

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

COMMERCE ISD E-LETTER • NOVEMBER 2015



Senior Jordyn Sharp has signed a letter of intent to play softball at Texas A&M University-Commerce next year. Jordyn (center) is shown above with her parents Lance and Nakita Sharp.

Fourth graders visit the capital city

Over 120 fourth-grade students and staff boarded charter buses in late October for the class's annual visit to the state capital. To enhance their understanding of Texas history, the students toured the capitol and the Bullock Texas State History Museum. They saw two films at the museum featuring state history and humpback whales.

Perhaps the highlight for many students was the stop at an all-you-can-eat buffet featuring a chocolate fountain and cotton candy.



WINTER ARTS FESTIVAL

Thursday, December 10
5:30 p.m.
Commerce High School

Showcasing our students in drama, band and choral performances and art exhibits.

Over 20 vendors will offer items for sale for holiday gift-giving.



CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

Setting the tone for a great day!

Often the first and last person a student encounters during the school day, a bus driver can have a huge impact on the well-being of our students. Not only do they ensure students arrive safely and on time, but they show a caring attitude daily. Bus drivers and monitors were honored for their dedication and service at a breakfast in late October during National School Bus Safety Week. Shown left to right, front row: Ann Williams, Shawn Bronson, Diana Turner, Elisha Hackler and Juan Rodriguez. Second row: David Sanders, Jim Williams, Enrique Barbalena (crossing



guard), Supervisor Kim McCarty, Laura Cromwell and Benny Chambliss. Third row: Russell Parker, Josh Rhodes, Rex DeFord, Kerry Bartholomew and Billy Neal. CISD is one of only a few districts in Texas that transports any student who wants to ride. Most school districts only transport students who live at least two miles away from their school.

Where's the flock?



The CMS Student Council is raising money for teacher appreciation, community service, and school dances. To raise the money needed, the council is “flocking” yards in Commerce. Members from Student Council are putting 15 to 20 flamingos in yards all over the city. To have the flock removed, just make a \$20 donation to the Student Council and the friendly pink birds will leave your lawn. For an additional \$5, people can select where the flock goes to next. If you would like to purchase Flamingo Flock Insurance, contact Shelbie Embro to make a donation.



CES names Students of the Month

Students named students of the month at Commerce Elementary School are as follows:

Back Row: Cash Jenkins and Kylee Burrell, Second Grade; David Ortega and Aubrey Wright, First Grade

Middle Row: Jacob Shipman and Sophie Thrift, Kindergarten

Front Row: Jayce Raye and Brooke Brockway, Pre-K

Students were nominated for their hard work and dedication.

CMS robotics team competes at A&M-Commerce

The CMS Robotics Team competed in the Boosting Engineering, Science, and Technology (B.E.S.T.) competition held at Texas A&M University-Commerce field house on October 31. This year's theme was titled "Pay Dirt," and students from over 25 area high schools and middle schools competed in a simulated mining environment in which their robots had to mine resources to score game points. Of the teams that were represented, CMS was one of four middle schools attending, competing against over 20 high school teams.

The theme helped students learn about the importance of mined products, and how so much of the world around them (from plastics, electronics, cell phones and components, even prescription medicines) is derived from natural resources found underground. The competition had many scoring areas that CMS students participated in. Not only did they perform in the actual robot part, but they also competed in a marketing presentation, table display, team spirit, and an engineering notebook.

Overall scoring for the day's competition was totaled among all of these categories, so though a team may not perform as well as desired in the robot part, they could achieve high scores in the other areas that would help their overall score.

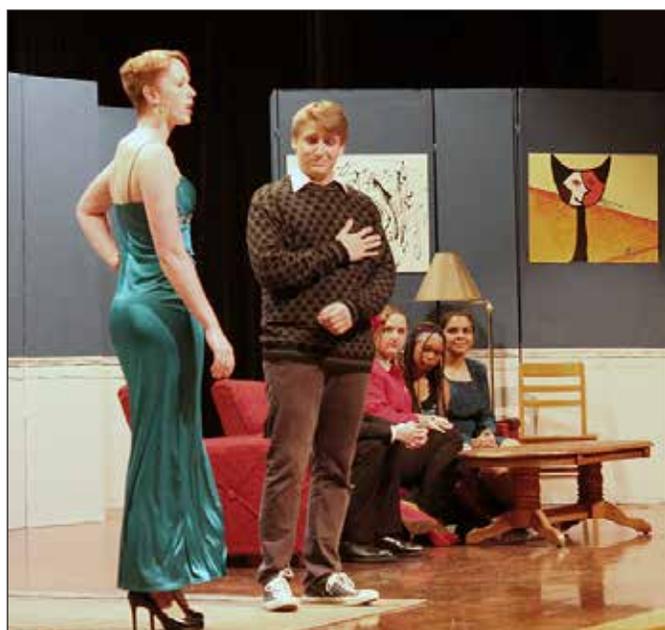
The B.E.S.T. competition is unique, because all teams are initially given the same exact kits



of materials (such as wood, pvc pipes, wires, nuts, bolts, screws, and motors), a six week deadline from kick-off day to competition day, and teams must have created a finished working robot that can perform the functions in which that team feels are most essential for scoring.

