Dear Commerce Families,

I hope everyone has recovered from Halloween and enjoyed the extra hour today. Last week was a busy one at Commerce. We are grateful to everyone who made our Halloween celebrations so fun for our students. I understand there was some disappointment that the parade was cancelled but our kids still had a blast at their parties! Please know that decisions to cancel events are never taken lightly. Unfortunately, an outdoor parade was not possible due to the rain. It was also not possible to have an indoor parade for a few reasons.

- **Space Constraints and Safety:** With 627 students plus almost 500 parents/visitors, that's well over a thousand people at our parade. Our school cannot handle that many people in our gym and cafeteria. It is also a fire hazard. If there were to be an emergency, we couldn't ensure a quick evacuation of all our students and visitors.

- **Past Practice:** We've held an indoor parade twice in the last seven years. Both times, it was overwhelmingly crowded in our school. We had several students feel faint, one throw up, and many of our youngest students in tears. Given the size and layout of our school, an indoor parade is simply too crowded and overwhelming.

I appreciate your understanding and promise that our kids still had plenty of fun (and candy) at our Halloween celebrations! Let's hope that it is sunnier for Halloween 2020!

I'd like to thank the Commerce dads who helped a few people who were stuck in the mud on the field behind the gym on Halloween. THANK YOU for your muddy teamwork!

After our students left on Halloween, our teachers had a productive afternoon of professional learning. Our focus was on strengthening our core instructional practices - specifically in the area of writing. This focus is aligned with our district and school improvement goals. Our learning was facilitated by Mrs. Guizar, Mrs. Routledge, and Mrs. Dunphey. I'm grateful for the collaboration and engagement of our entire staff. We are always learning and striving to improve for our kids.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns. If it's important to you, it's important to us!

Sincerely,

Christina Carlin
Proud Principal, Commerce Elementary
**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.

---

**Celebrating Mrs. Rabaut!**

We're so proud that Mrs. Rabaut will be honored at this Thursday's board meeting where she will receive a Golden Apple Award for her service to our kids and our school. Mrs. Rabaut takes care of our kids in the cafeteria every day and also before and after school in PrimeTime Care. She is the smiling face they see each day as students arrive at school bright and early. She is also the watchful eyes who notice when a student is sitting by themselves or looking sad in the cafeteria. We are grateful for her kind heart and dedication to our school. Although she doesn’t love the spotlight, we are grateful for the opportunity to celebrate Shannon. It is very well-deserved! Congratulations, Shannon!

Details: Thursday, November 7th - 7:00pm - Board of Education Meeting - 850 Ladd Road

---

**Parent/Teacher Conferences**

At the elementary level, parent/teacher conferences will be held on **Thursday, December 12th**. Parents/guardians can sign-up for a conference time slot on **Skyward Family Access** starting at approximately **7:00AM on November 18th**. Directions and additional e-mails will be sent out as this date approaches.

---

In addition to our Veterans Day assembly, we will also be helping the Caleb White Project with their Veterans Day event on November 10th at a homeless shelter in Detroit. Our students will be making decorations and writing thank you letters to these brave men and women. The decorations and letters will be used at the Detroit Rescue Mission as we celebrate veterans at the shelter.

If you would like to help with this special day, please [CLICK HERE](mailto:igusumano@calebwhiteproject.com) to sign-up. The CWP will need desserts for the veterans and some help at the event. If you have any questions, please contact Joey Gusumano (igusumano@calebwhiteproject.com) or Marget Gusumano (mgusumano@icloud.com)
Are you a student who is crafty and creative? It's time to start working on the finishing touches for your Reflections entry! Student entries are due to the main office by November 15th!

Parents, make sure you plan to attend our next PTA meeting on November 20th! We will be joined by an agent from the Department of Homeland Security to talk about Kids and Cyber Safety! This promises to be an eye-opening and informative presentation! Meeting starts at 7pm. Adults only, please.

Has your family joined the PTA? Joining the PTA doesn't require that you sit on a committee or even volunteer your time (although we'd love your help!). Membership is a great way to show your support for everything the PTA does! Top-participating classes will win an ice cream party and teachers will win a gift certificate to the book fair! The deadline for these contests is December 2nd, so don't wait, sign up today!

www.commerceelementarypta.com/pta-membership

Make sure your calendars are marked for our next few events!

