



# Community Connections

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

## A Sense of Community

In my ten weeks as superintendent, I have had the opportunity to wander to all parts of the Cheney School District. One overriding theme has emerged in my travels, and that is a sense of community. Whether it be in Airway Heights, the Fairways/Geiger Heights/Windsor area or within the boundaries of Cheney, I have experienced committed parents and community members who want their communities and school district to be warm and inviting with an attitude of "We care." This attitude provides the foundation for letting our children know that, beyond the academics they will learn within our schools, they also need to understand that they have a civic responsibility to become stewards of their community and take care of those who need help.

Let me provide a couple of examples of what I have experienced. When I was at the Windsor Open House several weeks ago, I met well over 150 parents, guardians and grandparents. As the principal introduced me to the different folks, in almost every case she followed up the introduction with a comment on how each of those people gave of themselves to make the school and community a better place. In fact one gentleman I met, who has no children in school, has adopted Windsor and makes sure that we have flowers in the boxes in front of the school. I know that this sense of community extends well beyond Windsor, and I have seen it in all of our schools and communities.

This past week I attended a memorial service for a staff member who played an important part in our "HomeWorks!" program. While on one level it was a sad occasion, what I will remember most was the size of the crowd who came to honor this individual and the words spoken about her. She epitomized the sense of community that I have noticed in all my travels. She believed in giving to her community and making a difference to every child with whom she came in contact. You see, she understood civic responsibility and what it entails; and, as a school community, we are better for it.

While I could go on and on, the message that I want to leave with you is that education is more than teachers and the staff providing academic skills to our students. It is all of us continuing to model in our daily lives a sense of civic responsibility and community. To the Cheney Public Schools communities, thanks for helping me understand this.

*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:

Oct. 10	<b>NO SCHOOL</b> Learning Improvement Day
Nov. 11	<b>NO SCHOOL</b> Veterans' Day Holiday
Nov. 20-21	Early Dismissal 11:30 a.m. (Conferences/Testing)
Nov. 24-25	Early Dismissal 11:30 a.m. (Conferences/Testing)
Nov. 26	Early Dismissal (1 1/2 Hours Early)
Nov. 27-28	<b>NO SCHOOL</b> —Thanksgiving Holiday



Ruth Powell and Alysha Weller scale the climbing wall at EWU

## Three Springs Students Climb into Fall Classes



Three Springs High School students recently participated in an afternoon of wall climbing at the new recreation center at EWU as part of a P.E. class requirement. This is just one of the many things our students will participate in as we develop the partnership between Three Springs High School and the EWU Outdoor Recreation Program. We also expect to become involved in canoeing, snowshoeing, and a challenge course, among other things.

Within the building at Three Springs, staff members still offer yoga and walking classes to satisfy basic P.E. requirements. Our partnership with EWU will greatly improve P.E. offerings at TSHS and be more attractive to our students.

If you, or someone you know, would like to experience a non-traditional approach to high school, please give us a call at 559-4587. Space is still available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

## Make a Connection—volunteer!

Volunteers make our schools better places to learn. YOU can accomplish small tasks that will free time for teachers. YOU can help students practice their reading. YOU can bring YOUR unique skills and interests to the classroom to create a richer school environment.

Our students need YOU! For more information, call your school of interest or contact our Volunteer Specialist, Cindy Miller, at 559-4509.



## Sunset Fifth Grade Retreat

Sunset Elementary fifth graders participated in their first annual Fifth Grade Retreat on Tuesday, September 9 and Wednesday, September 10. Goal-setting, team-building, conflict manager training, and fun served as the foundation for the retreat.

On Tuesday, students went to their neighborhood park and worked on team-building strategies as they played a whole group game of circle ball with Counselor Samantha Winchell. With the help of their teachers, Mrs. Guske, Ms. Niccolls, and Mrs. Johnson, students brainstormed several goals for what they wanted fifth grade to look and feel like for the 2008-09 school year. The goals were narrowed to three: Respect, Responsibility, and Role Models.

Students walked to the First Baptist Church on Wednesday and used their community space for more team-building activities. In groups of five to six, students from each of three classrooms wrote acrostic poems using the three goals set on Tuesday. The activity solidified the goals as students made new friends, worked cooperatively and participated in their group. A rousing game of Duck-Duck-Goose got the joint jumping, and students and teachers alike ran around the circle of 54 students. Mr. Ledbetter caught Ms. Niccolls when she lost her shoe. Mrs. Winchell took some time to introduce the students to conflict managers, and several students, including Alyvia Huntley and Thackery Phillips, role-played some playground and classroom behaviors.

