



Cheney USD 268
Educating Minds...Connecting Hearts...
Touching Lives...
Welcome to Our Family

Cheney USD 268
Patron Newsletter
December/January
2011-2012

Inside this Issue

Technology News
Wellness Corner
Counselors Corner
High School News
Music Notes
Middle School News
Elementary School News
Physical Education is Awesome!
Artist's Corner
Count Your Kid in Preschool

From the Superintendent, Thomas J. Alstrom

We are quickly moving through this school year and are in the middle of some exciting things happening in the district. We are in the middle of exploring the use of new technology for the classrooms and teachers. We are working towards Smart technology in the elementary and other selected classrooms around the district. We hope to have some of the technology installed before the Holiday Break so we can do some training and learn about the advantages within the classroom. If we see the value to the educational process that we envision, we will continue to work towards further implementation into the classrooms

We are also looking into several of the other devices that are gaining popularity in the educational systems across the country. As we explore the value and use of each device we will determine if it can be worked into our technology plan over the next few years. As we all know, kids and teachers will have more of the latest technology at home than you will find in schools. This is sad to say but it is getting harder and harder to stay on the leading edge with technology because it is changing so rapidly. With that being known, we have to focus on teaching universal skills rather than the operation of individual technology devices. We want to stay as close as we can to the newest and greatest technology of the day but in the financial times schools are in, we are just excited to have the opportunity to catch up from time to time. We have a very progressive board of education that, at this time, wants to continue to work towards keeping Cheney at the top of the pack for our kids' sake.

As far as Cheney being at the top of the pack educationally, I would say we are hanging in there. We have been going over the testing results at the board meetings and our kids are continuing to do well with the current standards. Saying that, the State department and several other states have gathered together to change the standards to a system called the Common Core. This new system will focus more on the core subjects as well

as give a better comparison of how States are doing compared to other States, since we will finally have the same guidelines to measure success in the classroom. We have already taken steps within our curriculum revisions and training to prepare Cheney to move to the new Standards. This change over will be a process and we wanted to be on the front end of the change instead of trying to catch up at the deadline of implementation.

One important thing to keep in mind when we talk about State Testing is that the test is viewed as an indicator for future success in education. This does not mean that a student can't be successful if they do not do well on the assessments, but over time these assessments scores have proven to be a pretty good indicator of future success in higher education. I read an article today about a board member in a very prominent school district in this country who he himself was a very successful man. He decided to take one of the high stake tests and see how he compared to the kids of today and he agreed to make his scores public. What he found is that he only scored in the 60% range in reading and failed the math exam. There are two sides to this story. One, I think our educational system has progressed considerably since I was in high school and the other side is that we need to make sure we do not paint kids into a corner as to what direction they need to go with their educational futures. With all of the options for training in both the trades' field and in college degrees, students have more opportunities than ever to find their niche in life. The one thing that is a constant though is that in any field you would go into, you will need to continue to learn to be successful.

That is one of our goals, to teach kids to learn, as well as problem solve and adapt to the future of change. With the changes we are looking at in technology and the classroom, the goal we want to keep in mind is: are the kids learning and growing for the future?

Cheney USD 268
Board of
Education

- Van Dewey**
- Greg Giefer**
- Mark Graf**
- Jason Gregory**
- Marcia Kampling**
- Amy Scheer**
- Matt Voth**



Cheney USD 268 Board of Education, Administration and Staff would like to wish everyone a Safe and Happy Holiday!



Technology News

By Brad Buscher, Technology System Supervisor

To The Rescue:



This month's IT Rescue tip is for anyone who uses MS PowerPoint. When designing a PowerPoint there is always more than one way to get things done. There is one way, and then there is the right way. For example, if you want to add the Cheney logo to every slide, add it to the MASTER SLIDE.

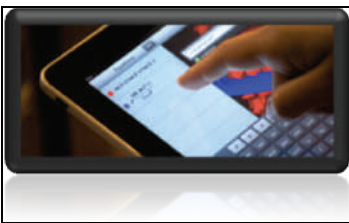
MASTER SLIDE VIEW can be found in the view tab of the MS PowerPoint 2007 and 2010 ribbon. After clicking on MASTER SLIDES you will see on the left side of your screen each slide layout. The very top one is, and over all, MASTER and anything you put on that MASTER will appear in the exact same spot and each slide. If you would only like your picture on, say the Title Slide, then scroll down the left side to the TITLE SLIDE MASTER and place your picture there.

This may seem cumbersome at first but when you employ this technique to your PowerPoint presentations you will save time and effort in the future.

Don't just get it done - Get it done the right way!

Featured iPad app of the Month:

<http://kzlabs.me/iphone/quick-graph/>



Quick Graph plots high quality 2D and 3D mathematical expressions. Graphs can be shaded with custom colors and in 3D the lighting is enabled to demonstrate the depth of the surface.

Cost: Free, advanced features \$1.99

Requirements: iPhone, iPod touch, and iPad. Required iOS 3.0 or later

Rating: 4+

DESKTOP BACKGROUND CONTEST:

Don't forget to encourage your students to submit entries for the School Desktop competition.

Entries are due the 16th of December.



