



Community Connections

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

Celebrating Academic Excellence

On Monday, April 21, 2008 the *Spokane Scholars Foundation* held its 16th Annual Awards Banquet. Annually the *Spokane Scholars Foundation* recognizes over 125 area high school seniors for their incredible academic achievements in one of six content areas: English, Social Studies, Mathematics, Science, World Languages, and Fine Arts. Attending this banquet is quite an experience—the incredible talents and abilities of young scholars in our region is impressive and inspiring.

This year, Cheney High School's *Spokane Scholars* are:

English	Jessica Wellik
Social Studies	Chrystal Bailey
Mathematics	Barrett Anderson
Science	ShanShan Sun
World Languages	Corinna Bockstruck
Fine Arts	Edward Liu



Each of these students are highly accomplished students and highly deserving of their recognition as a “*Spokane Scholar*.” Two of them, **Corinna Bockstruck** in World Language and **Jessica Wellik** in English, were among this year's *grant recipients*. The *Spokane Scholars Foundation* gives four significant cash awards in each content area, rendering the *grant recipients* the “*best of the best*.” We are so proud of each of these young people and truly proud of the academic success that all the students in our district strive for, and equally proud of a dedicated faculty and staff whose deep commitment is to excellence for and from our students. Similarly, we are grateful for the outstanding parents and guardians, and community members in whole, who genuinely value and provide needed support for academic excellence—a major purpose of any school district and certainly of ours.

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 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

May 26	NO SCHOOL - Memorial Day Holiday
June 4	Three Springs High Commencement
June 6	CHS Commencement
June 16-18	SNOW CLOSURE MAKE-UP DAYS
June 18	Early Dismissal 11:30 a.m. - Last Day of School
September 2	First Day of School ~ 2008-09



Reid explores unique path

The teachers at Reid Elementary are in the process of exploring an instructional model known as *Schoolwide Enrichment Model*, or SEM. SEM was developed at the University of Connecticut’s Neag Center for Gifted Education and Talent Development as educational researchers began to realize methods traditionally used to teach identified gifted students are really methods that have the potential to benefit all students. SEM is a means to bring learning to life through challenging, authentic learning experiences, and includes opportunities for advanced follow-up activities when a student shows particular skill or interest in a topic.

The *Schoolwide Enrichment Model* begins with teachers and students taking a close look at their own interests, abilities, and preferred avenues of expression. Teachers develop hands-on learning opportunities based on learning profiles, and students choose to attend periodic, multi-age class offerings based on interest. It is the hope of the Reid staff that SEM will be a means to strengthen and enrich the already unique environment of Reid Elementary. For more information about the SEM model, please visit www.gifted.uconn.edu/sem/.



Cheney Middle School Science Olympiad Team wins school spirit award



Congratulations to the Cheney Middle School Science Olympiad Team, pictured at left with Dr. Rodolfo Arevalo, President of Eastern Washington University, for winning the School Spirit Award. The award is given to the team who displays the most school spirit and demonstrates good sportsmanship. The team competed in 23 different science events at EWU on April 5. Members of the team won ribbons in meteorology and oceanography. The team placed well in other events, too, such as Write it—Do it and Bio Process Lab. Way to go CMS Science Olympiad Team!



Betz Students Receive High Honors

Last December several students from Betz submitted entries to *Letters About Literature*, a national contest in which readers write personal letters to their favorite fiction or nonfiction authors explaining how an author's work changed the student's way of thinking. Our students’ entries were judged at the state level in the fourth through sixth grade category. Two Betz fourth graders, Kaleigh Critchlow and Shayla Payne, were selected from thousands of entrants as semi-finalists at the state level. Both girls wrote to author Elanor Estes about her book The Hundred Dresses. In April, Kaleigh and Shayla traveled to Olympia where they were honored by Secretary of State Sam Reed and Washington State Librarian Jan Walsh in a special ceremony.



Betz fourth grader Shayla Payne (left), and fellow fourth grader Kaleigh Critchlow, with Washington State Librarian Jan Walsh.

Cheney Middle School 7th grade student Sarah Oakes selected as a Chase Youth Commission Award Recipient

Congratulations to Sarah Oakes for being named a 2008 Chase Youth Commission Award recipient! Sarah was selected from a pool of thousands of nominees in the category of Personal Achievement. Sarah excels in the classroom and in athletics. She is truly an inspiration to her classmates, teachers, and the entire CMS family. Way to go Sarah! We are so PROUD OF YOU!

Sarah is pictured at right, flanked by Mr. Mike Stark, CMS Co-Principal on the left, and Mrs. Jennifer Hardt, CMS counselor, on the right.



Cheney High School world languages department has busy spring promoting continued excellence



CHS student Kerri Kobara (L) works with Betz student Mackenzie Huotari



CHS student Sydney Brock prepares an international snack

The Spanish Department administered the National Spanish Exam to 30 second and third year Spanish students for the first time this spring. All of Cheney High School's French students have been taking the National French Exam or "Le Grand Concours" (the French Contest) for several years. This exam is a means of assessing if each student has acquired the essential knowledge and skills for their specific level in the target language.

