

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

COMMERCE ISD E-LETTER • DECEMBER 2015



Winter Arts Festival delights family and friends

Even though the temperature was balmy, guests at the sixth annual Winter Arts Festival felt the holiday spirit as student groups showcased their artistic talents at CHS.

Music was provided by CHS and CMS bands, led by Gary Monroe and Elizabeth Bialecki, and the ACW choir.

Artwork filled the library. Vendors sold handmade and commercial items to help shoppers complete their lists.

The ACW Pride Choir, led by Eilene Weimar, began the evening by singing holiday songs, but it wasn't just Jingle Bells for these students. Students demonstrated their hard work by harmonizing several songs beautifully.



Student art from every campus was displayed in the CHS library



CMS band



Frosty came alive in the CHS Theatre production.



CHS band

CHS makes strong showing in All-District football team

Defensive Player of the Year

Brandon Rolfe, senior, defensive end

Newcomer of the Year

Isaiah Askew, sophomore, running back

1st Team Offense

Tre Wilson, senior, wide receiver

1st Team Offense

Justin Hall, junior, offensive tackle

2nd Team Offense

R'Qez Hughes, senior, inside receiver

2nd Team Offense

Malcom Fragosa, senior, wide receiver

2nd Team Offense

Wayne Wilson, senior, offensive guard

2nd Team Offense

Nic Smith, junior, offensive guard

2nd Team Offense

Baltazar Baez, junior, kicker

1st Team Defense

Oscar Ramirez, junior, defensive tackle

1st Team Defense

Tony Ramirez, junior, defensive end

1st Team Defense

Michael Champion, senior, inside linebacker

1st Team Defense

Jacorian Savage, sophomore, safety

2nd Team Defense

Jacorian Savage, sophomore, punter

2nd Team Defense

Samuel Rasberry, senior, outside linebacker

2nd Team Defense

Matthew Rumbaugh, senior, inside linebacker



CHS National Honor Society members manned the Salvation Army donation kettle outside Walmart as they do every year. NHS Sponsor Glenda Henderson says the students look forward to their bell-ringing duties each year. This is only one of the service projects performed by NHS as they also help children shop in the Clothe-A-Child program.

Food service 'On the Go'



Food service at Commerce Middle School started the year with a new kiosk called "On the Go." The new concept was put in place to offer a variety of items not available in the main cafeteria line. These items include salads, wraps, sandwiches, and hoagies, representing cultures from around the world.

This has improved service, menu variety, appearance, service time, and student participation in the school lunch program, according to Chartwells Director Gene Weinkauf.

In other news, the staff of CISD food service has not had an accident incident this year and has demonstrated safe working practices. This team has been recognized among all the Chartwells district in the South Central US Region which includes Missouri, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Texas.

The Take 5 Program is a safety initiative asking all employees to take 5 minutes each hour to identify and correct any possible safety issue which may have come about during the course work that hour.



Breaking with tradition, CHS seniors visited Southern Junction for their annual fall trip. Previous senior classes traveled to Trail Dust Steak House but construction obstacles forced sponsors to promote the eastern location near Rockwall.

CMS sixth graders complete outdoor challenge



The Commerce Schools Educational Enrichment Foundation provided funding for the second consecutive year to send all CMS sixth graders to the Texas A&M University-Commerce Outdoor Adventure Challenge Course. The course offers adventure based learning opportunities to enhance leadership, decision-making and communication skills for groups to develop as a team. Providing these skills to sixth graders helps them with their entire middle school journey, according to Principal Patrick Just. As they progress through the middle grades, students are more equipped to deal with challenges that students face on a day to day basis.

Kindergartners make stop at the North Pole



Kindergarten students visited the North Pole of Texas in early December. The Alan Screws family of Pickton turn their dairy farm into a winter wonderland to the delight of all ages. Their lighted extravaganza is sponsored by many businesses and organizations and is manned entirely by volunteers.



Santa visited with each CES student during their trip to the North Pole.

Christmas Parade 2015



Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) participated in the Commerce Christmas Parade on December 5. Members walked the parade route while others worked a hot chocolate and cookie decorating booth.



▲ The CHS FFA designed their own float for the City of Commerce Christmas Parade.
◀ CES won the Grand Marshal's Award for their parade entry.

Hour of Code opens new language across the district

Participation in the Hour of Code blanketed the district as students in each school had a one hour introduction to computer science which was designed to demystify code and show that anyone can learn the basics to be a maker, creator or an innovator.



▲ CHS students were introduced to code during the district-wide activity.

▶ CES students working through coding problems while relaxing in the ArboREADum.



CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

CES plays to a packed CMS house

Over 500 family members and friends attended the CES Christmas program, which was held at CMS. Students from pre-k through second grade sang holiday songs, which were led by music teacher Eilene Weimar.



It's hard work being Santa's helper.



CMS one act play wins honors for cast and tech team



CMS students presented "The Last Illusion," a play about Harry Houdini as their UIL One Act Play entry. Sponsor Shelbie Embro said that Savannah Shaw was named to the All-Star Cast and Rockney Reid received honorable mention for his performance. CMS won the award for Outstanding Tech Team.