Dear Commerce Families,

This week was a busy one at Commerce Elementary. We had our Cougar Crews Kickoff assembly, vision screenings (Grades 1, 3, 5), our first Cougar Crew meeting, a Reflections art workshop, PTA meeting, and LOTS of learning!

After months of planning, we were excited to officially launch our Cougar Crews initiative this week. Our kids were so excited to learn about their crew leader and crew members. Our kickoff assembly had an appearance by Charlie, the Cougar, as well as, a special song with Ms. Bean and our crew chant with Ms. Brossard! On Wednesday, we held our first crew meeting. Our 5th graders helped our kindergartners find their way and our crews spent time building connections.

The goal of our Cougar Crews initiative is to build a stronger sense of belonging in our school and promote social emotional skills and competencies. Our first crew meeting was about building connections and subsequent meetings will focus on topics like empathy, conflict resolution, and coping strategies. To learn more about house systems or family circles (like our Cougar Crews), please CLICK HERE or HERE.

A special THANK YOU to the parents who helped launch Cougar Crews: Jenn DeVries, Stephanie Knight, Maureen Evans, Lauren, Turner, Laura Feld, Trisha Ranger, Erin Kelly, Rachel Alt, and Nicole German. And to our SEL committee: Emily Whitney, Mona Brossard, Kim McElmurry, Molly Mensch, Lori Sparks, Nichole Guizar, Jon Bison, Elisa Kilgren, Erica Robinson, Alicia Cergnul, Tanya DuBay, Bethany Bean, and Carley Dunphey.
Halloween - Thursday, October 31st

Halloween is always a special day for our children. Please take a moment to review the following plans and procedures. Our goals are to:
- Provide uninterrupted time for learning before the parade/party,
- Ensure school security protocols are maintained,
- Enjoy a fun Halloween celebration with our school community!

Times:
- 10:30am – Schoolwide Parade (outside, around our track)
- 11:00am (approximately) – Classroom Parties (inside, in individual classrooms)
- 11:45am – End of Classroom Parties
- 12:25pm – Dismissal: The 31st is a HALF day of school. Teachers have professional development in the afternoon.

Costumes:
- Students should bring their costumes to school.
- Costumes should also be school appropriate (no violence, weapons, blood, scary clowns, or inappropriate costumes).
- Parents/guardians will not be able to go to classrooms prior to the parade to help their child with their costumes or makeup. Students should be able to put on their costume independently.

Guests/Visitors:
- Parents/guardians are welcome to join us around the track for our parade and in classrooms for parties.
- Please, no strollers.
- Upon arrival, parents and visitors will sign-in near the track.
- If you are taking your child home with you, you may sign-out with your child's teacher (not the Main Office).

Parade Information:
- Weather permitting, we will parade around our track in our costumes.
- Parents/visitors should gather around the track.
- We kindly request that parents wait until the entire parade is complete before going inside. This applies to all parents, including those who are helping with class parties. If everyone leaves once their child's class passes them, the last class won't have much of a parade! Teachers will be prepared for some lag time between the parade and party. All parents and visitors should wait until the parade is done before entering the building.

Class Parties:
- Teachers will coordinate Halloween parties and will e-mail parents with volunteer requests.
- In order to minimize interruptions prior to the parade, teachers will have two volunteer passes for two parents who can help set-up in classrooms before the parade. All other parents should gather near the track.
- Class parties must end at 11:45am in order to clear Farr Street and the parking lot for dismissal.

Dropping-Off Items:
- If you need to drop-off items during the day, the Main Office will deliver items to classrooms.
- In order to limit interruptions and protect time for learning, parents will not be allowed to visit classrooms prior to the parade (with the exception of those parents with volunteer passes).

Weather:
- If it rains, the parade will be cancelled but costumes and class parties will still go on as planned at 11:00am.

Parking:
- The gate behind the gym will be open and there will be additional parking on the field. Please do NOT park on Farr Street or along the bus loop.

😊 Thank you for helping make this day special for our students! 😊
Teacher of the Year Nominations Needed

Please consider nominating your child’s teacher (past or present) for our Teacher of the Year program! This is a wonderful way to express our gratitude and let a special teacher know their impact.

Nomination forms are due on Friday, October 25th at 4:00pm.

A google form version of the nomination form is available HERE and a printable form is available HERE. Please Note: The selection committee requests that you are SPECIFIC including DETAILS and EXAMPLES in your nomination form. You may learn more about our Teacher of the Year program on our district website.

