## Commerce Connection

News and Information for our Commerce Community

December 6, 2019

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<th>Date</th>
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<td>Monday, December 9th thru 12th</td>
<td>Scholastic Book Fair</td>
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<td>Wednesday, December 11th</td>
<td><strong>Report Cards Available on Skyward Family Access after 4:00pm</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, December 12th</td>
<td><strong>Half-Day of School - 11:25 Dismissal</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Parent/Teacher Conferences 12:15-8:15pm</strong> - Book Fair Open Late</td>
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<td>December 10th, 13th, 16th, and 17th</td>
<td>Hearing Screenings - Grades K,2,4</td>
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<td>Tuesday, December 17th</td>
<td>Reflections Celebration - 6:00pm</td>
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<td>Thursday, December 19th</td>
<td>4th Grade Field Trip</td>
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<td>Friday, December 20th</td>
<td>2nd Grade Field Trip</td>
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<td>Last Day of School before Winter Break</td>
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<td>Monday, January 6th</td>
<td>School Resumes</td>
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<td>Tuesday, January 7th</td>
<td>Ski and Snowboard Club Begins - Alpine Valley (See Below)</td>
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**Don’t Forget! This Thursday is a HALF DAY with an 11:25am Dismissal.**

This is earlier than our typical half day dismissal time. Please plan accordingly.

Dear Commerce Community,

We are looking forward to an important and busy week! As our first trimester concludes, our teachers and learners have been busy reflecting on their growth and celebrating successes. We hope to see each and every family at parent/teacher conferences on Thursday. Conferences are an important part of our partnership with families. **Below are a few tips and reminders:**

- **Get Ready!** It is important that you review your child’s report card prior to conferences. During your conference, your child’s teacher will review their progress and goals for the upcoming 2nd trimester. These conferences are 15 minutes in length and we have a lot to cover! By reviewing report cards ahead of time, you will make your conference more efficient and productive.

- **Be Early!** Please also remember to be on-time for your conference out of respect for our teachers and other families. Our teachers will also work hard to stick to their busy conference schedules so there are no delays.

- **Be Proactive:** If you have specific questions or concerns, please let your child’s teacher know ahead of time. You can send an e-mail or note with specific questions or concerns prior to conferences. In doing so, you’ll ensure teachers prioritize those topics and address those concerns. We want to make sure all conferences are productive and collaborative.

- **Assume Positive Intent:** Our teachers care deeply for their students and, like you, have their best interests at heart. I encourage you to keep this in mind and approach difficult topics by assuming positive intent. Together, we can help each and every child grow - both academically and social/emotionally.

- **Make a Plan:** If you or your child’s teacher have concerns, focus on solutions and make a plan including specific action steps. This will ensure both you and your child’s teacher are on the same page.

We look forward to strengthening our partnership with our families this week. We are grateful to be part of such a supportive community. As always, 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 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.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Sign-up for conferences in Skyward Family Access is now closed. If you still need to schedule a conference, you will need to contact your child’s teacher to sign-up. There are still open time slots so please reach out to schedule a conference.

We look forward to meeting with all our parents/guardians on Thursday, December 12th!

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.

A Warm Welcome

We are excited to share that Tonya Gray will be joining our school family as our new building secretary. We were fortunate to have a strong pool of candidates and Tonya’s empathetic heart and positive energy was evident throughout each round of interviews. Her reference checks were also glowing! Tonya will be “shadowing” Kathy on Tuesday and Thursday this week. Her official first day will be on January 6th. Please join me in giving Tonya a warm welcome!

Scholastic Book Fair Reminders

Our Scholastic Book Fair is off to a great start! A special THANK YOU to Marget Gusumano and our volunteers who have put so much time into our book fair!

Please Note:

- Students can buy books during their regular Media Center time.
- Students in grades 1-5 can also shop during *some* recesses.
- Please send your child’s money in an envelope or zip-loc baggie that is labeled with their name.
- The Book Fair will also be open late during parent/teacher conferences. This is also the last day of our Book Fair.
We'd like to send a big thank you to Wendy Henn for chairing another great Holiday Craft Night! And thank you also to the craft station leaders and volunteers who helped make this night a success! There are lots of cute gifts from kids on their way to loved ones this season!

Thank you also to Marget Gusumano and her book fair team for kicking off another great Book Fair! The fair will be open through conferences on 12/12. Be sure to stop by! We still need volunteers, too, especially during lunch and recess time! Click here to sign up.

