

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

COMMERCE ISD E-LETTER • MAY 15, 2009

Optimism grows during Spring football

Success doesn't happen overnight but new AD and head football coach Scott Wells is already seeing excitement building in his players in anticipation of a winning season next fall.

"Our goal is to make the playoffs," Wells said. "We are working hard this spring to work on our basic skills. We are implementing a new way of practicing and also new offense, defense and special teams programs," he added.



Central to the plan for improvement is the strength and speed program for all athletes, which is headed by Coach Kyle Abshire.

"We started by assessing where students are in terms of their speed and strength and then we put our program in place. It will be two to three years before we really notice changes in our athletes," Wells said. "However, we should see improvement soon. Our players are working hard, they are doing everything we ask and seem excited to be here. We are all having a great time," Wells added.

"We have hired a team of good, young coaches who want to be in Commerce and are excited about building a winning team," Wells said.

Coming up this summer are seven-on-seven games, which will be played in Sulphur Springs every Thursday night in June.

A football camp for current third through sixth graders will be held from 4 to 7 p.m. May 26 – 28 at A. C. Williams. For \$20, participants receive instruction from coaches and a camp T-shirt. Eighth and ninth graders will have camp from 8 to 11 :30 a.m., July 27 – 31 at CHS. Cost will be \$25, including a T-shirt.



Rain or shine—Tigers never quit! Practice continues when heavy rains force coaches and players inside for their daily workout.

Tea for Two



Karen Hubbert's fourth-grade class held a tea in honor of Mother's Day. Students wrote poems in tribute to their mothers who were invited to attend. Students brushed up on their manners before the big event.

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Above, CHS Science Teacher Susan Erwin shows dinner guests how funds were used to enhance science instruction.

Right, fourth-grade students told the dinner guests about their trip to Austin to visit the Capitol and the Bob Bulluck Museum.



Students and staff showcased how grant funds awarded by the Foundation were used to supplement instruction in the fine arts, math, science and technology.

Superintendent Blake Cooper thanked the Foundation for the work they do to support students by providing for needs outside the school budget.

CSEEF has provided over \$140,000 to Commerce schools since 2005.

Over 86 applicants attended the CISD Teacher Job Fair held April 16 at the CTC. Principals met face to face with potential CISD teachers.

NFL player says 'Dream is just a fantasy without work'

Keith Davis, a former NFL player, visited A. C. Williams Elementary School where he encouraged students to be “dream makers not dream breakers.”

Growing up in poverty with an alcoholic mother and a drug-running father who committed suicide when he was four years old, Davis told students, “If you can look up, you can get up.” Using the acronym “PUSH,” he urged students to persevere until something happens.

Former NFL player Keith Davis lifted two ACW students over his head in his exhibition of strength. Other feats of strength included doing pushups with a grown man (CHS Counselor Jerry Sturch) on his back and rolling a frying pan up to resemble a burrito.



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Rotary Club honors CHS top five percent

Students ranking in the top five percent of each Commerce High School grade level were honored along with their parents at the luncheon May 5 sponsored by the Commerce Chapter of the Rotary Club International.

Speaking to students, A&M-Commerce President Dan Jones urged them to declare intellectual independence and leave behind fear and embrace courage as they continue their journey in life.



Top five percent seniors: (left to right) Rachel Armstrong, Ryan Brenn, Caitlin Ferrell, Sarah Hays and Jarred Turner.



Second row: Rotary Club President Jerry Davies, CHS Principal Virdie Montgomery, CISD Superintendent Blake Cooper and A&M-Commerce President Dan Jones.



Top five percent juniors: Brianna Ballotti, Kayla Clark, Elizabeth Green, Mary Taggart and Caitlin Yoakum.



Top five percent sophomores: Araceli Cabrera-Zapeda, Elizabeth Canzoneri, Elizabeth Jang, Lisa Khauu and Cheyanne Patterson.



Top five percent freshmen: Britnee White, Channing Garrett, Virginia Dempsey, Haley Benson, Jalyn Holt and Rachel Montgomery.



CHS teacher/coach Chris Loper works with his son, Caleb, to make a clay object during Art Day at the Northeast Texas Children's Museum.

Art Day takes CHS artists into community

CHS art students had an opportunity to share their art with the rest of the community as volunteers at Art Day at the Northeast Texas Children's Museum. Approximately 50 children with their parents attended the event and children were given the opportunity to be creative with clay and paint.

Over 20 CHS students volunteered to help children create and enjoy the process of creating art. CHS teacher Bailey Bradley believes this was a great success.

"Being a part of Art Day at the Children's Museum was an absolute privilege. I have a deep love of art and sometimes have a problem holding back my enthusiasm in class. The best part of day was watching my students share that same enthusiasm with the children they mentored," said Bradley.

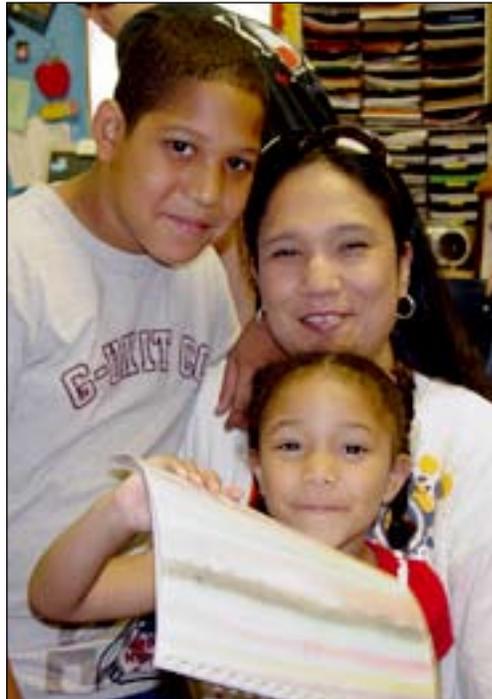
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Fourth-grade cowboys hit the trail reading and running a ranch



Students rustled up parents and other guests for Cowboy Day in Tina Bronson's fourth-grade classroom on May 8. The students had been studying cowboy poems, and they used several different writing styles, including Japanese Haiku, to write poems. They also composed poems for Mother's Day.

To sharpen math skills, students pretended to manage a ranch and each day they had to figure how market prices and unexpected bills affected their bottom line.



Students wrote and recited poetry to honor their mothers in Tina Bronson's fourth-grade class.



Capping off the end of a tough week of TAKS testing and concerns about swine flu, CISD staff enjoyed pizza provided by Superintendent Blake Cooper. Above, middle school teachers dive in.

Students learn early to care for Mother Earth



First graders visited Eddie Moore Park to collect litter in observance of Earth Day.



Mounds of clothing were collected by seventh- and eighth-grade students in Christina Blake's team-building class. Clothing will be given to My Sister's Closet and Communities In Schools.