



Community Connections

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

Being thankful

As I become older—or is it “more mature”—it seems harder to handle the cold of winter, or to not get frustrated by the hustle and bustle that surrounds us, or the seemingly endless stream of bad news that we receive from the media every day. It can wear us out, and stand between us and our appreciation of the beauty and goodness that surrounds us. Over the Thanksgiving break, I spent some time reflecting on the above and want to share some of the “goodness” that exists in the communities we serve.

As I drove through the district on my way to do a little holiday shopping, I saw neighbors helping neighbors shovel drive-ways, or in some cases helping someone dig a vehicle out of the ditch. I saw our district custodial employees checking on schools and our coaches giving up their time to help our student athletes hone their skills. I also became aware of other staff and community members who gave up their Thanksgiving holiday dinner to make sure others had a hot meal.

Instead of focusing on the continuing tough economic conditions, I began to feel the spirit of the West Plains—families coming together for the good of others. As community members, you have demonstrated over and over that you care about our kids, and through your support our schools are in great shape. While we continue to hear about drop-out rates of 20-30% across the state, because of your commitment and the hard work of our staff at all levels, our Cheney High School rate for 2009-2010 was less than 7%. This is just one example of everyone’s dedication to students and their success. As you read through this newsletter, look at the achievements of our students and how hard they are working to realize their aspirations and dreams. This is what is important, as our kids are our future.

As the snow falls outside my window and the holiday season continues, I am truly thankful for the many gifts bestowed upon the Cheney Public Schools by the communities we serve. On behalf of our Board of Directors and the staff of the Cheney School District, I want to wish all of you a happy holiday season, and send our thanks for making a difference every day for our kids.

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

Lawrence R. Keller
Superintendent



Have coffee with the “Sup”!

Superintendent Larry Keller would like to invite community members to join him on December 14 at Sunset Elementary for a cup of coffee and conversation. He will be available at any time from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. There is no need to RSVP – just feel free to drop by.

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 for more news and information about Cheney Public Schools.

Important dates:

Dec. 20-31	NO SCHOOL —Winter Vacation
Jan. 14	SCHOOL IN SESSION — SNOW MAKE-UP DAY
Jan. 17	NO SCHOOL Martin Luther King Jr. Day Holiday
Feb. 18	SCHOOL IN SESSION — SNOW MAKE-UP DAY

CHS Blackhawk activities update



Shown above are the students participating in Cheney High School's Fall Choir Concert in October. The audience was once again treated to a superb concert by these talented young artists.



The CHS cross country teams represented the district in fine style at the recent State Cross Country Meet held in Pasco. The girls took 2nd place in state, and the boys took 12th place. Individual finishes were great as well. For the girls, Sanne Holland took 3rd, Amie Zachman 16th, Kinsey Pease 17th, Mariah Brenton 40th, Savannah Phelan 44th, Amanda Batchelor 47th, and Anika Kuula 61st. The boys also did well. Jacob Mager took 33rd, Aaron Brenton 48th, Devon Poulson 49th, Corey Klotx-Brooks 76th, Nick Steele 100th, and James Borchers 105th. Congratulations to all of these fine athletes!



The CHS girls soccer team placed third in our league with a record of 9-3, and made it to the district playoffs, ultimately losing to Pullman. We are once again proud of these fine young players.



Sanne Holland was selected the WIAA/Seattle Times 2A Female Athlete of the Week for October 24-31, 2010 for her outstanding effort at the 2A Regional Cross Country Meet at the Gorge in George, Washington.



Teachers participate in Assessment Workshop

At the November 6 Assessment Workshop, Dr. Michele Anciaux-Aoki from OSPI and Kyle Ennis of Avant Assessment presented at Cheney High School. This was a day-long presentation open to teachers in the area at no charge.

Dr. Aoki started the day by presenting the new state standards for World Languages. She discussed the differences among content, performance, proficiency, and program standards. She also clarified the interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational modes of communication.