After lunch, students made their way back to the community park to play Alaska baseball. To wrap up the afternoon, students shared their acrostic poems and reflected on the over-riding messages brought forth in the poems.

The day and a half experience laid the groundwork for new friendships and set the expectations high for the fifth graders of Sunset Elementary.



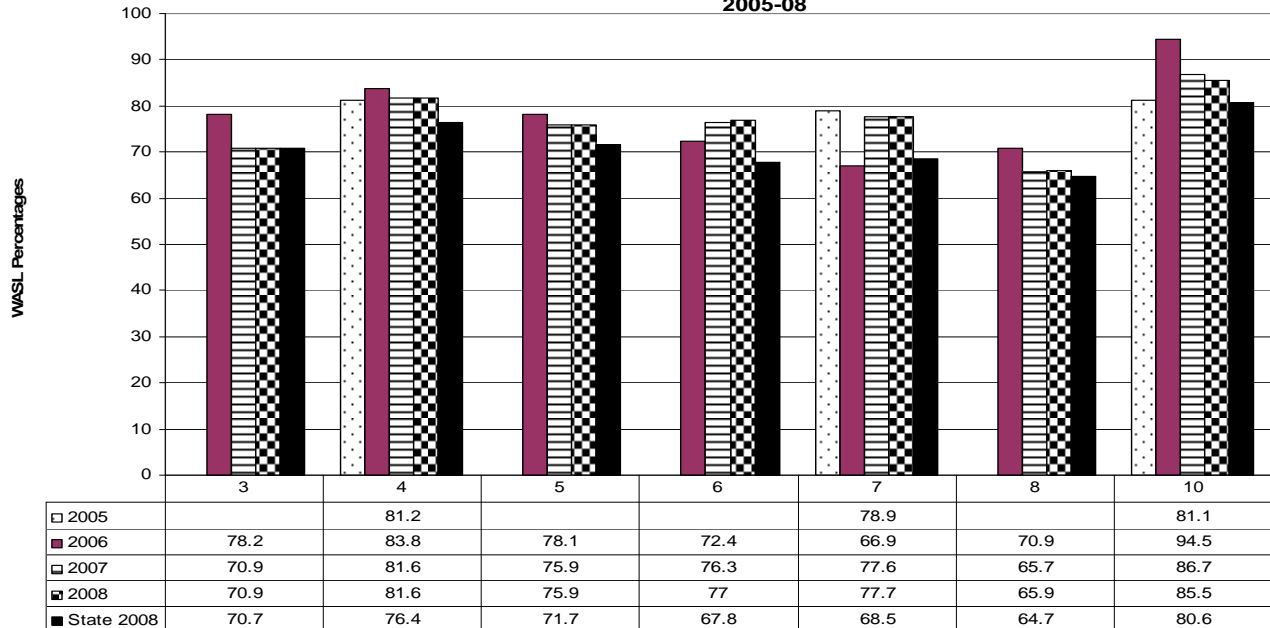
Sunset fifth graders share a poem about what it means to be a role model with their peers

