Commerce Connection

News and Information for our Commerce Community

February 28, 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, March 3rd</td>
<td>Half Day of School - 12:25pm Dismissal</td>
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<td>Staff Professional Development in the Afternoon</td>
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<td>Wednesday, March 4th</td>
<td>3rd Grade Field Trip to the Outdoor Education Center</td>
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<td>Thursday, March 5th</td>
<td>6:00pm - 5th Grade Camp Parent Meeting (Rescheduled due to Snow Day)</td>
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<td>7:00pm - Board of Ed Meeting at the ESC</td>
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<td>Friday, March 6th</td>
<td>Read-a-Thon and PJ Day!</td>
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<td>Monday, March 9th</td>
<td>3:30pm - Tornado Drill</td>
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<td>6:30pm - Middle School Orientation for Parents of 5th Graders - CHS Middle School</td>
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<td>Tuesday, March 10th</td>
<td>Presidential Primary - See Below</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, March 12th</td>
<td>Cougar Crew Meeting</td>
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<td>Friday, March 13th</td>
<td>End of 2nd Trimester / Family Access Closes</td>
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Celebrating our Commerce Kids!

We want to give a special shout-out to several awesome Commerce kids!

This weekend, Leslie Blaharski represented our school at the Oakland Schools Scripps Regional Spelling Bee! We are so proud of Leslie!

We also want to celebrate all of our artists who were recognized at the MAEA Young@Art Recognition Night! A special thank you to Mrs. Cergnul for her support of our artists, too.

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.

March 10th - Presidential Primary Election

Commerce is a voting precinct for the presidential primary election on March 10th. Voting will take place in our gym. Voters will not have access to our building beyond the gym entrance. Extra staff will be on-hand throughout the day to monitor the doors by the gym. PE classes will be held in an alternate location and staff will be vigilant about school security. The safety of our children is always our top priority.
Save the Date!
Incoming Kindergarten Orientation

Parents and guardians of future kindergartners are invited to Kindergarten Orientation at all 12 of our elementary schools - Monday, March 16th at 6:30pm.

Do you know a future Commerce Cougar? Please spread the word about Kindergarten Orientation! Please also contact our main office and so your name can be added to our e-mail list. This list will be used to send out information about incoming kindergarten events. Call 248-956-3900 or e-mail denisekaczmarek@wlcsd.org and tonyagray@wlcsd.org

Read-a-Thon and PJ Day

This Friday is our annual Read-a-Thon and PJ Day! Our students will cozy up with a good book to celebrate March is Reading Month. We will also be collecting donations to support our school’s literacy library which provides guided reading, shared reading, and book club texts for our classrooms. Even small donations make a big difference! We appreciate your generous support of our readers!

PTA President’s Corner

- Our Moms and Muffins event is coming soon! Students are invited to bring their moms or other special women in their life for a light breakfast on Thursday, March 19th! Last names A-L can attend from 7:45-8:15am; Last names M-Z from 8:15-8:45am. The Spring Book Fair will also be open during the morning so you can do your book shopping during the opposite time! No RSVP is needed for this event, but we will need some helping hands. Look for a volunteer sign-up soon!

- The Commerce Prom is coming on April 17th! This new fundraiser is sure to be the bee's knees as you are transported back to the 1920s for an adults-only evening of dinner, drinks, and a special silent auction! Book your babysitters and get your flapper dresses and zoot suits ready! Tickets go on sale March 16th!

- Congratulations to Mrs. Giles' class for being our top box tops collectors this round. Her class will be enjoying a special treat later this spring! Thank you for your support!

- It's hard to believe we have just two PTA meetings left this year! Our next meeting is Wednesday, March 18th. Nominations for next year's executive board will be presented at this meeting. Join us and help be a part of all the fun programming sponsored by the PTA!
School Safety and Security

In an effort to improve our security protocols, please note the following information regarding **before/after school activities**.

- **Doors** will not be unlocked at any time and should not be propped open at any time.
- **Arrival**: Coaches or instructors will meet students at the main entry and will escort their team or group to the gym or classroom. If your child is late, please call or text the coach or instructor. They will meet your child at the entrance. Please try to avoid late arrivals since this interrupts practice or class.
- **Dismissal**: Coaches or instructors will bring the group to the main entry at the end of practice/class. Parents will pick-up their child at the main entry. Doors will not be unlocked or propped open. If you need to pick-up your child early, please call or text the coach or instructor.
- Please do not use the PrimeTime Care entrance. This is for PTC families only.
- These protocols are for before/after school clubs, teams, troop meetings, classes, etc.

