

# CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

COMMERCE ISD E-LETTER • JUNE 2016

## CHS graduates 95 in the Class of 2016

Families and friends filled the Texas A&M University-Commerce Fieldhouse in celebration of the graduation of the Commerce High School Class of 2016.

Emily Gruver, valedictorian, and Jackson Singleton, salutatorian, addressed the audience with customary honor graduate speeches.

Misty-eyed parents and grandparents proudly watched as their loved ones crossed the stage to accept their diploma from Superintendent Blake Cooper.



## Special Education students celebrate success

Parents and students celebrated along with Special Education Department staff at the end-of-the-year banquet held at the CISD Administration Building. Winners at the Second Annual Special Olympics Track Meet held at Texas A&M University-Commerce were recognized for their strong showing at the meet.

After lunch and a slide show, which showed highlights of the year, students and helpers from the National Junior Honor Society danced to the upbeat music provided by D.J. Kirby Gilbert.



*Terry Buckley, left, special education department head at CHS, and Misty Belcher, aide, organized the successful track meet held at the university.*



## CES celebrates another goal met

CES administrators set the stakes mid-year for the AR Star Reader Challenge. If the school had 50 gold t-shirt winners for reading and at least one student achieving 500 AR points, the administrators would raise the roof. Near the end of May, CES Principal Diane Stegall, Assistant Principal Wanda Beane and Counselor Belinda Miller delivered on their promise as they were hoisted to the CES rooftop where they performed a popular dance, released balloons and joined students in song.

## Registration opens online July 25

Parents will be able to register their children for the 2016–2017 school year from the comfort of their own home online beginning July 25.

Parents must sign up at the school office for Skyward Family Access immediately for online registration access. An email message will remind parents this summer to register for the new year.

On-site registration will still be offered on August 4–5 at CHS for those without technology access; however, online registration is highly recommended.

New student registration will be conducted from noon to 6 p.m., August 4 and from 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on August 5 at CHS.



## Trees for Tigers at CHS



*Jason Hudson, center, directs second graders as they plant a Chinese Pistachio tree near the tennis courts at CHS.*

Eighteen trees were planted at CHS this spring with the help of CES, ACW and CMS students, who were bussed to the site. The trees were purchased through a grant obtained by Jason Hudson, Northeast Texas Career & Technical

Consortium director.

Hudson hopes that students will remember their day of planting and it will instill in them a connection to the high school as they go through their educational experience.

## Kindergarten circus tradition continues at CES



The lions, tigers, tightrope walkers and clowns that emerge from kindergarten classrooms this time every year displayed their skills and talents at this year's Kindergarten Circus.

## CISD launches new website

CISD recently launched a new website design at [www.commerceisd.org](http://www.commerceisd.org). The change results in a cleaner, less cluttered look with easier to find information. The design adapts to mobile devices. Any broken links should be fixed before the start of the new school year.



## Cooper honored at retirement

School and community members gathered to wish Superintendent Blake Cooper well as he retires from public education. Cooper's wife, Tammy, his children and grandchildren attended the event held May 26 at the CISD Administration Building.



## Staff presents windmill

*CISD administrators presented Superintendent Cooper with a windmill for his yard after a pot-luck luncheon held at the Administration Building.*





*Karen Davis and Wendy Bridges were presented a grant for CES from CSEEF Board members Janet Duncan and Jack and Beverly Pirkey.*



*Heather Kilgore's grants for Google Expeditions and a library media collaboration station were funded.*



*ACW's Carol Adams received calculators for her math classes from the Foundation.*



*Julie Brown's proposal will allow CMS students to experience the ropes course at Texas A&M University-Commerce.*



*Elizabeth Bialecki and Shelbie Embro were awarded a fine arts grant for CMS.*



*Art teacher Tracy Brown received funds for an art garden.*



*Lisa Burden was awarded Time for Kids Magazine for her classroom.*



*Because of CHS counselor Jerry Sturch's efforts, the campus will bring back Rachel's Challenge..*



*Dave Polk received the news that the band will receive clothing for its orchestra performances.*



*Jennifer Speulda learned that the Aim for Success programs were funded for 2016-2017.*



*Kortney Clayton received funding for Time for Kids Magazine.*

## Staff recognized at annual picnic



Support staff who go above and beyond the call of duty are STAR award winners. This year's honorees include Holly Nutt, Diana Turner, Ingrid Turner, Stephen Clayton, Christie Condor and Betty Farrow.

### TEACHERS OF THE YEAR...

Anquetette Whiteman (left) was named Elementary Teacher of the Year and Earvin Larry was named Secondary Teachers of the Year. They will be honored at the Region 10 Teacher of the Year luncheon in August and special guests at a Texas Rangers game.

### ROCKIN' RETIREES...

Staff members receive rocking chairs when they retire from the district. Pictured are Blake Cooper, Sherry Rector, Trish King, Deanna Hays, Kathy Campbell and Cathy Beane. J.B. Elder also received a rocking chair for his service to the district.

