



Community Connections

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

A message from your Board of Directors

As your elected representatives, we believe we have a responsibility to educate all children in our school district and to prepare them for a global economy, while maintaining fiscal responsibility to our taxpayers.

The Board of Directors has asked to place a levy before the voters of the Cheney Public Schools **on the March 11, 2008 ballot**, for upgrades of technology and for some facilities improvements including major roof repairs for several of our schools. These improvements are currently not funded by the State. In the January newsletter you received information about the upcoming levy and how the money would be spent. Because of expiration of a previous levy, **approval** of this levy would cause **NO INCREASE IN TOTAL PROPERTY TAX RATE PER THOUSAND**.

We encourage you to carefully read through the factual levy information which is included as an insert in this newsletter. We believe these upgrades are essential to the success of our students. The Cheney Public Schools have a long history of academic excellence thanks to the continued support of our patrons.

In addition to the written materials you have been provided, members of the Board of Directors will be available to the public for any questions you may have on the following dates and times:

February 19	6:30 p.m.	Windsor Elementary
February 20	6:30 p.m.	Cheney Middle School
February 21	6:30 p.m.	Sunset Elementary (Airway Heights)

If you prefer to contact us with your questions by email, you may send email correspondence to: sthroop@cheneyds.org and title your email 'Levy Questions'. A Board member will contact you with a response.

Thank you for your continued support of children!

Sue Lienhard
President, Cheney Public Schools Board of Directors

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

Important dates

February 15	NO SCHOOL Presidents' Break
February 18	NO SCHOOL Presidents' Day Holiday
March 11 - 14	Early Dismissal (11:30 a.m.) Conferences/Testing
March 14	NO LATE START DAY
March 31 - April 4	NO SCHOOL Spring Vacation



Reid students march across the continents

The second graders at Reid Elementary are currently working on mapping skills and report writing. They are connecting reading, writing, social studies, and technology to the study of the Antarctic region and the continents. The students spent three weeks researching, note taking and applying the writing process to create and then publish their final project. Two students, Ben Rose and Anya Howko-Johnson, shared a PowerPoint presentation they created about Antarctica and the other continents with classmates, teachers and parents. With the assistance of two EWU technology students, they were able to share what they had learned in a creative and exciting way.



Anya Howko-Johnson and Ben Rose



Celebrating culture

Salnave's second graders have been immersed in a variety of cultures throughout the last few months! While studying a diversity of communities they have been learning about the people, the land, traditions, and even the plants and animals! They have enjoyed discovering the characteristics of people around the world, including the areas of Mexico, the Arctic, and even Cheney. Mrs. Brennan's and Mrs. Schroeder's classes have been joining together on many occasions to discuss, brainstorm, and share ideas and experiences relating to these cultures. A highlight was joining together, along with families, to celebrate the conclusion of our Mexico unit with a Winter Fiesta. The students enjoyed breaking open piñatas, eating chips and salsa, and making poinsettias! They are gaining a deep appreciation for the world they live in and the importance of uniqueness.



Betz kindergarten class wins cash and books in National Book-It! Sweepstakes

In 1985, Pizza Hut established the BOOK-IT! National Reading Incentive Program to motivate children to read more and help them develop a lifelong love of reading. In December, this program, the nation's largest reading incentive program for kids, announced the winning schools in the 2007 "America's Biggest Bedtime Story" contest.

Betz kindergarten teacher, Renee Collins, regularly leads her class in participating in the monthly Book-It reading program. Included in their packet of information this year was a flyer describing this special contest. Actor John Lithgow

wrote the book The Remarkable Farkle McBride, and read the story aloud on the Book-It website on November 13th. The following day, Mrs. Collins' students answered three quiz questions about the story, which entered them into a national drawing. On December 20, 2007, they were informed that their class was one of five runner-ups nationwide! They received a cash prize of \$1,000 for their classroom, and 1,000 books for their classroom, the school library and to donate locally! Congratulations to Mrs. Collins and her kindergarten students.



Andrea Davidson, Manager of the Cheney Pizza Hut, Renee Collins, Betz kindergarten teacher, and students in Mrs. Collins' class



McGruff the Crime Dog visits Sunset Elementary

On January 16th, McGruff the Crime Dog and officers from the Airway Heights Police Department and Spokane County Sherriff's Department visited Sunset Elementary to teach our children lessons about personal safety. Students learned not to talk to strangers or get into a car with a stranger. Officer Cogley and Deputy Pendell helped children identify safe people to go to if they need help. Children practiced ways to respond if confronted or approached by a stranger.

Students learned about McGruff Houses in our area that provide a safe place of refuge for children encountering any trouble going to and from school. McGruff homes are identified by the McGruff sign, and all household members have been through a thorough background investigation to ensure that the home is a safe place for children.

