



Community Connections

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

As winter turns to spring, our learning continues

As we begin the month of March, winter is still not officially over, yet before the month ends spring will have begun!

Several important events are planned for March:

- ★ On Monday, March 5, the third in a series of (three) *community meetings*, entitled *Reviewing our Present... Planning our Future*, will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Betz Elementary School Viking Room. At this meeting, a school district financial overview will be shared, and we will review topics covered in the two previous meetings. The participation of so many interested community members in this meeting series is greatly appreciated! It is through a strong partnership between the district and the citizens we serve that we will be able to continue to pursue High Expectations and Continuous Progress for each child in our district.
- ★ On Monday, March 12, *kindergarten registration* begins. Parents can pick up registration packets at their neighborhood elementary school. Kindergarten students must be 5 years old on or before August 31. A Washington Certificate of Immunization must be provided for registration. Please plan to attend the parent meeting scheduled at your neighborhood elementary school.
- ★ On March 13, 14 and 15, the annual *Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL)* begins with the administration of the High School Writing WASL; and the administration of the High School Reading WASL on March 19 and 20. Meeting standard on the writing and reading portions of the WASL are requirements for high school graduation, and our students and teachers have worked hard to be well-prepared for this opportunity.
- ★ On Wednesday, March 21, I will be available at a *forum – open to all citizens of the school district* – that will be devoted exclusively to answering questions that have been offered by citizens in the community meeting series described above. This open forum – *Answers to Your Questions* – will be held from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at Betz Elementary School in the Viking Room. All interested citizens are invited to attend!

Indeed, March is a busy month with much more going on than the bulleted items above. Throughout, however, our commitment to high expectations and continuous progress – for our students and ourselves – is constant.

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 Expectations and Continuous Progress
- ★ Involvement and Engagement with School District Community
- ★ Stewardship and Planning

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

March 12	Kindergarten Registration Begins
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
June 8	CHS Commencement
June 15	Early Dismissal 11:30 a.m. - Last Day of School



Character is cool at Salnave School

At Salnave we encourage and recognize character building every day through our HAWKS guidelines, caught-being-good slips and other positive programs. During the month of February, there was a special emphasis on character. Weekly themes for the month's activities at Salnave were based on the belief that good "Character is Cool." Some of the month's events included the P.T.O. sponsored read-a-thon, *Chill Out and Read a Good Book*. Classrooms counted total minutes reading each day and those minutes were tallied up. A milk carton igloo was built with one block representing every 500 minutes of reading. Students were invited to *Chill Out with Friends* during a mix-it-up for lunch activity during Valentine's Day week. The following week, everyone had the opportunity to *Chill Out and Warm Up* with a daily morning exercise routine (building character by taking care of our bodies). During the last week of February, we focused on character by helping others. We collected food for Cheney Food Bank during *Chill and Fill* week and nearly filled our igloo. Character really is cool at Salnave.



Saralynn Kerr, Zofia Engle, and Bryce Barlow



Betz Elementary and Cheney High School experiment together

The Betz PTA Science Night was a great success in January! Students and their families were led through four experimental activities by four Cheney High School science teachers: Ali Bartlett, Jeff Butler, Tamara Skillingstad and Mary Margaret Pratt. Each family in attendance made silly putty (Bartlett), corroded pennies (Skillingstad), made "shrinky-dinks" (Pratt) and formed salt and ammonia molecules using marshmallows and toothpicks (Butler). The Betz School community is very appreciative of the efforts of these instructors to provide such a fun and informative evening for our students and their families.

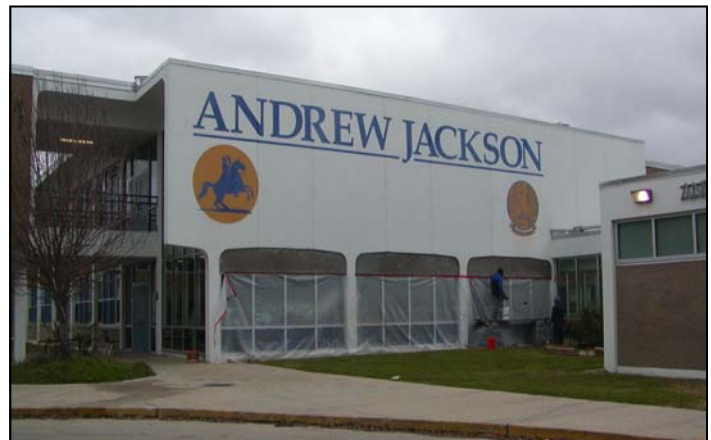


HomeWorks! for hope

This month, HomeWorks! students and families are collecting school supplies, small toys and games, and personal hygiene items for students at Andrew Jackson Elementary School in New Orleans. We are participating in the Backpacks of Hope campaign sponsored by National Board teachers in our state and the NFL. You can help support our work by donating backpacks, school supplies and other items children would enjoy. Andrew Jackson was nearly devastated in Hurricane Katrina, and they are desperate for any items that will improve the learning and lives of their students. We are proud to be their partner school. Contact Stacey Lesser at 559-4586 for donations.



