<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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| Wednesday, November 26th| ● Cougar Crew Meeting  
                          ● Giving Tree Donations Due (Main Office) |
| Thursday, November 28th | No School - Thanksgiving Break                                      |
| Friday, November 29th   | No School - Thanksgiving Break                                      |
| Monday, December 2nd    | School Resumes                                                       |
| Wednesday, December 4th | ● Half Day - 12:25pm Dismissal - Staff Professional Development  
                          ● Holiday Craft Night - 6:00-8:00pm - Book Fair Open |
| Thursday, December 5th  | Board of Education Meeting - 7:30pm                                 |

Please Note: Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, there will be no Commerce Connection next weekend.

Professional Development Update

This year, we have several half days built into our school calendar. On these dates, staff engage in professional development throughout the district. Ongoing professional development is essential to ensure we are improving as educators to provide an exemplary education for our children.

Friday, the 22nd, was our last professional development day. At Commerce, we focused on two areas aligned with our school improvement goals.

● Supporting our students' social and emotional development by understanding how life experiences impact the brain and learning. We watched a thought-provoking TED Talk by Dr. Nadine Burke-Harris. [To learn more, you can watch HERE.](#)

● Improving our students' writing development by strengthening our literacy instruction. This year, our district has adopted new literacy curriculum (reading, writing, and in K-1 phonics). We spent time digging into upcoming units of study to ensure effective implementation.

It was a great afternoon of learning and we look forward to our next half day on the 4th. We also appreciate our community's support of our school improvement efforts.

Happy Thanksgiving!

We are very grateful for the support of our wonderful school community. Thank you for your partnership and for making our school so special!
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 in a few 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.

With Grateful Hearts

We have bittersweet news to share with all of you. At the end of December, Kathy Williams will be retiring from Walled Lake Schools. Kathy has served our students, staff, and community for 23 years. As our building secretary, she has been the heart of our school - connecting with our children, families, and teachers in so many ways. We are forever grateful for her service, dedication, and friendship. Kathy’s last day will be December 20th. We will miss her and wish her only the best in this new chapter of her life.

PTA President’s Corner

News from our PTA President, Shayna Levin

- Thank you to everyone who attended our PTA meeting this past week, especially Special Agent David Alley from the Department of Homeland Security. Agent Alley gave us some eye-opening information about keeping kids safe online and we thank him for his time! Our next PTA meeting is on January 15th.

- **Holiday Craft Night** is coming soon, the week after Thanksgiving, on December 4th, from 6-8pm, and we really need more helping hands! Events like this can only happen with the help of volunteers! Please consider donating some of your time to this family-friendly program! [Click here to sign up to volunteer](#) for Holiday Craft Night.

- Our **Winter Book Fair** also starts on December 4th and we need many helping hands there, too! We have a couple great events planned as well as a need for daily coverage during students' media time. Please consider spending a couple hours helping out with this great and important program! [Click here to sign up to volunteer](#) for the Book Fair.

- If you're still looking for that perfect holiday gift, consider some school **Spirit Wear**! This sale closes this coming Friday, on 11/29, so get your orders in now! Orders will be delivered to school before Winter Break! [Click here to order spirit wear](#).

- Mark your calendars for our first big event in the new year! Our **PTA Membership Event** will be held on January 31st! You won’t want to miss this fun night of bowling, bounce houses, food, and community-building, all FREE to PTA members! Look for more information after Winter Break!
Winter Weather Reminders

Please note that our children go outside for recess unless the temperature, including the wind chill, is zero degrees or below. **Please make sure your child is dressed appropriately.**

- **Coats/Jackets:** 40-50 degrees - Recommended; **39 degrees and below** – Required
- **Hats/Gloves/Mittens:** 40-50 degrees - Recommended; **39 degrees and below** – Required
- **Boots and Snow Pants:** **REQUIRED if there is slush or snow**

Please Note:
- If your family needs financial assistance purchasing these items, please just let the Main Office know. We are happy to help!
- **Please label all clothing with your child’s name.** Our Lost and Found is overflowing!

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Commerce Elementary Contact Information

<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></td>
<td>Denise Kaczmarek, Secretary <a href="mailto:denisekaczmarek@wlcsd.org">denisekaczmarek@wlcsd.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Carley Dunphey, Head Teacher <a href="mailto:carleydunphey@wlcsd.org">carleydunphey@wlcsd.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Kathy Williams, Secretary <a href="mailto:kathywilliams@wlcsd.org">kathywilliams@wlcsd.org</a></td>
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**Important Links and Resources:**

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<tr>
<th>Family Handbook</th>
<th>School Calendar</th>
<th>PTA Website</th>
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<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>
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**Accessibility:**

If any individual has difficulty accessing the information in this newsletter, they may contact our main office at 248-956-3900. We will provide the requested information in an alternate format. [More information about our district accessibility practices and policies is available here.](http://www.wlcisd.org/accessibility)
Community Rewards Raffle

One of the biggest fundraisers our Commerce Elementary PTA participates in yearly is the Kroger Community Rewards Program. Through this program, Kroger donates thousands of dollars to our school and it couldn’t be easier to sign up! All you have to do is link your Kroger card to the PTA and you can help contribute to our PTA’s fundraising efforts, no selling, clipping, or calling necessary! You pay the same prices at the store, Kroger just gives some of the money back! How awesome! Visit the following website for a quick tutorial on linking your card: tinyurl.com/KrogerVideo

But wait! It gets better! Once you enroll your card and make a purchase linked to our school, you can win a prize!! Visit the site below by December 14th to enter a raffle and win great prizes! All you’ll need to enter is a picture of your Kroger receipt showing ‘Commerce Elementary PTA’ at the bottom! Is your card already linked to the PTA? Great! You can enter right now!

Remember, all entries must be submitted by December 14th! Questions? Contact the PTA at commerceelpta@gmail.com.

Enter Here

tinyurl.com/PTAraffle

YOU COULD WIN

$50 Kroger Gift Card for the parents

$20 Amazon Gift Card & Commerce Elementary Spirit Wear for the Student
Give the gift of spirit wear this holiday season!

Order before December 1st to have it in time for the holidays!