



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

Cheney USD 268
Patron Newsletter
February/March
2011-2012

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Cheney USD 268
Board of
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Greg Giefer
Mark Graf
Jason Gregory
Marcia Kampling
Amy Scheer
Matt Voth



From the Superintendent, Thomas J. Alstrom

There are changes in the air in education, not only in Kansas but in several States across the nation. One of the major changes has to do with the standards with which we will be measured. Kansas has always been at the top of the nation in the standards we impose on our educational system. This will not change when the new Core Standards are in place from the Federal Government. Kansas has been on the national team that is writing these standards and we have made sure that they include strong rigor and relevance in the subject areas.

The Core Standards have been adopted by several states and for the first time there will be equal standards to use to compare educational systems from State to State. Cheney is already changing our curriculum to line up with the Core Standards. One thing we found out in this process is that our current Math program is probably closer to being in line with the new Standards than most of our other subjects.

The Standards for Mathematical Practice list 8 Standards that will describe the behaviors of mathematically proficient students. These practices are supported by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics and the National Research Council.

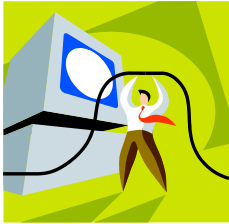
- Practice #1 Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them
- Practice #2 Reason abstractly and quantitatively
- Practice #3 Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others
- Practice #4 Model with mathematics
- Practice #5 Use appropriate tools strategically
- Practice #6 attend to precision
- Practice #7 Look for and make use of structure
- Practice #8 Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.

As we compare our current math curriculum K-12, we find that we align with these practices very closely. Our building programs are problem solving mathematical programs with opportunities to reason and quantify your results. We feel that the programs we have been using for years K-12 are now the type of instruction that the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics is recommending for core instruction in mathematics.

We know that there have been controversies over our math program in the past but we are feeling that we have been on the right track all along as the research is now starting to show. It will be interesting to see how the core standards change the instruction of Mathematics in the state of Kansas.

Likewise, it will be interesting to follow the changes in the other core subjects as well. We might have to make more changes down the road as we get into full implementation of the Core Standards. At this time, we think we have a good handle on the changes and will be able to progress with full implementation by the established timeline.

“We must be the change we wish to see in the world.”
 ~Gandhi



Technology News By Brad Buscher, Technology System Supervisor

IT To The Rescue:



The IT department has been working hard for the families of our community.

You may have seen our new home page <http://www.cheney268.com>.

We are excited about the changes and hope that the new format will stream line the process of finding information you need most. We have added the daily lunch menu on the right side of the main page and at the bottom of each of the school pages, and don't worry, the full month's menu is still available under the DISTRICT drop down menu.

Featured iPad app of the Month:



We have added iPad/iPhone support for the Parent and Student PowerSchool Portals. PowerSchool for Parents provides real-time access to:

- Attendance
- School Announcements
- Assignments
- Assignment Scores
- Teacher Comments
- Final Grades
- Standards Scores
- Citizenship Grades
- Lunch Transactions (if using PowerLunch)
- Fee Transactions

You can find the school searching by zip code. Or for Cheney USD 268, use <http://powerschool.cheney268.com> for the server.

Cheney Counselor's Corner
Debbie Hillman, Linda Patterson, Jeanine Long

The USD 268 Counselors welcome you to 2012!!!!

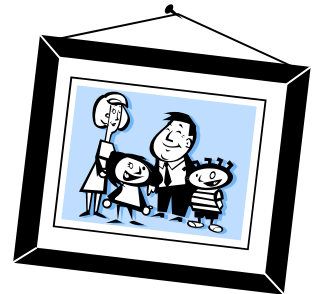
As we closed out the 2011 year, we had asked for families to submit their holiday family traditions. It was fun to read the different things people did to celebrate. At the end of this article on the next page, we have listed several of the responses we received.

Two rather important pieces of information involve activities we have participated in. The first one involves the many activities and events we planned during Red Ribbon Week. If you recall, you as parents helped us "kick off" Red Ribbon week by participating in the "Get a Move On." Due to the activities our kids participated in, we were awarded, as a district, a plaque from the state level in recognition of our efforts. We are very pleased with this because we are being recognized for the 2nd year in a row and received the only plaque given at Level III, which is called "Tying it Together." Thanks to all of you for helping support our efforts in recognizing the many challenges we face with dealing with drugs and alcohol.



