

Chimacum School Matters

News from Your Chimacum School District

Volume Twenty-Five Issue Two

May 2020

Meals fill Chimacum students' bodies and hearts

In times of crisis, routine is so important. Students heading off to meet their school buses, seeing their drivers and eating school meals are activities that allow a bit of normalcy in these scary times.

Since March 19, the Chimacum School District has provided free bagged meals to local children, age 18 and under. Bus stop delivery began on March 23.

So many of our students rely on school breakfasts and lunches. To us, the obvious solution was to use the bus routes to deliver meals. Easily accessed by the students; trusted, known adults at the rendezvous points; and dependable staff making it all work. It's a winning combo!

"The kids absolutely love seeing their drivers and the helpers," said Transportation Director Monica Mulligan. "The six drivers, plus two helpers each, go out on their normal routes in the morning. They've loaded up all of the food prepared for that day, plus paperwork or laptops the teachers have left for us to deliver to the students."

Drivers leave the school around 9 a.m. They're back within two hours. They then sanitize the buses to be ready to do it again the next day.

Food is also available to pick up, from 9 to 11 a.m., at the junior/senior high and the primary school.

"I think Chimacum is doing a great service for the students. We go to every single bus stop. The students get to experience a part of their day that's now missing," Mulligan said. "The kids are glad to see their drivers. We hope this connection creates more bus ridership in the fall. It truly is the safest way for the students to travel."

Creatively feeding the masses

The moment Food Service Director Margaret Garrett heard of the upcoming school shutdown, her mind went into overdrive. The logistics and operations to efficiently feed her students was complex indeed. Balanced meal planning, preparation, packaging, food safety—so many pieces needed her attention.

"Logistics and creativity go hand-in-hand. You have to be practical. Yet, it has to be aesthetically pleasing. Then there's the time management piece,"

said Garrett. "My staff were amazing with the way they adapted to the new work load—and how hard they work to feed the children they care about."

Nearly 4,000 meals are being delivered weekly. That's about 700 to 800 meals per day, breakfast and lunch. Five days of meals were delivered to each student to cover Spring Break.

On top of that, shelf-stable weekend food is sent out on Fridays

• Continued inside



On the Monday leading into Spring Break, Ellie Spitzbart handed a five-day box of breakfasts and lunches to Kevin Carstensen, under the watchful eye of his sister, Lulu. Barely in the photo is Grace Milligan.

Photo by Angie Carstensen

"You don't have to sign up. Just show up."

Margaret Garrett



Technology makes distance learning possible

When Friday the 13th of March brought a school closure order, reality hit home. Not all teachers are tech whizzes. And yet, the education of our students must continue at a distance. We knew we had to ramp up some of our teachers' skills.

"In the past, we've tried having all of the teachers in one room for training. But with such a wide difference in their tech knowledge, that wouldn't be very effective," said teacher/trainer Al Gonzalez. "We had about 11 teachers, who said they were willing to be a trainer. We were able to break up into small groups. It was important to give each person the lessons they needed."

Technology uses at Chimacum Creek Primary School are far different than what's needed in high school.

"The primary is a very different animal all in itself. I don't even understand how they do what they do, because I don't understand how to teach kids that young," Gonzalez said. "Two of the primary teachers said, 'We've got this.' and took over CCP training."