In addition, the Spanish Club continues to donate money to a seven year old Brazilian girl through the Christian Children's Fund. These monetary gifts provide clothing, medical care, and educational opportunities for Fernanda and her family. The Spanish Club has already sent \$417.00 this year. This is the fifth year that the CHS Spanish Club has been involved with the support of this child and her family.

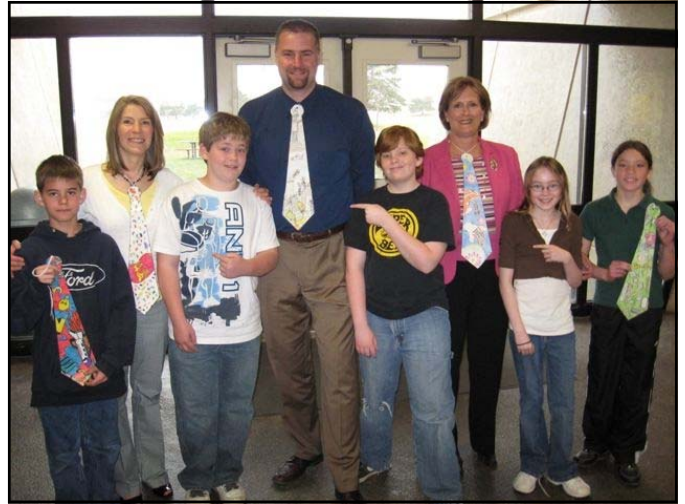
Finally, several World Languages nights have been held at district elementary schools this spring. These well-attended events celebrate languages and culture from French, German, and Spanish-speaking countries. Cheney High School world language teachers Melvie Strampe and Kathy Brainard brought many of their talented students to these events, and students led the elementary students in various language activities including "lingo bingo" for prizes. The high school students also prepared snacks that are representative of the different cultures.



“Tie It Up” for Youth Art Month at CMS

Did you know that March is recognized nationally as being Youth Art Month? In 1984, the Council for Art Education, Inc. (CFAE) was created to raise awareness for the arts, emphasize the value of art education for all children, and to encourage support for quality school art programs. Art education develops self-esteem, self-expression, appreciation of the work of others, critical thinking skills, cooperation with others, and most kids look forward to participating in art during the regular school day.

At Cheney Middle School we celebrated Youth Art Month by creating unique, colorful, well crafted, paper “ties” to be worn by our very own principals. In the month of March, we had a “Best Tie-Design Contest” and 6th graders in Mrs. Syrie’s 6th grade art class picked a theme and created a tie using the elements of visual art they have learned in class. Several ties were chosen to be displayed in the art case and were voted upon by other CMS students during lunch time. In the past, three winners have been selected, announced, and had their pictures taken with their winning ties and the principals. But, for this year’s winners, gift certificates and art supplies from area art supply stores were also distributed. How exciting! To find out how you can help raise awareness for the arts, please check out this web site: www.acminet.org/cfae.htm.



Pictured from left to right are Nick Wahl, Honorable Mention (rocket ship tie); Erika Burden, Co-Principal; Shane Dempsey, First Place (jelly belly tie); Mike Stark, Co-Principal; Kamren Waite, Second Place (Simpsons tie); Sandy Lane, Assistant Principal; Jenna Riley, Third Place (koi fish and lily pad tie); and Courtney Schwendiman, Honorable Mention (sports tie).



Bonjour from Windsor Elementary!

By Ellie Fix, Sarah Fix, and Avery Dehner

Bonjour! Our fifth grade class has been writing to Mrs. Martin’s French II class at Cheney High School. Mrs. Martin is a good friend of our teacher, Ms. Yanuszeski. When our class receives a letter from our pen pals, the letters are all written in French. They include a copy of the letter in English to help us read them. Not only are we excited to receive the letters, our pen pals are excited to write back to us. The pen pals write to tell us about their interests or favorite sports, foods, colors, or subjects. It is a thrill to know what hobbies our pen pals like while communicating in French!

When we write back, we write in English and try to include one or two French words that we know in our sentences. It is a little hard and awkward sometimes to think about what to write. When we write, it is very quiet because everyone is so busy. We have a lot of resources like dictionaries, picture books, flash cards, and posters on the wall to help us. Usually Ms. Yanuszeski plays some nice French music to get our brains working. In the end, we prevail and write letters with a little French vocabulary. We have learned some French words for numbers, colors, members of the family, greeting people, some food, days of the week, and a few holidays.

Overall, writing to our pen pals is a fun activity. The high school students have really encouraged us to take future world language classes.

Serving Up Smiles At the Ronald McDonald House



In April, Home Works! families served up a Mexican Fiesta for the families staying at the Ronald McDonald House in Spokane for our spring service learning project. The Ronald McDonald House offers families with critically ill or injured children a place to stay so they can be together when the need is greatest. An average stay at the Ronald McDonald House is 12 days, although some families stay as long as six months. The Ronald McDonald House runs at 100% occupancy with a waiting list of up to 12 families on any given day. Home Works! students brought all the ingredients to serve up smiles to the twenty five people currently staying at the House. We learned about the children they had in local hospitals and enjoyed a delicious meal. You can donate to the Ronald McDonald house in many ways. Please visit their website at www.rmhsokane.org.

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.

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Requests for Disclosure of Public Records
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