



Community Connections

For our children, our community, our world, our future

Ties that unite us

As we begin the month of February, we are just a little past the halfway point of the school year, and in our part of the country still in the midst of winter. This time of year, while wonderful in so many ways, can also be challenging – for people both young and older – as we grow increasingly anxious for longer and more sunny days. Sometimes, during the winter months, we can have a tendency to be less patient with ourselves and one another than we should be, in part because we spend so much time indoors and without the joy that more daylight can provide.

It seems a good time, then, to pay particular attention to those things which unite us – not just on warm, sunny days but always. In the Cheney Public Schools, we are committed to three *Shared Values*:

Caring and Respect for Self and Others

- ★ Relationships in the Cheney Public Schools are characterized by genuine respect and caring for self and others.
- ★ We are understanding, kind, and positive.
- ★ We address misunderstandings and conflicts in a healthy manner.
- ★ We recognize and respect differences.
- ★ We appreciate, support and help one another, and serve those in need.

Integrity

- ★ We exemplify integrity by setting a positive example for others.
- ★ We take responsibility for our decisions, admit our mistakes, learn from them, and stand up for our beliefs.
- ★ Relationships among community, staff, and students are built upon the foundation of commitment, confidentiality, honesty, and respect.

Pursuit of Excellence

- ★ In the pursuit of excellence, we work collaboratively to enhance our effectiveness.
- ★ We are well informed, well prepared, and committed to uphold high expectations and quality education for all in the Cheney Public Schools.

We genuinely appreciate that you join with us in a commitment to these shared values; and that you help us to be ever accountable to you, our kids, and one another in living them.

Michael Dunn
Superintendent

Friday Reminder: One hour late start for all schools in our district to provide for teacher collaborative time.
Your child's school day begins one hour later; the buses run one hour later.

Our strategic initiatives

- ★ High Quality Teaching and Learning
- ★ Meaningful Partnerships with Families and Communities
- ★ Responsible and Effective Development and Stewardship of District Resources

Cheney Middle School activities line: (509) 559-4488
Cheney High School activities line: (509) 559-4120

Go to www.cheneysd.org for more news and information about Cheney Public Schools.

Important dates

February 16	NO SCHOOL - Learning Improvement Day
February 19	NO SCHOOL - Presidents' Day Holiday
March 13-16	Early Dismissal 11:30 a.m. - Conferences/Testing
March 16	NO Late Start Day
April 2-6	NO SCHOOL - Spring Vacation
May 28	NO SCHOOL - Memorial Day Holiday

Sunset Elementary and WSU's food program make healthy \$ense

Sunset students are excited learning about good nutrition and learning to make their own healthy snacks. Through a partnership with WSU Food \$ense Program, Sunset kindergarten, first, second, and after-school homework club students are learning about nutrition and healthy life style choices through cooking, games, reading and writing activities. Food \$ense educators align their weekly curriculum with the Essential Academic Learning Requirements.

This is the third year that Sunset has been involved in this partnership with WSU Food \$ense. The program is funded by a collaborative effort between USDA Basic Food programs, WSU, and supported by the Cheney School District. Every Monday in the school year, you will find Natalie Tauzin at Sunset from 12:00-4:30. She provides lessons in the classrooms during the school day, and then teaches her lesson in the after-school program. Three times a year, WSU Food \$ense also participates in parent nights by helping with the food prepared for the families by the after-school program students. Nutritional recipes that are easy and economical for our families to prepare at home are provided at these parent nights. These lessons are a big hit with our students and staff who look forward to their time spent cooking with Food \$ense staff. We hope to continue this partnership in the future.



Dante Main



High School math department report on Partners in Learning grant

Two years ago the Cheney School District received a grant along with Eastern Washington University. The goals of the grant are:

- ★ to improve student learning
- ★ to identify effective instruction methods including the integration of technology
- ★ to increase collaboration between higher education and K-12 systems.

The Cheney High School Math Department has been hard at work for the past two years implementing the grant. The Math Department has three mobile laptop labs, which are heavily used by students in their math classes. Students in Integrated I classes are using the labs to increase their skills using a program called Understanding Math. Integrated II students use one of two different programs: Carnegie Bridge to Algebra or Math Trek. Algebra I classes use one of three programs: ALEKS, Carnegie Cognitive Tutor for Algebra I, or Math Trek. Geometry classes are using one of two programs: ALEKS or Carnegie Geometry.

Math teachers spend extra time collaborating every Thursday after school to better implement the use of software in the classroom. Once a month this two-hour collaboration includes teachers from Cheney Middle School and Eastern Washington University.

