



Community Connections

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

Reviewing our Present...Planning our Future

Happy New Year! As we begin 2007, the time has come for us to take a closer look at our past, present and future. In partnership with our community, we are planning for a series of community meetings titled ***Reviewing our Present...Planning our Future***. On behalf of our board of directors, I invite you to attend these important meetings.

Each of the three meetings will take place in the **Viking Room at Betz Elementary School, from 6:30-8:30 p.m.** The purpose of the meetings is to present important information relative to each area of district operations and to seek citizen input for our future planning.

The meeting dates and proposed topics are:

★ **Monday, January 22, 2007**

Topics: Curriculum & Instruction, Instructional Technology, Special Programs, Staffing, Assessment;

★ **Wednesday, February 7, 2007**

Topics: Facilities, Property & Developments, Information Technology, Transportation, Nutrition Services;

★ **Monday, March 5, 2007**

Topics: District Financial Overview, Citizen Recommendations to Meet Prioritized Needs.

Please consider giving a total of just 6 hours of your valuable time to help us as we plan for our future. Together, I believe we can assure continued high quality education, facilities, and resources for the children of our school district. Please call or email Sharon Throop (559-4502 or sthroop@cheneysd.org) and confirm your plan to participate, and we look forward to seeing you at the first meeting on January 22, 2007.

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

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

January 1	NO SCHOOL - Winter Vacation
January 15	NO SCHOOL - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
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

School News



HomeWorks! in the spotlight

On November 30, 2006 HomeWorks! students, family, friends and staff gathered to celebrate the end of Fall Trimester. At the *Spotlight On Education* students displayed projects which they had been working on at HomeWorks! There was art, planet posters, a paper mache' solar system, Spanish projects, and Thanksgiving lap books. Some students took this opportunity to display projects they had been working on at home. The Irish dance class danced, the martial arts class displayed their focus and technique, the drama class produced a wonderful play, and Lego Lab showed two stop motion animation films. *Spotlight on Education* evenings are held at the end of each trimester to celebrate student learning!



Jacob, Mireille, Chae, Cheris, Haleigh and Sam



Windsor Elementary and EWU

Fifth grade students at Windsor Elementary in Mrs. Toone's and Mrs. Evans' classroom were invited by Dr. Barb Brock, Eastern Washington University professor, and her students to share in a special art project. The fun began by constructing plaster masks of each student's face. It was



Mckenzie Bissell

quite an experience to see all Faces "mummified" as children waited for their masks to harden. Later, the masks were painted and decorated with feathers, sequins, buttons, and ribbons to give them unique detail. The friendships made and connections shared with The EWU students will be remembered by all.



Betz Elementary/PTA partnership

The 2006 Betz PTA Carnival and Silent Auction was a great success! Students and their families were served pizza, pop and scones. The Viking Room housed various silent auction baskets containing items ranging from bath comforts to sports paraphernalia to action heroes. The Betz gym contained a blow-up trampoline and various carnival games to test students' skills in kicking, throwing, casting and tossing. Once again, Betz patrons were very supportive of our school through their generous giving, and their children were treated to a memorable evening.



Three Springs High School gets computer lab update

The computer lab at Three Springs High School has recently been updated with increased memory and new math instructional software. The technology department of Cheney School District installed new ram chips to most of the machines in the small lab of 11 computers, effectively doubling the speed of most of the machines. The immediate benefits to our students are faster research times and the ability to download streaming video from educational sites. Also installed were two new interactive math instructional programs designed to be a sort of "private tutor" for math students.

New to the building is Rick Hamrick, who is teaching Math, Science, and some Social Studies. Mr. Hamrick is a long-time Cheney School District teacher who has taught a variety of subjects at both Cheney Middle School and Cheney High School. Hamrick says "The job is challenging, but I'm finding that I have more time to spend with my students in a one-on-one situation than I ever had before, and I am really enjoying it."



