

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

COMMERCE ISD E-LETTER • DECEMBER 2016



Winter Arts Festival showcases student talent

It's the most wonderful time of the year to gather and celebrate our talented students and staff. Commerce ISD continued its tradition of hosting the Winter Arts Festival on December 8 as CMS/CHS and ACW choirs, the CHS Band and CHS Drama Department showcased the fine arts through the spirit of the holidays.

New this year to the program were poems written by CHS students Genesis Campbell and Sheryl Lucas.



CISD — a district with a giving spirit



◀ Traditions are honored during this time of year such as the annual Clothe-A-Child event, which provides \$50 worth of clothing for CISD students. The CHS National Honor Society members gather at 5:30 a.m. to help children select their gifts of clothing.

▼ CMS students gathered over 1100 cans of food for the local food pantry.



Students from CES, CMS and CHS attended special Texas A&M University-Commerce men's and women's basketball games on December 1, compliments of the university. This annual event features special activities for the students and exposure to the A&M-C campus.



Parent and Community Meeting

6:30 - 7 p.m., Monday, January 2

CISD Board Room, 3315 Washington St.

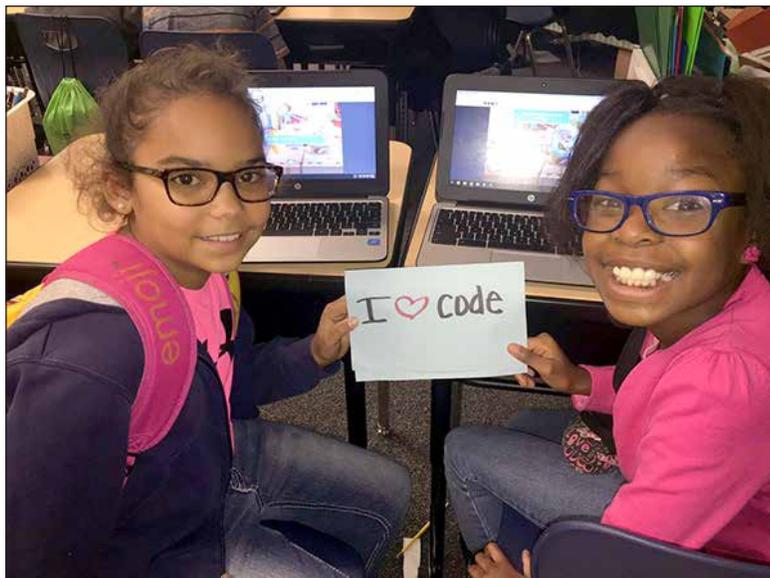
A-F Accountability Ratings

The State's new A-F accountability ratings will be released to the public on January 6. Learn what it means for Commerce ISD.

Hour of Code introduces students to programming

Students across the district were coding up a storm during the first week of December. In the Hour of Code competition, ACW was the winner chalking up 340 hours of coding time. CMS came in second place with 187 hours and CES was third with 82 hours.

Instructional Technology Specialist Heather Kilgore says the activity introduces students to computer programming and computer science, a skill becoming in higher demand.



Google Expedition takes students beyond classroom walls

Virtual reality has been talked about for decades, but it has become a reality for CISD students. Through Google Expedition, students can visit the North Pole, space or have an underwater adventure while teachers moderate and explain what they are seeing. A 30-piece VR set was the result of a grant from the Commerce Schools Educational Enrichment Foundation. Teachers can request the set for use in their classroom.



Christmas card art contest reveals talented artists

Winners of the annual Christmas card contest have their work featured on posters throughout Commerce. The district winner's work is reproduced for the district Christmas card which is sent to area school districts and friends of the CISD.



Second-grader Jamie Brockway



Sally Walker, Fifth Grade



CHS student Gladys Marcos



Seventh-grader Jacobi Cantrell was the winner of the CISD Christmas card contest.

Sixth graders meet more than physical challenges at Ropes Course

Communication, leadership and decision-making skills are tested at the Texas A&M University-Commerce Outdoor Adventure Challenge Course. Sixth graders participate to help them build skills necessary for a successful middle school and life experience.

The challenge was funded through a grant given by the Commerce Schools Educational Enrichment Foundation.



Annual Austin trip reinforces Texas history curriculum

Fourth graders hear the stories of the early morning departure, the trip over Lake Ray Hubbard and the capital city from students who have gone before. But nothing quite prepares them for the annual trip to Austin in conjunction with their study of Texas history.

Over 100 students boarded charter buses to head south before daybreak. Many students slept until they arrived. The chocolate foundation at the dinner stop ranked high on the list of favorite activities of the day.



City workers lend a hand at CES

Special guests from the City of Commerce visited CES to read, assist and interact with students.

We welcome our community helpers and appreciate all they do.

Visitors included Jason Rector, Jeff Denman, Jeff Rich, Joe Pretry, Michael Garcia, Corey Arrington and Josh Moloney.



Students attend PBRA Handicapable Rodeo

Attending the Handicapable Rodeo is an event students in special education life skills classes look forward to every year. The Sulphur Springs High School Key Club hosts the event in conjunction with the PBRA Rodeo Circuit. Club members are assigned to individual students. While activities vary each year, horseback riding is a perennial favorite.



CMS one-act play brings home cast and crew honors

Seven cast and crew members of the CMS one-act play "Whodunit?" received awards at UIL competition held Saturday, December 10 in Princeton. Grayson Turner received honorable mention tech award. Abigail Weimar was named to the all star cast in tech. Cast members receiving honorable mention were Meghan Green and Michael McWhorter. Jacob DeMidio and Meagan Jones were named to the all star cast. Gus Kilgore was named best actor. A total of 38 students attended the competition under the direction of Shelbie Embro.



CHS drama students presented the play "Kung Fu Kitty" as a holiday treat for CES students. The play revisits the classic battle between cats and dogs with a martial arts twist.

CISD HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

12/16	Early Release (3 hours early)
12/19-1/1	District Closed
1/2	Teachers report
1/3	Students report