Trey Martin (3rd grade—Schmitt), Mrs. Martin and Luke (Kindergarten—Knokey)



Andrew Jackson Elementary School, New Orleans — Devastated by Hurricane Katrina

School News

Interview with Mrs. Stevens

By Taylor Baughman and Carissa Teeters, Student Staff Writers

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I like to spend my spare time with my family, and I like to travel a lot.

What is your favorite color?

Blue (or in Espanol, azul)

Why did you want to become a teacher?

I wanted to help kids who struggle with learning. I wanted to teach them to love school.

What's your favorite part about the staff room?

My favorite part is our comfortable couch, because I like relaxing on it and putting my feet up.

Tell us about your family.

I have been married for 21 years to my husband, Paul. We have four kids. Meaghan is 18 years old, Hannah is 15 and 1/2 years old, Robby is almost 14 and Becca is 12.

What's your favorite part about teaching? Why?

I love watching the kids learn and grow. Why? Because it's exciting!

Tell us about your pets. What are their names?

We have two dogs, two cats and nine fish. Our dogs' names are Sassy and Sandy. Our cats are named Pig-Kitty (because he eats like a pig!) and Dead-Man Sammy. We call him Dead-Man Sammy because when Paul and Becca saw him at the pet store, they thought he was dead. He felt cold and didn't move. It turned out he was just sound asleep.



"I wanted to help kids who struggle with learning. I wanted to teach them to love school." Mrs. Diane Stevens

What better way to spend a day!

Cheney Public Schools is looking for community members to substitute as classroom para educators, clerical aides, and food service helpers. Substituting in our schools is a valuable opportunity to spend time with our students—and be paid too! Please contact Cindy Miller in Personnel, 559-4509, for additional details and requirements to be considered for on-call substitute openings.

Medal winner

By Kayla Lemelin, Student Staff Writer

Nathaniel Port is in Mrs. Shaw's 4th grade class at Betz Elementary, and he won a Special Olympics medal in basketball. His team's name is the Cheney Black Hawks and their colors are red and black. His team and he won a silver medal for teamwork. The Cheney Black Hawks played against the Spokane Valley, and Nathaniel made six awesome baskets.

When we interviewed Nathaniel, he said it was REALLY fun! And something he will never forget is when his friends shot baskets and he helped them. It was a team effort! Nathaniel even thinks he and his teammates might go to state in Wenatchee this spring. Next time you see Nathaniel Port in the hallway give him a high five CONGRATULATIONS!



Nathaniel Port, a fourth grader at Betz Elementary



KeAndra Daniels, David Bowling and Clarissa McGreevy



Sunset Elementary - 5th grade science

Science rules at Sunset School! The 5th grade students of Sunset School have had the privilege of having a group of scientists come in twice a week to be involved in investigations. The students have been studying how variables can affect an experiment. They have been using airplanes, making boats, and swinging pendulums to record results and track how a specific variable will affect the outcome of an investigation. The scientists have been able to help students gather and interpret data, form hypotheses, and come to conclusions based on their investigations. The students love having their help, and I know the scientists enjoy all that they have learned from the students.



Windsor Elementary students contribute to Scholastic News!

During the past several years, students in Vince Songaylo's second grade at Windsor have worked at becoming more effective readers of nonfiction and informational text while also working closely with the editors of *Scholastic News*! *Scholastic News Grade 2* is a weekly newspaper read by over one million second graders across the United States. As an advisor, Mr. Songaylo was invited to meet with editors and other teacher advisors at *Scholastic News* headquarters in New York newspaper and how teacher developing each issue. and his students provide editors. The Windsor in the country who have students are asked to reflect improvement, discuss first reading levels and topics graders and grade sent via Internet to the input to assist in planning has offered students more thinking and evaluation learned strategies for successfully "reading to learn" as they continue to "learn to read." Since working as a teacher advisor, two of Mr. Songaylo's former students have been featured in the newspaper. Current fourth grader Mikhala Perez and current third grader Spencer Hagel were both interviewed and appeared in *Scholastic News*.



Cayden Pryor

City where he learned more about the advisors and classes play a role in As an advisory class, Mr. Songaylo an evaluation of each issue to the students are one of only a few classes this responsibility. As evaluators, on each issue's topic, give feedback for impressions, and help determine if covered are interesting to second appropriate. Weekly responses are editors who use the student and teacher future issues. Being student advisors opportunities in using higher-level skills, while allowing them to apply reading informational text. They are



Reid Elementary and EWU students tag-team technology

Approximately 50 parents and students attended three workshops Jan. 23 during Reid Elementary Tech Night. EWU technology students Alyssa Lee and Ann Witters ran workshops on kid friendly websites and PowerPoint basics, while Reid librarian Mrs. Kauppi demonstrated a book share on an ELMO and spoke about books and the media. Refreshments for the evening were donated by Reid business partner, Spokane Teachers Credit Union in Cheney.