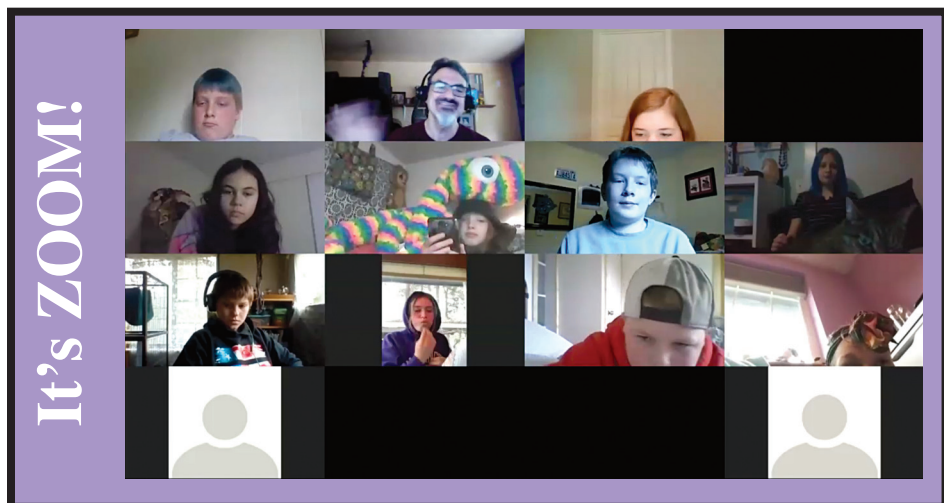
Teachers from the main campus worked in small groups, some present in Gonzalez's sixth-grade classroom, and some virtually via the Zoom video conferencing platform. Gonzalez recorded the lessons for those who may want to revisit them.

Not all needed the basic training.

"If they already knew how to use the technology, they needed the time to ready it for distance learning," Gonzalez said.

Gonzalez began his staff training with the VERY basics, a Google 101. He then moved on to Google Classroom, a learning management system to deliver and organize assignments, as well as message students.

Coincidentally, 10 days before the shutdown, Bremerton School District's Digital Education Director Kati Dougherty-Carthum offered Chimacum Junior/Senior High School teachers an in-service training on how to use the virtual Google Classroom.



Al Gonzalez's sixth graders connect via Zoom, the cloud-based video conferencing tool, being used in myriad schools and businesses right now. Top row, from left: Tristin Headley, Al Gonzalez and Averie Graves. Second row: Penina Vailolo, Lillian Foster, Nigel Groenig and Emily Liske (and kitty). Third row: Lelend Faasse, Rylee Johnson Spainhower-Oas, Isaac Stuart and Kiley Winter. Faceless, but present, bottom row: Cody Richards, and Anya and Ethan Self-LoBosco.

At no charge, the Google Certified Trainer came to Chimacum once again to instruct our teachers. And yes, she is the wife of Principal David Carthum.

Teachers are using numerous online platforms and software in many different ways. Some Zoom more often. Others use morning time to read a book, perhaps. Younger students, with only one teacher, operate differently than the upper grades. There, students have five or six different teachers, each with a Google Classroom set up.

One of the first things Gonzalez told his peers was that it was important to have a balance of times when the students were all supposed to be present online together, and when individualized instruction was best.

For him, once a week he Zooms with all of the students from each period. Individual connections are made the rest of the week.

His Minecraft eSports Club is still meeting virtually. That's one of the perks of being in a club with online competitions.

"If students have their own computer, or one they got from the

school—and they have Internet—then we can offer all of these great resources," Gonzalez said. "Reach out to us to let us know what you need. We have flash drives for assignments, if you have a computer, but iffy Internet. If the computer option won't work, there are paper packets available. And sometimes, it's just easier for some parents to navigate paperwork. The parents may be working from home, have no Internet, or multiple kids needing to be schooled."

Follow-up from the teachers' basic training will be designed around what the teachers say they need, after some hands-on experience with students and online platforms.

Gonzalez is fielding emails daily from teachers with questions on how to use technology with their students.

"We have online experiences to keep kids engaged and learning. Parents just need to provide the space and time for them to do it," Gonzalez said. This includes physical education and music—plus the librarian has set up easy accesses to resources.

Meals for children

• Continued from page 1

to the “Chimacum Backpacks for Kids” program participants. These are food-insecure students supported, since 2010, by members of the Peace Lutheran Fellowship. (chimacumbackpacksforkids.com)

“There were a lot of individually packaged things available from our suppliers at first. But since just about every school in the country is doing this, they’re now unavailable,” Garrett said. “So, we’re buying in bulk and dividing it up ourselves. That means everything has to be measured out, weighed and packed to go.”

Meal services are NOT based on a family’s ability to pay.