- Holiday Craft Night 12/4
- Book Fair 12/4-12/12
- FREE Membership Event 1/31

Holiday Craft Night is coming on December 4th and we are still in need of station leaders. Check the attached flyer for available options. If you are able to lead a station, please contact the PTA ASAP at commerceelpta@gmail.com or on our Facebook page!
**Commerce Elementary Arrival/Dismissal Information**

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

**Communication is Key!**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Main Office: 248-956-3900</th>
<th>Website: <a href="http://www.wlcsd.org/commerce">www.wlcsd.org/commerce</a></th>
<th>Christina Carlin, Principal <a href="mailto:christinacarlin@wlcsd.org">christinacarlin@wlcsd.org</a></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Absences: 248-956-3990</td>
<td>Denise Kaczmarek, Secretary <a href="mailto:denisekaczmarek@wlcsd.org">denisekaczmarek@wlcsd.org</a></td>
<td>Kathy Williams, Secretary <a href="mailto:kathywilliams@wlcsd.org">kathywilliams@wlcsd.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carley Dunphey, Head Teacher <a href="mailto:carleydunphey@wlcsd.org">carleydunphey@wlcsd.org</a></td>
<td>Follow Us on Twitter! @CommerceElem</td>
<td>Skyward Family Access Having login issues? CLICK HERE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Like our PTA on Facebook! Visit our PTA's website</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Commerce Elementary - Important Links and Resources**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family Handbook</th>
<th>School Calendar</th>
<th>PTA Website</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School Newsletters</td>
<td>Skyward Family Access</td>
<td>Staff Directory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breakfast and Lunch Menus</td>
<td>School Supply Lists</td>
<td>PrimeTime Care</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**COMMERCE**

Your School is having a **Fundraiser** at the **Rolladium Family Fun Center**

**Date:** 11/12/19  
**Day:** **Tuesday**  
**Time:** 6:30-8:30pm  
**Admission:** $6.00  
**Skate Rental:** Regular rental free  
**Rope Course:** $5.00

Rolladium Family Fun Center 248-674-0808 – 248-674-3949  
4475 Highland Rd. Waterford MI 48328  
www.rolladiumfamilyfuncenter.com
We are excited to kick off the Commerce Elementary Math Club again this year!

**We need a head coach for Division 1 (K-1)** Help us keep this team going! There are detailed training manuals and lesson plans for each team that take you step by step through the games and how to teach them to your team over the course of the season, so you don’t need any prior experience.

**What is the Math Club?**

The Mathematics Pentathlon is a program of interactive problem-solving games that help develop and practice math concepts and skills. This motivational and fun program promotes strategic thinking by linking arithmetic reasoning with geometric, spatial and logical thinking while encouraging friendly competition and good sportsmanship. Groups are divided up into 3 Divisions: Division I (K-1), Division II (2-3), Division III (4-5)

**How does it work?**

Each division has a set of 5 games – which are not standard board games (chess, checkers, etc.), but specific games aligned to game strategy and math topics at each grade level. The games can be mastered by all students whether they currently love math or struggle a bit and would like to become more confident. It is exciting to watch the growth of the students strategic thinking and math abilities over the year.

In addition to learning and practicing the games, students will have the opportunity to compete in a one-day Division level tournament, where each student plays all 5 games against competitors from other schools in the region. Several Cougars took home medals last year!

**When are club sessions and how does my child enroll?**

The club will begin in November and last through your group’s tournament date in the Spring. Club sessions will take place before school on Tuesday’s from 8 – 8:50 am except when school is closed.

To become involved in this great club, please complete and return the attached registration form to the front office or email club leader Mike Sachs at msachs1@gmail.com. To provide the best quality experience possible for our students, we limit the enrollment to 20 students for each division level on a first come first serve basis.

**We need parent volunteers!**

The Math Pentathlon Club relies solely on the participation of parent volunteers to run smoothly! Each Division level requires 1 head coach and a parent volunteer when available to ensure the greatest learning experience. *All parent volunteers need to have an approved Criminal History form.

Please reach out with any questions to Mike Sachs – 248-894-9807 or msachs1@gmail.com

To learn more about Math Pentathlon head over to http://www.mathpentath.org
Math Club Student Application

Two options – (1) Your child can return this Registration Form to the front office or (2) you can email this information straight to Mike Sachs at msachs1@gmail.com

Date ________________

Student Name _____________________________________________

Grade _______ Teacher _________________________________________

Participated in Math Pentathlon last year? __________

Attended National Math Pentathlon Academic Tournament last year? __________

Parent Name ____________________________________________

Parent Email _____________________________________________

Parent Phone _______________________

____ Yes, I am interested in being the head coach of the K/1 team
____ Yes, I am available to assist during the weekly session as a parent volunteer every week
____ Yes, I am available to assist during the weekly session as a parent volunteer when I can

**Spring Math Pentathlon Academic Tournaments** will be:
  Kinder & 1st grade – April 25, 2020
  2nd & 3rd grade – March 21, 2020
  4th & 5th grade – May 16, 2020

Will attend tournament _____   Likely to attend _______   Will NOT attend _____

Upon acceptance of registration, you will receive an email with confirmation and additional club information.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Craft</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Garland of three</td>
<td>$1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holiday Votive</td>
<td>$1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pom Pom Ornament</td>
<td>$1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bath Bombs</td>
<td>$1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharpie “Painted” Ornament</td>
<td>$1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paperclip and Tassel Bookmark</td>
<td>$1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snow Globe</td>
<td>$2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hand Print Keepsake</td>
<td>$3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Holiday Craft Night**

Wednesday

Dec 4, 2019

6:00-8:00PM

“Creative Station”

Create your own craft!

$1 per craft
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