The Western Oakland County Parenting Education Fair is coming to Walled Lake Northern High School on Saturday, November 2, 2019.

We are very excited to have Brooks Gibbs joining us this year as our keynote speaker! Topics include managing social media with your child, reducing stress and anxiety, strategies to help you with a child with ADHD, nutrition, character building, planning for college, and more. Child care is available for a reasonable cost ($3 for one child, $5 per family) and includes entertainment and lunch. Lunch for conference participants will be available for purchase from local food trucks during the event.

Please see this important message (with a free gift for parents) from Brooks Gibbs and register online to attend. Registration is $15 per person or $25 per person at the door the day of the event.

Important Reminder: We have several children at Commerce who are vulnerable to contagious illnesses. These brave Cougars are fighting leukemia or Spinal Muscular Atrophy. We can help them stay healthy and strong in a few very simple ways:

- Talk with your child about the importance of proper hand washing.
- Teach your child to cover their mouths when they cough or sneeze (and wash their hands).
- Notify the Main Office immediately if your child has a contagious illness like chicken pox, measles, mumps, pertussis (whooping cough), influenza (the flu), and more.
- Most importantly, have your child stay home from school if they are sick.

Together we can show that Commerce cares about these brave Cougars. On behalf of these special families and their medical teams, I thank you for your support and compassion.

BUSTER THE BUS is coming to Commerce Elementary on October 23rd!

The Michigan Department of Education recommends that: “every school bus driver conduct an emergency evacuation of pupils from the school bus at least three (3) times per year (front, rear, and front/rear combination).”

In compliance with this recommendation, keeping SAFETY as a top priority, the Walled Lake/Dean Transportation bus drivers and BUSTER THE BUS will be doing a skit about safe bus riding practices. Your child’s bus driver will explain and lead the children through a practice bus evacuation. This evacuation will be done on school property. They will also watch several short videos on bus and bus stop safety.

This program is for students in kindergarten through 2nd grade. We will do a program for the 3rd through 5th graders later in the school year. If you have any questions, you may email Jill Segal: jillsegal@wlcsd.org
Dear Commerce Families,

We believe it is important for our children to understand the service and sacrifice of those who fight to protect our freedom. In honor of veterans in our school community, we have planned a special Veterans Day assembly on Monday, November 11th. During this assembly, we will honor veterans in our community and sing a special song for our guests. We would like to invite veterans from our school community to join us and would appreciate it if you could please pass along the invitation shown below. Our goal is to instill in our students a deep sense of respect and gratitude for those who serve or have served our country. We hope they will carry this respect and gratitude throughout their lives.

Please forward this message to veterans in your family or in our community. Please note the information needed to RSVP (veteran's name, student's name, and branch of the military). We are looking forward to this special event and honoring our veterans!

Sincerely,
Barb Morley, Tanya DuBay, Christina Carlin, and Marget Gusumano

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Commerce Elementary cordially invites you to be a guest of honor at our
Veterans Day Celebration
Monday, November 11th

Optional Meet and Greet - 1:45pm
Come join Commerce 4th graders to help them learn more about what it means to serve our country.

All-School Assembly - 2:45pm
Our whole school will celebrate and honor veterans in our community! We'll sing a special song and your Commerce student will introduce you!

Please RSVP to Barb Morley with your name, your student’s name, and branch of the military.
barbaramorley@wlcsd.org

We hope you will join us so we can express our gratitude and instill a deep sense of patriotism in our children. We understand if you are not able to attend both the meet and greet AND the assembly. Please simply include that information in your RSVP e-mail.

Thank you for your service and sacrifice.

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Box Tops - Fall Collection Contest!

We’re collecting Box Tops to support our PTA! Due date for this contest is Friday October 25th.

- Send in sheets of 10 or baggies of 50 of clipped, neatly trimmed and unexpired box tops.
- Please include name and teacher name on sheets or baggies.
- Bonus box tops, send in separately.
- The winning class will receive a PRIZE!
PTA President’s Corner

- Thank you to everyone who joined us for our PTA meeting this past week. We had a good discussion and everyone met someone new! Please plan to join us for our next PTA meeting on **Wednesday, November 20th, at 7pm** as we will have a special presentation by the Department of Homeland Security about **Cyber Safety**. We think we know what our kids are doing online but we have no idea! (This presentation is not kid friendly, adults only please.)

- Thank you to Katie Morland and Mrs. Cergnul for hosting **Reflections Art Night** during our PTA meeting! Over 20 kids participated and received one-on-one assistance with their Reflections entries! All student entries will be **due in November** so have kids start putting the finishing touches on their masterpieces!