“They are free to any child, 18 and under, and any child with disabilities,” Garrett said. “We are feeding children, who don’t necessarily go to our school. Some are homeschooled. Some are normally driven to other schools. One of my biggest worries was that there would be some students, who would normally have eaten with us, who weren’t being offered balanced meals.”

Chimacum is following the USDA Summer Food Service Program guidelines. SFSP is a federally funded, state-administered program. It reimburses programs that serve free healthy meals and snacks to children and teens in low-income areas.

“During the COVID-19 school closures, the USDA is granting waivers to some of the requirements in the SFSP to give schools the abilities to feed ALL children in the district,” said Garrett.

Allergy alternatives are available, with a supporting medical record.

“We’re reaching kids that wouldn’t normally have been reached—mostly because they live farther out. The bus delivery works,” Garrett said. “You don’t have to sign up. Just show up.”

The bus schedule and details are on csd49.org. Just follow the “Meal Service” link.

Have questions? Food Service 360.302.5807. Buses 360.302.5812.



Free meals for any child,
age 18 or younger.



We strive to keep our students engaged

The challenge of engaging 300-plus junior/senior high school students should not be underestimated. All classes are ongoing, including physical education and music.

“It’s truly building the plane, as we’re flying it. It’s the strangest time in education that I’ve experienced,” said Principal David Carthum. “It’s amazing how much our people are working right now. We’re moving along here, doing what we’re supposed to be doing. Teachers are teaching. Kids are expected to be engaged, connecting with their teachers. The teachers know who’s participating and who’s not. Teachers are reaching out to parents, when students

aren’t participating. Most kids are going to be fine with the work they’ve done. We’re urging students to stay connected with their teachers; to keep working on what they’re working on.”



CJSHS rises to the challenges of schools being closed

With the announcement of a statewide school closure, counselor Barb Fogerson quickly realized that there would be no “normal” school year’s end for the Class of 2020.

“We want them to be able to finish this year and graduate. We can’t replace the events they missed. We can’t do anything to bring prom back—or recreate the full graduation ceremony,” said Fogerson.

At Chimacum, we’re going to make a way for the seniors to finish this year and not harm them. It is physically impossible for most students to finish their community service hours, at this point, so that local graduation requirement can be waived. Senior Recognition Night will still happen, in some form. Scholarships requiring an in-person interview may be done via an online video conferencing platform.

“The first couple weeks, we were still trying to figure out what we were supposed to do, while the state Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction was figuring out what to do. OSPI released guidelines over Spring Break and then refined them to be fair statewide,” Fogerson explained.

“Basically, any senior, who was on track to graduate this year, is going to be good to go. We don’t want to penalize any of the students who are having trouble accessing what they need,” she added.

About 72 Chimacum seniors are working toward graduating in June.

“I made a Google Classroom just for the seniors,” Fogerson said. “I post scholarship information and more—things they used to come into the office to pick up. They can also get updates from me on what the colleges are up to. Colleges are worried the incoming freshman class is not going to be as large as usual. A lot of colleges are waiving SAT requirements.”

Since 1926, the standardized SAT test has been widely used for college admissions in the United States. Students couldn’t take this year’s

March or May SAT assessments; June’s has also been cancelled. For updates, visit collegeboard.org.

“The teachers are just doing a fantastic job. They’re trying to make sure students aren’t penalized. Students all have the opportunity to finish the course, get a letter grade, and have a ‘normal’ transcript,” said Fogerson.

The principal, dean and/or Fogerson call students, who aren’t connecting with their teachers.

Students currently in grades eight to 11 should immediately choose classes for next year in Skyward. For complete instructions and grade level scheduling information, go to csd49.org/1/Content/108.

After reading through the materials and deciding what courses to take, students should log in to their Skyward accounts and enter their choices.

Have questions? Contact Fogerson.

Across the nation, and world, educators, parents and students are working together to creatively celebrate the graduating seniors.

Regionally, in early May, principals were unclear as to how they’d handle graduation. Virtual? Drive-in?

“It’s kind of a rough time right now. This is a big thing for students and we’re not really able to provide an in-person version of this,” said Principal David Carthum. He, the Associated Student Body officers, parents, students and class advisor Gary Coyan were looking at all possibilities.