Cody Stoddard



Cheney High School's first annual Blackhawk Art Exhibition

We would like to thank the Cheney High School Art Club, and the Cheney High School Fine Arts Instructors Mrs. Strampe, Mr. Scarcello, and Ms. Drury for the 1st Annual Blackhawk Art Exhibition on Wednesday, November 15, 2006 at Cheney High School. The students' art exhibits were outstanding.

Thank you again for students who participated in the Blackhawk Art Exhibition and the help provided by the CHS Art Club and CHS Fine Arts Teachers.



Reid Elementary's shining student



Lucera Cox

November 16, 2006 was a special day at Robert Reid Elementary. Lucera Cox, a fourth grade student, was awarded first prize in the VFW writing contest. Lucera graciously accepted her award as the staff, students, her mother and her grandparents applauded her achievement. She then made everyone very proud as she read her paper on how she is a good citizen.



Sunset Elementary's storytellers

Kindergarten students at Sunset have been very busy writing and illustrating their very own hall story, "The Gingerbread Kids!" They read and listened to several stories about gingerbread people, then used their sight words and schema to write their own story to be enjoyed by everyone.



Cheney Middle School excels in drama

Members of the Cheney Middle School Drama Club presented their fall production *Murder by the Book* just before the winter break. The play, written and directed by drama coach Jamie Nathan, is a comedy/mystery in which the mystery writer's murder is solved. Several returning thespians included Olivia Charles, Misty Berry, Allie Brown, and Caitlin Foster. They welcomed newcomers Corey Brooks, Lucas Barry, Masen McCormick, Lyndsey Woods and others. The professional-looking set was constructed by the tech crew under the direction of advisor Mary Robinson. Carl Robinson, Mary's husband, volunteered many hours of his time to the project. Three performances were presented to the student body and two performances were given for parents and community members during the evening. The play was highly enjoyed by students and adults alike.



Lucas Barry and Allie Brown

District News



School Board appreciation month

The month of January is School Board Appreciation month, an opportunity in the State of Washington to thank the almost 1500 women and men who volunteer countless hours of time to serve on the local school boards of the state's 296 public school districts. In the Cheney Public Schools we are very fortunate to be led by a Board of Directors who always keep the interests of all children, and the big picture, in mind as they make policy decisions on behalf of our children and the citizens of the school district. We are grateful for the leadership of our elected Board members – **President Charlie Weber, Vice-President Marcie Estrellado, and Board members Sue Lienhard, Rick Mount, and Kerry O'Connor**; and for the two Student Advisors to the Board – **Clemente Bustamante and Gina DeCesare**.



Cheney Public Schools' administrators receive accolades



Kaye Aucutt

Congratulations to **Kaye Aucutt, Principal at Windsor Elementary School**, for recently being designated the Northeast Elementary School Principals Association of Washington's Distinguished Principal Representative for 2006-07. Kaye has given so much to the profession, to NEESPAW and related entities, to her friends and professional acquaintances, and most of all, to her school community.



Patti Dean

The National School Board Association recently named **Patti Dean, Director of Instructional Technology**, as one of the "20 to Watch" technology educators. Throughout the history of education technology innovation, the real successes have been led by educators with the vision, passion, and human spirit to embrace new tools and explore how they could become a critical component in helping to transform teaching and learning," said NSBA's Director of Education Technology, Ann Flynn. The search, named "20 to Watch," identified 20 emerging leaders who, like today's education technology pioneers, cross all job titles and district sizes. Congratulations, Patti!

Registration for spring 2007 high school WASL (grades 9, 11, 12)

Online and phone registration for the Spring High School WASL for grades 9, 11, and 12, will be January 9, 2007. Students in these grades are expected to register themselves either online at www.k12.wa.us/waslregistration or by phone at 1-866-400-WASL (9275).

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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
Cheney, WA 99004 Phone: (509) 559-4507



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Requests for Disclosure of Public Records
Sharon Throop, Public Records Officer
Cheney School District, 520 Fourth Street
Cheney, WA 99004 Phone: (509) 559-4502

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