



Community Connections

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

Important dates:

February 13
Special Election

February 14
Betz Elementary
School Community
Visit, 1:00 p.m.
Board Meeting,
4:00 p.m.

February 16
Professional
Learning Day—
No School

February 19
Presidents' Day
Holiday—
No School

February 28
School Board Mtg.
at Cheney High
School, 6:00 p.m.



February
Character Trait
HONESTY:
Sincerity and
reverence or love
for the truth

Parents, Guardians and Community Members,

During the 2017 legislative session, legislators adopted HB 2242 which made significant changes to education funding within the State of Washington. Following the adoption of HB 2242, we have been working hard to fully understand the various changes and how they will impact our school district.

One significant change we have been working through is the adjustment to the local levy structure. In past years, school districts submitted levies to their voters based upon a percentage (up to 28%) of their prior year's state and federal revenues. Most recently this meant that the three-year levy which passed in 2015 collected \$9,700,000 in local funding for schools in 2018 (\$2.74 per thousand dollars of assessed valuation). With changes in law, districts can now levy up to the lower of two numbers, \$1.50 per thousand or \$2,500 per student. Thus, on the February 13th ballot Cheney Public Schools is proposing a \$1.50 replacement levy for 2019, 2020, and 2021. If passed, this replacement levy would provide local resources of approximately \$5,800,000 in 2019, \$6,400,000 in 2020, and \$7,000,000 in 2021.

You may wonder how our district can sustain a reduction in local levy funding from \$9,700,000 in 2018 to the proposed \$5,800,000 in 2019. Through HB 2242, the state is addressing an over-reliance on local levies by increasing state funding to school districts. One mechanism for doing so is an increase in state property taxes beginning in 2018. In our region, state property taxes are expected to increase by approximately \$0.86 per thousand. If the proposed levy is approved, our local levy will reduce from the most recent \$2.74 in 2018 to \$1.50 in 2019. This is a decrease of \$1.24. When the state property tax increase of \$0.86 is factored in, our school district will see a net tax decrease of approximately \$0.38 per thousand from 2018 rates.

I know changes to the local levy structure can be confusing, as voters have grown accustomed to the previous levy structure and the replacement process. Having said this, the levy on the February ballot follows the district's regular three-year levy cycle and is not a new tax. Rather, the proposed levy is a replacement of an expiring levy, which pays costs of educational programs and operations not funded by the state.

As we continue to analyze changes associated with HB 2242, we will provide our patrons with important information related to any impacts upon our school district. If you have questions about any aspect of our school system, or specifically the Replacement Educational Programs and Operation Levy, please feel free to contact me at 509-559-4502 or rroettger@cheneysd.org.

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

Robert W. Roettger

Robert W. Roettger
Superintendent

*Kindergarten
registration begins
March 1*

Our essential foundations

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

Follow us on Twitter  and Facebook  or go to www.cheneysd.org for current news and information about Cheney Public Schools.



February 2018

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
Sean Dotson, Associate Superintendent
Cheney School District, 12414 S. Andrus Rd.
Cheney, WA 99004 Phone: (509) 559-4550

Section 504 Coordinator
Kristi Thurston, Director, Student Support Services
Cheney School District, 12414 S. Andrus Rd.
Cheney, WA 99004 Phone: (509) 559-4507

Requests for Disclosure of Public Records
Sharon Throop, Public Records Officer
Cheney School District, 12414 S. Andrus Rd.,
Cheney, WA 99004 Phone: (509) 559-4502



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CHENEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

12414 S. Andrus Rd.
Cheney, Washington 99004

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Cheney FBLA takes second place in competition

The Cheney FBLA competed in the Spokane Teachers Credit Union 100

Dollar Project and were awarded 2nd place. Through their work, they won a \$1,500 prize for their involvement in their community. The students' project was to conduct a Trick or Trot fun run in October. The registration proceeds from this fun run will be spent to purchase business clothes for people in need, so they can have presentable attire for job interviews. Congratulations FBLA students, and thank you for your amazing work in our community!

Student advisors to the School Board visit legislators

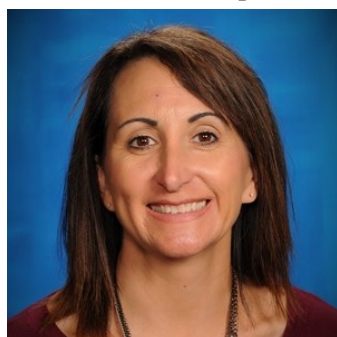
Recently, student advisors Kali McCormick, Jessica Vietzke, Dillon Dalton and

Megahn Short traveled with the School Board to Olympia, where they attended the Washington State School Directors' Association Legislative Conference and had the opportunity to speak directly with our legislators concerning the student perspective on education-related issues. They presented their thoughts in an extremely professional manner, and legislators were very impressed with their ideas.



Tami Skillingstad named Washington State Assistant Principal of the Year

After a thorough vetting process, including site visits, it was announced by AWMLP that our own Westwood Middle School Assistant Principal Tami Skillingstad has been named the State Assistant Principal of the Year.



During the Westwood site visit, students, teachers and classified staff members were interviewed, as well as Principal Erika Burden and Ms. Skillingstad. Using components of the Leadership Framework as the foundation for the questions they asked, AWMLP Executive Committee members selected Tami as the stand-out leader. Our district and our students are extremely fortunate to have such a caring and accomplished leader.

Home Works! Spotlight is enjoyed by all

Home Works! students presented their talents last week during Spotlight. This bi-annual event did not disappoint!

Students shared with their families their many projects and achievements this semester—including science, multiple forms of art, writing, yoga, drama, ballet, math, karate, sign language, cardio kids, and much more. It was a fun evening for everyone!