Wellness Corner
Submitted by Brenda Berry, FACS Teacher

Minutes to the Wellness Committee Meeting

Cheney USD 268
Wellness Meeting Minutes
Monday, November 7, 2011
Family & Consumer Science Room



Members Present: Charlene Lyons, Brenda Berry, Tom Alstrom, Marcia Kampling, Carolyn Riedel, Steven Gould, Randy Weber, Amy Wallace, Randy Leroux, Sara Lungren, Mel Tolar, Ron Traxson, Linda Ball, Michelle Higgins. Members Absent: Jessa Albers, Jennifer Bartlett.

Agenda:

- Minutes from the last meeting were approved.
- District Wellness Policy review and discussion.
- Mr. Alstrom began the meeting. He shared with the group Cheney's Wellness Policy draft. There were several areas of the draft that he asked the group to look at. Discussion was held on the amount of recess time and physical activity for the Middle School students. It was suggested that our policy be revised to read physical activity for all K-9 students.
- Other discussion was held in regard to parents bringing in food to their children during lunch period. Mr. Traxson commented that as we have less sales from vending machines, the amount of food held in high school lockers is increasing. Charlene Lyons discussed the options for vending snack choices that are within the 200 calories level. She stated that al carte prices have increased as well as the fruit snack prices. Students are buying less al carte items this school year. These recommendations fall under the Nutrition Guidelines for all food on school grounds.
- Dr. Gould shared with the group an article, "Nothing About Artificial". The article discusses the epidemic of worldwide obesity and the gaining popularity of artificial sweeteners.
- Charlene Lyons stated that we need to add students to our Wellness Committee. We need two students to represent the middle school, and two students to represent the high school. Amy Wallace suggested that she would contact Student Council sponsors to fill these positions.
- Discussion was held among the group regarding fund raisers, and what types of food we are selling district wide. It was suggested by Mr. Traxson to omit the word, fundraisers, from our policy in section B.
- Charlene Lyons shared with the group Wellness Policies from other school districts, including Renwick, Wichita and Goddard. The group looked over the policy from Goddard on Healthy Classroom Celebrations. Charlene Lyons stated that at Goddard, no homemade foods are allowed to be brought to school. This helps with food allergy issues, allowing the food labels to be available. Discussion was held regarding what each level of the district does regarding classroom parties.
- It was recommended that our committee read over our current Wellness Policy and be prepared to ratify it at our next meeting and take to the school board by February 2012.
- The next meeting will be held on January 16, 2012 at 7:30 a.m. in the High School Family & Consumer Science classroom 204.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 a.m.

Cheney Counselor's Corner

Family: "What greater thing is there for human souls than to feel that they are joined for life - to be with each other in silent memories."

~George Eliot

Debbie Hillman, CHS
Jeanine Long, CES
Linda Patterson, CMS



Merry Christmas to one and all from the USD 268 Counselors

First and foremost, thank you to all who participated in the October "Get a Move On" and the November volunteer family events. The cookie activity was a success. We like it when a parent said "it was cold outside yesterday so this was a great activity for us to do inside." We cannot stress enough the importance of family in the growth process of students. As a colleague mentioned the other day, The frontal lobe is the last part of the brain to develop in teens...this is the part that has to do with reasoning, logic, risky behaviors etc . Therefore, the parental influence is most important during the teenage years. We continually realize what great parents and students we have in USD 268, but as with everything, there is always room for improvement.

The plans for December include sharing with us a family tradition. It is always fun to listen to students talk about their Christmas family tradition because they can vary so much. Trust us when we say, it matters. We would like to encourage families to sit down and read a Christmas story some time during the month of December. We encourage this as it is a time to reflect on the true meaning of the holiday season. Remember, please email one of us your family tradition as we would like to share with others in another newsletter or means of communication.

Bear Stays up for Christmas

Barbara Robinson

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever

Karma Wilson

The Christmas Blizzard

Susan Wojciechowski

The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan Toomey

by Helen Ketteman

Mooseltoe

written and illustrated by Chris Van Allsburg

The Polar Express

Margie Palatini

The Mouse Before Christmas

Michael Garland

Happy 2012!!!!!!!

As we ring in the New Year, we will continue to promote and encourage family activities. January can bring on very cold temperatures so our tentative plans include watching a Family movie. When January arrives, we will update you.

We encourage you to contact one of us anytime during the year if you need any assistance. We want to help in any way we can.

jlong@cheney268.com

lpatterson@cheney268.com

dhillman@cheney268.com

Season's Greetings!

Counselor's Corner, CHS

[By Debbie Hillman, CHS Counselor-dhillman@cheney268.com or 316-542-3113](mailto:dhillman@cheney268.com)

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Why does it seem each year seems to fly by faster and faster? I guess one response would be it marks a great school year, which is an acceptable explanation. I believe the CHS seniors are even wondering the very same thing. When they think it was only a short time ago they were starting their senior year, they begin to sweat just a little. I continue to be impressed with the class of 2012 because they are taking care of business and confirming their plans for next year. Please take a moment to visit with your senior and see what plans they have made or encourage them to get busy. If the school year progresses at this speed, May will be here before any of us are ready.