Students had a great time while learning important lessons about how to be safe. For more information about keeping children safe, visit www.mcgruff.org. Sunset area families interested in becoming a McGruff House can pick up an application form in the school office.



Community Colleges come to Three Springs

Three Springs High School will welcome representatives from the Community Colleges of Spokane Foundation on February 11th for a unique presentation to our senior class. These representatives will be administering the entrance examination for community college directly on our campus, which is unusual because most soon-to-be-graduates must travel to Spokane to take this exam.

In addition, the \$20.00 cost has been waived for our seniors due to a generous scholarship grant from the Foundation. During the afternoon our students will be walked through the enrollment procedure, introduced to the financial aid application process, and even be able to schedule their classes early if they choose to attend one of the Spokane Community Colleges.

Three Springs High School is proud to offer this service in our ongoing theme of offering a nurturing environment with educational opportunities even beyond graduation.



CMS outdoor classroom

Cheney Middle School would like to thank Roger Morris who overhauled the Cheney Middle School outdoor classroom last fall.

Roger cleared out the pond, which had been full of rocks and debris and put down the Bentonite in order to modify the pond so it would hold water.

The Bentonite is a substitute for a layer of plastic that goes underground, that has been rotted away.

Bentonite is mixed with the soil in order to seal the pond. This work is an ongoing process in order for the 7th grade life science classes to teach in the outdoor classroom topics such as ecology and life cycles. If this project is successful, there are plans in place to work on the second pond.



Roger Morris



Home Works! students investigate fire fighting

Recently, students at Home Works! had the opportunity to tour the Fire Memories Museum to learn about the heritage of fire fighting. Students were able to spend the afternoon visiting the gallery containing over 2000 items of fire fighting memorabilia. Robert and Carolyn Green brought the Fire Memories Museum to Cheney in 1998 to educate students and the community about the rich history of fire fighting. Their gallery contains donations from the fire fighting community all over the nation. In addition to the gallery visits, students participated in activities and games to encourage safety and facts about a career in fire fighting. You can find out more about the Fire Memories Museum and see some of the exhibits by visiting their website at www.firememories.org.



Patrick Purviance and Cheris Brown

Kindergarten registration begins February 19, 2008

Preregistration for kindergartners and new elementary students attending Cheney Public Schools in the fall of 2008 will take place beginning February 19 at your neighborhood school. Registration will continue during each subsequent school day through June 16, 2008.

A birth certificate or other verification of age is required for kindergarten students and students entering first grade who have not been enrolled in school before. Kindergarten students must be five on or before August 31, 2008; first graders, six on or before August 31, 2008.

Before your child can register for school, a Washington state certificate of immunization status form must be completed for each student with the month, day, and year of inoculation. **There are NEW IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS FOR 2008-2009.**

1. **New kindergarten students must show MEDICAL VERIFICATION of chicken pox disease OR HAVE 2 VACCINATIONS FOR CHICKEN POX.**
2. **4 Doses of DTap/DT/Td/Tdap are REQUIRED for kindergarten entry.**

Additional information is available from the district's Student Support Services Department, by calling the district nurse at 559-4507. Any student who has a potentially life-threatening health condition must provide written instructions from their physician prior to attendance at school. **Please inform school staff at registration if your child has a health condition.**



Windsor Elementary community pulls together for family in need

Scott and Michelle Simmons, who have sons at Windsor Elementary and Cheney Middle School, lost their home in a summer fire just prior to the beginning of the new school year. The family was out of town when the fire occurred and returned to their West Plains home to see the destruction caused by the fire. Scott, who is also a volunteer fire fighter, found himself on the other side of the job this time as fire fighters valiantly worked to put out the fire that swept the area and destroyed the home of one of their own. Michelle, who is president of the Windsor PTO, continues to devote countless hours of time to the school while also working to rebuild and "regroup" as the family prepares for another holiday without their home or personal family mementoes.

As is typical of the wonderful community surrounding Windsor, the "neighborhood family" of community members, business partner (Bank Of America), students, and staff has rallied to help at this stressful time. If you would like to help this very grateful and giving family, you may make donations to the Scott Simmons Family Fund at any Bank of America branch. While family heirlooms can't be replaced, the Simmons family is "smiling through tears" and waiting for cooperative weather so construction can begin on their new home at the site, and they can begin to create new memories and happier times together.

Becoming a Love and Logic Parent classes

Becoming a Love and Logic Parent will be taught at Betz Elementary on Wednesday evenings beginning February 20th and running through March 26th. The class is from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. in the Viking Room at Betz and is open to all interested parents. The cost for the class is \$10 which covers the cost of the parent workbook. Childcare and refreshments are provided. To register please call Carol Kriegh at 559-4726 or 559-4829.

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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
Marilyn Larson, Director, Student Support Services
Cheney School District, 520 Fourth Street
Cheney, WA 99004 Phone: (509) 559-4507



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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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