



Community Connections

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

Board of Directors invites district patrons to learn about maintenance and operation levy initiative

Cheney Public Schools residents will be asked to renew the three-year maintenance and operation **replacement** levy by returning their mail-in ballots on or before February 14. The levy is a replacement of the expiring levy passed in March of 2009. This levy, officially known as a “Replacement Educational Programs and Operation Levy,” helps fund the type of education the Airway Heights, Cheney, and greater West Plains communities expect for our students.

The “M&O” replacement levy provides approximately 19% of our district’s operations revenues. If passed, the district would qualify for an additional \$1.3 million in Levy Equalization Assistance (LEA), for a total impact of 22% of the entire budget. The levy is estimated to be \$3.19 per \$1000 of assessed property value. The owner of a \$100,000 home would pay approximately \$319 per year. However, as we promised when you supported our bond issue two years ago, the total combined levy rate including the construction bond is estimated at less than \$5.00 per thousand.

As your elected Board members, we are fortunate to live in a community of citizens who care so much about our children and value education so highly. The citizens of Cheney Public Schools have a long history of supporting our levies, and for that we are extremely grateful.

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

Sincerely,

Suzanne Dolle
School Board
President

Larry Haskell
School Board
Vice-President

Marcie Estrellado
School Board
Member

Rick Mount
School Board
Member

James Whiteley
School Board
Member

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.cheneyisd.org for more news and information about Cheney Public Schools.

Important dates:

- | | |
|---------|--|
| Jan. 10 | 8:30 a.m. Coffee with the “Sup” at Salnave 5:30 p.m. Community Meeting at CHS |
| Jan. 16 | NO SCHOOL Martin Luther King Jr. Day Holiday |
| Jan. 18 | 5:30 p.m. Community Meeting at Windsor NEW MEETING DATE (Not Jan. 17) |
| Feb. 20 | NO SCHOOL Presidents’ Day Holiday |

CHS Blackhawk activities



CHS offers something for every student!

Students at Cheney High School have the opportunity to excel in a great variety of sports and activities!



Salnave K-Kids service organization

An exciting new program has been started at Salnave Elementary School this year! In collaboration with the Cheney Kiwanis, they have started a service organization called the K-Kids. Fourth and fifth grade students can join to volunteer their time for our community and their school. So far this year, the kids have participated in several activities:

- Set up for the Coats 4 Kids distribution after school.
- Handed out candy and ran games at the Kiwanis community Halloween party at EWU.



- Made thank-you cards for the Cheney Fire Department, Cheney Police Department, and Spokane County Fire District 3 in recognition of First Responders Day.
- Began program to clean up the playground at Salnave—students are scheduled to pick up litter on Mondays during first recess.

CHS students participate in grant

Students with disabilities at Cheney High School had the opportunity to participate in a grant with Spokane Community Network and the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) to support community events with job training, service, and event planning during the months of November and December. Students earned work stipends in sheltered work experiences supporting the Vanessa Behan Crisis Nursery, Sunset Elementary School's Winter Wonderland, and a day of winter fun for Home Works! students. The 35 high school students completed job applications to support the service projects including preparation of craft kits, gift bags, activities, and a student luncheon. DVR supported the project with student transition information and a parent involvement evening. This grant allowed our students to have the

opportunity to be leaders for children in the community while gaining valuable career readiness skills. We look forward to further opportunities for these students to shine!



Sir Gawain visits CMS

Anyone who likes action, comedy, romance, and frequent shenanigans *loved* Sir Gawain and the Green Knight! The hilarious tale of Sir Gawain of the Round Table was recently portrayed by the Cheney Middle School drama club.

Sir Gawain proves his fellow knights wrong. At the promise of getting to marry his love, he accepts the Green Knight's challenge to cut off the specter's head in three blows—knowing in one year's time he would have to receive the blows. However, he was unaware that the wicked sorceress, Morgan la Fey, had come back to town and the task was all a set-up. Many laughs were heard throughout the audience, thanks to the talents of members of the CMS drama club.



From left to right: Lily Weishaar, Clayton Beard, and Liz Johansen entertain the audience.

Cheney Public Schools complies with all federal and state rules and regulations and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, economic status, gender, sexual orientation including gender expression or identity, pregnancy, familial status, marital status, age, honorably discharged veteran or military status, the presence of any sensory, mental or physical disability, or the use of a trained guide dog 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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Cheney, Washington 99004

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National Board Certified Teachers honored

Twelve Cheney Public Schools teachers were honored by the School Board at their recent meeting on December 14. Corey Anderson, Karen Azzinnaro, Jen Fisher, Cynthia Hagan, Todd Hering, Erica Lebens-Englund, Kyle Loughery, Mary Margaret Pratt, Judy Schroeder, Kathy Walker, Samantha Winchell, and Stephanie Yanuszeski recently obtained National Board Certification. This official designation is the culmination of a tremendous amount of study, time and effort.

These dedicated individuals join 25 other district teachers who previously obtained their certification.

The school district is extremely proud of ALL of our National Board Certified teachers:

| | | |
|------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Corey Anderson | Jennifer Kerley | Karen Runyon |
| April Arland | Brenda Klohe | Tammie Schrader |
| Karen Azzinnaro | Shannon Lawson | Judy Schroeder |
| Patricia Emerson | Erica Lebens-Englund | Marty Sexton |
| Jeannette Ferry | Kyle Loughery | Marisa Sheldon |
| Jen Fisher | Dustin Lungo | Adam Smith |
| Lin Frederick | Julie Martin | Vince Songaylo |
| Jill Gilson | Rachel Martin | Jeani Struss |
| Cynthia Hagan | Kari Payne-Croy | Kathy Walker |
| Tammy Hauer | Alison Phelps | Samantha Winchell |
| Todd Hering | Mary Margaret Pratt | Stephanie |
| C.J. Johnson | Kristi Pring | Yanuszeski |
| David Johnson | Shannon Proctor | |

Newsletter correction

The following two student achievements were omitted in the previous issue of the *Cheney Connections*: All League Selection, Soccer—Jacqueline Hamby, Defender-Hon. Mention, and Katy McNair, Mid-Fielder-Hon. Mention.

New district middle schools receive names

At their meeting on December 14, the Cheney School Board determined the names for the two new middle schools which will open in the fall of 2012. The name of the middle school in Cheney will remain Cheney Middle School. The new middle school on Abbott Road has been named Westwood Middle School. This name reflects the location of the school, which historically has been designated by Spokane County as the “Thorpe-Westwood” area, as well as the West Plains and the wooded site on which it is being built. The Board wishes to thank everyone who participated on the naming committee for their dedication to this important task.



Have coffee with the “Sup”!

Superintendent Larry Keller would like to invite community members to join him on January 10 at Salnave Elementary for a cup of coffee and conversation. He will be available at any time from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. There is no need to RSVP – just feel free to drop by.

January is School Board Appreciation Month

This month we celebrate our elected Board of Directors – **Suzanne Dolle, Marcie Estrellado, Larry Haskell, Rick Mount, and James Whiteley** – as well as our two Student Advisors to the Board – **Seth McCombie and Tyler Pratt** – as part of School Board Appreciation Month. January is designated as the month to extend appreciation to those men and women who volunteer their time and energy in providing public school districts with policy leadership and direction.

We are extremely fortunate to have Board members who understand that the best interests of students are at the center of who they are and what they do. We truly appreciate their guidance and focus. Please join us in thanking them for all they do for kids!