

# CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

COMMERCE ISD E-LETTER • FEBRUARY 2016

## Weird Science engages fifth graders

A.C. Williams Elementary School fifth graders didn't have to travel far to visit a first-class learning facility right here in Commerce. The Northeast Texas Children's Museum presented its Weird Science hands-on experience led by retired educators and volunteers to over 100 ACW students in early February.

The program, which supports 14 science TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills) objectives, will be shared with over 500 northeast Texas students during its nine-day run.

Students rotate through three stations including Crazy Creature Blood, during which students measure volume using graduated cylinders; Earth Ooze, a plasticity lab where students work with balance beam balances; and Icy Hot Swamp, a salt/freshwater temperature lab using Celsius thermometers.

The program is sponsored by Farmers Electric Cooperative.





## Box creations

Sara McCarthy's Pre-kindergarten students made box creations during their study of imagination. She said students had a lot of fun working together and sharing what they made.

## CMS Robotics Team nets \$1400 grant

The Commerce Middle School Robotics team was recently awarded a \$1400 grant from the Greenville chapter of the Air Force Association. The grant was presented to the CMS Robotics sponsor, Kirby Gilbert, by the chapter's representative Larry Ratliff. Mr. Ratliff is also the grandfather to a CMS student and robotics team member. The funding will go towards getting the organization many new hand tools, safety equipment and personal protective equipment, along with a few power tools that the organization may need.



Accepting a \$1400 grant from the Air Force Association were Patrick Just, CMS principal; Kirby Gilbert, CMS teacher; Larry Ratliff, chapter representative for the Air Force Association; and Superintendent Blake Cooper.



## State bound...

Senior Michael Elwell has made the ATSSB All-State Band for the second consecutive year. He competed against students from the ATSSB Area North Zone last month.

## NJHS supports CMS through service projects

CMS NJHS students are not only smart but their hearts are in the right place as well, according to sponsor Margaret London.

The honor society held a Penny War before Christmas to raise funds for Commerce Lil' Angels and students donated a total of \$656 for the cause. NJHS was able to buy gifts for seven children in the community. They also helped to purchase gifts for Toys for Tots.

NJHS students also participate in the Buddy Program which pairs eighth-grade students with sixth or seventh graders to provide assistance with classwork, organization, or simply give the younger students someone to talk to about what's going on in their lives.

Principal Patrick Just says the organization serves as a positive force for the middle school campus.



*Six NJHS members accompanied Nick Smith's Life Skills class on the seventh-grade field trip to the Perot Museum in Dallas.*

## Celebrating the 100th day

*CES students look forward to the 100th day of school when they dress in clothing festooned with 100 buttons, pins, pom poms, or other small items. They also create posters using 100 items. Creativity was abundant in their displays which covered the gym walls. Morning activities involved different counting games up to 100.*



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## Math winners...

Lisa Burden's fifth-grade homeroom class finished in first place for all of Hunt County in the online math contest called Sumdog.

Their math teacher, Carol Adams, said the students loved competing against other students and were engaged by the challenging math games.

Students could compete during school or at home.

*Students in Commerce Police Department's Explorer Program learned about misdemeanor and felony traffic stops during their fourth session. The Explorer Program helps students 14 to 21 discover if a career in law enforcement is in their future. Students gain practical experience while making career choices.*



## Retrofit underway...

The entire district is undergoing a project to conserve energy and reduce costs by retrofitting older, inefficient lighting, plumbing and HVAC units to newer technology guaranteed to save the district money. Lights are being

replaced with new LED technology using the existing fixtures. Lighting work should be completed by the end of February. Most work is done after school hours to avoid any disruptions to instructional time.





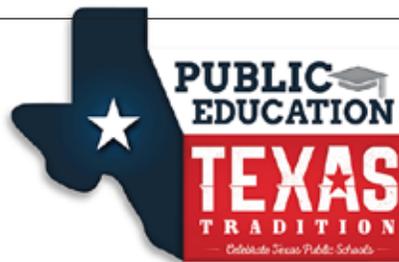
## Down she goes...

CMS eighth-grade math students tested their hypotheses about how many rubber bands Barbie would need to safely bungee jump from 30 ft in the air.

In class they used a shorter jump height where they developed a scatterplot from their data and then created a line of best fit. Using the equation of the line, students found the theoretical amount of rubberbands needed.

The Commerce Fire Department helped by bringing out their ladder truck to apply the theory to reality. From 30 ft up, the dolls were dropped and then the height from the ground measured. The application of this concept helped the students see how math can be used in the real world.

Math teacher Patricia Nelle had the help of CHS senior Ashley Basham with the project.



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## Commerce ISD Celebrates Texas Public Schools Week March 7-11

### Tuesday, March 8

5:30 - 6:30 p.m. . . . . Commerce Elementary School Open House  
6 - 7 p.m. . . . . A.C. Williams Elementary School Open House

### Thursday, March 10

5:30 - 6:30 p.m. . . . . Commerce Middle School Open House  
6:30 p.m. . . . . CMS One-Act Play Performance