



# Community Connections

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

## Important dates:

**January 20**  
Martin Luther  
King Jr. Day—  
No School

**January 22**  
School Board  
Meeting  
Betz Elementary  
6:00 p.m.

**February 12**  
School Board  
Meeting  
Sunset Elementary  
SIP Discussion  
5:30 p.m.  
Regular Meeting  
6:00 p.m.

**February 17**  
Presidents' Day  
Holiday—  
No School

Friends of Cheney Public Schools,

I'm so pleased to share that the Cheney Public Schools, the Medical Lake School District and the West Plains Chamber are embarking on a new venture together: **Partners Advancing Character Education**. This community-wide character education program provides us with the opportunity to promote one character trait per month in our schools and across our community. Profit and nonprofit organizations throughout our community are encouraged to join us in pledging to become a PACE partner (it's free!).

You may have noticed the character trait of the month listed on our school reader boards and included in our school newsletters. Within our schools we are teaching the character trait for the month and recognizing students for actions that exemplify that character trait. Some of our schools, such as Sunset Elementary School, host a monthly event that formally recognizes students and awards certificates to students for actions that exemplify the specific character trait of the month.

The character trait for the month of January is **Fairness**: *treating people and ideas with justice and impartiality*. The City of Cheney Chief of Police, John Hensley, spoke about this character trait at the West Plains Branch of PACE kick-off event hosted by the West Plains Chamber on January 9, 2014. Chief Hensley's comments resonated with everyone in attendance and made clear the importance of instilling traits of good character in our children.

We understand that preparing our children to become contributing members of society goes beyond the core academic subjects. We welcome your partnership as parents and community members - consider partnering with us in our commitment to promote character traits by visiting the West Plains Branch of PACE website at <http://pacecommunity.org/about/westplains>.

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

Debra J. Clemens, Ph.D.  
Superintendent

## Our essential foundations

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

Cheney Middle School activities line: (509) 559-4488  
Westwood Middle School activities line: (509) 559-4161  
Cheney High School activities line: (509) 559-4120

Go to [www.cheneysd.org](http://www.cheneysd.org) for current news and information about Cheney Public Schools. Like us on Facebook! Check us out at <https://www.facebook.com/CheneySD>.



**PACE**  
PARTNERS ADVANCING  
CHARACTER EDUCATION

*West Plains Chapter*

January 2014

Cheney Public Schools complies with all federal and state rules and regulations and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, economic status, gender, sexual orientation including gender expression or identity, pregnancy, familial status, marital status, age, honorably discharged veteran or military status, the presence of any sensory, mental or physical disability, or the use of a trained guide dog or service animal by a person with a disability. This holds true for all students who are interested in participating in educational programs and/or extracurricular school activities. Inquiries regarding compliance and/or grievance procedures may be directed to the school district's Title IX/RCW 28A.640 Officer/ADA Coordinator or Section 504 Coordinator. Or inquiries may be directed to the Director of the Office of Civil Rights, Department of HEW, Washington, D.C.

Title IX/Chapter 28A.640 Officer/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, 520 Fourth Street  
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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## What is character education?

Character education is an intentional effort by schools and communities to develop in their youth important qualities such as honesty, respect, responsibility and citizenship. Character education promotes judging what is right, desiring good, and then doing what is right. It teaches and



recognizes good character traits to help improve attitudes and academic performance, reduce and/or prevent disciplinary problems in and out of the classroom, and nurture a strong work ethic to create a productive future work force.



## Character Trait of the Month

Monthly character traits:

|       |                |       |                 |
|-------|----------------|-------|-----------------|
| Sept. | Respect        | March | Diligence       |
| Oct.  | Responsibility | April | Trustworthiness |
| Nov.  | Citizenship    | May   | Courage         |
| Dec.  | Caring         | June  | Integrity       |
| Jan.  | Fairness       | July  | Generosity      |
| Feb.  | Honesty        | Aug.  | Gratitude       |

Windsor student Gianna Terrile and Snowdon student Mackenzie Buck joined Westwood Wolverine Trinity Godfrey in exemplifying the December PACE Character Trait of the Month: Caring. They showed the ultimate demonstration of caring by donating their hair to Locks of Love. Trinity was joined by her mom, Jessica, who also donated her own locks. Trinity was inspired to donate when she read information about the charity online. After the experience she said, "I felt really good giving my hair away to someone who needs it." Locks of Love is a non-profit organization serving people who cannot afford all of their medical expenses.

"A person's character often determines how successful they are in any career. Having a strong work ethic, remaining honest, taking responsibility for your actions and demanding self-integrity will be noticed in any job."

*Denise Vickerman, Pres., West Plains Chamber of Commerce*

## What is PACE?

Partners Advancing Character Education (PACE) is a grassroots initiative to promote the importance of good character through partnerships with schools, businesses such as Inland Power and Light Company, public agencies, residents, faith-based organizations and community service groups.

At the root of the initiative is a list of monthly character traits. Working from this common list, partners promote and integrate each trait into the regular activities of the organization.