ACT – the next test date is December 10. I hope anyone who has registered takes some time and looks over the practice test to help gear up for the test. It is not about learning new material but simply preparing for the test. Time management is important; be prepared, and be at the test center by 7:45 a.m. Any student who plans to take the February 11 test must register by January 13.

Seniors and senior parents – **please remember the Financial Aid meeting on Thursday, January 5.** I encourage students to attend because they need to have a better understanding of the entire process. The meeting will last one hour so please bring all questions with you. I will go over the FAFSA that evening, and the meeting starts at 7:00 pm in the auditorium.

Being the optimist I am, I feel confident all freshmen, sophomores, and juniors brought their Test Fest scores home to share with their parents. I was very pleased with the overall scores for each class and am encouraged their scores will continue to rise based on their academic opportunities they have at CHS. If you have any questions about your student's score, please do not hesitate to contact me.

As a friendly reminder, semester finals will take place before Christmas break. Since they count as 10% of the semester grade, students are strongly encouraged to take time to prepare for finals. The semester ends before break so all class work is to be completed. We start fresh in 2012.

I hope all of you have a very Merry Christmas and a terrific start to the new year of 2012!

As always, I encourage you to contact me with any questions or concerns you might have about your student. Feel free to call or email me.

Season's Greetings!

Debbie Hillman

CHS Counselor

dhillman@cheney268.com

542.3113



Counselor's Corner, CMS

[By Linda Patterson, CMS Counselor – lpatterson@cheney268.com or 542-0060](mailto:lpatterson@cheney268.com)

With the Holiday season upon us, I would like to take this time to express how truly blessed I feel to have the opportunity to work with such fantastic students! Thank you for sharing your sons and daughters with me and for allowing me to share myself with them. **Merry Christmas and a Happy Holiday Season!**

CMS Classroom Counseling Lessons are going strong. During the month of October to celebrate Anti-Bully Awareness Week all students discussed the harmful effects caused by bullying behavior. It is so important that we take a stand to stop this cruel conduct! The serious consequences have been seen many times throughout the media. No child should ever feel scared, threatened, degraded, or isolated to attend school. Please help us help your child by sharing any concerns you might have on this topic. Included below is information on cyber bullying. In keeping with the anti-bullying theme, the 6th grade classes spent time reading and discussing "The Giving Tree" by Shel Silverstein during November. Students learned about selfless and selfish behaviors, qualities that make a good friend, and that gift giving does not have to be material items but can be offerings from the heart. Classes participated in making Friendship Wreaths and labeling qualities that are important in establishing and maintaining good friendships. During December, students will spend class time discussing their individual Uniqueness and the qualities which makes them special. Students will have fun making snowflakes and learning that no two snowflakes are alike just as none of us are alike. We will hang the snowflakes in the hall as we prepare for the Holidays. To spread Christmas cheer, the 7th graders started a service project during the month of November making Christmas stockings for all the Golden Age Home Residents. Each stocking is personalized with a resident's name. We hope they enjoy the stockings as much as we enjoy making them!

In 8th grade counseling, we are still learning about future Career opportunities by taking an in-depth look at student interests, skills, and values. Students will continue to develop a resource of knowledge that they will be able to refer to in future years. If you get the chance, let your student show you the Kansas Career Pipeline website. It is a great tool to get familiar with!!!

CYBER BULLYING

Cyber bullying, which is sometimes referred to as online social cruelty or electronic bullying, can involve:

- Sending mean, vulgar, or threatening messages or images;
- Posting sensitive, private information about another person;
- Pretending to be someone else in order to make that person look bad

Youth and Teens can cyber bully each other through:

- E-mails,
- Instant messaging,
- Text or digital imaging messages sent on cell phones,
- Web pages, such as face book

What can adults do to prevent and address cyber bullying?

Adults seldom are present in the online environments frequented by youth and teens. Therefore, it is extremely important that adults pay close attention to the cyber bullying and the activities of youth and teens when using these new technologies.

Suggestions for parents

- Keep your home computer in easily viewable places, such as a family room or kitchen.
- Talk regularly with your child about on-line activities he or she is involved in.
- Although adults should respect the privacy of youth and teens, concerns for your child's safety may sometimes override these privacy concerns. Tell your child that you may review his or her on-line communications if you think there is reason for concern.
- Consider installing parental control filtering software and/or tracking program

