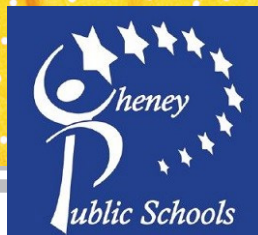


# COMMUNITY *Connections*

NEWS OF CHENEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



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



# LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



**Rob Roettger**  
Superintendent  
rroettger@cheneysd.org

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**ON THE COVER:** Windsor Elementary students created hashtags describing their goal character traits for PACE World Character Day in September.

### Community Members,

Often times in education we are looking for the perfect program or to “experts” who have all of the answers related to school improvement, when in reality there isn’t a single magic formula that can ensure high levels of student learning. Rather, it is my belief high levels of student achievement occur when we are committed to intentional collaboration, focus our efforts, and do not chase after “shiny objects”. This is why we have focused our efforts on a single mission statement, and priorities that align with our mission.

The mission of Cheney Public Schools is 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. In order to achieve our mission, we created a five-year strategic plan and are in the third year of carrying out that plan. The plan contains goals and action steps in the areas of academics, college and career readiness, social and emotional support, and community engagement. A copy of the district’s strategic plan can be found at [www.cheneysd.org](http://www.cheneysd.org) under the Professional Learning Community quick links tab.

Based on research and proven results, we believe the best way to achieve our goals is through the implementation of Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) and we are fully committed to this work. PLCs are defined as a practice where the entire staff engages in an ongoing, collaborative process of collective inquiry and action research to achieve better results for their students. To guide this work, grade level and subject specific PLC teams continuously work through the following four questions:

1. What specifically do we expect all students to learn? (Standards)
2. How will we know when each student has learned? (Assessment)
3. How will we respond when students experience difficulty learning? (Intervention)
4. How will we respond when students demonstrate they have learned? (Extension)

Each day many students attend school having experienced a variety of circumstances that impact their ability to be learning ready. In conjunction with our PLC work, the district is committed to supporting the social and emotional learning (SEL) needs of each of our students. As part of our effort to do so, we hired an assistant director of teaching and learning with the specific assignment of leading and supporting social and emotional learning. Although there is a lot of exceptional SEL work occurring in schools throughout the district, our goal is to create a system-wide approach, while supporting the needs of our staff members at the same time.

In order to provide the best possible education system for ALL students it is important to have adequate learning spaces, a variety of educational programs, and up to date technology. We are very thankful to our community for supporting the recent bond and levy measures. With the community’s support, additional classrooms and a variety of improvements at three of our elementary schools and Cheney High School have been made possible (2017 bond). In addition, the community approved a two-year capital levy in November that will allow the district to purchase property for future school sites, provide significant technology upgrades in each school, and update fleet vehicles in maintenance and operations. We are extremely thankful to our community for all of your outstanding support!

We are accomplishing great things in Cheney Public Schools and are deeply committed to ensuring high levels of achievement for each and every student. If you have questions about any aspect of our school system, please contact me at 509-559-4502 or [rroettger@cheneysd.org](mailto:rroettger@cheneysd.org). **TOGETHER WE ARE CHENEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS!**

Robert W. Roettger, Superintendent

*Robert W. Roettger*



**Stacy Nicol**  
School Board President  
District 4



**Mitch Swenson**  
School Board Vice-President  
District 5



**Henry Browne**  
School Board Member  
District 3



**Suzanne Dolle**  
School Board Member  
District 2



**Marcie Estrellado**  
School Board Member  
District 1

# NEWS: Cheney teachers win big!

Cheney's wonderful staff collected multiple awards so far this school year, including two back-to-back Eastern Washington University "Teacher of the Month" awards.

October's honor went to Kyndle Palmer at Salnave Elementary School. In an assembly at Salnave on Friday, Oct. 18, KHQ Wake Up Show anchors Leslie Lowe and Kalae Chock presented Ms. Palmer, pictured at right, with the award in an emotional surprise ceremony in front of the student body. Ms. Palmer teaches fourth and fifth-grade and was nominated by fifth-grader Emma Plewnarz.

"She's so kind and she helps everyone else and she talks with people one on one," Emma said. "I sometimes stay in at last recess and talk with her and she's just amazing."

Ms. Palmer, who has been teaching for 10 years, called being selected a true honor. "I love working with my students," Ms. Palmer said. "They make such a difference in my life, too."

Just one month later, Betz Elementary School's Traci Trotter was honored with November's Teacher of the Month award. Ms. Trotter teaches first grade and was nominated by fourth-grader Avery Pringle -- three years after he left her class. "I didn't cry but I was crying inside," Avery said. "She's kind and helps any student she can. I'll never forget her."

Ms. Trotter, seen at left with Avery, has been teaching for seven years and credited her students with inspiring her. "They're why I do it," she 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.

Also in November, Westwood Middle School science teacher Lucas Jensen, center right, was awarded an Educator of the Year award at the West Plains Chamber "Best of the West" awards gala. Our district is incredibly fortunate to have so many quality educators on our team!



## Cheney Dreams

As a district, we are inspired by the dreams and goals our students have for themselves. Every day, we strive to provide opportunities that allow our students to realize their potential and acquire the skills necessary to achieve their dreams. Below, you'll find a selection of dreams held by our students.



**Sariah Anderson**  
8th grade

**Westwood Middle School**

"I'd like to be a professional photographer. It's a hobby right now, and I like the details that it can have, the different looks, the moods."



**Ruby Kropidlowski**  
Junior

**Cheney High School**

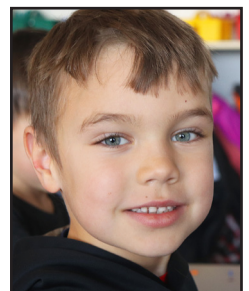
"I like bicycling a lot. They do that in the Special Olympics, and so could I. I'd also like to own a pet store with my friends."



**Kady Leuzny**  
Freshman

**Cheney High School**

"My dream is to join the Air Force and be a UAV pilot. Most of my family are in the armed forces and I've always been interested in engineering."



**Easton Vold**  
Kindergarten

**Windsor Elementary School**

"I want to be a veterinarian and save all the doggies. I would do small animals, but I don't know about snakes. I'd want to see baby snakes."





## CHENEY SCHOOLS BOND UPDATE:

# Building Our Future

Construction on Cheney High School is progressing on schedule, while safety updates and expansions on several of the district's elementary schools have been completed. We're so thankful to all of our students, staff and parents for their endless patience during this process.



### Completed:

- ✓ Auditorium
- ✓ Scene shop/dressing rooms
- ✓ Weight and fitness room
- ✓ Wrestling room
- ✓ Auxiliary gymnasium

### In Progress:

- ☐ Administration wing
- ☐ Commons/kitchen space
- ☐ Three computer labs
- ☐ Parent drop-off area on Sixth Street



The entrance for the new auditorium will be the main entrance for staff and students until June.



The School Resource Officer's office will be located directly beside the secure vestibule and features a view to the parking lot.

## BY THE NUMBERS

DEC. 2018 ENROLLMENT:  
4,824 students

SEPT. 2019 ENROLLMENT:  
4,855 students

CURRENT ENROLLMENT:  
4,918 students

**18.11 %**

— ENROLLMENT INCREASE  
IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS



Pictured above is the wrestling room, as seen on Dec. 17.

**"The time between September and December was our most challenging phase, so we're really on the downhill now. This new phase from January to June is a lot less complex. We're on the home stretch." -- Todd Smith, OAC Project Manager**



# PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT:

## *Hands-on learning meets the season of giving*

This school year, Westwood Middle School CTE teacher Marty Sexton and Windsor Elementary School kindergarten teacher Judy Ableman teamed up to help some of our district's youngest students have a happy holiday. Mrs. Ableman sent Mr. Sexton the names of her kindergartners and their favorite animals, and his second period wood shop class custom-carved each name, along with a puzzle version of the chosen animal.

The wood shop class, comprised of seventh and eighth-graders, spent time carefully crafting the gifts, and were there to see the kindergartners' reactions when they received them.

"It feels great, because you're helping kids in your community," seventh-grader Kaiden Vollan said. Kaiden said he was excited to learn how to use the wood shop power tools and will probably use those skills to make more presents for people in the future.

