



# Community Connections

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

## Giving

Six letters, but such an important word in the world in which we live. As we head toward the holiday season, we move into a time of year when we think about giving more often, in special ways. The giving of gifts for some is important, the giving of money to offset the high heating cost of winter is a focus for others, and still others focus their attention on the giving of time to shovel snow or help senior citizens.

What I find most interesting is that, although we do not think about it much until the holidays, giving surrounds us every day and in ways that make a huge difference to kids. In the Cheney, Airway Heights and West Plains areas, we have folks who give of their time to gather coats to make sure every child can feel warmth on even our coldest days. We have parents and community members with a love of music who find ways to raise money and volunteer their time to defer the costs of equipment and for transporting our students to band and chorus competitions. We have community members who come and read with kids and serve as mentors. We have other community members who stand on the football sidelines marking the downs, come rain or snow, and others who just show up and help at activities or serve as unpaid assistant coaches to support our students.

Beyond that, we have community members giving up countless evenings to help the district spread the word concerning levies and bonds, and others who serve on parent/teacher associations and organizations to create more opportunities for kids. We also have School Board members representing their communities' interests to ensure the quality of a Cheney Public Schools education is high and inclusive.

You see, giving surrounds us every day and, as we become part of it, we have a sense that we are making a difference within our communities and our schools. We are also making a difference to our next generation, as they see the value we place on giving, and it becomes a part of who they are. As we enter the holiday season, let's rejoice that we are a giving society and that we care about those around us. Giving—six little letters that say a lot about who we are.

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

Lawrence R. Keller  
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 essential foundations

- ★ 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](http://www.cheneysd.org) for more news and information about Cheney Public Schools.

## Important Dates:

Dec. 19, 2008 - January 2, 2009	<b>NO SCHOOL</b> Winter Vacation
January 19	<b>NO SCHOOL</b> Martin Luther King Jr. Day
February 12	<b>NO SCHOOL</b> Learning Improvement Day
February 13	<b>NO SCHOOL</b> —Presidents' Break
February 16	<b>NO SCHOOL</b> —Presidents' Day Holiday

## District awards and accomplishments

### Betz students are published poets

The students of Ms. Cynthia Tilque's second grade class of last year embraced their lesson in haiku poetry, and authored their own. Their poetry was subsequently selected to be published nationally in the 2008 Young American Poetry Digest.

Students Addy Critchlow, Hannah Lemelin, Sally McNair, Kristina Reid, Johnathan Stitt, Layne Teel, Avery Towey and Colten Vandine read the haiku poetry which they authored at a recent School Board meeting. Board members were certainly impressed by these budding poets.



Proud teacher Cindy Tilque and Principal Kent Martin, and students (from left to right) Sally McNair, Avery Towey, Hannah Lemelin, Layne Teel, Colten Vandine, Johnathan Stitt, Addy Critchlow and Kristina Reid

### Recent CHS student achievements

Recently 2008-09 CHS Jazz Ensemble I members Lilly Olson, Jacob Weisgerber, Jared Bennett and Peter Swanson won honors at EWU Jazz Dialogue as Outstanding Trombone Section. Joseph Youmans was named the Outstanding Soloist at this competition.

Boys' Cross-Country  
Girls' Cross-Country  
Football  
Soccer  
Girls' Swim Team

League Champions, District Champions, fourth place finish at State  
Third place finish in the GNL  
Third place finish in the GNL  
Second place finish in the GNL, District Champions, Quarter Finals in State 2A Soccer  
Fourth place finish in League



Payden Kent displays the award certificate he received

### Windsor's Payden Kent is winner of VFW essay contest

Each year the Cheney Post of Veterans of Foreign Wars holds a student patriotic essay contest. This year's theme was "My Thanks to America's Armed Forces." Over 400 students entered the contest at the third, fourth and fifth grade level. The fifth grade winner this year was Windsor's Payden Kent. He received a certificate and gift of \$30.00 from the Essay Chairman, Merle Craner, at the Veterans' Day assembly on November 10. Payden's essay began with the words "I am very thankful to the armed forces for my freedom that I enjoy. The men and women that are fighting for freedom in Iraq and in other parts of the world care about people and are willing to risk their lives for freedom." Windsor is proud of all students who entered the contest, and very thankful to all veterans who have served our country.



### Come have coffee with the "Sup" in Airway Heights!

Superintendent Larry Keller would like to invite Airway Heights community members to join him for a cup of coffee and conversation at any time from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, December 10, at Sunset Elementary School, 12824 W. 12th, Airway Heights. There is no need to RSVP – just feel free to drop by and introduce yourself, and find out what's happening within the district.

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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  
Kristi Thurston, Director, Student Support Services  
Cheney School District, 520 Fourth Street  
Cheney, WA 99004 Phone: (509) 559-4507



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