

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

COMMERCE ISD E-LETTER • DECEMBER 2018

Winter Arts Festival celebrates student talent

Beginning in 2011, the Winter Arts Festival was designed to showcase student talents in the fine arts. True to the roots of its beginning, this year's production was even more spectacular.

The new band director, Kara Wallace, let her students shine as the Wind Ensemble, the Symphonic Band and the Jazz Cats band performed this year.

Both CMS and CHS choirs were showcased along with the well-prepared ACW Pride Choir.

The CHS Theater Department brought "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" to life for their contribution to the holiday spirit.



▲ The sounds of Christmas filled the air as three CHS bands performed holiday music. They were directed by Kara Wallace.



► The CMS Band performed at the Winter Arts Festival and was directed by Jason Wallace, an accomplished musician who sits principal tuba in the Dallas Winds.



A young ACW artist showcased the art produced by students at her campus. Art from ACW, CMS and CHS was displayed in the library.



Texas A&M University-Commerce student Oshadhee Satarasinghe, shown directing the CHS choir, also directed the CMS choir.



Friends, family crowd CHS cafetorium for the sounds of the season



▲ The CHS Jazz Cats brought sass to the Festival.

◀ Elementary music teacher Eilene Weimar directed the ACW Pride Choir in singing fun Christmas music.



The CHS Theater Department presented "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" at the Winter Arts Festival. The production also traveled to ACW and CES for students at those campuses.

A&M-C's TRAC initiative pays student lunch debt

Members of the First-Year TRAC initiative at Texas A&M University-Commerce sponsored a campus-wide service project to pay off meal charges at all campuses. The university students raised more than \$1000 by collecting spare change.

Dr. Yvonne Villanueva-Russell, Dean of the University College, said the TRAC initiative is designed to equip incoming freshmen with the tools to be successful inside and outside of the classroom. A community service component is always included in the program.



Members of the First-Year TRAC initiative at TAMU-C presented a check for over \$1000 to CISD to pay for school meal charges. Accepting the check on behalf of CISD were Belinda Miller, Patricia Nelle and Anika Whetstone.

CMS UIL team finishes 4th



2018 UIL Individual Placement

1st Gold

Raley Draughn
Oliver Roberts
Naomi Foretich
Oliver Roberts
Luz Carazut

Medalists

7th Grade Art Smart
7th Grade Modern Oratory
6th Ready Writing
7th Social Studies
8th Modern Oratory

2nd Silver

Cindy Nguyen

Medalist

6th Art Smart

3rd Bronze

Brytan Veracruz
Kelsey Williams

Medalist

8th Art Smart
8th Social Studies

4th Place

Cody Jenkin
Mark Marcos
Madison Otken
Wenyan Ni
Abigail Campbell

Medalist

7th Science I
7th Art Smart
8th Art Smart
8th Number Sense
6th Art Smart

5th Place

Jared Buchanan
Sam Underwood
Britton Tew
Ben Angel
Sally Walker
Joanna Jang

Medalist

6th Social Studies
7th Social Studies
6th Maps, Graphs & Charts
8th Science II
7th Impromptu Speaking
6th Art Smart

6th Place

Pace Eilers

Medalist

7th Listening Skills

Team Event

1st
2nd
2nd
2nd
3rd

Placement

7th Social Studies
7th Science I
6th Art Smart
8th Grade Art Smart
6th Social Studies



CMS performs well at UIL academics

The CMS One-Act Play placed second at UIL competition held on December 15 with “The Great Pandemonium” by Pat Cook.

It was the first one-act play competition for teacher Kortney Clayton.

Christmas art contest winners



Sally Walker
CMS, Contest Winner



Morgan Guinessey
CHS, Contest Finalist



Bella Ambrose
ACW, Contest Finalist



CISD held an art contest and the winner was featured on the district’s annual Christmas card. Hats off to art teachers Lindsay Plunkett, ACW; Tracy Brown, CMS; and Katie Ritchie, CHS.

Men help students 'Make the Knot' at CMS

A total of 176 students and 50 men from the community participated in the "Make the Knot" program at CMS.

Dr. Shenequa Miller, CMS principal, designed the program to provide an opportunity for young boys to develop relationships with male role models.

Over two visits, the men taught the students how to tie a tie and shared lunch.

Additional mentoring activities are in the works and a program for girls called "Make the Knot Too" will be presented in the spring.



City Manager Darrek Ferrell helped several boys learn how to tie a tie.



Skilled in daily tie-tying, Mayor Wyman Williams directs a student tying a half-windsor knot.

CES Students of the Month



CES Students of the Month were (pictured left to right, back row) First Grade Riley Coufal, Sameeha Mumshad; Second Grade Cash O'Neal and Araceli Alvarez. (Front row) Pre-K Derek Johnson, Kayleigh Freaney; Kindergarten Cyler Hodo, Yazmin Salas

Seniors choose favorites

Seniors were asked to select their favorite teacher from across the district and write a letter to them describing the impact they have had on their lives. It was a tear-jerker!



Cindy Pierce, CMS



Glenda Henderson, CHS



Kirby Gilbert, CMS

ACE enrollment increases



CES students were chosen Youth of the Month by ACE Site Coordinator Abigail Patterson (center).



Watch DOGS bring dads in

The Watch DOGS programs at ACW and CES encourage fathers and grandfathers to donate their time to be a presence in the schools. At right, Madeline seems happy that her dad, Derrell Harrison, spent a day at school. ACW Principal Lisa Palazzetti says her school has had eight Watch DOGS this year whose presence helps increase security and provides a male role model.