Coming Up in January

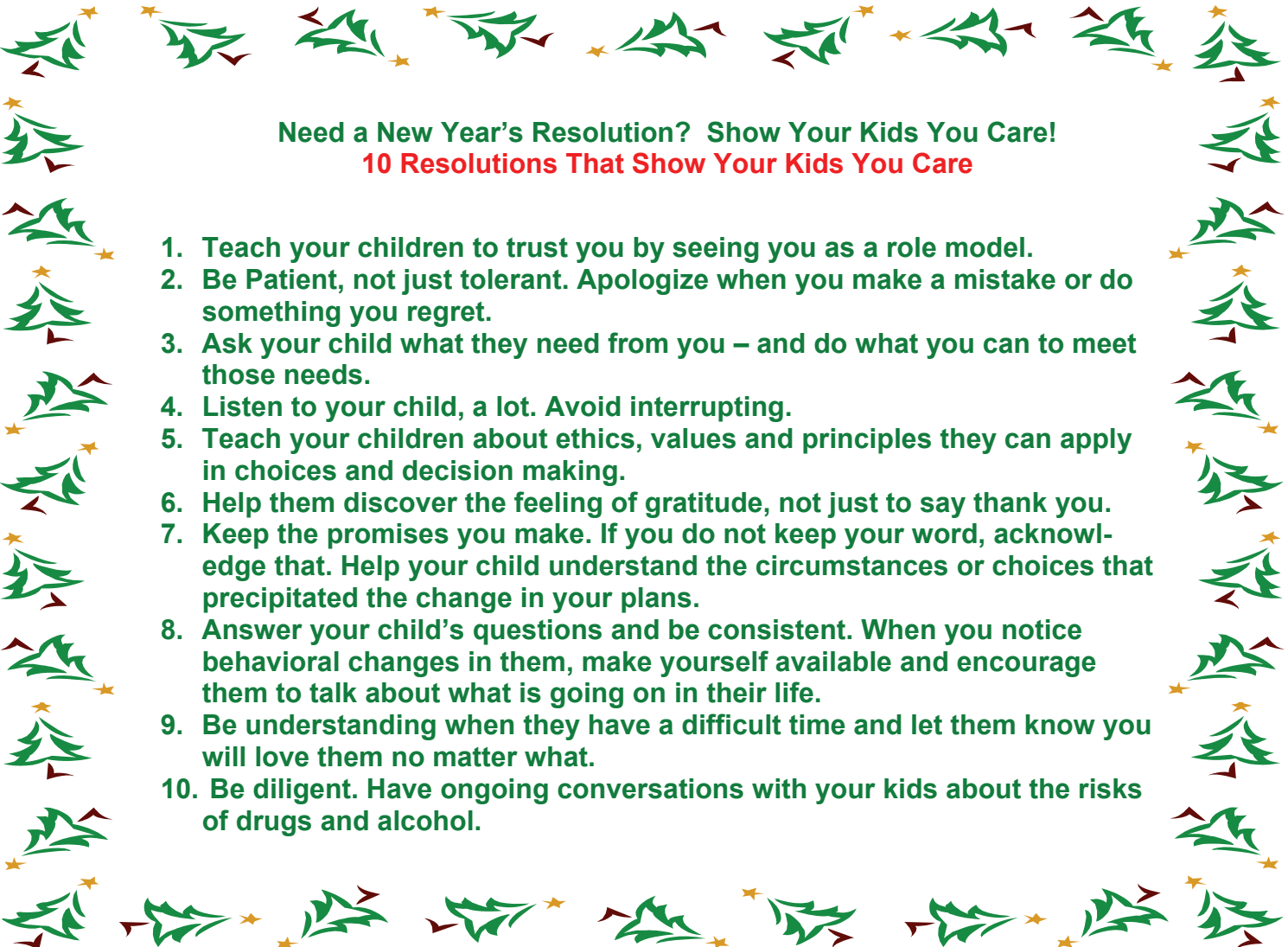
All 6th and 8th grade students will participate in the Kansas Communities That Care Survey. Results from the survey are used to help our district counselors plan substance abuse prevention programs in our schools and community.

Ambassadors, SADD, and Stuco had a busy month in October with Anti-Bully Awareness Week, Mix it Up Day at Lunch, Spirit Week, Parent/Teacher Conferences, Fall Dance, and Red Ribbon Week. This month requires a lot of cooperation in planning and organizing activities. I appreciate all the work the kids did to make this month fun and meaningful for all of us at CMS. This year during Red Ribbon Week, members from our SADD organization put on a skit to the music Total Eclipse. They did a fantastic job also performing it to our 4th and 5th graders. Those members involved were: Morgan Ayres, Taton Bennett, Emily Monson, Sam Reno, Addie Dewey, Sarah Gegen, Nate Ralstin, Hannah Sanders, Slayton Asbury, Chase McGuire, Calvin Schell, Allie Twietmeyer, Quinn Veach, and Madison Schneider Thank you SADD members!

These groups are now planning December activities!

Student Council will sponsor another "Christmas Dollar Days". Money collected will go to the purchase of hams and food baskets to be given to needy senior citizens within the community.

Students Opposing Drugs and Alcohol are planning a movie night for December or January. They hope to provide a fun and safe environment where friends can get together and enjoy the company of each other.



Need a New Year's Resolution? Show Your Kids You Care!
10 Resolutions That Show Your Kids You Care

1. Teach your children to trust you by seeing you as a role model.
2. Be Patient, not just tolerant. Apologize when you make a mistake or do something you regret.
3. Ask your child what they need from you – and do what you can to meet those needs.
4. Listen to your child, a lot. Avoid interrupting.
5. Teach your children about ethics, values and principles they can apply in choices and decision making.
6. Help them discover the feeling of gratitude, not just to say thank you.
7. Keep the promises you make. If you do not keep your word, acknowledge that. Help your child understand the circumstances or choices that precipitated the change in your plans.
8. Answer your child's questions and be consistent. When you notice behavioral changes in them, make yourself available and encourage them to talk about what is going on in their life.
9. Be understanding when they have a difficult time and let them know you will love them no matter what.
10. Be diligent. Have ongoing conversations with your kids about the risks of drugs and alcohol.



Cheney High School-Ron Traxson, Principal
 “You are educated. Your certification is in your degree.
 You may think of it as the ticket to the good life.



Let me ask you to think of an alternative. Think of it as your ticket to change the world”

~~Tom Brokaw

Principally Speaking.....

As we approach the holidays and college student’s return, here is some good information to share;

“Not In Our House”: A Campaign to Reduce Alcohol Access by Kansas Youth in Homes and Communities *--Information on social hosting and underage drinking*

Underage drinking is a problem in every Kansas community. While it is illegal for someone under the age of 21 to drink alcohol, it is often provided and/or served by parents or other adults in private homes or on private property. Kansas Leadership to Keep Children Alcohol Free has partnered with International Institute for Alcohol Awareness, Scholastic and Century Council to implement this campaign. Visit <http://www.kansasfamily.com/getinvolved-ksleadership.cfm> to learn more.



.....Kansas Family Partnership, Inc.

Here is some additional information from this site that goes into detail what this item is about;

In 2007, the Kansas Leadership to Keep Children Alcohol Free unveiled a new campaign called **"Not In Our House,"** aimed at educating parents, the public and key leaders about reducing access to alcohol by Kansas youth in our homes and our communities. Kansas Leadership to Keep Children Alcohol Free tied their campaign to materials that The International Institute for Alcohol Awareness, Scholastic and The Century Council had published in 2006. This presented an even greater partnership to distribute awareness materials regarding social hosting and underage drinking.

You may have heard the term, "social hosting," but were unsure of its meaning. Social hosting or unlawfully hosting is generally defined as providing and/or serving alcohol to a young person who is under the minimum legal drinking age. It can take place in a party-like atmosphere or by any adult simply providing alcohol to young people and their peers for them to drink. It can even extend to parents and homeowners who are not on the premises and/or did not provide the alcohol.

- Social host liability refers to laws that hold non-commercial individuals responsible for underage drinking events on property that they own, lease or otherwise control.
- You may not need to actually serve or provide alcohol to underage guests to violate these laws.
- The penalties for breaking this law include possible jail time, and the potential for criminal or civil lawsuits, as well as public humiliation for breaking the law.
- By violating the law, you are sending every child you know a message that can have risky consequences.

History of the Kansas Social Host Law - (Social Hosting)

Kansas passed a social host law in 2004, a.k.a. Paul’s Law, named for Paul Riggs, a Lenexa teen who was killed while driving home from a friend’s party, where he and other teenagers had been drinking. The friend’s parents were home during the party while the teens drank alcohol. After Paul’s death, his mother, Debbie Riggs, attempted to have a social host law passed in the Kansas legislature to protect the youth of the state.

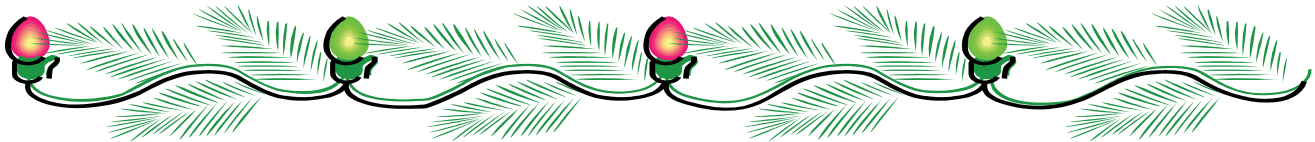
The social host law established a new crime of “unlawfully hosting” where persons under the age of *18 consume alcoholic beverages or cereal malt beverages. Unlawfully hosting minors consuming alcoholic liquor or cereal malt beverage is now a Class A person misdemeanor, for which there is a minimum fine of \$1,000. During the 2007 Legislative session, the law was changed to define a minor as "under the age of 21" instead of *18. A minor in Kansas is defined as under the age of 21.

History of the Kansas Social Host Law - (Social Hosting) Continued...

NEW! During the 2009 Legislative session, a bill was passed to add the words "or recklessly" to the phrasing 'Unlawfully hosting minors consuming alcoholic liquor or cereal malt beverage is intentionally **or recklessly** permitting a person's residence or any land, building, structure or room owned, occupied or procured by such person to be used by an invitee of such person or an invitee of such person's child or ward, in a manner that results in the possession or consumption therein of alcoholic liquor or cereal malt beverages by a minor.'

Education is a lifelong process. Whether we are educating our students or our parents, the administration hopes that there is the understanding that it is done always with their best interest and well being as the driving force.

We maintain DARE Programs for our youth, Drug & Alcohol Awareness lessons in their health classes, and assemblies concerning Choices and Character and Citizenship when funds permit, all to provide for our students. We establish guidelines and expectations for our participants in school activities to serve as reminders of our expectations and examples to our youth. I hope this information provided can assist parents in their endeavors to educate and communicate with their teens. The Kansas Family Partnership, Inc. indicated here is just one of many sites that can lend assistance in this area to parents.