## Cheney Public Schools 2008 WASL Results

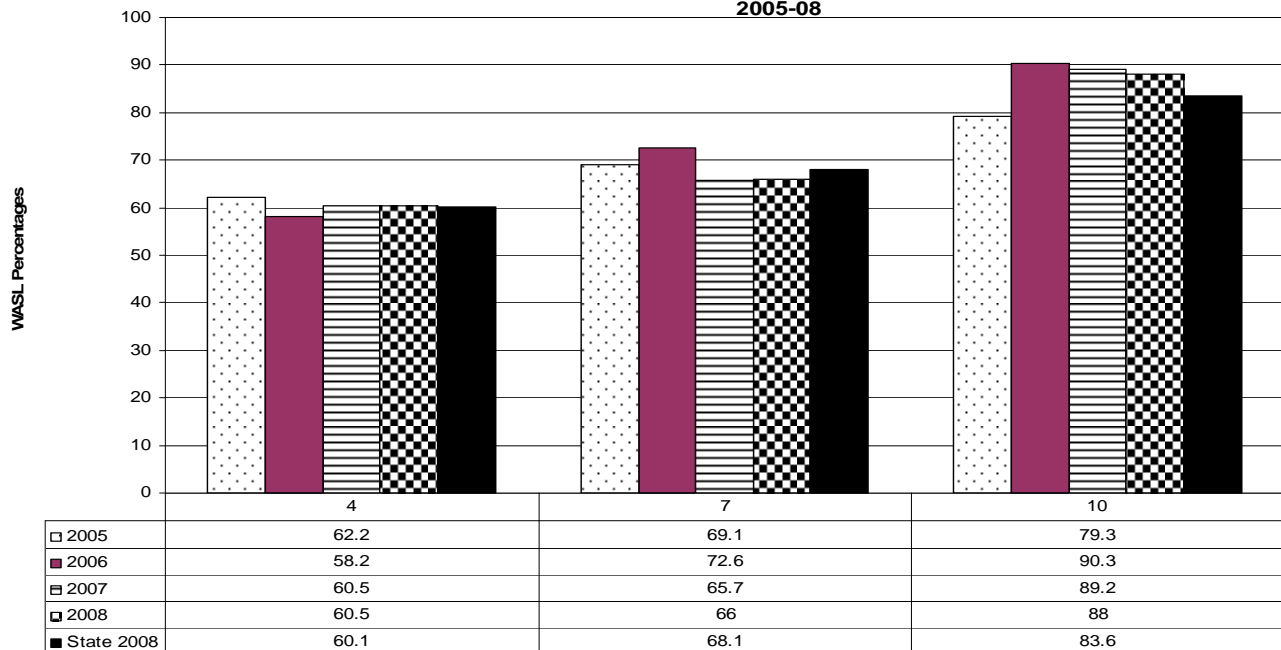
The spring 2008 State of Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) scores have been released. The WASL measures how well students have mastered the Essential Academic Learning Requirements (EALRs) as specified in the Grade Level Expectations (GLEs) in reading, mathematics, writing, and science. The WASL is comprised of multiple-choice, short answer, and essay questions.

The following graphs show the WASL trend data in our school district for the past four years.

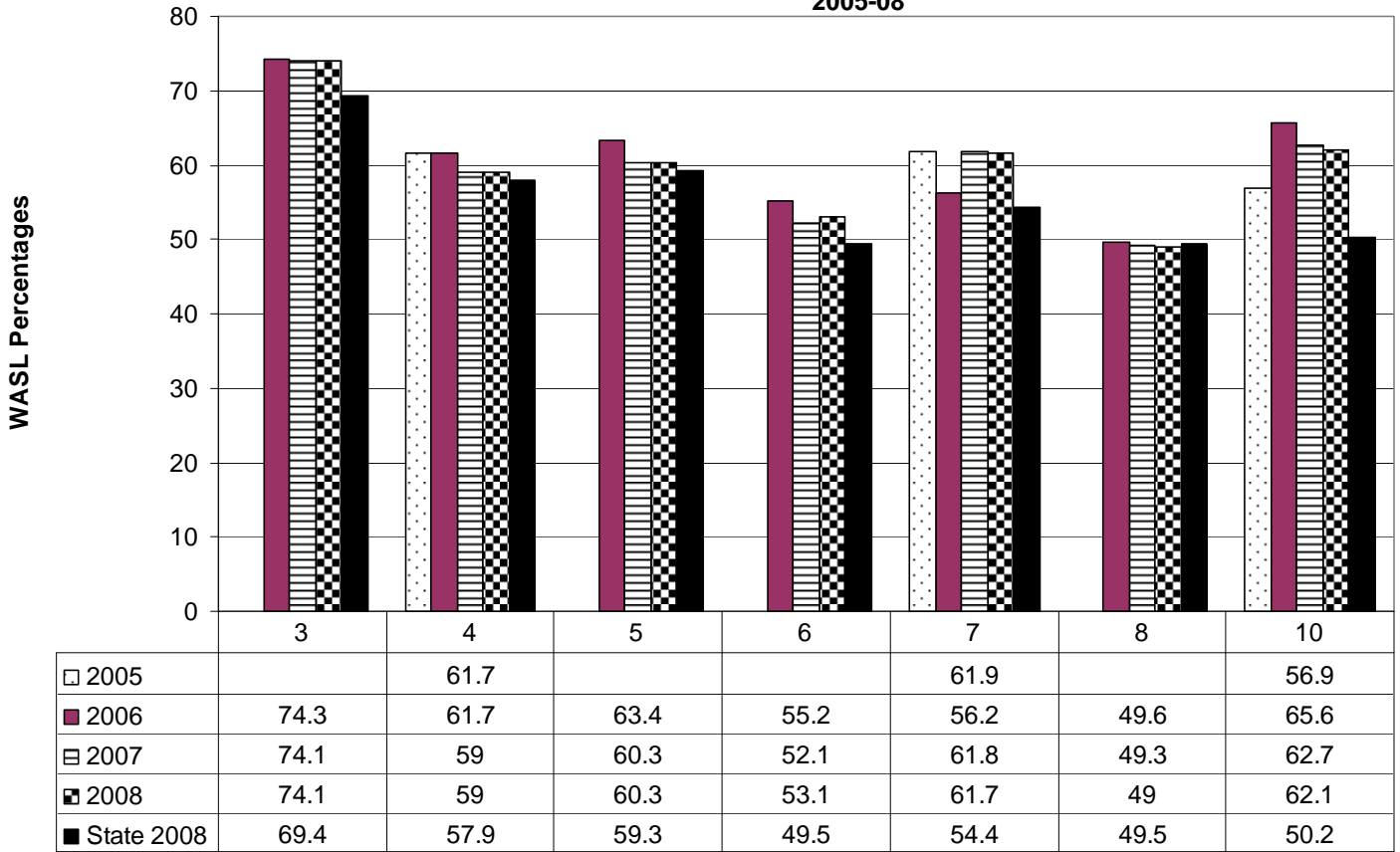
**Washington Assessment of Student Learning  
Reading - Grades 3-10  
2005-08**