Traffic safety education program schedule at Cheney High School

Session I: April 9—May 30, 2007 3:00—5:00 p.m. Monday/Wednesday

Session II: May 31—July 6, 2007 3:00—5:00 p.m. Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday

(Class will run 8:00—10:00 a.m. starting June 19)

Registration forms and additional information are available at the high school business office 559-4009.





Cheney Middle School - Howlin' Coyote family Canada night

Did you know that the Canadian word for tennis shoes is runners and that the Canadian spelling of color is colour? The Cheney Middle School Howlin' Coyote sixth graders know these things as they have studied many aspects of Canada, including geography, history, culture, tourism, and about Ogopogo, the Canadian equivalent of the Loch Ness Monster. In fact, they knew so much more that they invited their families to the tenth annual "Howlin' Coyote Family Canada Night" on January 25.

On "Canada Night" the students shared their discoveries with approximately 100 family members. There were activities for the whole family to enjoy. The evening began with several Howlin' Coyote students playing O Canada, the Canadian national anthem, the introduction of two "Real Live Canadians," and Tammy Hauer, a CMS eighth grade math teacher and hockey player, explaining about the game of hockey and dressing a student in a complete hockey outfit. There was also hockey to play, "soapstone" to carve, Canadian bingo, "Family Feud" with Canadian trivia questions, student-made Nanaimo bars, and tea for refreshments and much more.

Sixth grade core teachers Elaine Giadone and Diane Turbeville wanted to create an opportunity for parents and kids to spend some time together at a school function. It was a time to meet each other and see what their kids had been learning. Finally, the teachers saw it as a time to do the kind of "fun things" that we do not have time for during the more serious activities of the normal school day.



Tammy Hauer, 8th grade math teacher and Spokane Comets hockey player and student, Tony Morris



ALEKS assists students at CHS

Thanks to the Partners in Learning (PiL) grant, high school students are working in a new mathematics lab. Our students are now able to access an online system for the assessment and individualized teaching of mathematics. This system, ALEKS, allows for an efficient, adaptive assessment engine which determines quickly and precisely what an individual student knows. Based on that assessment data, the system is able to offer materials at the student's individual instructional level. ALEKS is used to supplement the regular classroom instruction.



Three Springs garden

Tired of the gray and mud? Keep your eyes on the garden outside Three Springs High School. The students work every spring and fall as part of their service learning to beautify the area outside the Fisher Building and Three Springs. They have planted over 200 bulbs as well as a variety of perennials which will appear any day now. The various flowers and trees will showcase their foliage and color from early spring until frost. Donations of sun loving perennials are always welcome to add to the display.



District News

2007 high school WASL schedule

High school WASL tests will be administered during the months of March and April. This schedule provides the time necessary to score the WASL and return the results to students and their families before the end of the school year. Early score results will assist us in identifying students who qualify for summer school enrollment prior to retaking the WASL in August.

The spring 2007 10th Grade WASL testing schedule is:

Writing – March 13th, 14th and 15th

Reading – March 19th and 20th

Math – April 17th and 18th

Science – April 19th and 20th

Each testing session begins promptly at 8:20 a.m. The tests are not timed. Students may take as long as they need to complete each test.

Students must be present at both subject-area testing sessions for their tests to be evaluated. **There will be no make-up testing.** If a student is absent for one of the two subject-area testing days, their testing in that area is invalidated, and they will have to retake the test in August. Therefore, it is imperative that students are in attendance for all WASL testing days.

Outstanding educators honored

Talented staff members in the Cheney Public Schools continue to earn deserved honors for their educational excellence.

- ★ Mike Stark, Co-Principal at Cheney Middle School, was recently selected as the 2006-07 Inland Empire Distinguished Middle School Principal. We are extremely proud of Mr. Stark, and grateful to have his leadership and dedication to young people in our school district.
- ★ Judy Schroeder, 2nd grade teacher at Salnave Elementary School, was recently recognized by the West Plains Chamber of Commerce with a Best of the West Plains award. Her significant contributions to Salnave include teacher leadership responsibility for the Literacy Project and Powerful Teaching and Learning. Judy is an outstanding teacher who loves helping young people reach their full potential.
- ★ Karlyn Urdahl, Family and Consumer Science Education teacher at Cheney High School, was also recently recognized by the West Plains Chamber of Commerce with the Best of the West Plains award. Karlyn's significant contributions include implementing a Teachers' Academy for high school students interested in pursuing a career in education.

Kindergarten registration begins March 12, 2007

Preregistration for kindergartners and new elementary students attending Cheney Public Schools in the fall of 2007 will take place beginning March 12, 2007 at your neighborhood school. Registration will continue during each subsequent school day through June 15, 2007.

A birth certificate or other verification of age is required for kindergarten students and students entering first grade who have not been enrolled in school before. Kindergarten students must be five on or before August 31, 2007; first graders, six on or before August 31, 2007.

Before your child can register for school, a Washington state certificate of immunization status form must be completed for each student with the month, day, and year of inoculation. Additional information is available from the district's Student Support Services Department, by calling the district nurse at 559-4507. Any student who has a potentially life-threatening health condition must provide written instructions from their physician prior to attendance at school.

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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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