While the grant has impacted the workload for our math teachers, they are excited to see students more engaged in their learning. As the year progresses, the Math Department is collecting data to assess which programs have the greatest positive impact on student learning. We are excited our students have the opportunity to learn in this technology-rich environment.



Windsor Elementary's budding authors

Fourth grade students in Ms. Yanuszeski's class invited their families to come and listen to stories they had written and put into books. The students had spent many weeks organizing and writing different narrative papers. Many parents brought juice and holiday cookies for snacks. Everyone sat in circles while the nervous, yet excited authors had the opportunity to read to such a supportive audience. "It was fun and thrilling to have parents come," said Emily Davis. Isaiah Baird added, "I would do Author's Day again because I liked sharing my stories with other parents and it made reading fun!" Thank you to all the families who came that day. One never knows if you might have heard a budding author who someday will be famous, and you can brag, "I knew him (or her) when he (she) was just a fledgling young writer!"

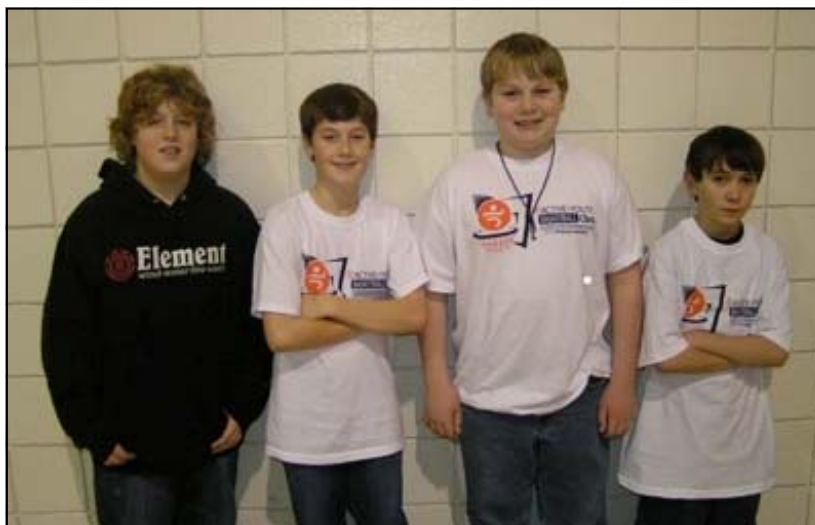


Richard Flick and Cheryl Gould



Lucky Coyotes spend a day with the Zags!

Four lucky Cheney Middle School Howling Coyote students were selected to attend a special Gonzaga Bulldogs' Basketball Camp at the Martin Centre on December 28th, 2006. Robbie Cook, Sheldon Rassier, Erik Krumm, and Masen McCormick were selected after writing an essay about their favorite sport. Two of the boys wrote about basketball, one about soccer, and one about football. The camp was sponsored by Gonzaga University, and the lead instructor was men's assistant coach Tommy Lloyd. The boys received tee-shirts, basketballs, and great instruction from GU players. The boys got to meet Josh Heytvelt, Jeremy Pargo, Jordan Mast, Abdullahi Kuso, David Pendergraft, and Matt Bouldin. All four students raved about the camp. It was certainly an event they will always remember!



Sheldon Rassier, Robbie Cook, Masen McCormick, Erik Krumm



Salnave Elementary reader volunteers

First graders at Salnave are reading, reading, reading! We are extremely fortunate to have many parent volunteers come in to read to our children and listen to them read. Among the volunteers are Mr. Coumbs, Mr. Travis and Mrs. Allen for Mrs. Wilson's class and Mrs. Holland, Mrs. Garcia and Mrs. Hagedorn for Ms. Fredrickson's class. Fifth grade students just started reading twice a week with our budding readers. The picture shows Mr. Coumbs sharing one of his favorite books with the class.



Mr. Coumbs



Music in the rafters at HomeWorks!

On December 14, we held our 1st Annual Winter Piano Recital. It was a big success with 18 students ranging in ages 5 to 13. All the holiday carols were played in two different sections.

The first section was the solo section where all 18 students shared their talents with solo ensembles. The 2nd section was the duet section where the older students showed us some fun and entertaining music with four-hand playing.

It really was a wonderful performance. A big thank you to all the parents for their dedication and encouragement to their children. To the students, thank you for all your hard work and courage to perform.