**Washington Assessment of Student Learning  
Writing - Grades 4, 7, 10  
2005-08**



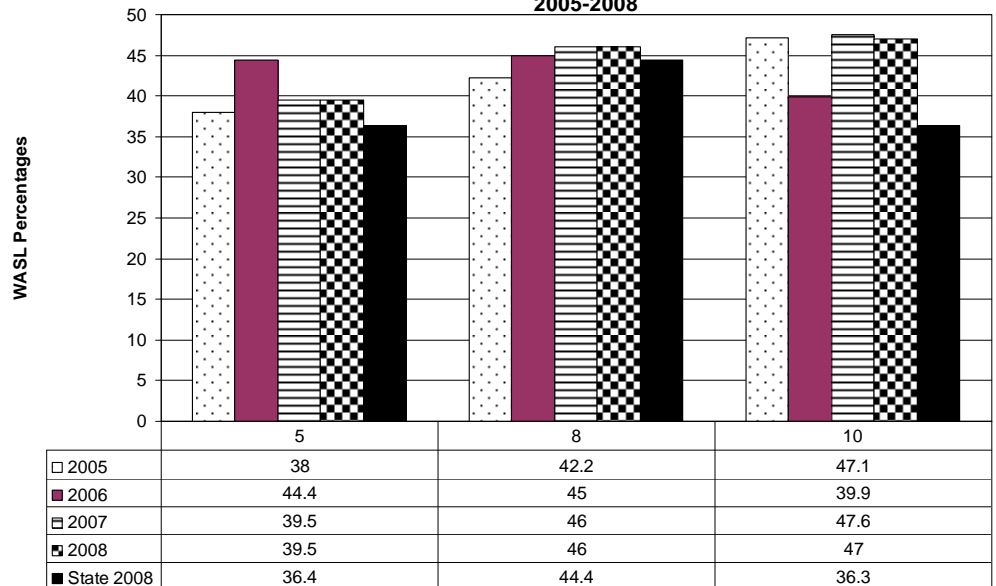
**Washington Assessment of Student Learning  
Math - Grades 3-10  
2005-08**



The Cheney Public Schools WASL scores are above the Washington State scores in virtually all subject areas and grade level categories.

The Washington State Report Card for our school district and for each school in our district can be accessed on line by visiting the Cheney Public Schools website – [www.cheneysd.org](http://www.cheneysd.org) – and clicking on “About Us.”

**Washington Assessment of Student Learning  
Science - Grades 5, 8, 10  
2005-2008**



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## Reid Raptors Launch School-Wide Enrichment Model



This year at Reid students have the opportunity to engage in self-selected, hands-on, multi-age learning activities with the School-wide Enrichment Model (SEM). Teachers have planned a wide variety of learning modules including ballet, poetry, science fair activities, math, art, journalism, Spokane River exploration, and other options that will appeal to learners of all ages.

Each Wednesday students will have one hour in the afternoon to gather with their SEM teacher and explore the topic of their choice. Students will select a new SEM topic after ten weeks to have the chance to widen their learning opportunities. Teachers are eager to have community volunteers assist with all the projects.

If you are interested in assisting or have questions about the SEM project, please contact Shannon Lawson at 559-4150.

## Federal survey cards were sent home October 1 - Why is this survey card so important to your public school?

Parents and guardians who live on federal property do not pay regular or special property taxes for the support of public schools. The federal government provides Impact Aid funds to the school district for this tax exempt property, as well as for those parents and guardians who work for an employer located on federal property.