A state requirement Chimacum seniors do still need to complete is the High School and Beyond Plan. This can, and should, be completed online. Students should go to csd49.org, click the Skyward link, and then click the My School Data link. Enter Chimacum, as the district, and then add their Skyward username and password.

If students have issues logging on, please contact Barb_Fogerson@csd49.org or 360.302.5910.

If a student cannot access to online High School and Beyond Plan, Fogerson can send students a paper version. Just ask.



Jessica Williamson captured this image of her son’s stole, cap and tassel. All had been ordered prior to the statewide shutdown of Washington’s schools.

Disinfecting is key to campus safety

When word of COVID-19 being in Washington first hit the news, Henry Florschutz knew his maintenance staff had a mission: Kill that virus!

“When students were still here, we were very aggressive at sanitizing. Sanitizing is getting rid of 99 percent of germs. The only place you can truly ‘disinfect’—kill 100 percent of germs—is in a hospital,” explained Chimacum’s maintenance director.

Staff fogged, using sanitizers/disinfectants early on. The fogger wasn’t used in classrooms. It was used on gyms, bleachers, chairs, walls, offices, bathrooms, and furniture you’d have a hard time cleaning by hand. It covers much better and is efficient, too.

Staff worked together to organize, clean and sanitize. Hand cleaning was done of door knobs, hard surfaces and empty, tape-and-paper-free desks. Teachers were provided with bottles of sanitizer and cleaning solution, too.

Early on, a lack of disinfectants on the market, plus the discrepancies in advice, made it a challenge.

Schools are now being prioritized, since we will be opening in the fall.

CSD was recently able to acquire sufficient product to get us through the summer and into the fall.

Florschutz found, and pre-ordered, a “more green, botanical” sanitizer to use in student and staff areas in the fall.

“Increasing the fresh air is the best thing we can do in this situation,” Florschutz said of potential fumes. “In the currently used buildings, we can adjust the fresh air intake with a click of mouse on our HVAC controls. We have 80 HVAC and/or air handlers.

Traditionally, science rooms, locker rooms, and bathrooms require more air flow. We’ll also increase the air flow in classrooms, cafeterias and commons.”

Concentrating on improving the school grounds over the summer will allow for progress, while keeping staff safe. The grass can replenish well, with no students treading on it. Fencing, irrigation, sidewalk replacement, and installing the elementary’s new greenhouse will keep staff busy.

“By concentrating on the outdoors, it allows staff to continue working through all of the other issues,” Florschutz said. “We haven’t made these projects an emphasis in the past. But it works to do them in these times.”

He added, “Chimacum Creek Primary is having its roof reshingled, as we speak. This is the first roof we will have done without an active leak.”

It’s truly building the plane, as we’re flying it.

Principal David Carthum

New CSD logo



**CHIMACUM
SCHOOL DISTRICT**
DEEP ROOTS BROAD HORIZONS

On April 29, the Chimacum School Board approved a new district logo. The directors wanted our district’s logo to reflect how we strive to cultivate community, engage learners, grow and remain resilient.

CCP just got a new roof!



Professional support

Chimacum School District has professionals available to support our students and families. Personal counseling services may be accessed, via a confidential online platform. There is drug and alcohol counseling available, too.

Contacts:

Barb Fogerson: 360.302.5910 or
Barb_Fogerson@CSD49.org

Therapist Rebecca Williams:
360.930.9370

Student Assistance Professional Ciela Meyer: 360.302.5911

Meyer has specialized training in the field of behavioral health, specific to youth substance use and mental health (depression and anxiety).

Last day of school is June 19.



Organization and information is key to CSD's success

With a two-day notice, Washington educators learned schools would be closed. Chimacum Elementary School Principal Jason Lynch and his staff started planning at that very moment.

"The state initially told us we could not teach, just supply resources. We realized early on that this was not going to be good for our students, if we weren't able to offer new learning opportunities," Lynch said.

Permission to teach new curricula was given the last week of March. While the state has waived the state testing and grading K-8, Chimacum still has multiple assessment tools for teachers to draw on.

