



Community Connections

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

Important dates:

Jan. 14
School Board Special Session
Zoom Webinar, 6 p.m.

Jan. 18
Martin Luther King Jr. Day
No school

Jan. 20
EP&O and Capital Levy Information Webinar
Zoom, 6 p.m.

Jan. 26
EP&O and Capital Levy Information Webinar
Zoom, 6 p.m.

Jan. 27
School Board Meeting
Zoom Webinar, 6 p.m.

Parents, Guardians, and Community Members,

Typically, the end of a calendar year and the start of a new year isn't of particular significance to me. However, following the events and challenges of 2020 I found myself waiting with anticipation for 2021. While a change of the calendar does not end COVID-19 or the pandemic, I enter the new year (even after the recent windstorm) with a sense of hope and with an expectation for better things to come.

As 2020 came to a close I reflected on the many difficult situations we faced as a school district, community, region, and nation throughout much of the year. In doing so, it could have been easy to lose sight of the many ways we rallied together to overcome obstacles that were in our path. While there isn't room in a newsletter to mention even a fraction of the ways we came together to support students as a community in 2020, I would like to share a few highlights.

To begin with, when the initial school closure occurred in March our staff and community rallied together to do the very best we could to ensure the basic needs of children were met and to support student learning. This is remarkable to me as we had to quickly adapt (within days) from a traditional in person learning structure to a 100% remote learning model. At the same time, our nutrition services and transportation departments immediately began providing meals through a grab and go distribution system and many staff members from throughout our system worked hard to deliver technology and printed materials to families. There was an incredible team effort last spring!

As the school year ended, our ability to send high school seniors off in the manner they deserved was in doubt. However, administrators, staff members, community members, parents, and many others worked hard to create memorable events for our Cheney High School and Three Springs High School graduates. I will always remember the drive through events, seeing the names of our seniors painted on the CHS football field and TSHS campus, the photos of seniors lining fences, and the well wishes shared across each school within our district. Although it was not a "traditional" experience for the class of 2020, many amazing memories were made and our seniors finished their high school careers knowing that this community truly cares about them and their future success.

While I was hopeful the 2020-2021 school year would begin in a "normal" manner, we know that was not the case. However, once again our staff, parents, and community rallied to create and implement a successful distance learning model for students. And, as we have phased students back into our schools for in-person learning, everyone continues to be incredibly flexible and supportive throughout each and every stage of the reopening process. Thank you!

Even though 2020 was extremely challenging for our system and community, I hope we never forget the lessons we have learned. We can overcome significant challenges when we work together, and, when we focus our collective efforts on what we can achieve, anything is possible.

In closing, I want to personally thank each and every staff member, parent, and community member for your support of Cheney Public Schools. Together we have overcome monumental challenges in the past year and together we will make 2021 the best year possible for our children and students.

Take care and stay well!

Robert W. Ruetz

Our essential foundations

- ★ High Expectations and Continuous Progress
- ★ Involvement and Engagement with School District Community
- ★ Stewardship and Planning

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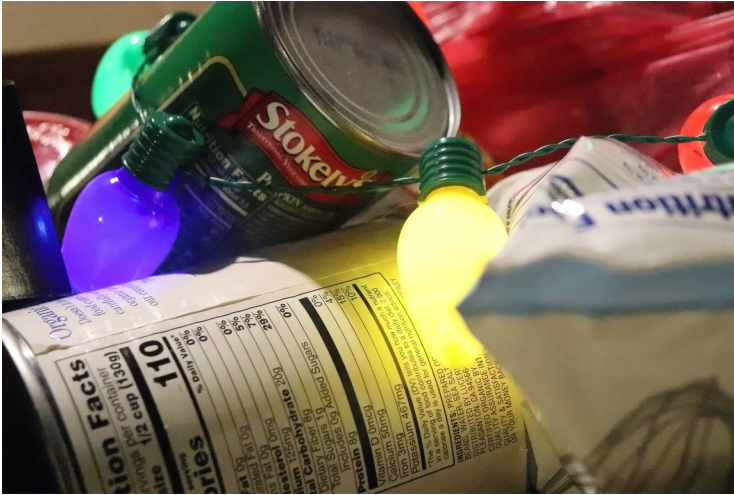
Character Trait for January

FAIRNESS

Treating people and ideas with justice and impartiality.

CMS Spreads Holiday Cheer

Cheney Middle School students made the season bright and helped to raise the community's spirits with their Appreciation Drive, sharing goodie bags with families and collecting food and money for the Cheney Food Bank. Students brought smiles to so many friendly faces, raised hundreds of dollars and collected several boxes of food for the food bank!



Informational Webinars

Want to learn more about the proposed Educational Programs and Operation and Capital levies? Check out an informational webinar Jan. 20 or Jan. 26! For more information, visit the "Upcoming Events" section at www.cheneysd.org.

EP&O AND CAPITAL LEVY INFORMATIONAL WEBINARS

LEARN ABOUT THE PROPOSED EP&O AND CAPITAL LEVIES!



QUESTIONS? CALL 509-559-4502

JAN. 20TH AND 26TH
6PM

Bus Drivers Needed

We're looking for bus drivers! Interested? Applicants must be at least 22 years of age and have carried a valid drivers license for 5 years. Call our Transportation Department for more information.

(509) 559-4523

Cheney Public Schools does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, economic status, pregnancy, familial status, marital status, disability, or the use of a trained guide dog or service animal, and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination.

Title IX/Chapter 28A.640 Officer/
Civil Rights Compliance Coordinator/ADA
Coordinator
Tom Arlt, Assistant Superintendent
Cheney School District, 12414 S. Andrus Rd.
Cheney, WA 99004 Phone: (509) 559-4550
Section 504 Coordinator
Franklin Day, Director, Student Support Services
Cheney School District, 12414 S. Andrus Rd.
Cheney, WA 99004 Phone: (509) 559-4507
Requests for Disclosure of Public Records
Helen Page, Public Records Officer
Cheney School District, 12414 S. Andrus Rd.,
Cheney, WA 99004 Phone: (509) 559-4502