

# CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

COMMERCE ISD E-LETTER • MARCH 2016



## CES surpasses reading goal

With over 430 students in pre-kindergarten through second grade and an innovative and fun staff, Commerce Elementary School is rarely a boring place. Their most recent endeavor celebrated Dr. Seuss's birthday in conjunction with Read Across America. Students exceeded their goal of reading 500 books in a day and blew the top off the chart by reading 1417 books.

Students wore items worn by Dr. Seuss's characters and made Cat in the Hat head coverings in class. They paraded through the school as they began their day of reading.



## CSEE Foundation fundraiser set for April 16

For the last 10 years, countless students have been influenced by the grants made possible by the Commerce Schools Educational Enrichment Foundation.

The Foundation will celebrate the results of this year's grants and raise funds for the future at its Boots & BBQ set for April 16 at CHS.

Dress is casual and the barbecue, served by Murray's, is always delicious.

Teachers will showcase their grant projects and students will share how the grants have impacted their lives.

Come and visit with others who support the great things going on in CISD.



## CSEE Foundation Annual Celebration and Fundraiser

6 p.m. • April 16 • CHS

Tickets available March 23 at  
Central Administration Building  
3315 Washington Street

Become a Foundation Champion  
for \$200. Individual tickets \$25 each.





## CHS celebrates Black History

Continuing an annual tradition, CHS students and staff remembered the trials and the triumphs of African Americans beginning with their arrival here as slaves in 1619.

Students showed talents in dance, instrumental, choral and dramatic recitations.

▲ The CHS Gospel Choir, featuring Coach Geary Walker, performed during CHS's Black History Month program. The choir is led by Tristan Love.



▲ Sisters Alexia and Tyrese Hall shared a dramatic poetry reading at the Black History celebration.



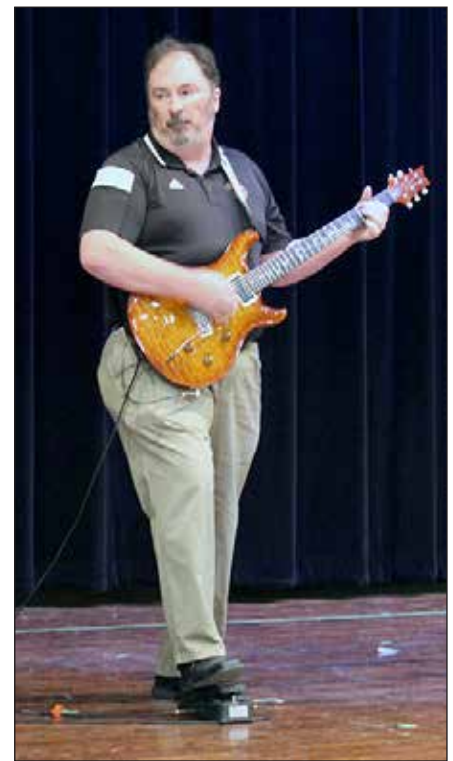
## Guest speakers Turner and King

Harry Turner (above left) and Dwight King (above right) spoke to students about their responsibilities in life and encouraged them to continue their education. Both men lead congregations in Commerce.



▲ Blake Russell shared a poem.

► Counselor Jerry Sturch surprised the audience with his Jimi Hendrix-style guitar performance.



Nominations are being accepted for the 2016 CISD Hall of Honor through April 22. See [www.commerceisd.org](http://www.commerceisd.org) for a nomination form or visit the Central Administration Building.



## CLI visits district classrooms during annual program

CISD rolled out the red carpet this week for members of the Commerce Leadership Institute as they made their annual visit to Commerce schools during Texas Public Schools Week.



▲ This year's CLI class visited CISD on March 8.

▲ The CLI group heard a student poem in the relaxed seating arrangement in Jessica Duckworth's reading class.



▶ Sherry Rector explained how her sixth graders used Chromebooks for their writing projects.



▲ CISD Board President Kathleen Hooten is fascinated by the 3D printer used in a CHS technology class.



▲ CES Principal Diane Stegall (left) proudly showed her CLI guests the ArboREADum, an atrium that was converted to a reading center for her students.



▲ Students in Lauren McPherson's class use stability balls as chairs if they like.



## Gamification of tough concepts engages Algebra students

To increase students' ownership of their learning, CMS math teacher Patricia Nelle developed a STAAR Wars themed unit to help them grasp difficult topics. She created a website with links to videos and activities for students to watch and complete. After taking notes from online sources, students complete an online practice and then a quiz. If they pass the quiz, they earn a badge to place on their journal. All students who complete 14 badges at the end of the two weeks will be treated to a movie and a snack after the STAAR test and be named STAAR Warriors.



*Math teacher Patricia Nelle (left) creates web-based resources for students in her Algebra I class at CMS.*



## Testing and Special Events Calendar

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|--|---|
| March 25.....Early release day   | May 10.....STAAR English 3; STAAR Reading 3, 4, 6 and 7; Reading Retest 5 and 8 |
| March 28 .....Holiday — Unused bad weather day                           | May 11.....STAAR Algebra 2; Science 5 and 8                                     |
| March 29 .....STAAR test, English 1; Math 5 and 8; Writing 4 and 7 Day 1 | May 12.....STAAR Social Studies 8   |
| March 30 .....STAAR Reading 5 and 8; Writing 4 and 7 Day 2               | May 12.....CHS Spring Band Concert  |
| March 31.....STAAR English 2   | May 18.....CHS Advanced Art Show, TAMU-C  |
| April 2 .....Ag Co-op Fish Fry & Auction                                 | May 19.....CHS/8th Grade Band Concert, TAMU-C, 7 p.m.                           |
| April 5 .....CES Math & Science Carnival 6 p.m.                          | May 21.....Prom   |
| April 22 .....Special Olympics Track Meet                                | May 23.....Top Ten Graduate Dinner  |
| April 29 .....Bad weather day  | May 23.....CHS Honors/Awards Night  |
| May 3.....CES Spring Music Program, CMS, 6 p.m.                          | May 24.....CHS Band Banquet   |
| May 3.....CHS Theatre and Film Club Banquet                              | May 26.....FFA Banquet  |
| May 5.....Athletic Banquet   | May 26.....CMS Spring Band Concert, 7 p.m.                                      |
| May 9.....STAAR Math 3, 4, 6 and 7; Math Retest 5 and 8                  | June 2 .....Last day of school — Early release                                  |
| May 9.....Senior/Parent Banquet, CHS, 7 p.m.                             | June 3 .....Teacher workday   |
|  | June 3 .....Graduation, TAMU-C Fieldhouse, 8 p.m.                               |