**Oakland County Sheriff Deputies**

From time-to-time, you or your child may see Oakland County Sheriff deputies, specifically our school liaisons, at our school. This does NOT necessarily mean there is a problem or issue. Our deputies often stop by to check-in, walk the halls, and talk to kids. They do that so kids get to know them. They want children to know that law enforcement officers are “helpers” and they should not be scared of them. If there is an issue like a medical emergency or safety issue, I will send out an email to all families so you are appropriately informed.

In addition to school visits, deputies may also be present to assist our staff with emergency procedures and training. Most recently, they attended our February staff meeting to teach us about our enhanced lockdown or options-based emergency procedures.

Again, the presence of law enforcement at school does not necessarily mean there is an issue. If there is a medical or security issue, we will send out an email to all families so you are appropriately informed.
## 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>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Absences: 248-956-3990</td>
<td>Carley Dunphey, Head Teacher <a href="mailto:carleydunphey@wlcsd.org">carleydunphey@wlcsd.org</a></td>
<td>Tonya Gray, Secretary <a href="mailto:tonyagray@wlcsd.org">tonyagray@wlcsd.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Denise Kaczmarek, Secretary <a href="mailto:denisekaczmarek@wlcsd.org">denisekaczmarek@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.
Moms and Muffins

March 19th 2020
Commerce Gym

Last Names A-L attend at 7:45-8:15am
Last Names M-Z attend at 8:15-8:45am

MOMS! Join your child(ren) in honoring YOU! Dads will be serving a light breakfast of muffins, fruit, juice and coffee.

To help with this event, use our sign-up genius:
https://tinyurl.com/momsandmuffins

Don't forget to visit the Book Fair in the Commerce Library during this event.

Last Names A-L should visit the Book Fair from 8:15-8:45am.
Last Names M-Z should visit the Book Fair from 7:45-8:15am.
Dear Parents and Guardians:

At the beginning of the 2019-2020 school year, I sent a letter to all families regarding changes to our safety drill preparations for active shooter/violent intruder situations. During the first semester of this school year, administrators, teachers and school Crisis Teams were trained by the Oakland County Sherriff’s department in Options Based Safety protocols. These protocols are also known as Run-Hide-Fight or ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate).

Different from historic traditional lockdown drills (where classrooms were locked and secured until law enforcement could arrive) Options Based approaches rely on timely and accurate information to decide which option is best to keep students and staff safe. Options can include evacuation from the school, enhanced lockdown of classrooms with barricading measures, or counteracting if necessary.

During the month of March, all students in Walled Lake Schools will receive education about these new safety procedures. Building principals will be sending detailed information about your child’s specific school or program.

As required by law, we conduct annual safety drills for fire, tornado, and lockdown/active shooter scenarios. This spring, schools will conduct two Options Based “read only” drills where teachers will read a scenario to students and discuss options within the classroom. More specific information will be coming from your child’s school.

We will NOT be conducting active shooter simulations at any of our schools.

Student and staff safety are our first priority and we are excited to implement these improved protocols. Please feel free to contact me directly or to contact the principal at your child(ren)’s school.

Sincerely,

Christopher J. Delgado, Ph.D.
Deputy Superintendent of Schools

Every Child, Every Day!
READY, SET, FUN!

STRIDE

A fun, character-building afterschool program for boys

STRIDE is a fun afterschool character development and fitness program for boys in grades 3–8. Boys have the chance to share their thoughts and opinions about various life topics in a safe, encouraging environment that helps them develop character, while building their running endurance to complete a 5K.

In a world where boys are constantly trying to measure up to what they should be, STRIDE helps them discover who they are!

Season Begins:
March 11th

Celebration 5K:
May 17, 2020
Lake St. Clair Metropark

REGISTRATION

Registration Dates:
NOW through 3/8/20

Cost:
Before 3/1/20 - $145
After 3/2/20 - $160

Register Online
ymcadetroit.org/stride
Scholarships and payment plans are available.

SUCCESS
TEAMWORK
RESPECT
INSPIRATION
DETERMINATION
EXCELLENCE

“AT STRIDE I LEARNED THAT EVERYONE HAS THEIR OWN STRENGTH AND YOU CAN RUN AT YOUR OWN PACE”

- Evan, 4th Grade

Everyone is welcome. Financial assistance is available. The YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit strengthens communities in Southeast Michigan and beyond through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility.