

COMMUNITY *Connections*

News of Cheney Public Schools



For our children, our world, our future

LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Parents, Guardians, Staff, and Community Members,



Ben Ferney, Ed.D.
Superintendent
bferney@cheneysd.org

IMPORTANT DATES

November 26

Conferences - No School

November 27

Conferences - No School

November 28

Thanksgiving Holiday - No School

November 29

Thanksgiving Holiday - No School

December 11

School Board Meeting - 6 p.m.
Cheney Middle School



On the Cover:
Students at
Windsor
Elementary
enjoy some
structured
recess play.

I am continually humbled by the support of our community. I cannot express enough thanks for your support of the \$72 million bond that was on the ballot earlier this month. The culmination of nearly two years of efforts, this bond will provide the necessary funds to address the growth of our district, safety and security of our students, and district-wide health and facility improvements. This local, voter-approved funding stays in our district to support ALL of our students in Airway Heights, Cheney, and the West Plains.

I want to express my heartfelt thanks to the many volunteers who worked so hard to support this ballot measure. Your commitment and efforts in reaching out to the community played a key role in making sure everyone was well-informed about the details bond. Thank you for your important contributions!

The election results will officially be certified on November 26, and then, the next phase of exciting work will begin! Be on the lookout for additional surveys and community forums to gather input and have discussions regarding bond projects. Our community has been the guiding light for our district's needs, and we will continue to use your input to guide these upcoming projects.

Help shape the future of our schools! Share your thoughts on the essential skills students need by taking our Profile of a Learner/Portrait of a Graduate survey. Access the survey [here](#) or scan the QR code to the right—deadline: November 22nd.



I am looking forward to parent-teacher conferences next week! It is a valuable opportunity for you to connect with your child's teachers, discuss their progress, and learn what to expect for the rest of the year.

In these conferences, you will get to see firsthand the impact of the dedicated work our teachers are doing. I have been fortunate to participate in our district's weekly Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) every Friday morning, where our teachers collaborate and refine their teaching strategies to benefit every student.

We are Cheney Public Schools!

Take care,

Ben Ferney, Ed.D.
Superintendent | Cheney Public Schools



Mark Scott
School Board Vice President
District 1



Liz Winer
School Board Member
District 2



Henry Browne
School Board President
District 3



Bill Hanson
School Board Member
District 4



Mitch Swenson
School Board Member
District 5

MISSION STATEMENT:

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.



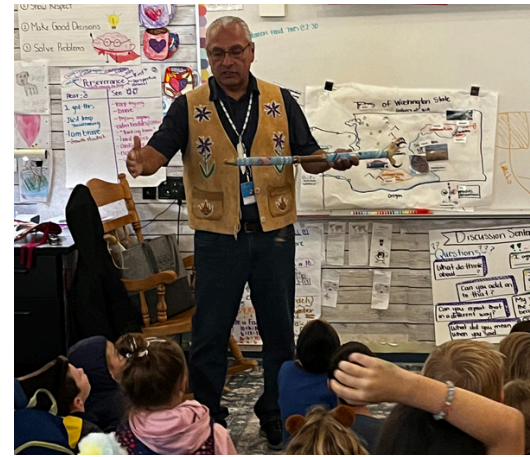
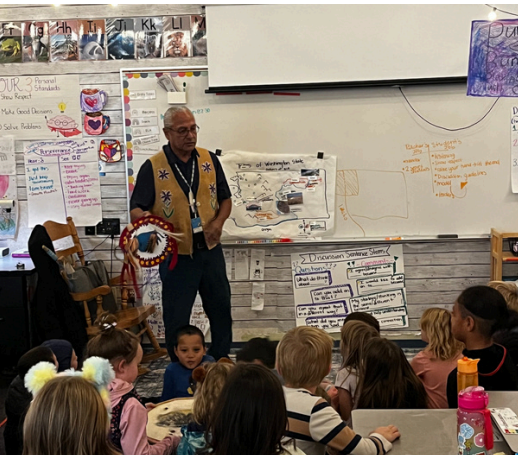
Cheney Public Schools Celebrates Native American Heritage Month

November is Native American Heritage Month, and schools across the district are celebrating and honoring the traditions passed down through generations of Native Americans.

Betz Elementary teachers Mikayla Shuler and Emily Saunter have been teaching a Native American Storytelling GLAD (Guided Language Acquisition Design) unit to their 1st-

and 2nd-grade classrooms. As part of the unit and in correlation to Native American Heritage Month, Kalispel Tribe member and community member JR Bluff was invited to speak with the young students. He shared insight into Native American traditions, and he brought several artifacts to share with the students to educate them further about his culture. Betz students also shared stories they have been learning during the unit.

"This was truly a powerful experience for our students to have an authentic learning opportunity and build connection between the school and surrounding community," said Devon Simpson, a multilingual language teacher. "We are lucky to be part of this awesome Betz and Cheney community!"



Community member and Kalispel Tribe member JR Bluff spoke with Betz Elementary 1st and 2nd graders

Santa's Trailer Christmas Gift Drive



The third-annual Santa's Trailer Christmas Gift Drive, organized by Cheney High School's Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), is currently accepting donations. Drop off any new, unwrapped gift now until December 6th at any of the following locations:

- Cheney Bi-Mart
- All Schools in Cheney Public Schools
- Grocery Outlet (Cheney)
- Ace Hardware
- North 40 (Airway Heights)
- Mitchell's Harvest Foods

All donated gifts will be used for the Santa's Trailer Shopping Day, a free holiday shopping event for families in need. The event is scheduled for Friday, December 13th from 4 to 7 p.m. at Cheney High School.

Help Define Essential Skills for Our Students

Profile of a
Learner
&
Portrait of a
Graduate



As part of our Strategic Plan, Cheney Public Schools is creating a 'Profile of a Learner' for students in PK-5 and a 'Portrait of a Graduate' for students in grades 6-12. Similar to creating our Strategic Plan, this is a team effort with students, staff, families, and community members to decide the important skills students need to succeed and reach their postsecondary goals.



A Parentsquare message notifying district staff, students, families, and key communicators was initially distributed Wednesday, November 6th, encouraging participation in a feedback survey. There is still time to provide your feedback, as the survey is open through November 22nd. Scan the QR code to the right, or [click here](#) to access the survey.

Bands of America Grand National Championships

Cheney High School Marching Band and Color Guard performed at the Bands of America Grand National Championships November 14-16 at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, Ind., becoming the first Washington state program in history to perform in the national event. The Grand National Championships was the final event of the 2024 season, marking the conclusion of a stellar season with the Electric Sunshine performance.

The Blackhawks joined 112 other high schools from across the country in Indianapolis, performing in both preliminary events on November 14 and November 15. CHS finished 58th in the preliminary events, capping off a spectacular season.

The CHS Blackhawk Band Parent Booster Club was instrumental in making this trip a reality. Several parent volunteers hauled props and equipment from Cheney to Indianapolis, while many others offered support near and far.

If you missed the performances, [click here](#) to view a video montage of the entire event!



Top Photo: CHS Marching Band and Color Guard members pose outside of Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, Ind. Bottom Left: Parent volunteers gather for a photo. Bottom Right: Parent volunteers help unload props before the performances.

Proposition 1 Approved by Voters!

THANK
you

Thank you, Cheney Public Schools! As of publication, all ballots in Spokane County have been counted, and the district's \$72 million bond is passing at 62.39%. Final certification will be November 26th.

A whopping 74.32% of registered voters in our district turned out to vote in the November 5th General Election. With the passage of this bond, our district will now have the necessary funding to address growth projects across the district, safety and security upgrades, as well as district-wide student health and facility improvements.

West Plains Chamber of Commerce Best of the West Awards Gala

The Best of the West Awards Gala, presented by the Kalispel Tribe of Indians, honored two Cheney Public Schools staff members during the annual award ceremony Wednesday, November 20th at Northern Quest Resort & Casino. Sahnave Elementary special education teacher Misty Smith was named the Best of the West Cheney Educator of the Year, while Cheney High School CTE teacher Heather Nelson was selected for the Community Impact Award.

The Best of the West award recipients are determined by the West Plains Chamber of Commerce. The gala honors outstanding leaders, businesses, organizations, educators, military personnel, and first responders in the West Plains.

Thank you to Misty and Heather for your outstanding commitment to our district and community!



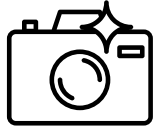
Misty Smith, Cheney Educator of the Year



Heather Nelson, Community Impact award winner



From L-R: Mark Scott, Board Vice President, Henry Browne, Board President, Celina Brennan, Sahnave Elementary Principal, Misty Smith, Heather Nelson, Claire Soulek, Sahnave Elementary Assistant Principal, Ben Ferney, Superintendent.



District Snapshots



Windsor P.E. teacher Sarah Cox teaches this kindergartener how to properly throw underhand.



CHS World Language teacher Alexia Tchemitcheff and her students engage in a digital game of Booklet to help them learn French vocabulary.



Students at Sunset Elementary sang the official songs of each branch of the U.S. Military for the Veteran's Day assembly on November 8.



Students from Homeworks! enjoy time on the playground.



This Snowden student demonstrates a Star Breath at the November 13 Board Meeting, a social emotional learning and emotional regulation tool.



Salnave Special Education teacher Misty Smith (R), and Principal Celina Brennan (L) react to the news of Misty being named the Best of the West Educator of the Year.



Betz Elementary 4th and 5th graders at the starting line of their cross-country meet on October 17.



This Westwood student smiles during Ryan Wagner's science class.



Students at Three Springs High School engage with the community in the first exhibition of the 2024-25 school year.