



CMS Newsletter



May 2009

Five Mile Camp

The Commerce Middle School 6th grade class took a field trip on April 15 to Five Mile Camp. This was an awesome experience for the students. The purpose of the trip was to allow the students to see how math is used in everyday real life. Due to a limitation on participants the students were divided into two groups. While one group worked to build a house, the other group rode horses and went on a wagon ride pulled by horses. The house builders actually built a small house of approximately ten feet by twelve feet with six foot walls. They talked about fractions, area, and perimeter. The house building students were sub-divided into four groups, and each group was responsible for constructing a side of the



house. The building materials were color coded and had pre-drilled holes for easier construction. The students were taught to use cordless drills to put the walls together, but most importantly they were taught to work together as a team. Everyone was fed a magnificent lunch. While the first group of students were building on their houses, the

remaining students went on a trail ride with the horses. As some of this group rode horses, the rest of the group rode on a wagon; then, the students traded places. While they were on the trail ride the students saw many varieties of animals including some buffalo. Later, both groups switched places, so everyone was involved in the house building and the trail ride. It was a great day and I believe the students enjoyed the activities. All of this was provided by Five Mile Camp at no cost to the school or students.



AR Reward Trip

The middle school treated those students who qualified to an afternoon of suspense and intrigue at the Lazer City recreation facility located in Joplin on April 28, 2009. To be eligible to attend this outing, the students were required to



read AR books and complete testing at 70% accuracy or better on a minimum of

forty points total. In all there were forty students who attended.

Those students who attended were taken by bus following lunch and returned to the middle school shortly before three so no extra arrangements were necessary for the students to get home. While at the facility, the students were divided into groups of twenty and each group was given three alternating fifteen minute sessions inside the actual laser arena. The lazar guns were calibrated so that each student



received a printout depicting how many times the gun was fired, the percentage of "hits", the number of times he/she was hit and a detailed report of exactly what students they "hit". Everyone had a great time and look forward to more trips similar to this in the future.

8TH GRADE LOCK IN

The Commerce Middle School eighth grade students decided this year on a lock-in at the Olympic Fitness Center located in Joplin Friday, April 24, 2009 for their class trip. The students left our school grounds and were taken by bus



to the fitness center. Once there, the lock-in lasted from 7:30 until 11:30 p.m. During their time at the center, the students were able to play racquetball, wallyball (an indoor version of volleyball) and basketball; They were also allowed to run on the track and swim. The weights and exercise equipment were not allowed for safety reasons. While at the center, they were also furnished drinks and snacks. Following the lock-in the students were transported again by bus back to the middle school where they were picked up by their parents. In all thirty-six of our forty-eight eighth grade students participated on the trip and everyone had a great time.



EVENTS

MAY

- 01 7th & 8th Grade Girls Day Out
- 04 - 07 Teacher Appreciation Week
- 04 Elem. Cinco De Mayo Dancers
- 04 - 09 MS Baseball Tourn. (T)
Quapaw
- 06 5th Grade Orientation
6th Track (T) Afton
8th Orientation 12:40 at H.S.
- 07 Algebra I Study Day
- 08 Algebra I Online Testing
- 11 Pass out Caps and Gowns
- 12 8th PM Semester Tests
- 13 Teacher's Meeting 7:45
May & June Birthday Dinner
Semester Tests
- 14 Semester Tests
8th Promotion Practice 1:30
- 15 Last Day with Students
8th Promotion Practice 8:15
Awards Assembly 10:30
8th Grade Promotion 6:30 p.m.
- 18 Teacher's Last Day



GIRLS DAY OUT

On Friday May first, the Commerce Middle School seventh and eighth grade girls attended an all day awareness seminar called "Girls Day Out". The girls were transported by bus to the Miami First Assembly of God Church located on Steve Owens Boulevard where they gathered with other schools from our area. As they entered the church foyer, they were individually greeted by several volunteers who gave each girl an encouraging remark and a tiara which symbolized each girl's worthiness.

After a brief introduction, the girls were released to go to each of the four "break out" sessions which discussed topics on sexual abstinence, and relationships throughout their teen years. At the end of the fourth session, they met in the church cafeteria where they were treated to a candlelight dinner. The afternoon session consisted of a group presentation with Motivational speaker Gwendolyn Poteat as the keynote speaker. At the conclusion of the day, each girl was presented with a T-shirt, a long stem rose and a bag of "goodies" which consisted of shampoo, conditioner, body lotion and many other beauty/health items.