Congratulations to our winning classes and teachers for hitting their PTA membership goals! Mrs. Routledge, Mrs. Sparks, and Mrs. Knapp's classes all earned an ice cream party for having over 70% of the class sign up for PTA membership! AND Mrs. Routledge, Mrs. Sparks, and Mrs. Knapp will each be enjoying a $50 book fair gift certificate for being the top three teachers with PTA membership in their classrooms! Thank you to our teachers for your support of the PTA!

Our next PTA meeting is on January 15th. We hope everyone can join us for our first look at the programs we have planned for the second half of the school year, including Moms and Muffins, Dads Bingo Night, and our 3rd Annual PTA Membership Event!

Mark your calendars and plan to join us at Waterford Lanes on Friday, January 31st, for our 3rd Annual PTA Membership Event! This fun, family event is FREE to PTA members and their immediate families! Food, bounce houses, and bowling round out a great evening of community and friendship! Not a PTA member? You can attend for just $11 for the whole family or you can still sign up to join the PTA today!

www.commerceelementarypta.com/pta-membership

Chance to win BIG & support WL classrooms!

15th Annual Tuition Expedition 50/50 Scholarship Raffle

Purchase your Tuition Expedition 50/50 Scholarship Raffle tickets today! Raffle's proceeds are channeled into Walled Lake Schools' classrooms through Foundation's annual mini-grant program (see list of grant awards per school).

Tickets are $50 each or 3 for $100. The grand prize winner will receive scholarship funds for postsecondary education (40% lump sum option available). Plus, there's an opportunity to win a second place prize - a HP Sprocket 200 Bundle Media printer donated by the FFE. Grand Prize drawing is March 30, 2020 at District’s Reflections Celebration; need not be present to win.

Visit the FFE’s TE raffle website for details or contact the Foundation for more information and to purchase tickets with check or credit card: 248-956-2116 or email michellebianco@wlcsd.org. MI Raffle License# R55190

5th Grade Celebration Sponsors Needed!

Attention Parents! We are looking for sponsors for our 5th Grade Celebration. The minimum donation to be a sponsor is $200. This is a great opportunity to get your name out there! If you have a business or know someone who does that would like to donate, please let them know that their business name/information will be on our social media, signage around the school the day of the celebration and on our program which will be seen by several hundred people. These donations will help fund several different things throughout the day of the event. Questions? Email: FifthGradeCougars@Gmail.com
Attention 3rd, 4th, and 5th Graders…
Our annual Spelling Bee is quickly approaching!

We will have our annual spelling bee before Winter Break. All spelling bees are OPTIONAL and will occur during 3rd-5th grade block recesses. Students received word lists to practice and prepare. If you need a list or have questions, please contact Caryn Devaney at carynw17@aol.com

3rd Grade Spelling Bee – Wednesday, December 18th at 1:40pm
4th Grade Spelling Bee – Thursday, December 19th at 1:40pm
5th Grade Spelling Bee – Wednesday, December 18th at 10:15am

Our 5th grade spelling bee champ will participate in the regional Oakland County Spelling Bee with a chance to attend the national Scripps Spelling Bee!

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 (or mud)

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!

Commerce Elementary Contact Information

| Main Office: 248-956-3900 | Website: www.wlcsd.org/commerce | Christina Carlin, Principal christinacarlin@wlcsd.org |
| Absences: 248-956-3990 | | |
| Denise Kaczmarek, Secretary denisekaczmarek@wlcsd.org | Carley Dunphey, Head Teacher carleydunphey@wlcsd.org | Kathy Williams, Secretary kathywilliams@wlcsd.org |

Important Links and Resources:

| Family Handbook | School Calendar | PTA Website |
| School Newsletters | Skyward Family Access | Staff Directory |
| Breakfast and Lunch Menus | School Supply Lists | PrimeTime Care |

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.
2020 Tuition Expedition
50/50 Scholarship Raffle
Support WL Consolidated School District

Chance to win BIG
(Scholarship funds or up to 40% lump sum)

Purchase tickets online at www.wlcstickets.com
1,000 tickets available
$50 per ticket | 3 for $100

Drawing March 30, 2020
Need not be present to win
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.

You could win:

$50  Kroger Gift Card for the parents

&

$20  Amazon Gift Card & Commerce Elementary Spirit Wear for the Student