney Clayton's third-grade class celebrated Earth Day by recycling materials into new designs in their Up-Cycling project.

## High Drama at the state level



*The CHS Drama Department won first place in the State UIL Group Theatrical Design competition at Austin. Shown left to right are Aaron Ferrell, Sarah Stogner-Dickinson, Rachael Sheehan and Philip Weise. Sponsor Karri Anderson finished out a great year with two groups placing in State academic competitions. The other winner was second place in the UIL Young Filmmakers contest.*

## CSEE Foundation awards over \$62,000 for teacher grants

For the 11th consecutive year, the Commerce Schools Educational Enrichment Foundation awarded grants to teachers who proposed projects that will increase academic achievement in their classrooms. CSEEF Board members presented the grants Publisher's Clearinghouse-style during the last week of school. Board members included President Jack Pirkey, Beverly Pirkey, Loretta Kibler, Bill Fuhrmeister, Janet Duncan, Jerry Keeble and Janet Peek.



**Jenna O'Neal**  
CMS teacher/coach



**Glenda Henderson**  
CHS Technology



**Katie Ritchie**  
CHS Art Teacher



**Christi Coplin**  
CHS Technology Teacher



**Lisa Lipstraw**  
CHS English



**Shelbie Embro**  
CMS Social Studies Teacher

## Dollars help make the difference

Grants will allow CES to transform the atrium into the ArboREADum where students will have access to opportunities to increase their reading skills. The CHS art department will purchase a 3D printer with grant funding. Chromebooks will be purchased for use in fourth-grade writing classes.

Over the last two years, funding for field trips has been taken over by the District to allow Foundation grant money to be available for enhanced learning opportunities at each campus.

Grant winners Wendy Bridges and first-grade teachers Tracy Crews, Michelle Day and Dee Dee Harris (not pictured) received a grant to develop Camp Read S'More, a reading program for early readers at CES.

Lisa Burden's grant will provide *Time for Kids Magazine* to ACW students.

The Aim for Success programs, proposed by Director of Health Services Jennifer Speulda, will combat bullying and promote healthy choices across the district.



CES Principal **Diane Stegall**

## CSEE Foundation grant winners



**Amy Scaff and Tina Bronson**  
ACW fourth-grade teachers



**Jeanie Putman and Jessica Duckworth**  
ACW fourth-grade teachers



**Misti Gardner**, CES second-grade teacher, shares the grant with **Stephanie Pullen**, kindergarten teacher.

## End-of-year staff picnic recognizes excellence, service

At the annual end-of-year picnic, staff members gathered at CHS to celebrate the year's accomplishments and enjoy each other's company. Service awards were presented and teachers of the year were announced.

This year, Superintendent Cooper asked each campus to perform a lip-sync routine. After much laughter, ACW was the winner of the competition. For more photos, go to [CISD Staff Picnic 2015](#).



First-year participants in the Digital Fluency Academy were (top left) Amy Scaff, Samantha Bland, Nancy Hill, Margaret Pierce, Cindy Pierce, Ashley Sepulveda, Debbie Jeffcoat, Matt Brewer, Sherry Rector, Lauren Veraska and Karri Anderson .



Teachers of the Year were Amy Scaff, Elementary Teacher of the Year (left), and Patricia Nelle, Secondary Teacher of the Year. Scaff teaches at ACW and Nelle is at CMS. These teachers will be honored by the Region 10 ESC at a luncheon and also by the Texas Rangers prior to a game.



Auxiliary staff winning a STAR award included Josh Rhodes, bus mechanic; and Maria Garza, ACW aide and Plaza director.

◀ Participants in year two of the Digital Fluency Academy were (top to bottom) Christi Coplin, Glenda Henderson, Patricia Nelle, Misti Gardner, Terry Buckley, Carrie Campbell, Lisa Lipstraw. Tina Christian and Stephanie Pullen.

DFA participants learn new technology strategies to take back to their classroom during a seven-month course.

# CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS



Five-year pin recipients were (top to bottom) Carl Lamm, Tiffany Moreland, Tracy Crews, Tommy Marshall, Misti Gardner, Wendy Bridges and Nakita Sharp.



Ten-year employees were (top to bottom) Terrie Webb, Kathy Black, Latisha Miles-Britton, Tricia Dempsey, J.B. Elder, Cari Sturch, Tina Christian and Yvonne Parker.



Fifteen-year pins were presented to Carolyn McKinney (top), Glenda Henderson, Lisa Lipstraw and Diana Pemberton.



Twenty-year service awards went to Pam Cole, Belinda Miller and Kim McCarty.



Commerce firefighter and CISD board of trustees member Gabe Wittkopf presented the MDA boot award to CES. Principal Diane Stegall accepted the boot in recognition of the campus' donations to the cause.



◀ Three retiring employees received rockers for their service. Nancy Nation, secretary/PEIMS clerk at CMS; Herb Parsons, bus driver; and Shirley Williams, food service secretary. Williams retires August 31 after 29 years with the district.