The gifts were wrapped and put under a decorated tree in the kindergarten classroom until their unveiling on Dec. 19. Until then, the kindergarten students thought they were for decoration. Mrs. Ableman said her students were shocked to receive gifts from the older kids and loved having them visit the classroom.

"They each have a new friend now," she said. "And I think they're amazed that someone would think about them and plan ahead of time."

Kindergartener Maizey Kuchenbecker loved her gift of a dog-shaped puzzle. "I love doggies because their faces are cute," she said. "I have three at home."

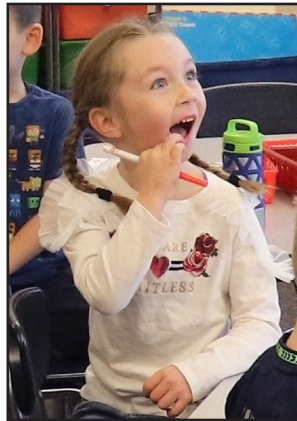
Seventh-grader Molly Hill said she learned lots of things from the wood shop class. "How to really make things is one of them," she said. "But also maybe giving to other people."



Tommy Thomsen is a shy student, but was thrilled with his puzzle. "To see him smiling like this is a big deal," Mrs. Ableman said.



Kindergartener Bella Bunze opens her gift while its creator, Macey Richards, looks on.



Maylani Burgess reacts to the good news.



Seventh-grader Kaiden Vollan cuts out a puzzle in wood shop.

## Student Profiles



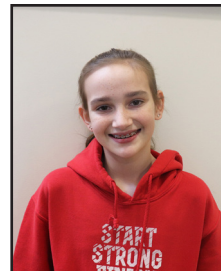
**Kaiden Vollan**  
7th grade

"I love math and I love playing sports. Basketball is my favorite. I would like to be an NBA player, but if that doesn't work out I'd love to be an announcer or newscaster."



**Maizey Kuchenbecker**  
Kindergarten

Maizey said her favorite part about kindergarten is "writing cards to my mom and my dad." When she grows up she wants to be a kindergarten teacher.



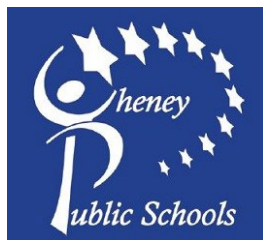
**Molly Hill**  
7th grade

"I like language arts because I like my teacher Mrs. Hays and she makes it really fun. I think maybe I'd like to be a doctor when I grow up, because I could help people."



**Drew Hanley**  
Kindergarten

Drew's favorite time of year is Christmas, and he loves playing on the computers in class. "I want to be a teacher when I grow up," he said. He also likes to do karate.



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## GET CONNECTED!



Cheney Public Schools



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### And follow Cheney Athletics:



CHS Blackhawks



@chsblackhawks



@CHSBlackhawks

## Thank you!

Thanks to our amazing community members, parents, and staff who participated in our donation-based events and campaigns across the district this holiday season. You have made a real difference in the lives of the students we serve. None of this would be possible without such an outpouring of generosity from the community!

## JOIN US!



## CHENEY COLLEGE AND CAREER EXPO

APRIL 16, 2020  
5:30 - 7:30 P.M.  
AT  
CHENEY MIDDLE  
SCHOOL



## Important Dates

### January 20

- Martin Luther King Junior Day -- no school

### January 22

- School Improvement Plan - 5:15 p.m.
- Regular Board Meeting - 6:00 p.m.
- Cheney Middle School

### February 12

- Work Session/School Visit - 1:00 p.m.
- School Improvement Plan - 3:45 p.m.
- Regular Board Meeting 4:00 p.m.
- Snowdon Elementary

### February 14

- Professional Learning Day - no students

### February 26

- School Improvement Plan - 5:15 p.m.
- Regular Board Meeting- 6:00 p.m.
- Westwood Middle School

## Now Hiring!



### BUS DRIVERS

\$18.20 STARTING WAGE  
PLUS BENEFITS

### APPLY NOW

AT THE CSD TRANSPORTATION  
DEPARTMENT,  
2736 N. SIXTH STREET, CHENEY