NEWS FROM THE OFFICE OF THE ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR **By Greg Rosenhagen, 6-12 Activities Director**

The planning for school activities is generally done one year in advance of the date of the activity. That being said, schedules are set for the 2012-2013 fall athletic seasons for both middle school and high school. Each and every athletic contest is put "under contract" with the participating schools. The host school is generally responsible for drafting a contract with the details of the activity spelled out clearly. Within a few days, the basketball schedule will be finalized and contracts will be issued for these contests.

A change in format for the middle school basketball tournament will add one game to the current schedule. Cheney will host the first round of the middle school boys' basketball tournament on Monday, January 9. The first round for the girls will be held that night at Garden Plain. Both tournaments will be 8-team bracketed tournaments with all schools being awarded three tournament games.

The high school basketball teams were assigned to the Class 4A Sub-State Tournament that will be hosted by Ulysses. First round games will be played on February 27 and February 28. The hosts for the first round games will be the teams with the higher seed. The high school wrestling team will compete in the Regional Tournament at Mulvane on Friday, February 17 and Saturday, February 18.

Bowling tryouts were held the week of November 28 through December 2. Two classifications of post-season bowling will be conducted this year by the KSHSAA. Twenty-nine schools will participate in Class 6A and forty-five schools will participate in Class 1A-5A.

Participation in high school sports increased nationally for the 22nd consecutive school year last year. The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) conducts an annual survey which again indicates an increase in participation despite cuts in programs due to budget issues. Based on the survey, over 55% of students enrolled in high schools participate in athletics. The top three boys programs when looking at overall participation numbers are football, track & field, and then basketball. The top three girls programs when looking at overall participation numbers are track & field, basketball, and then volleyball.



MUSIC NOTES

By Layton Nance, 6-12 Vocal Music Director



Cheney High School

CONGRATULATIONS KMEA DISTRICT HONOR CHOIR MEMBERS!

The following band and choir members will be performing in the Kansas District Honor Groups following their selections at live auditions last Saturday, November 5th at Andover Central H.S. They will have a rehearsal and performance at Andover Central H.S. on Saturday, Dec. 3rd.

800 or more auditioned and approximately 10 percent were selected! This was an extremely good year for the Cheney students!

CHOIR

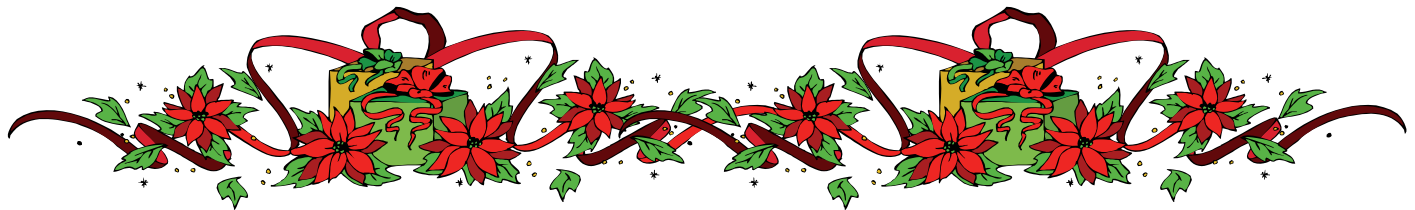
Hallie Sigwing- Soprano I

Paul Frank- Tenor I

Blaine Galloway- Bass I- sophomore (2nd year)

Kaitlin Nance- Alto I- junior, alternate (3rd year)

Brittany Harris- Soprano I- senior (4th year making this choir!)



Cheney Middle School



The 6th, 7th and 8th grade vocal students held their concert on Tuesday, November 15th. Mr. Nance was very pleased with the attendance and effort of his students and would like to thank parents for their support of the programs.

7th and 8th grade students represented Cheney Middle School at Andover Central High School on Saturday, November 5th for their KMEA honor choir. Almost 200 students represented their schools as they rehearsed from 8:30 until their concert at three o' clock. They were rewarded for their efforts with a standing ovation. Students from Cheney were: Logan Miller (2nd year), Marissa Brand, Tiffany Henning, Kristen Lechner, Tyler McAndrew, Gunnar Denney, Austin Hampton, Conner Lies, Waylon Locke, Tanner Myers, Matthew Slusser and Luke Turner.

Congratulations!

Cheney Middle School-Amy Wallace, Principal
“Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire”
~William Butler Yeats



News from the Middle....

In the hustle and bustle of activities, it seems we often times forget to recognize those outstanding individuals who devote so much time to our students in extra-curricular activities. These individuals not only give 100% in the classroom, but also outside the classroom contributing to the total experience of our middle school. When you see them, I hope you will thank them for all they do:

Football coaches: Randy Weber, Kerry Morris and Darin SanRomani

Volleyball Coaches: Jill Weber and Livia Custer

Fall Cheerleading Sponsor: Heather Harrison-Potter

Girls' Basketball Coaches: Randy Weber and Jill Weber

Boys' Basketball Coaches: Jim Gillett and Lance Custer

Scholar's Bowl Coach: Mary Butel

Wrestling Coach: Colin Sutter

League Math/Chess/Robotics: Jim Gillett

League Science Competition "Mission Possible": Jessie Pohlman

League Art Competition: Michaeline Kohler

League Music Contests: Layton Nance and Travis Johnson

Battle Of The Books Sponsor: Mary Butel

8th Grade Play Director: Sherri Conrad

Track Coaches: Nate Jones, Carla Ewy and Lance Custer

An asset to our CMS activities is our athletic/activities director, Greg Rosenhagen. Mr. Rosenhagen works very hard to provide a variety of activities for our middle school and ensures that all students have an opportunity to participate. Thank you Mr. Rosenhagen, for what you do for CMS!



