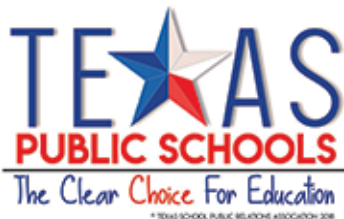


CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

COMMERCE ISD E-LETTER • FEBRUARY 2018



Texas Public Schools Week

MARCH 5-9

Open Houses

Monday, March 5

CMS — 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 6

6 p.m.

CHS — Naviance college and career technology explained, SAT and ACT test prep

Thursday, March 8

CES — 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

ACW — 6 to 7 p.m.



K-9 Coco joins CISD police department

When an opportunity came for Officer Dave Contreras to acquire a drug detection dog for Commerce ISD, he jumped at the chance. The idea was especially attractive because he could obtain an animal at little or no cost to the District.

K-9 Coco joined the Commerce ISD Police Department in January and Contreras, who was trained extensively to be her handler, says she is a vital member of the team.

Formerly Commerce ISD contracted with the Hunt County Sheriff's Department to use their animals to make monthly sweeps to detect illegal drugs. Now, Coco accompanies Contreras daily and she attracts a crowd everywhere she goes.

"Coco loves the attention she gets from the students. As we walk the CHS hallways, students stop to pet her. She seems to bring a calming effect everywhere she goes," Contreras says.

Her presence fosters the purpose of the district police department, according to CISD Chief of Police Joe Venable.

"We do our best to help students stay out of trouble and avoid the criminal justice system. We work to build relationships with the students and develop trust and Coco helps with that," Venable said.

A friendly pit bull mix, K-9 Coco serves as an ambassador to her breed, which popular culture has often stigmatized. Contreras applied to obtain a drug detection dog with The Animal Farm Foundation, a non-profit company that pays for training for shelter dogs that are usually not adoptable. Coco received extensive training from Universal K9 in San Antonio. Contreras joined Coco for a two-week team training there before making her home with Contreras 24/7. They are a certified narcotics detection team.

Contreras says he is grateful to community partners who have contributed goods and services for her upkeep including Commerce Fix & Feed and Commerce Veterinary Clinic.



The Commerce ISD Police Department welcomed K-9 Coco to the force in early January. Shown are Officer Dave Contreras, Coco's handler; Coco; and Chief Joe Venable, who was hired as CISD's first officer 11 years ago.



Running back Isaiah Askew signed a letter of intent to play football for the Trinity Valley Community College Cardinals. Shown with Isaiah (center) are his parents and Athletic Director Jeff Davidson. Askew's hard work and talent helped the Tigers advance to the third round of the playoffs after a 0-6 start prior to district play.

CHS band students performed at the ATSSB Region 3 All-Region Band Concert at Canton High School on January 26. Shown left to right are Joseph Jang, Bailey Guinessey, Grace Tolly, Jakob Scarcelli, Daniel Angel and Raquel Medrano. Jang, Guinessey, Medrano, Tolly and Angel qualified for the Area round of the All-State auditions.



The CHS Boys Basketball team is headed to the bi-district playoff game after a 12-0 season. The team is slated to play at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, February 20, at Anna High School vs the Pilot Point Bearcats.

Bringing back the Bee — CMS held its first spelling bee in many years this semester. Above left, seventh-grader Madison Warren was the runner up and Lauren Westhafer, sixth grader, was the champion.



