



Community Connections

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

Teacher Appreciation Week

Teacher Appreciation Week is a time-honored tradition that shows up on our schedule every year, and it causes us to pause and reflect on those that we trust to educate our kids. From my perspective, there has never been a more important year than this one to let our teachers and staff members know that we truly appreciate what they do every day. Our teachers have continued to focus on our kids in an economic environment that has taken money out of their pockets, through the loss of three learning improvement days and no cost of living adjustments. Yet, everywhere I turn, I see our teachers continuing to step up to help us define our curriculum for future students, or design the buildings to make sure we have the right facilities for our students. I also see our teachers taking a leadership role in sharing the quality of what we do throughout our region. Teaching is a calling, and your Cheney Public Schools teachers are committed.

I recently experienced just one example demonstrating this continued commitment throughout our district. I attended the “Math is Cool” competition for 4th grade students at Mt. Spokane High School. There were well over 100 teams competing to show off their math abilities. For over four hours, students took tests and competed in multiple rounds of a quiz bowl process. I sat through the competition watching students compete, and I came away awed by the capability of these students and the quality and level of elementary math being taught today. All four of our elementary schools were represented, with our kids giving their best and representing their schools and district in a superb manner. We had students recognized from each of our schools, and our Windsor team placed 6th—a tremendous accomplishment.

As I drove home, I reflected on the unsung heroes of this evening—our elementary teachers, who know the importance of math in today’s world and continue to give their gift of time beyond the classroom to raise our math bar. I know the gift of time is not unique to our elementary teachers. It is part of the Cheney teacher fabric at all levels that I value daily.

This week, when your path crosses current or past teachers, thank them for what they do and let them know they are appreciated. Teaching is indeed a calling!

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 for more news and information about Cheney Public Schools.

Important Dates:

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| May 30 | Memorial Day Holiday— NO SCHOOL |
| June 1 | Three Springs High School Commencement
Held at Betz Elementary School |
| June 3 | Cheney High School Commencement
Held in EWU Pavilion |
| June 16 | Early Dismissal 11:30 a.m. -
Last Day of School |

Elementary and middle school state assessments in May

This May, all third through eighth grade students in Washington State will take a test called the Measurements of Student Progress (MSP). The MSP name conveys the goal of the test, which is to measure a student's progress toward mastering basic skills in mathematics (grades 3-8), reading (grades 3-8), writing (grades 4 and 7), and science (grades 5 and 8). Thanks to the technology available in Cheney Schools, our students will be able to take all possible online versions of the MSP; tests that will still be paper-pencil are third grade reading and math, and fourth and seventh grade writing. The MSP is important because teachers and administrators use the results to make decisions regarding curriculum and instruction. In addition, the MSP determines whether or not public elementary and middle schools in Washington meet the requirements of the Federal No Child Left Behind Act. Look for an announcement of testing days for your school, and make sure your child attends school on these days.

Students and teachers have worked hard to prepare for success on the MSP. Parents and guardians can help their children be successful in the following ways.

- Look for an announcement of testing days for your child's class and make sure your child attends school on these days.
- Make sure your child gets plenty of sleep the night before testing and that he or she eats a nutritious breakfast on testing days.
- Visit the Cheney School District web site at www.cheneysd.org and click on the Assessment tab under Parent Resources to find information that will help you prepare your child for the MSP, including a link for demonstrations used to prepare students for computerized testing.

Home Works gets a life saving tour!

Wow! That's amazing! How fast can it go? Is there really a TV inside? These are just a few of the comments and questions from students at Home Works who were recently given the opportunity to visit Northwest MedStar on a community field trip.

Located at Felts Field in Spokane, Northwest MedStar is a critical care transport service. Using helicopters, airplanes and ambulances, the MedStar staff safely and efficiently transport critically ill or injured patients to health care facilities around the Pacific Northwest. After a tour of the medical transport helicopter, students were given a tour of a larger medical airplane, and finally a transport ambulance. At each section of the tour, students were given the opportunity to ask questions about the transport, get inside the different aircrafts and vehicles, and generally explore the ins and outs of a medical transport unit.

By the end of the tour, students and parents alike showed their appreciation and respect for the amazing and life-saving jobs these people do on a daily basis. When asked how many flight responses MedStar attends to, the answer was, on average, two flights a day or 3,500 flights a year. That is a lot of lives being transported and potentially saved through this wonderful organization! For more information about visiting MedStar with your own family, simply log on to www.nwmedstar.org to find out how to set up a visit. It is well worth the trip!



Chris Loft enjoys the helicopter cockpit.

Community forums on new elementary school design — May 17 and May 24

Please join us to learn about tentative plans for the new elementary school to be built in our district. The elementary school conceptual design will be presented, and you will have the opportunity to ask questions and provide input.