CHRISTMAS PLANS

Wednesday, December 21 will mark the last day we have school until after the holidays. That day we will feature the annual talent show at 12:00 noon in the HS Auditorium. As in the past, exceptional talent is expected. Parents, family members and the public are invited and encouraged to attend. It is always a great production!

VETERAN'S DAY

CMS had a great celebration this year for Veteran's Day. Student Ambassadors greeted all our visitors and helped them to be seated. The program featured combined middle school and high school choir and bands. Our very own Sydney Dalton sang the Star Spangled Banner and the Boy Scouts presented the flags. All Veterans in attendance were introduced by middle school and high school Student Council Members. Some Veterans were able to be introduced by their own grandchildren or children. The moving tribute concluded with Calvin Schell and Larry Oxendine playing "Taps." Following the program, several Veterans stayed at school to share with students their stories. It was a great program and we hope to build on it each year!

VETERAN BOOKS FOR SALE In the Spring Jill Weber taught a class called "American Patriotism." During this class, all students contacted a veteran and wrote their biography. All stories were compiled into a full color book featuring 23 stories. Books are available for \$5.00 and can be purchased from the CMS office. If you or a loved one would like to be included in next year's book, please contact CMS.

Cheney Elementary School - Jamie Rumford, Principal
“There are no seven wonders of the world in the eyes of a child.
There are seven million.”
~Walt Streightiff



Report Card

Our parents are given report cards after each grading period to see how their student is doing. But I think it's important for our school to get an idea of how we are doing with our kids. This happens when we look at our curriculum and assessment with kids, but there are ways for our community to see our "report card" as well.

First, the Kansas Department of Education (<http://www.ksde.org/>) offers a Building report card. By accessing their website and searching for Building Reports, you can see how Cheney students have scored on state assessments over the last few years. You can also access information on our demographics and make comparisons to similar schools.

Another report is the Nations Report Card, provided at <http://www.nationsreportcard.gov/>. This is a report on how Kansas scored on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). The NAEP is given to a sample of schools in each state of the nation. Cheney has been chosen to take this assessment twice in the last three years at the 4th grade level. Although the information on the report represents all of Kansas and is not specific to Cheney, you can see how Kansas students have progressed and how they compare to other states in reading and math.

The last report I want to share with you is the Global Report Card which can be viewed at <http://globalreportcard.org/>. We just learned about this report card this year due to the publicity a Kansas school received for scoring well. This report uses a compilation of data including state assessment scores and the NAEP. When viewing Cheney's results, you can compare surrounding schools to see how we compare.

These reports were not created in Cheney, but it's nice to see how we are perceived and how we compare to other schools. They also don't necessarily cover all of the areas we are concerned with when educating Cheney students, so they cover only a part of what we focus on. Cheney schools have received great report cards, and like your students (hopefully...) we keep striving to make them even better!

Christmas Concert

On December 21 at 1:00, Cheney Elementary students will perform their annual Christmas Concert in the CES gymnasium. In the past, this has been very well attended by family and friends. In fact, it's been so well attended that we've had trouble finding seats for everyone. We're going to try something different this year to address the seating issue. We will not have the 5th grade band perform as a whole group, so this will give us space for more audience seating. We may still have some 5th grade students playing instruments in smaller groups. Come visit our school on this day and get into the holiday spirit! We're positive you'll enjoy the talents of our students and staff!

Coin Collection/Veteran's Donation

In November, CES students collected coins at school to raise money for the Veteran Memorial project coming soon in Memorial Park. Our Student Council organized this fundraising event and took charge in totaling up all of the donations. We were excited to present a check for \$1,588 to help with the cause! On November 11, a group of Veterans from the Cheney Legion came to our school to accept the donation. They met with STUCO kids and expressed their gratitude for our efforts. We're looking forward to visiting the memorial when it's complete!



Physical Education is Awesome! By Melanie Tolar, CES PE Teacher

**“Physical fitness is not only one of the most important keys to a healthy body,
It is the basis of dynamic and creative intellectual activity.”**