Mark your calendars

Annual Boots & BBQ celebration and fundraiser to be held April 7

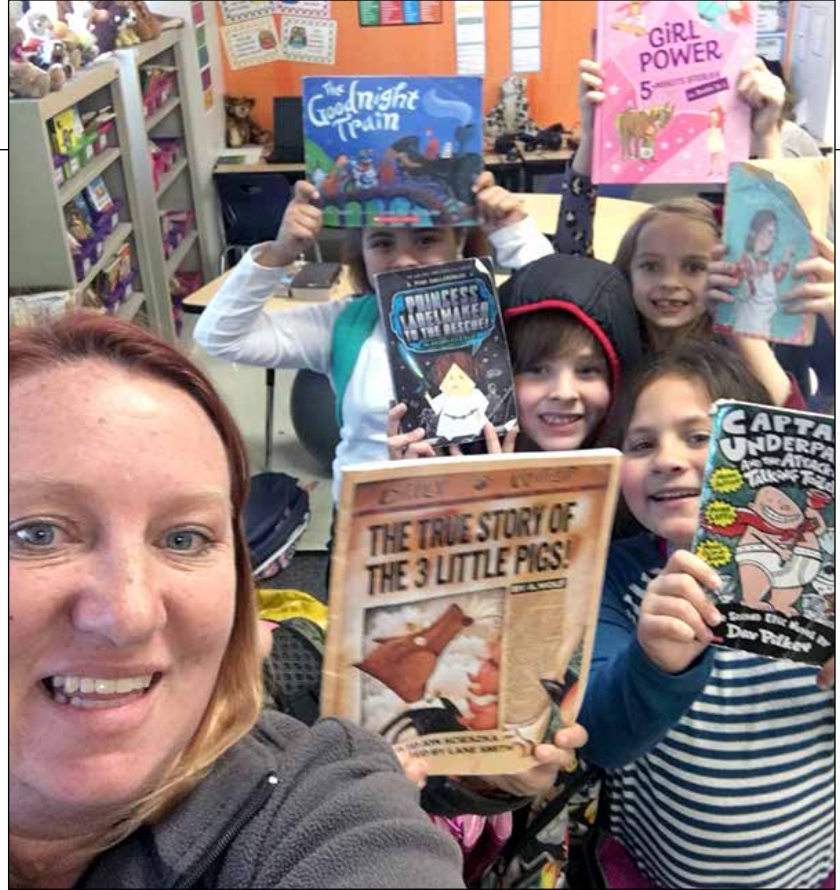
The Commerce Schools Educational Enrichment Foundation continues its work of contributing funds for teacher-initiated grants. This year's celebration highlights the results of over \$30,000 for classroom instruction.

CISD celebrates National Library Shelfie Day

To encourage reading and the use of campus libraries, CISD's Library/Media Specialist Jessica Duckworth offered prizes to individuals and classes for posting their "shelfie" pictures using the hashtag #cisdlibrary.



Misti Gardner's second-grade class



Kortney Clayton's third-grade class



CES students of the month

Commerce Elementary students were chosen for Students Of The Month for their hard work, dedication to learning, and leadership.

Pictured left to right, back row are Second Grade Matthew Williams and Lily Walden. First Grade Santiago Posadas and Kathy Nguyen. Front row: Kindergarten Austin DeLaCruz and Savannah Miles. Pre-K Brantly Relford and Ariana DeLaCruz.



Drug awareness deters use

Dr. LaVelle Hendricks spoke to ACW, CMS and CHS students about how drug use can destroy lives. Dr. Hendricks is a CISD Board member and is an associate professor in the Department of Counseling at Texas A&M University-Commerce.

Living Wax Museum brings Black history to life

CMS celebrated Black History Month by creating a living wax museum featuring black athletes, literary giants, entertainers and social activists who shaped our country and the world.

Sponsored by the CMS ELAR Department in conjunction with the CMS Book Club and R.I.S.E., the assembly allowed students to showcase their speaking and performing talents.



CMS second in UIL Academics

1st place Academics

Oliver Robert - Modern Oratory Finals
Wenyan Ni - Number Sense
Liz Carazut - Oratory Finals
Oliver Roberts - Social Studies
Emma Dobbs - Mathematics
Meaghan Green - Impromptu Finals
Luz Carazut - Oratory Prelims
Eric Bridges - Impromptu Prelims
Aubrey Clayton - Editorial Writing
Raley Draughn - Art Smart
Travis Grasser - Social Studies
Wenyan Ni - Art Smart