Sixth-grade teacher Al Gonzalez offered an two-day training on Google Classroom and a variety of other online tools that teachers could use to teach content and engage students remotely. It was all recorded, so it could be later played for all teachers in the district.

"Our teaching staff had Google classroom, but not all utilized it on a daily basis before the closure," Lynch said. "Early on, we were working on a survey to send to K-12 families districtwide. We needed to know who needed a computer, had Internet, how many were in the household, who needed food, etc."

During the second week of closure, a concerted effort was made to get the survey out, call every single family, and get paperwork and laptops distributed.

There are more than 160 school laptops now in students' homes. Many were sent to students via the school buses, which have been used to deliver breakfasts and lunches on weekdays.

Lynch praised the tech department, food service, paraeducators and transportation for their amazing efforts to distribute laptops and food.

Smart phones aren't sufficient to stream or access the tools the students need. Thirty-one percent of the 350 families responding to the surveys wanted to check out a laptop. Chimacum is nearly a one-to-one

district with technology (one device per one student). The elementary has met this goal. Technology personnel had to make sure each device was set up with the proper security.

"Our teachers have been designing lessons and engaging students with these online tools. They're providing paperwork for those who don't have Internet," Lynch said. "I couldn't be more pleased with the level of professionalism and dedication of our teachers and staff. They've taken this difficult situation with great stride."

The lack of Internet access remains an issue in many parts of the district. We have set up a publicly available Wi-Fi network at our main campus called CHSD-Guest. This can be accessed from the parking lots in front of the CJSHS commons, behind the tennis courts, at the district office, and between the multipurpose room and the old elementary school.

"Thanks to a recent grant from the Jefferson Community Foundation COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund to StrongerTowns, the Connected Student Initiative will help us ensure that all students in the Chimacum School District have Internet access," Lynch said. "We are communicating with our families that let us know they did not have Internet service. We're here to help them access this generous community initiative."

"I'm really pleased with our



Photo by Deja View Photography

Principal Jason Lynch

teachers. Like all of us, they're living through this crisis, while supporting their families, teaching their own children, and teaching their students. We're making meaningful connections with families throughout this time; teaching new content in ways that all students can access. And with Zoom, the kids get to see their teacher and the rest of their peers," Lynch said. "We care about kids. Teachers and staff would rather be there in person. It's super hard to do all things virtually. I think we're all looking forward to having school again in the fall and having kids back—because that's what we live for."

Are you struggling with homelessness?

Homeless school-age children may qualify for certain rights and protections under the federal McKinney-Vento Act. Churches, groups and individuals support Chimacum's efforts with donations of food, clothing, toiletries and money.

Confidentiality is paramount. Even if the district knows a student is homeless, unless there are outward signs of danger, we must wait until he or she asks for help.

If a student lives in any of the following situations, the Chimacum School District has help available:

- In a shelter.
- In a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station.
- Doubled up with other people, due to loss of housing or economic hardship.

Contact the Chimacum Special Services office at 360.302.5885, with questions or if you need help.

Primary students rely on their parents and teachers

Chimacum Creek Primary Principal Kyle Ehlis' 10 primary teachers quickly adapted to the distance learning model. More than half of the CCP teachers already had apps in play. Staff decided to use the apps they were already using, rather than teach students/parents something new.

"The advantage of the school shutdowns happening in March, versus September, can't be denied," said Ehlis. "Parents, teachers and students have already made the connections over the school year that made this transition much smoother. Especially in the primary world, that parent connection piece is huge."

Most teachers have done Zoom video meetings with kids. Each grade level has picked a day to share something out to all CCP families, via one of the apps in use.

"Class Dojo has been one of the major teaching apps and

communications tools with the primary families. It's more appropriate for the younger students, than Google Classroom," said Ehlis.

Even so, when CCP teachers return in the fall, they're going to be trained on Google Classroom.

"The initial goal was to get as many resources out to families as possible. Paper packets and online resources, so parents could get things done with their students," Ehlis said. "At the primary, we're sending out three-week bundles of paper packets. That packet is a driving force."

