



Community Connections

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

Important dates:

February 12
School Board Meeting,
Snowdon Elementary
Library, 4 p.m.

February 14
Professional Learning
Day — no students

February 17
President's Day —
holiday

February 26
School Board Meeting,
Westwood Middle
School Library, 6 p.m.

Cheney Public Schools exists to guarantee a safe and caring environment where ALL students learn at high levels and graduate with options for post-secondary education, careers, and civic engagement.

Parents, Guardians, and Community Members,

I thoroughly enjoy the four seasons we experience in our region, yet I must admit that once the holidays are over and February arrives I am ready for the end of winter. The warmer than normal temperatures in recent weeks have also created an optimism that maybe there will be an early spring.

While I am hopeful for an early spring, I have lived in this region for too long to believe that winter is gone for good in early February. In fact, the weather forecast is calling for the possibility of 3 - 6 inches of snow between Tuesday evening and Wednesday afternoon (up from the initial forecast of 1 - 3 inches). And, more than likely this will not be the last snow of the season...

This latest change in the weather is a good reminder to share information about how decisions are made related to school delays and closures. To begin with, the safety of our students, staff and families is of utmost importance to me and our school district, and we take these decisions very seriously. Consequently, I closely monitor the daily and weekly forecast as does our maintenance and grounds department (plowing, sanding, and snow removal), our transportation department, and our Director of Safety and Security.

On mornings when conditions are questionable, our transportation director and assistant director are out at approximately 3:00 a.m. analyzing road and weather conditions. At 5:00 a.m. I am in contact with our transportation director to discuss the weather forecast and current and projected road conditions. In addition, we consider any information that has been discussed with other transportation departments or local agencies. After we review all of the information we have, our transportation director shares whether she believes we should consider a delay or closure, or whether conditions will allow buses and schools to run and start on time. If it is decided that a delay or closure is necessary, we provide a message to the media immediately (news channels) and to parents and guardians shortly after 5:30 a.m. If a decision is made to delay school AND there is the possibility that the delay may turn into a closure, we communicate this information with parents during our initial message as well.

If you have any questions related to the processes or procedures utilized to determine possible school delays or closures, please feel free to contact me at 509-559-4502 or at roettger@cheneysd.org.

Robert W. Roettger

Robert W. Roettger, Superintendent

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 February
HONESTY

Sincerity and reverence or love for the truth.

Congratulations to Mrs. Monroe at Sunset!

Cheney Public Schools is pleased to announce that Sunset Elementary School teacher Shawna Monroe was selected as Eastern Washington University's January Teacher of the Month. In an assembly at Sunset Elementary School on Thursday, January 16, representatives from KHQ Local News and Spokane Teachers Credit Union presented Mrs. Monroe with the honor in an exciting surprise ceremony in front of the student body. Mrs. Monroe teaches third grade and was nominated by fifth-grader Baylee Fletcher-VanDusen.

"When I was in her class, I really didn't have a lot of friends," Baylee said. "I was able to hang out with her, and she was my best friend."

Mrs. Monroe has been teaching for five years and thanked the students and staff of Sunset for supporting and inspiring her.

"All of you kids and all of the staff I work with – you make it worth coming to school and doing what I do every day," Mrs. Monroe said.

The Teacher of the Month program is a collaboration between Eastern Washington University's education department, KHQ Local News, and Spokane Teachers Credit Union to recognize outstanding local teachers for their excellence.

We are so fortunate that Mrs. Monroe has chosen to share her expertise with the children of the Cheney Public Schools. Mrs. Monroe is the third Cheney teacher in four months to be awarded Teacher of the Month; Salnave Elementary teacher Kyndle Palmer received the honor in October, followed by Betz Elementary teacher Traci Trotter in November.



Cheney Middle School Visits the MAC!

Sixth-grade art students from Cheney Middle School took a field trip to the Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture this month to see history up close and personal! While there, they viewed the Norman Rockwell exhibit and participated in a painting exploration activity and a scavenger hunt. They also got to view an exhibit on Mount St. Helens and a display of Native American art.

Teacher Sherry Syrie said the field trip targets state art standards that aren't easily covered in a classroom setting, like providing evidence of how museums and other venues reflect history and values of a community.

"This supports both their visual literacy and the work we've been doing to critique famous works of art in the classroom this year," Syrie said. "Why do we take these field trips each semester? Because it's very important to me to give my students a real art museum experience while also viewing and discussing important art works from our history!"



West Plains Support Network Meeting

The West Plains Support Network, a group dedicated to supporting local children and families, will have an important panel presentation on the "Negative Effects of Screen Time on Children" on Wednesday, February 5, at the Wren Pierson Center, 615 4th St, Cheney. It will start at 9:30 a.m. All community members are welcome to attend. Visit their Facebook page for more information.

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, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal, and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The employees listed to the right 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.
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