2nd Place Academics

Ethan Pullen - Number Sense
Eric Bridges - Impromptu Finals
Mikaela Basdon - Oratory Prelims
Meaghan Green - Impromptu Prelims
Aubrey Clayton - Ready Writing
Ben Angel - Science
Olivia Veraska - Spelling
Lauren Westhafer - Spelling
Elaine Eborn - Editorial Writing
Lauren Westhafer - Art Smart

3rd Place Academics

Ben Hatcher - Chess
Ben Angel - Maps Graphs and Charts
Trinity McElrath - Oral Reading
Mikaela Basden Oratory Finals
Elaine Eborn - Science
Trinity Campbell - Art Smart
Blakey Scott - Editorial Writing
Emma Dobbs - Editorial Writing
Aubrey Clayton - Science

4th Place Academics

Brody Baumann - Maps Graphs and Charts
Emma Newton - Impromptu Prelims
Emma Dobbs - Ready Writing
Oliver Roberts - Impromptu Speaking
Kendall Bailey - Editorial Writing
McClaine Clark - Art Smart

5th Place Academics

Curyssa Williams - Listening Skills
Michael McWhorter - Number Sense
Jack Cramer - Social Studies
Oliver Roberts - Impromptu Finals
Sally Walker - Oral Reading
Olivia Veraska - Editorial Writing
Brytan Veracruz - Art Smart
Marc Marcos - Art Smart

6th Place Academics

Trinity McElrath - Oral Reading
Trinity McElrath - Oratory Finals
Oliver Roberts - Oratory Prelims
Olivia Veraska - Art Smart
Sally Walker - Oral Reading

1st Place Team

6th grade Art Smart

2nd Place Teams

8th grade Chess
7th grade Art Smart
7th grade Science

3rd Place Teams

8th grade Art Smart
6th grade Spelling
7th grade Spelling
8th grade Science

One Act Play

1st place performance

Emma Isom - Best Actress
Austin White - All-Star Cast
Grayson Turner - All-Star Crew
Katelyn Chappell - Honorable Mention Crew

ACW Career Day helps students think about long-term goals

ACW hosted a career day to help students learn about jobs that align with their interests. Dr. Andrea Ellis, Director of the Northeast Texas Career Consortium, coordinated the event. Eighth graders attended a career day at TAMU-C earlier this month with 600 other area students.



▲ Dr. Culpepper from TAMU-C's Department of Health and Human Performance spoke to students about different careers in his area of expertise.

◀ Law enforcement officers Angela Price and Joe Venable talked to ACW students about their careers.

ACW sweeps Music Memory UIL competition

All three grade levels at ACW won first-place team honors in Music Memory in the recent UIL academics competition in Whitewright.

Elementary music teacher Eilene Weimar said that third and fifth grades swept the top three spots while fourth grade had first, second and fifth place individual finishes.

The third-grade team included Sam Duckworth, first place; Elizabeth Hickman, second place; and Brooks Clark, third place. Fourth-grade team included Chloe Pierce, first place; Jordyn Dowdy, second place; and Cameron Redd, fifth place. Music memory winners in the fifth grade included Maribelle Regodon, first; Oswaldo Cisneros, second; Samir Bhasin, third and Elizabeth Mojica, fifth.

Other ACW UIL winners include the second place fourth-grade Art Smart team and Williams Fulkerson, fourth place. Fifth grade placed second in the team Art Smart competition with Cindy Nguyen getting first place and Ashley Shipman receiving third place.

Fourth-grader Lauryn Bailey won fourth place in Ready Writing. Fifth-grade Ready Writing winners included Sarah Zakrzewska, first, and Rachael Knox, fifth.

Makayla Willett won fifth place in the fourth-grade Chess competition. The team finished third.

In fourth-grade Oral Reading, Avery Haddock came in fifth. Fifth-grader Samir Bhasin came in sixth in Oral Reading.

Cash Jenkins and Layla Aaron tied for fifth in fourth-grade number Number Sense. Abigail Campbell finished sixth in the fifth-grade Number Sense contest.



Third-Grade UIL competitors



Fourth-Grade UIL competitors

Fifth-Grade UIL competitors

