

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

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ACW students learned the future is based on the choices they make. It's not just a roll of the dice, explained the Aim for Success speaker.

Aim for success program targets behaviors

For several years CISD has worked with the organization Aim for Success to bring anti-bullying and abstinence programs to our schools. The programs promote a lifestyle of excellence and encourage the development of self-control, self-respect and self-discipline.

The program was recommended by the School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) which is made up of parents, teachers and community members. Funding to present the anti-bullying program, starting at first grade, and the abstinence program, beginning with sixth graders, was provided by the Commerce Schools Educational Enrichment Foundation.

The anti-bullying program was presented to six different student groups October 16 and the abstinence program will be presented on December 17.

The programs have a unique way of reaching students, connecting with them on their level with a humorous and down-to-earth approach, according to Jennifer Speulda, CISD Director of Health Services.

The programs are aligned with the TEKS, Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills, and an evaluation at the end of the year will be conducted to determine the program's effectiveness based on decreased bullying instances and reduced student pregnancy.

Tiger band excels at competitions

The CHS Marching Band is making its mark this fall with straight ones at the North East Texas Marching Festival at Texas A&M University-Commerce and the UIL Marching Contest in Mesquite. In an additional appearance at the Cedar Creek Marching Festival, the band was finalist, finishing in sixth place overall.

CMS Band Director Elizabeth Bialecki has been assisted by retired Mesquite director Gary Monroe, who has been helping in Dave Polk's absence. We wish Mr. Polk well as he continues to recover from an illness.



CMS student leaders take in Dallas conference

CMS Student Council (STUCO) participated with other area schools in the “STUCO Leadership Day” hosted by the Dallas Stars hockey team on October 13 at the American Airlines Center in Dallas. The conference included 24 CMS STUCO members (eight members from sixth, seventh, and eighth grades), taking a tour of the facility, meeting with Stars front office personnel, and then dividing up with other groups into break out sessions that were focused on STUCO development and leadership.

The students were able to meet students from different schools, ranging from middle school to high school, and work in small groups with them developing STUCO ideas for the school year. In each of the break out sessions, students were coached by STUCO leaders, members, teachers, and other leadership professionals from surrounding schools, on topics such as dealing with challenges in team building, being more effective leaders, and how to work together as a STUCO organization.

To conclude their trip, students were invited to attend the evening’s Dallas Stars vs. Edmonton Oilers hockey game, where the Dallas Stars won with a 4-2 victory.



A few members from CMS met WFAA Channel 8’s news anchor Cynthia Izaguirre, as the Channel 8 studio is on the same grounds as the sports arena.



Pamela Remmers, Nordheim ISD school board member and TASB Director, presented CISD Superintendent Blake Cooper an award for being named a regional superintendent of the year.

Cooper honored at TASA/TASB convention

Superintendent Blake Cooper was one of 18 superintendents recognized during the Texas Association of School Administrators/Texas Association of School Boards (TASA/TASB) annual convention in Austin October 3.

Cooper was named Region 10 Superintendent of the Year during the summer. Region 10 Education Service Center serves over 80 public and charter school districts in the north Texas area.

Candidates for the recognition are chosen for their strong leadership skills, dedication to improving the quality of education in their school districts, commitment to public support and involvement in education and ability to build good employee relations among teachers and staff members.



CHS inducts 47 juniors and seniors into NHS

The numbers keep growing as CHS inducted 47 juniors and seniors into its National Honor Society chapter. Sponsor Glenda Henderson says the group plans a busy year with service projects set including ringing the Salvation Army bell and helping students shop for clothes during the Hunt County Clothe-A-Child event. NHS has already helped with the CES Back-to-School Ball, the Bois d'Arc Bash and Tiger Fridays at CHS.

CES hosts Back-to-School Ball

Commerce Elementary School has been known to produce spectacular events for students and families through the years. This year's Back-to-School Ball was no exception. Principal Diane Stegall and her staff designed the program to focus on their genre of the month, fairy tales. Everyone came dressed in their Sunday best or glamorous outfit. Dancing, games, face painting, the crowning of the Royal Court, a live auction and a large spread of refreshments were set for guests.

Prior to the ball, a fundraiser was held to raise money for the school's trip to the Dallas Arboretum. With over \$10,000 raised, Mrs. Stegall had money to take all 427 students and provide t-shirts as well.



CHS NHS members served refreshments at CES's Back-to-School Ball.



Eight buses transported CES students to the Dallas Arboretum.

◀ *Some ball-goers were more excited than others at CES's Back-to-School Ball.*

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Kindergarten meets community helpers

It's a tradition, as many events are in the school year. Kindergarten students always visit the police station, fire station, the library, the post office and the park to learn about their community and the people who dedicate their lives to service.



Cross country runners enjoy the season

Coach Eddie Barker said athletes have progressed well during the season and several medals have resulted from the team's hard work.



CHS runners above and CMS runners below



Special Olympians prepare for State

The Special Olympics team is practicing for the State Area Bowling Tournament which will be held October 30 at USA Bowl I, Dallas. Teacher Terry Buckley said it is one of the students' favorite outings.



First graders in Dee Dee Harris' class are learning how to tell time using analog and digital clocks.



Sara McCarthy's prekindergarten class investigated types of matter. They were amazed at the reaction made by the mixture of vinegar and baking soda.

SADD stands for good decisions

Students Against Destructive Decisions is a new organization at CHS with 50 members aimed at creating a support network for all students. The group hosted a kickball tournament to raise funds to send members to the national SADD conference in Philadelphia next summer. Sponsor Christi Coplin says the group is off to a great start and looks forward to SADD becoming a positive force for students.

