

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

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Winter Arts Festival scheduled for December 13

Children singing, actors and actresses performing, artwork displayed with care as the band plays music of the season — sums up the Winter Arts Festival. Last year, the CHS cafeteria was standing room only as parents and family gathered for the artistic showcase.

Don't miss this year's Festival at 5:30 p.m., Thursday, December 13 at Commerce High School.



Foundation awards \$29,000 in grants

In a "Publisher's Clearinghouse-style" presentation, the Commerce Schools Educational Enrichment Foundation board members notified teachers in their classrooms that their grant proposals had been funded for this school year. Nine projects totaling over \$29,094 will provide a sound system for CHS, a writing camp for seventh graders and technology for CES. Trips to the Dallas World Aquarium, the Tyler Zoo, Heard Natural Science Museum and Austin were also included in the projects receiving funding. ACW will be able to study Georgia O'Keefe and her art.

Dr. Jack Pirkey, president of the Foundation, said the Foundation had funded over \$200,000 in projects since its inception.

The Foundation provides enrichment opportunities outside the normal school budget.



Seventh grade teacher Rebekah Jacobson (left) seems thrilled with the news she received from CSEEF Board member June Dunn. Camp Write On will be held again this year to enhance writing skills for her class.



Above: ACW/CES Art teacher Lonnie Plunkett (center) will again showcase the works of a famous artist in her grant project. This year it is Georgia O'Keefe. Plunkett is shown with Board members Janet Duncan, Jerry Keeble, Bill Fuhrmeister, June Dunn, Dr. Jack Pirkey, Janet Peek and Beverly Pirkey.



Tina Bronson's fourth graders are excited that their trip to Austin will be funded this year.

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CHS FFA wins District Leadership sweepstakes

The CHS FFA team participated in the District 4 FFA Leadership Development Contest at North Forney High School and brought home the sweepstakes title, the first in many years. A total of 18 schools participated in various contest divisions. There were 32 members from the Commerce FFA that took part in these contests. Individuals and team placing from the CHS chapter are as follows.

ACW Fall Carnival celebrates the season

Families enjoyed the games, food and prizes at the annual ACW Fall Carnival held in the gym on October 27. Over \$3100 was raised to go toward the purchase of additional playground equipment.

Teams compete in Area Bowling

Special Olympic teams competed in the Area Bowling Tournament in Dallas November 2. ACW athletes brought home two bronze and two silver medals. CMS athletes were awarded a fourth place ribbon and a bronze and a silver medal.

First and area qualifier — Greenhand Quiz team, members **Kathleen Pitre, Phillip Weise, Aaron Ferrell and Haley Vargus**

First and area qualifier — Sr. Quiz team members **Amanda Hill, Jacob Fairweather, Rebekah Cooper and Nathan Burt**

First and area qualifier — Radio Broadcast team members **Amanda Hill, Rebekah Cooper and Billy McDonald**

First — Agriculture Advocacy team members **Haley Vargus, Lindsey Fitzgerald and Kathleen Pitre**

Second and area qualifier — Senior Chapter Conducting team members **Jacob Fitzgerald, Cody Benson, Cody Ledbetter, Brenna Jackson, Payton Swinson, Andrew Coffman and Lane Reed**

Second and area qualifier — Senior Skill team members **Garrett Jackson, Payton Swinson, Brandon Hudson and Maricio Candina**

Second and area qualifier — Public Relations team members **Kate Rex, Jonah McGowen, Nathan Burt and John Straughan**

Third — Ag Issues team members **Ashley Wilcox, Chelsie Green and Angel Lunsford**

Third — Greenhand Chapter Conducting team members **Phillip Weise, Kathleen Pitre, Elizabeth Huggans, Brenna Jackson, Lane Reed, Ethan Doster and Haley Vargus**

Third — Senior Creed Speaking, **Rebekah Cooper**

Third — Greenhand Creed Speaking, **Haley Vargus**

Fourth — Job Interview — **Amanda Hill**

Fourth — Greenhand Skills team members **Dustin Rex, Cameron Hudson, James Vaughan, Aaron Ferrell**



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Cross Country

The CHS Cross Country Team concluded its fall season with 12 runners competing in the District 14 meet on October 22.

Josiah Dennis received a ninth place medal and qualified for regionals. Jennifer Barrientos came in first in the JV girls team. On the JV boys team, Nick Scarcelli medaled and came in fifth and Joseph McQuin just missed finishing in the top ten with an 11th place finish. Coach Earvin Larry said he was pleased with the season and is already looking forward to the competition next year.

CHS Band

The Roarin' Tiger Band was one of only three 2A Bands that received a "1" during UIL Region 3 Marching Contest at Memorial Stadium in Mesquite, TX. Band Director Dave Polk said this accomplishment is the first of three needed for the Sweepstakes award.

Robotics

The CHS Robotics team finished 11th out of 29 teams, their highest ranking to date, in the BEST Robotics competition held at Texas A&M University-Commerce. Sponsor Jason Thompson said the team will compete in other competitions.

Reading Buddies help beyond words



Each Friday several CHS students travel to ACW to become Reading Buddies. The older students, some of whom are National Honor Society members and athletes, act as role models and mentors. ACW Principal Deanna Hays says she can see an improvement in AR scores since the visits began. "My students can't wait

for their high school friends to get here each Friday. The relationships they are building carry over into the community. My students want to emulate the high schoolers and are learning how to set goals to become like them," she said.

"The high school students tell me that they like 'giving back' to the younger students," she added.

Colour My World



A full-fledged art class is offered this year at CES by elementary art teacher Lonnie Plunkett. On this day, second-graders were studying the use of warm and cool colors and the works of artist Jasper Johns. Plunkett continues to teach part-time at ACW, where the art shows have become legendary.

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Bus drivers treated to breakfast

Bus drivers were recognized during National School Bus Safety week in October. Superintendent Blake Cooper and Director of Finance John Walker served breakfast burritos to over 30 drivers who are on the roads rain or shine transporting students to school safely. In addition to thanking them for their service, Mr. Cooper reminded drivers they are the first person many students see every morning and their attitude often sets the tone for the entire day.

ACW and CMS students lined Culver Street to support the Lady Tiger volleyball team as they left Commerce to travel to Regional Quarterfinal competition against Gunter at Rockwall Heath High School November 9. The Lady Tigers beat Gunter Friday night; however, they were defeated by the Brock Eagles in Saturday's regional finals. Thanks for a great season!

Students donate for a good cause

CMS Principal Patrick Just knows that when he allows students to donate \$2 to wear alternate dress he will gather a good sum of money. He proved his assumption as over \$350 was raised to help the family of the Caddo Mills third grader who was struck and killed by a car. His call for mixed-up clothing resulted in students, pictured in the photo at right, mixing and not matching a creative ensemble.

ACW students raised \$687 for the family, according to Principal Deanna Hays. Students paid \$1 to wear a hat, alternate dress code shirt or jeans.



Mark your calendars! Upcoming events

- Nov. 15 Board of Trustees meeting, 7 p.m.

- Nov. 19–23 Thanksgiving holidays

- Nov. 29 Report cards go home

- Dec. 6 First grade program, 6 p.m.

- Dec. 11 PreK & Kindergarten program, 6 p.m.

- Dec. 13 Winter Arts Festival, 5:30, CHS

- Dec. 17 Board of Trustees meeting, 7 p.m.

- Dec. 21 Early release

- Dec. 24–Jan. 4 Christmas holidays

GO TIGERS!

The Tigers football team is in the playoffs again this year. They will play Whitesboro Friday night, Nov. 16, at Prosper High School.