~John F. Kennedy

- We held our next Fun, Fit, Friday on December 2, 2011. The 3rd, 4th and 5th grades did a Zumba workout, with Jennifer Hoeme leading the workout. Our K, 1st and 2nd grades were in the gym learning a Rhythm Stick Routine to “Jingle Bell Rock”. The students and staff look forward to a fun afternoon of fitness! We are able to participate in Fun, Fit, Friday compliments of a grant awarded to CES from the Wichita Health Coalition.
- Our Jump Rope for Heart Event has ended for this school year. We had a final total of \$11,470.00 collected! That was an amazing amount and we thank our community and parents for all of the wonderful support! We are able to help MANY people through these donations to learn CPR, give out educational materials to schools and businesses for special training on cardiovascular diseases, teach children how to avoid obesity, and provide fellowships for medical students to begin a career in heart or stroke research, just to name a few things.
- The students reached our goal of \$10,000 and with that, they got to tape Mrs. Tolar to the wall! It was a fun time for all and Mrs. Tolar actually stuck to the wall a little longer this year. By raising over \$11,000, the teachers were able to silly string spray Mr. Rumford. He walked away looking like a mummy with all of the spray on him!
- A big thank-you to our wonderful volunteers who helped run our Jump Rope for Heart Event this past October: Donna Dewey, Lori Johnson, Erika Maass, and Michelle Krueger. These ladies are such a great help and our event runs so smoothly because of them!
- Our K-5 students are invited to join the CHS Dance Squad and Cheer Squads to perform “*The Thriller Dance*” at the December 9th home basketball game. The students are asked to wear their Halloween or Zombie outfit. They will need to be at the HS by 7:30pm and will perform at the half-time of the HS Boys’ game. Students participating in the dance will be admitted free to the game, parents will need to pay for their admittance. Students have a sheet explaining this going home to parents in their Friday Folders. We look for this to be a great turn-out and have many students to show off their dance skills!



Healthy Note: The weather is taking a turn for the COLD outside! Even though it’s cold outside, try to keep up a regular routing of physical activity! There are many ways to keep the exercise up and going. If you have digital cable, try the “On Demand” wellness channels for many different work outs or wellness programs. Look up work-outs online at: You Tube or other fitness sites. Remember: you burn more calories walking/running in the cold because it takes more to keep your body warm!!

I would like to wish all a great end to the year of 2011 and a super start to the 2012 year. Thank you for all the support you have given our physical education programs and our school. It is greatly appreciated!



Artists Corner
By Michaeline Kohler, K-8 Art Teacher

“My mother said to me, `If you are a soldier, you will become a general. If you are a monk, you will become the Pope. ` Instead, I was a painter, and became Picasso”
~Pablo Picasso

Cheney Elementary School...

Good news! Cheney Elementary 5th graders are now published artists on the on-line Art Gallery Artsonia. It is a way for art teachers to share their students' work with other teachers and students across the country. Currently I have only 5th grade art online. I will add more pieces to their gallery as it becomes available. The web site is www.artsonia.com if you are interested in checking out their work.

We are finishing our work with the book illustrator, Marcus Pfister and beginning to look at Jerry Pinkney. Mr. Pinkney is an excellent watercolorist who has won the Caldecott Award for book illustrations many times. Some of his books we will be working with are “Noah’s Ark”, “Patchwork Quilt”, “Three Little Kittens” and “The Lion and the Mouse”. We will use his illustrations for the inspiration for Kindergarten students to paint rainbows, primary grade artists to make their own Noah’s Ark and sculptures of doves. Fourth grade artists will use old CD’s to design a patchwork quilt with pastels. Fifth grade artists will be drawing horses and using pastels.

Our November artists of the Month were Hannah Lemon and Morgan Sutter. These two artists had their work on display in the school office. Each month highlights artwork from different students and grade levels.

All of our projects meet the National Visual Arts Standards and strive to increase student skill and creativity.



Cheney Middle School...

Our second trimester has already begun. Students will continue to do a weekly SSD, Sustained Silent Drawing. This is an opening activity that is drawing from observation. The student is to draw an image as accurately as possible. It is a development of seeing what is actually in front of the student. It makes for better drawing skills. Each drawing is added to a sketchbook so students can track their progress.

As we prepare for league competition, we will explore new media; including clay, black and white drawing and painting. We work to have projects in as many categories as possible to be judged. Each school in the league is allowed only 25 works of art.

Our students' work is always on display. If you are ever in the middle school building, check out the display cases and the bulletin boards by the office. We have some very talented students.

ATTENTION PARENTS!

COUNT YOUR KID IN PRESCHOOL SCREENING CLINIC



Friday, November 11, 2011

The screening will be held at

Grace Connections Church
300 N. Ash
Valley Center, Kansas

The Kansas Department of Education invites you to attend a free Count Your Kid In screening. The purpose of the screening is to assess children, age birth through five, in the areas of walking, talking, seeing, hearing, and learning. Call today and schedule a **free appointment**.

The staff will assist you in the identification of any needs your child may have, and in locating services to meet those needs.

**For children ages 0-5 that reside in the following districts:
Maize, Burrton, Sedgwick, Renwick, Cheney, Conway Springs,
Clearwater, Goddard, Valley Center
This is not a "Kindergarten Screening"**

For a free appointment call: **794-8641** (Monday-Friday 7:30 am– 4:30 pm)

All Count Your Kid In Screenings are sponsored by:

**SEDGWICK COUNTY AREA EDUCATIONAL
SERVICES INTERLOCAL COOPERATIVE**
620 Industrial Road, Box 760
Goddard, KS 67052

Contact John Stuever
with questions @ 794-4161

Future Screenings:

December 9, 2011	Clearwater
January 16, 2012	Maize
February 17, 2012	Goddard
March 9, 2012	Valley Center
April 13, 2012	Conway Springs
May 11, 2012	Cheney