Windsor Elementary School	Tuesday, May 17	5:30—6:30 p.m.
West Plains Community Forum		
Sunset Elementary School	Tuesday, May 24	5:30—6:30 p.m.
Airway Heights Community Forum		



Operation Military Kids

Celebrating the Month of the Military Child, Windsor Elementary hosted the first Operation Military Kids event. Stacey Markley, Family Assistant Specialist, Washington State National Guard, and Zachary Bonta, Child and Youth Specialist, Washington State National Guard,

worked collaboratively with Windsor teachers to host Operation Military Kids. Military personnel brought playground equipment and joined Windsor students during recess to celebrate the Month of the Military Child. Activities were offered for parents and children, along with a light meal. The purpose of the event was to bring military families



Military personnel and students had fun on the playground at Windsor.

together, providing an opportunity to get to know other military families living in the same neighborhoods. Windsor teachers are looking forward to planning more events and building support in the community for our military families. If you would like to become involved, please call Mr. Songaylo, Ms. Yanuszkeski, Mrs. Roehl or Mrs. Johnson, at Windsor Elementary, 559-4200.



Parents were provided with the opportunity to get to know each other.



Three Springs High School graduation and enrollment news

The Three Springs High School Class of 2011 commencement ceremony will be held on Wednesday, June 1, at 5:00 p.m. in the Viking Room at Betz Elementary School. This year, Three Springs will be graduating 16 seniors. Valedictorian honors for this year go to Ruth Powell.

Pre-enrollment for fall classes has also begun at the school. Anyone interested in a non-traditional high school experience should call the registrar at 559-4587.



From left to right: Brooklyn Marsh, Kayla Westhoff, Jenny Kim, Karra Plummer, Linnea Kessler, Hannah Mauget, Kaitlin Trajillo

CHS FCCLA students excel at state competition

Recently, FCCLA (Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America) students Linnea Kessler, Jenny Kim, Brooklyn Marsh, Hannah Mauget, Karra Plummer, Kaitlin Trajillo and Kayla Westhoff represented the district in the state competition. STAR events (Students Taking Action with Recognition) offer members the opportunity to expand on their leadership potential and develop skills for life—planning, goal setting, problem solving, decision making and communication—necessary in families, communities and careers. These events are designed to recognize students for proficiency and achievement in a specific area of work. The winner of each event at state gets to go to the national competition in Anaheim, California, July 8-14.

Kayla Westhoff won the Entrepreneurship event, Karra Plummer won the Fashion event, Jenny Kim and Linnea Kessler won the Promote and Publicize event, and Kaitlin Trajillo received a silver medal for Chapter Service.

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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District awards and accomplishments

Dr. Robert Stockton and Ms. April Brogan receive Community Leadership Award



Dr. Stockton and Ms. Brogan were honored at the recent Northeast Washington Association of School Administrators awards luncheon. The letter of nomination included the following: “Dr. Robert Stockton and Ms. April Brogan set the standard when it comes to helping some of Cheney’s neediest students.” Sheri Frantilla, the Communities In Schools Coordinator, wrote about why these two individuals deserve this recognition. “I have been thinking a great deal about how to honor the work April Brogan and Dr. Stockton have done on behalf of our students over the past two years. Last week I called April at Dr. Stockton's office because one of our youth was in severe pain. Her four back molars were broken in half, she had serious decay on one of her front teeth and an abscess above it. They agreed to treat her. This morning we went to the dentist, where she had a root canal, the abscess drained and received antibiotics. The story doesn't end there though, because Dr. Stockton agreed to complete her care at no cost to the family. In addition, they are going to remove the broken molars to make room because she is going to be getting braces – again, at no cost. As you know, this will change her life. Dr. Stockton has participated in Give Kids a Smile Day the past two years (a program that provides free dental check-ups at several of our schools) and has provided thousands of dollars of care at no cost to our students. Last year we had a youth in pain because his family could not afford to continue his orthodontic care. We phoned April and Dr. Stockton to see if they would remove his braces. Instead, they finished his treatment.

“In addition to Dr. Stockton’s amazing and generous dental work, April has been our go-to community member, supporting our youth with clothing, shoes, ASB fees, school insurance, supplies, and more when needed. She has even served on our PTA. April is committed to helping our youth succeed and is currently working on a back-to-school project to assist underserved youth called the ‘Tree of Confidence’ where students will receive school supplies, clothes or other items that they need to have a successful school experience. I can think of no two people more deserving than Dr. Bob Stockton and April Brogan.”

No one could have deserved this prestigious award more. Thank you, Dr. Stockton and Ms. Brogan, for everything you have done for the district’s students!

Three Springs High School to study da Vinci



In early June, Three Springs High School will be one of the few schools in the area who will have the opportunity to view the Leonardo da Vinci: Man-Inventor-Genius exhibit at the Museum of Arts and Culture (MAC) in Spokane. Including 60 invention models and 23 replicated artistic masterpieces, the Leonardo da Vinci exhibit is an educational exhibition of unequalled fascination. The museum will have the exhibit running throughout the summer for the public.

In preparation for this visit, the students will be involved in interdisciplinary studies of history, language arts, art and science. They will be researching the life and times of Leonardo, as well as attempting to recreate some of his flying machines. Once at the exhibit, they will have the opportunity to see, touch, and interact with inventions and machines from four areas: flight, civil machines, hydraulics and engineering, and military machines.