Patrick, Cheris, Grace, Jessa, Shriauna, Natalie and Alyssa



Carissa Teeters & Taylor Baughman, Claire Arensmeyer, Abby Hammermeister & Hope Gill, and Tea Hickman



Betz Gazette

by Abby Hammermeister, Hope Gill
3rd grade students, Betz Elementary

Betz started a school newspaper and its name is the Betz Gazette. It's a newspaper written by kids for kids. We meet on Mondays and Thursdays. On Thursdays we type up our stories or puzzles in the computer lab. On Mondays we go to room 313, eat lunch together and talk about our stories. Some students take pictures, some of the students are in charge of formatting the newspaper and others report on school news. The Betz Gazette is a

challenge because it's like being a real newspaper reporter.

We just published our first issue. We are working on our second issue. In our first issue we wrote about what kids do at recess, or what is happening at our school. Next there was an editorial section. Editorials sometimes have comics and surveys. Third there were feature articles like exploring the teachers' lounge and interviewing people, like teachers. Last but not least we wrote about entertainment and sports. So if you see the Betz Gazette, be sure to read it!

Student Authors - Students run for fun at intermediate recess

By Chela Maya Joseph and Mariah Brenton, Betz Gazette Staff Writers

It all started with one race, but it soon turned into an everyday event. Intermediate students now hold running races every lunch recess. Some are relays; some are individual races. They are all-season races. The most we have seen race is at least ten students all at once. Kids just race for fun.

Sometimes Chela Maya Joseph gives out awards. They look like ribbons except they are paper.

We are outside at the Betz Elementary cul-de-sac Friday, December 8th. A tag team race is about to start. Tag team is a race involving a runner who goes half-way around the cul-de-sac and then tags the next runner. Micah Weller and Alex Kelly are about to race Stephen Bramble and Roemel Hanson.

Alex Kelly's team wins by four feet. Roemel's team had a three-second delay. Mariah Brenton interviewed Alex and Micah. "How does it feel to race your competitors?" Alex had no problem answering the question. He said, "It felt good." Micah agreed. Mariah had time to interview Jordan Majocha, another runner. "What do you like about racing?" He answered, "I like running fast and having fun." Next time you are out at intermediate recess, come and watch the races!



Jake Mehaffey, Courtney Larson, Nathan Kelly, Huntere Madison, Noah Ziemann

District News



Three Springs High School students hand-pick contemporary literary genre collection

In the quest for immediate and accessible novels, students in the “library” class at Three Springs High School are working to build an on-site, student-generated lending collection of engaging Young Adult novels. As to how they will do this—well, that’s what they have to decide: how should novels be selected, acquired, organized, and circulated?

Surveying current models of various school and county libraries, as well as researching sites such as the American Library Association and national award lists for ideas, Three Springs library designers are reading and reviewing novels (at least one weekly), and prioritizing a “wish list.” And then, once books are in and approved, students are classifying how they shall be organized.

In the spirit of fun and celebration—and honesty—student-designed categories say it all: “romantic but painfully predictable” . . . or, “creepy ghost stories that just won’t die!” . . . or, “I wish I could write like that!”

But the greatest part of all? Students with big smiles saying, “We need to get these books!”

Becoming a Love and Logic Parent

Thursdays: February 22 and March 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29, 2007

6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Salnavé Elementary School

All interested parents are welcome!

\$10.00 fee per family (covers the cost of a workbook)

Childcare and snacks provided

Clock hours available

Facilitated by Carol Kriegh



Love and Logic rules for giving choices:

***Only give a child a choice that will not affect others.**

***Give children lots of small choices and save the big choices for the adults.**

***Only give choices that you like and can live with.**

***Don’t be afraid to say, “I usually give choices, but not this time.”**

1997 Jim Fay

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Cheney Public Schools complies with all state and federal rules and regulations and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, disability, familial status, marital status, or age. This holds true for all students who are interested in participating in educational programs and/or extracurricular school activities. Inquiries regarding compliance and/or grievance procedures may be directed to the school district’s Title IX/RCW 28A.640 Officer and/or ADA Coordinator or Section 504 Coordinator. Or inquiries may be directed to the Director of the Office of Civil Rights, Department of HEW, Washington, D.C.

Title IX/Chapter 28A.640 Officer/ADA Coordinator
Dr. Debra Clemens, Assistant Superintendent
Cheney School District, 520 Fourth Street
Cheney, WA 99004 Phone: (509) 559-4550

Section 504 Coordinator
Marilyn Larson, Director, Student Support Services
Cheney School District, 520 Fourth Street
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Requests for Disclosure of Public Records
Sharon Throop, Public Records Officer
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