These federal survey cards are required of those districts who receive the in-lieu-of tax funds. The Cheney School District is the recipient of a small amount of those funds. Returned student survey cards provide the basis through which in-lieu-of tax funds can be received from the federal government.

All students, even those students whose parents are not on active duty in the military, and do not live or work on federal property, should return the completed federal survey card for an accurate student count.

**Please note: In order to be included, Reserve and National Guard personnel must be called to active duty by Presidential Title No. 10 by October 1st. It is a new requirement that you send us a copy of your orders verifying the same. For privacy reasons, please black out your social security number if disclosed on your orders.**

Thank you for your assistance with this important process. The students of Cheney Public Schools benefit directly through your completion of the information on the front of this card.

**CHENEY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 360  
FEDERAL ACTIVITIES SURVEY, OCTOBER 1, 2008**

Dear Parent (or Guardian): Please complete sections 1 through 4 to the best of your ability. Your schools need this information to apply for Federal Assistance. Please return the completed form to your child's teacher. (For further information on this important survey, please see reverse side.)

1. PUPIL'S Last Name First Middle Birthdate Grade  
Street Address on October 1, 2008 \_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip  
Home Phone School Teacher

2. EMPLOYMENT OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN WITH WHOM CHILD RESIDES:

Father's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Mother's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Father's Employer \_\_\_\_\_ Mother's Employer \_\_\_\_\_  
Please complete if in Uniformed Services\* on full-time active duty on Oct. 1, 2008.  
Branch \_\_\_\_\_ Rank \_\_\_\_\_

\*Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, Navy, Active Duty Reservists or National Guard (by Presidential Title No. 10), Commissioned Officers in the Public Health Service and the Coast and Geodetic Survey

Please Note: Reserve and National Guard personnel under Presidential Title No. 10 must attach a copy of your orders verifying the same. For privacy reasons, please black out your social security number if disclosed on your orders.

3. If a parent is employed on federal property on October 1, 2008, please check the one which applies:

\_\_\_\_\_ Fairchild A.F.B. \_\_\_\_\_ U.S. Courthouse & Federal Building or U.S. Post Office (Spokane)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Turnbull Nat'l. Wildlife Refuge \_\_\_\_\_ Veterans' Hospital  
\_\_\_\_\_ 4 Lakes Comm. Station \_\_\_\_\_ Other (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_

4. If the child resides on federal property on October 1, 2008, please check the one which applies:

\_\_\_\_\_ Lives on Fairchild Air Force Base  
\_\_\_\_\_ Other (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_

\*I certify the above information is correct as of October 1, 2008.\*

SIGNATURE OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN  
Date of Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Form No. 300 (Rev. 10/08)

## Coats 4 Kids Community Coat Drive

This year the Cheney Community Coat Drive teamed up with Coats 4 Kids to provide warm coats for the families in our school district. Collection began on September 8 and ran through October 4. All coats were cleaned by the Wash Tub and will be redistributed to anyone who needs a coat this winter.



There will be two distribution sites and days:

**Friday, October 17** Distribution will take place at **Windsor Elementary School**, 5504 W. Hallett Rd., Spokane, **from 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.**

**Saturday, October 18** **Salnave Elementary School**, 1015 Salnave Rd., Cheney, will be open **from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.** with additional coats for anyone in need.

Many thanks to the Wash Tub, KXLY, Cheney Kiwanis, Tomlinson Black Realty, many local churches, schools and businesses for their support and participation in this great event.

## Your Levy Dollars at Work

Although monies from the Capital Levy voters approved in March of 2008 do not begin to become available until April 2009, the district Maintenance and Technology Departments have already purchased some materials and completed some of the work specifically targeted for the use of these funds.

- Prices have been locked in for the new Cheney High School bleachers which will be installed beginning in July of 2009. The proactive nature of this agreement will save taxpayers a great deal of material cost on this project.
- All hardware for automatic doors to provide ADA access to each school's front entrance has been purchased.
- The first automatic door has been installed at Betz Elementary School; the second will be installed at Sunset Elementary in the next few weeks.
- 235 staff computers have been purchased and installed throughout the district.
- 100 staff computers have been upgraded in order to utilize current updated software programs.



## Come have coffee with the "Sup"!

Superintendent Larry Keller would like to invite community members to join him for a cup of coffee and conversation at any time from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. on either Thursday, October 23 or Thursday, October 30, in the Fisher Building Board Room, 520 Fourth Street, Cheney. There is no need to RSVP – just feel free to drop by and introduce yourself, and find out what's happening within the district.

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

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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