With this, students gain real hands on knowledge of proper tool safety and use, mechanical and electrical construction, mathematics and measurement skills, and supervisory and leadership skills.

CMS students and their parents showed extreme dedication during the six weeks period, according to sponsor Kirby Gilbert. Often, students would show up to CMS and work most Saturdays and Sundays, and even a few week day evenings during the time leading up to competition, he added.



CHS presents annual dinner theatre

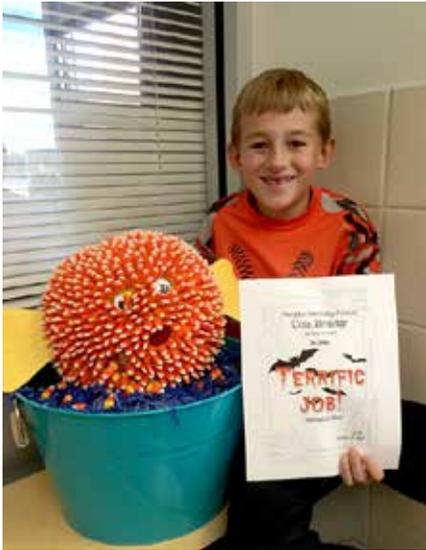
"The Plot, Like Gravy, Thickens" was presented by CHS theatre students for the fall dinner theater production. The murder mystery featured an assortment of odd characters, each with a motive to eliminate the main character. Sponsor Karri Anderson said she was very pleased with this year's dinner theatre production.

"We had a strong, experienced cast and crew. The most exciting part was on Saturday night, when our stage manager, Philip Weise, had to go on in place of one of our cast members who was very sick. He did very well and we are all proud of him," Anderson said.

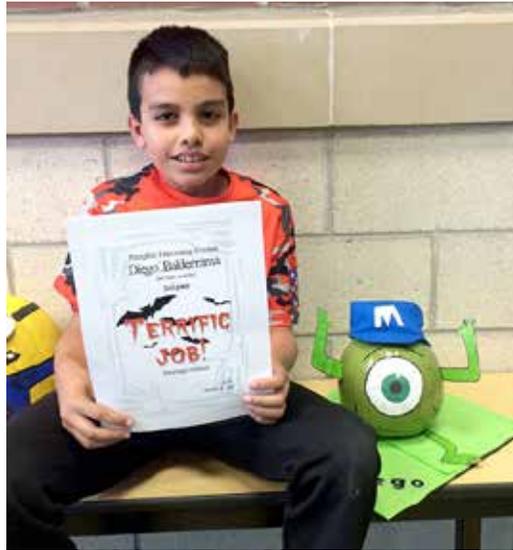
Profits from the production go into producing the one-act play.

The character Peggy Sue (left) is only one of the suspects in the murder mystery play.

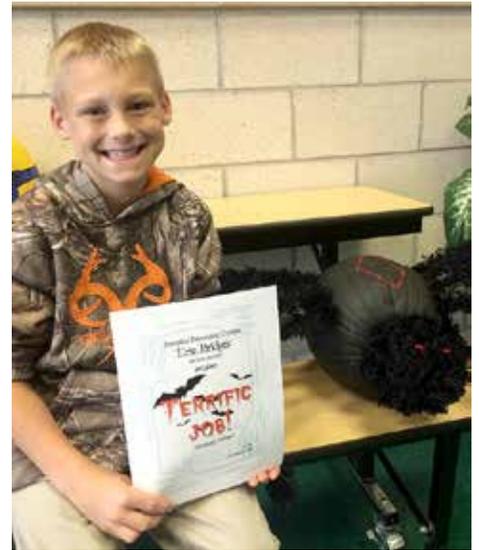
ACW students transform pumpkins in annual contest



First place Cole Bruister



Second place Diego Balderrama



Third place Eric Bridges

Everything you ever wanted to know about pumpkins...

CES kindergarten classes carved pumpkins with the help of parent volunteers. The students used math and science skills to predict the circumference of the pumpkin, weigh the pumpkin, observe how the pumpkin looked, felt, smelled and count the seeds. They also tested whether the pumpkin would sink or float. They ended the pumpkin fun by carving a face! Volunteers included Amber Weaver, LeAnn Tolly, Rachel Coffman and Ashton Russell.





CES celebrates 50th day

Celebrations come easy at CES and the 50th day of school proved to be an excellent theme for dressing up and learning math. Students counted to 50 in many different ways and learned about the decade of the 1950s.



Ag students compete in leadership contests

CHS FFA members brought home awards from the District IV FFA Leadership Development events earlier this month. Placing third in the Greenhand quiz were Brooklyn Matthews, McKynna Swinson and Caitlyn Rogers. Ninth place winners in Senior quiz were Brenna Jackson, Sierra Melendez, Jesse Burt and Jacee Buchanan.

Winning fifth place in Senior Creed was Haley Vargis. Haley also won seventh in job interview. In Radio Broadcasting, Brenna Jackson, Keshai Kirby and Jacee Buchanan placed third.



The Special Olympics team, which is made of up ACW, CMS and CHS students, competed in the Special Olympics Bowling Tournament held at USA Bowl in Dallas. The students practiced for six weeks prior to the tournament and several students brought home medals.