- The Fall Fair is quickly approaching! We are excited to see everyone on **Friday, October 25th, from 6:30-8:30pm** at the school! There will be games and prizes, food, crafts, and our amazing Silent Auction! Cash and credit cards will be accepted for food and wristbands. All participants must have a wristband to play games and do crafts.

- Have you **joined the PTA** yet? If not, now is a great time to join! Visit our [PTA website](#) to sign up! It's only $11 per family AND it gets you free admission to our Membership Event on January 31st! BONUS: Your child's class and teacher can win prizes for your participation!

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**Commerce Elementary Arrival/Dismissal Information**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Morning Drop-Off Begins - 8:40am</th>
<th>Dismissal - 4:00pm <em>Updated</em></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Bell - 8:50am - Students Enter Building</td>
<td>Buses Depart - 4:07pm <em>Updated</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Bell - 8:55am - School Day Begins (Students who arrive after 8:55 are marked tardy)</td>
<td>Half Day Dismissal - 12:25pm <em>Updated</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Communication is Key!**

- **Main Office**: 248-956-3900  
  **Absences**: 248-956-3990  
  **Website**: www.wlcsd.org/commerce  
  **Christina Carlin, Principal**: christinacarlin@wlcsd.org

- **Denise Kaczmarek, Secretary**: denisekaczmarek@wlcsd.org  
  **Carley Dunphey, Head Teacher**: carleydunphey@wlcsd.org  
  **Kathy Williams, Secretary**: kathywilliams@wlcsd.org

- **Follow Us on Twitter! @CommerceElem**  
  **Skyward Family Access**: Having login issues? [CLICK HERE](#)  
  **Like our PTA on Facebook! Visit our [PTA’s website](#)**

**Commerce Elementary - Important Links and Resources**

- **Family Handbook**  
  A great resource for new families!

- **School Calendar**

- **PTA Website**  
  Like the PTA’s facebook page, too!

- **School Newsletters**

- **Skyward Family Access**

- **Staff Directory**

- **Breakfast and Lunch Menus**

- **School Supply Lists**

- **PrimeTime Care**
Walled Lake Central
Ski & Snowboard
Swap Sale
11/9/2019

Come sell your old ski/snowboard equipment, apparel and gear!

Great deals on new equipment too!

A portion of the sale will benefit the WLC Ski Team!

Drop off your sale items at the Walled Lake Central Cafeteria on Friday 11/8 from 6pm-9pm or Saturday 11/9 from 8am-10am

Swap Sale is Saturday, November 9th from 9am-2pm in the Walled Lake Central Cafeteria

www.centralskiswap.com
HAUNTED HALLOWEENDS

OPEN EVERY FRIDAY & SATURDAY NIGHT STARTING
OCT 4TH 6-10PM
TICKETS $10 ADULTS & $15 CHILDREN
EVERY TICKET COMES WITH $5 IN PIRATE TOKENS FOR ISLAND FUN!
• LAST BOAT LEAVES THE DOCK FOR THE ISLAND AT 9PM
  CASH ONLY ON THE ISLAND

FOR MORE INFORMATION PRIOR TO OCT 4TH PLEASE CALL CAMP DIRECTOR
KATHRYN CHIPMAN 248-789-2223
CALL DAILY HOTLINE FOR WEATHER CANCELLATIONS
BEGINNING OCT 4TH 248-789-2223

SKULL ISLAND CAMP

JOURNEY THROUGH THE MAZE OF HAUNTED TRAILS, TEST YOUR SKILLS AT ONE OF THE ISLANDS MANY BLACK LIGHT OR GLOW IN THE DARK GAMES, WIN PRIZES!!
SCREAM AS YOU SPEED DOWN THE ZIP LINE INTO A DARK TUNNEL FULL OF SKELETONS, OR BOUNCE TILL YOU DROP IN THE ISLANDS BOUNCY HOUSE. MOM & DAD GET TO RELAX AROUND THE ISLANDS BONFIRE.
THIS IS AN OUTDOOR EVENT PLEASE DRESS WARM OR ACCORDING TO THE WEATHER.
NO REFUNDS
GOOD ANY FRI/SAT IN OCTOBER
PRE-PURCHASED TICKETS WILL ALSO GUARANTEE YOU FIRST AVAILABLE BOAT.

PLEASE REFER TO WEBSITE FOR PARKING INFORMATION