LinguaFolio is a European model of formative assessment used at all levels (K-Career) of language development. Ideally, LinguaFolio is an on-line portfolio that is maintained and kept by the student to track his or her progress. It also enables the student to make goals regarding language. Language learning is not limited to one language. LinguaFolio is characterized by “Can Do” statements and encompasses many vocabulary based situations that are somewhat age-appropriate.



The on-line version can include video and audio evidence which adds authenticity. This is what makes it so valuable in Europe where fluency in other languages is necessary for job applications. For our students to be players in a global economy, they will need to be prepared in a similar manner.

Kyle Ennis presented on STAMP, an on-line assessment of proficiency of reading, writing, and speaking. The results and feedback were phenomenal. Marisa Sheldon and Rachel Martin piloted this test in the spring of 2009 and Rachel did it again in the fall of 2009, and they were both very pleased with the procedure and the information it provided. It helped teachers know what to teach, and gave students detailed feedback on their proficiency.



BLM archeologist Ann Boyd leads district students in artifact dig.

Fourth grade students visit Folsom Farm

Thanks to a grant from the Bureau of Land Management, the Outdoor Learning Center was able to provide a field trip to Folsom Farm for 254 district fourth graders. While visiting the farm, students studied soil science, made fossils, played an erosion game, and did an artifact dig with a BLM cultural anthropologist.



NO SCHOOL
December 20-31
*Enjoy time with family
and friends.*



CHS biology department honored

The Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge has honored the high school biology department for their participation in their stewardship project. This year they planted over 75 trees, and installed nearly one-half acre of fencing. Their letter of thanks in part stated, “Your school has played a big role in the success of our riparian restoration efforts, and we are very grateful for all that you have contributed. We are fortunate to have a partnership with a school with such an amazing group of young adults and teachers.”

Cheney Public Schools complies with all federal and state rules and regulations and does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, religion, color, national origin, honorably discharged veteran or military status, economic status, gender, sexual orientation including gender expression or identity, pregnancy, familial status, marital status, age, the presence of any sensory, mental or physical disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability. 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/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, Associate 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

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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CMS students play on the EWU Roos Field

The Cheney Middle School Nighthawk 7th grade varsity football team recently had the special opportunity to play on EWU's Roos Field. It was quite an experience for all of the students, players and observers alike. Needless to say, they enjoyed being able to participate on the new red turf!



Students in the news

Grace Pena from KREM 2 News taught a lesson about weather to Ms. Magee's second grade students at Betz. The students loved meeting her and learning about weather reporting and television technology. This lesson can be viewed online at <http://www.krem.com/video/featured-videos/Grace-Your-Class-at-Betz-Elementary-107061944.html>.

Betz "CARES"

Betz Elementary School is committed to providing all of our students with a safe and caring school environment. "CARES" is the theme of our behavior management plan.

- 'C' is for being Cooperative
- 'A' is for having a positive Attitude
- 'R' is for being Respectful and Responsible
- 'E' is for showing quality Effort in our work and behavior
- 'S' is for Safety of our self and others

The focus of this program is on students caring about themselves and each other, respecting their teachers and other staff members, taking care of their belongings, the building and the playground, and working to be a better student and person. We believe that a child's motivation to "CARE" develops empathy and positive attitudes which ensure success and happiness at school.

Betz students who exemplify these behaviors at school are awarded "CARES" coupons that can be turned in to the office for inclusion in a prize drawing each Monday morning. This year, students can also save their "CARES" coupons and spend them at our "Betz Buy" store, which is full of special prizes of various worth (5 coupons, 10 coupons, etc.). In addition to "purchasing" small toys, students may also "purchase" lunch with the principal, lunch with a friend, morning announcement speaker privileges, computer free time and free reading time prizes (the list is growing).

We are proud of the fine behaviors our Betz students exhibit each and every day. Go Vikings!