Paper packets are available at the station in front of the school, or they can be printed at home, or delivered via the school buses' morning food delivery service. Each has about 70 pages for three weeks.

At the primary level, lessons are adult driven. The little ones, ages 5 to 8, need a teacher's or parent's attention

to navigate the lessons. So much of the learning is hands-on, mixed with social interactions. At school, there are plenty "manipulatives" in the classroom; small items used to visualize and touch math concepts. At home, the students could instead use beans, stones, buttons, etc.

Ehlis understands how hard it is on families. Teachers have been working together to get things out. The music teacher is posting video lessons. The physical education teacher is sharing activity ideas with parents. The librarian has all sorts of informational websites posted.

"The staff has just been fantastic. It's stressful for families, but it's also really stressful for our staff," Ehlis said. "They're not used to being at home. It's a different type of hard work. They're used to talking with kids for seven hours straight. They're not used to doing this all day. When it's safe, we all want to get back to school!"

Remember their immunizations

It's important to keep your child's immunizations on track. While there are currently no walk-in clinics at Jefferson County Public Health, immunizations may be arranged by appointment. Call 360.385.9400.

Jefferson Healthcare clinics are also offering immunizations. Call your doctor's office to arrange a well child visit, plus immunizations—or a nurse-only visit for just the immunizations.

Comments/questions?

Rick Thompson, Superintendent

360.302.5896

or Art Clarke, Assistant

Superintendent of Operations

360.302.5895

Teachers were trained to think outside the box. Their mission is to effectively present the lesson in whatever way it has to be done, using whatever's available.

For some, paper's best

Teacher Joan Hoglund realized her second graders, and most of their parents, would be best served by lessons on paper. She's not doing Zoom video conferencing with her students.

"It wouldn't be fair to all of my students. Some can't get online. I've been reaching out to my parents. They have my personal cell phone number, in case they're having problems with a lesson. For me, that works better than online meetings," Hoglund said. "I'll send parents a message that the new packet is coming out, and I have hard copies in my car. If you need one, let me know. I'll come to your house and deliver them. It will be in a plastic bag on your porch."



There are plenty of paper copies of lessons being distributed to students. Joan Hoglund prepares three weeks of lessons at a time for her wee ones.

Local entities work to provide free Internet access

CSD has set up a Wi-Fi network at our main campus called CHSD-Guest. It's accessible from the parking lots in front of the CJSHS commons, behind the tennis courts, at the district office, and between the multipurpose room and old elementary. There's Wi-Fi in

the Jefferson County Library parking lot. Jefferson County PUD #1 has added numerous Wi-Fi hot spots in the county, some with USB charging ports. The networks are named JeffPUD_Community. A list is at jeffpud.org/pud-adding-wifi-hotspots.

Thanks to a grant from the Jefferson Community Foundation COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund to Stronger Towns, the Connected Student Initiative will help ensure that all students in the Chimacum School District have Internet access.

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Dear Chimacum Junior/Senior High School Parents,

As we move forward during these trying times, we are constantly getting updates and guidance from the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction. Recently, they came out with guidance on grading policies during the closure. At Chimacum Jr./Sr. High School, we are implementing the following grading policy based on OSPI's guidance:

- Students will be able to earn an A, B, C, D, or Incomplete.
- The baseline for all grades will be where they were at the time schools closed (March 16).
- If a student's grade at the time of closure was an F, D, C, or B, they can improve by staying connected and completing their work.
- It is important to note that a student's grade will NOT become a lower grade.
- There will be no "F" grades. These will become incompletes.
- Students will have an opportunity to make up any incomplete grades during summer school or next fall.

We strongly recommend that your student stay connected and engage in the learning that is going on. If they have not connected with their teacher(s) by now, please have them do so immediately. Teachers are working hard to provide a quality education for all of our students and we want students to be ready for next year.

David Carthum
Principal, Chimacum Jr./Sr. High School
David_Carthum@csd49.org
360.302.5900

***More specific
details for seniors
are inside!***

On April 27, this letter was sent via Skyward messenger, uploaded to csd49.org, and posted on the CJSHS and CSD Facebook pages.