



Community Connections

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

As winter turns to spring, some deserved thanks offered

As we all recognize, the winter of 2007-08 has been challenging. Prior to the current year, it had been seven years since the Cheney Public Schools has had to cancel school due to weather; this year, school was cancelled for eight days. Though we wish we could control the weather and the consequent difficult roads on which our school buses travel, we of course cannot...so our decision-making in the midst of the winter we have experienced is always guided by a concern for safe transportation to and from school for the young people we serve. *We wish to thank parents, community members, and our staff for patience and flexibility with the school time missed;* we certainly recognize the disruptive nature of missed school days. We are currently still working on the details of make-up days, and awaiting a response from the State for a waiver of some of those days. We wish we had final details to share with this newsletter, yet it is more likely those details will be known a bit later in March. When those are clear there will be a posting on the home page of the district website (www.cheneyisd.org), and we will also include these details in the April newsletter. *Do know that the week of June 16 is the designated week for snow make-up days.*

We also extend deserved thanks to our students and staff for the ability and willingness they have demonstrated to adjust learning and instruction, amid the disruption of missed school days. Despite having missed days in January and early February, mandated State high school WASL testing begins this month in reading and writing; and will resume in April for mathematics and science, as well as for students in grades 3-8. We know our students and staff have done their very best to be well-prepared, and we are confident our students will demonstrate such preparation in this month's required testing. Thanks to everyone who supports our young people in meeting WASL standards.

Finally, and importantly, the week of March 10-14 has been designated by Governor Gregoire as **Classified School Employee Week**. *We are very fortunate in the Cheney Public Schools to have outstanding men and women serving in key classified positions, and offer deep gratitude for their contributions to the level of excellence our students deserve and for which we all strive on a daily basis.*

By month's end spring will have officially arrived, and the annual spring break will have commenced. Thank you for facing winter with a smile, and for welcoming the new season with an even bigger one!

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

Michael Dunn

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

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
May 26	NO SCHOOL Memorial Day Holiday



Sticking our necks out for diversity

The Sunset Falcons are becoming giraffes. No, they are not changing the school mascot. With the student council as fearless leaders, Sunset students will be taking risks, showing persistence, and using caring hearts for others. In short, the Falcons will be “sticking their necks out” for the common good. The Giraffe Heroes Project provides the curriculum. Staff members Joan Broeckling, Cynthia Riemann, Susan Stanaway and Sam Winchell will offer opportunities for leadership and learning about diversity and service to the community. A grant from ESD 101 is just the ticket to fund some terrific opportunities to “Stick Our Necks Out for Diversity.”



Sunset MLK Assembly leaders pose with Mr. Dotson
Front: Becky Acosta, Alijah Fletcher; Back: Elena Kushnerchuk, Marcella Bertram, Shannon Currier, Ju Oh, Mathew Takahashi

In January student body officers led an all-school assembly in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., an outstanding example of a Giraffe Hero. They introduced a stirring PowerPoint that showed scenes from the civil rights movement and of Dr. King’s life. A group of fifth graders presented a play that showed one student sticking up for another. Then out came the giraffes to give a lesson to Sunny the Falcon mascot. He learned that people who are giraffes, who stick their necks out for others, are all around us.

In the months ahead Sunset will host a Diversity Club, a student council led Spirit Week with a service project, a Diversity Book Club, and later on a field trip. Today’s Sunset Falcons will be citizens of a world that is growing smaller all the time. If they learn to stick their necks out to make the world a better place, they may someday be the heroes who inspire our next generation.



Three Springs gets set for WASL

With only a few weeks left before the Washington Assessment of Student Learning, Three Springs students are busily preparing for this important test of skills. Virtually all of the students who are expected to take the test have taken or are currently taking an elective called WASL Prep. This course is designed to show the student what to expect on this high-stakes test. The students are not only shown items that have been on the test in the past (released items), but they also work on fundamental skills so important to the process of reading, writing and math. Through this class, our students learn exactly how to write their answers for maximum points.

Parents can help their students prepare also. If your Three Springs High School student will be taking the WASL during the weeks of March 11-14 and April 15-18 we ask that you make sure your student comes to school on those days well rested and with a positive attitude. These two things alone can mean the difference between success and having to take the test again.



Reveling it up at Reid

In February, students at Reid School and their families had two opportunities to be involved in learning together. The first event was a "Math Night," organized by EWU math professor Dr. Dowd, along with her college math students. They provided math-related activity centers for grades K through 5. Interactions with others of all ages while engaged in these exciting learnings were fun for everyone! "Tech Night" was another enriching happening at Reid. This time Reid’s two EWU "tech" students and librarian Ann Kauppi presented sessions on "Skyward," "Excel" with some 5th graders assisting in the presentation, and literacy websites with emphasis on reading. Participants were able to rotate through all three presentations. A variety of books, donated by the EWU Reading Association, were given away to students as a surprise ending to the evening. Enthusiasm for these special family learning times was evident. Planning future get-togethers is definitely the next step!



Kindness and generosity at Windsor

During February, Wildcats again joined together to celebrate their annual “Kindness Week.” During Kindness Week, Windsor students and staff held a Penny Drive to support the work of the Spokane Guild School, gathered pet food and supplies for animals in need at SpokAnimal C.A.R.E., and collected socks for Crosswalk. Socks for the sock drive are matched by an anonymous donor. Last year 358 pairs of socks were collected for a total of 716 pairs with the match! Wildcats are kind and generous to people *and* pets in our community!



Cheney School District offers virtual learning options for our students

Cheney School District has recently entered into a partnership with Columbia Virtual Academy—a consortium of public schools in our region that seeks to offer virtual learning opportunities to K-12 students in our district tuition free. Columbia Virtual Academy (CVA) serves to reach out to students in our district who may choose virtual learning to meet unique academic needs. Our partnership with CVA will provide opportunities for home school curriculum K-12, tailored learning on demand, increased credit retrieval options, advance placement course offerings, and flexible enrollment options. Students enrolled in CVA continue as Cheney Public Schools students, but their learning takes place virtually from home with access to the internet. Families enrolled in CVA are connected with an enrollment specialist and staff advisor to navigate the curriculum choices. If you have questions or are interested in more information about virtual learning in our district, please contact Shannon Lawson at 559-4590 or slawson@cheneysd.org.

Robinson Crusoe performed at Windsor

In December, Windsor Elementary hosted the Missoula Children’s Theatre. The theatrical group is a non-profit organization based in Missoula, Montana. The tour directors practiced with selected students for one week. At the end of the week, students and directors performed a full production for parents and community members. About fifty students from Windsor, ranging from first through fifth grade, were chosen for parts in the musical production of Robinson Crusoe. This particular production promoted the places readers can go in their imagination when picking up a good book. Students had an intense week filled with learning lines and dramatic techniques. The week ended with a full scale performance, with students singing and reciting fantastic lyrics and dialog. This opportunity was enjoyed by all and was definitely worth the time and effort!



Joel Brantley Performs at Betz!

Singer/motivational speaker, Joel Brantley, encouraged and entertained students in a school assembly on Valentine’s Day as part of Betz’ Character Counts Month in February. Joel used his music to get “The Three R’s” across to our kids: Respect, Responsibility and Rock ‘n Roll. While students were having fun singing, dancing and actively participating in the show, Joel intertwined messages about Respect, Responsibility and Reaching for one’s dreams. Our students would like to thank the Betz PTA for bringing this fast-paced and entertaining speaker to our school.



Joel Brantley

Capital Levy Information

Please visit our website at www.cheneysd.org to learn more about the technology replacements and needed capital projects.

Remember to return ballots no later than March 11, 2008.



Steps to respect at Salnave

Fifth graders at Salnave are gaining new skills that will guide them through challenging life situations. Thanks to Mrs. Carol Kriegh (counselor at Salnave and Betz Elementary Schools) and her “Steps to Respect” program, students are learning positive and proactive methods to empower and protect themselves.

The 3 R’s of Bullying Prevention provide them with a plan for dealing with bullying behavior. First, they learn to **recognize** it. Bullying is behavior that is unwelcome, unsolicited, uncomfortable and one-sided. Second, they learn to **refuse** it. Bullying is not tolerated in the Cheney School District. This understanding gives students the confidence to refuse it. Through games, role play and discussion, they learn to

recognize bullying behaviors and practice assertively disassociating themselves from bullying situations. Third, they **report** the bullying to an adult. Students know that the adults around them will react and support them if they report bullying behavior. They understand that if students don’t report bullying they are sanctioning it. They have a responsibility to their community to be part of the solution—not part of the problem.

“Steps to Respect” also includes a drug prevention component that defines the four types of drugs and reviews the consequences of drug abuse. The decision-making model is presented as an effective protocol for making positive behavior choices. Students also identify the features of a respectful school and set goals to continue to create that school at Salnave.

Some of the tools that Mrs. Kriegh and the “Steps to Respect” program provide the fifth graders are: information, confidence, self-respect, empathy, and a sense of community and individual responsibility. They are learning how to shape their world.



Left to right: Athena Dickerson, Carol Kriegh, Oren Evans, Jackson Spencer and Joseph Reitan



Incoming freshmen parent night: Cheney High School registration

Eighth grade students will receive their Cheney High School 2008-2009 class registration packets on Tuesday, March 4th at school. There will be a Parent Information Night on Wednesday, March 5th from 6:00-7:00 p.m. in Cheney High School’s Little Theater. Cheney High School Blackhawk apparel will also be available for purchase. Please take advantage of this opportunity to learn more about Cheney High School and the freshman class registration process.

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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