The second piece of information is in regards to a grant we wrote called "Safe and Supportive Schools Grant." We submitted the grant in December and hope to hear by mid-February whether we will be receiving the money. The grant money is available to help improve school climate. The grant is focused on the high school level, but the middle school and elementary can benefit. Several high school classes have been informed about this grant possibility, and we hope to benefit from grant dollars. Areas that will be addressed are: engagement, safety, and environment. A growing body of research shows that school climate strongly influences student achievement. When school members feel safe, valued, cared for, respected, and engaged, learning increases. Schools that provide students with supports to meet these basic needs allow them to grow socially and emotionally and avoid problems like emotional distress, violence and drug use. As you can see, receiving this grant would benefit our students in Cheney USD 268.

Our February family event is taking a family photo. We hope elementary through high school families take advantage of this opportunity because too many times we avoid family photos for various reasons. We are fortunate a local photographer has willingly offered to help us with this endeavor. We are looking at Thursday, February 23 as a possible date or Saturday, February 25. More information will come out within the next week or two. We feel this is a great opportunity to capture the great families we have in Cheney.



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Cheney Counselor's Corner Continued...

Before we list the family traditions, we do hope you enjoy Valentine's and St. Patrick's Day!

1. Watch Christmas videos (favorites -A Christmas Story, Jingle All The Way, Christmas Vacation)
2. Advent calendar
3. Christmas Eve Mass
4. We go to my sister's home Christmas afternoon - my side of the family is there - Themed Christmas \with themed food.
5. One of our traditions is to make a birthday cake for Jesus. We light candles, sing happy birthday, and have a little party.
6. We always read the Christmas story from Luke in the Bible.
7. For Christmas Eve dinner, we have ham, macaroni and cheese and oyster stew.
8. On Christmas Morning, we have homemade cinnamon rolls. We have started to expand on this and make it Christmas brunch.
9. We also started our own tradition of having a train that runs around the base of our tree.
10. I have had a copy of Hilary Knight's 'The twelve days of Christmas' for as long as I can remember. It's setting out in our front room waiting to be read again this year. We also make almond bark pretzels, it just doesn't seem like Christmas without them! One last thing, we always open ONE present each on Christmas Eve. The kids really look forward to that every year, talking about which present they plan to pick for the special honor for days in advance.
11. Setting up the tree, putting up lights, driving around looking at lights, making almond-bark pretzels and cocoa BUT..... our favorite is watching "A Christmas Story" together when it runs 24 straight hours!! We look forward to it every year!!
12. One of our Christmas traditions is to read the Christmas story out of the Bible before we open our gifts on Christmas morning.
13. One of the things our family likes to do is see the luminaries at Botanica. The gardens are all lit up with different lights and there is live music being played by local groups throughout the gardens. Some of the light displays are set to music too which is really neat. We've done this with my mom and stepdad for the last several years and always enjoy it!!
14. We decorate the outside of our house with lights and inflatables. We put up our tree the day after Thanksgiving and the boys help me put on the ornaments that I have received from students over the years and also other special ornaments We have started the "Elf on a Shelf" tradition this year...works well, by the way! We have countdown calendars. We have stocking stuffers on Christmas Eve after everyone has gone to bed (each family puts little gifts in the stockings) We go to church on Christmas Eve and then have chili and cinnamon rolls afterwards. Read "The Night Before Christmas". We also go driving around in the evening after supper looking at lights. We have our favorite stops and enjoy seeing the new ones added as the season goes on.



"Family traditions counter alienation and confusion. They help us define who we are; they provide something steady, reliable and safe in a confusing world."

~Susan Lieberman

Counselor's Corner, CHS

By Debbie Hillman, CHS Counselor-dhillman@cheney268.com or 316-542-3113

February/March Information

"Unbelievable" is the best word to describe how I feel about writing the February/March newsletter article. I can totally relate with the seniors when I sit and think how quickly this year has passed. Even though we have witnessed a mild winter, we all know Kansas weather can change in a heartbeat. I guess that is one way to view what goes on in a person's own personal life, and we must try and remember to enjoy each and every day regardless of circumstances. Each day we have should be looked upon as a gift. The winter months tend to wear on people so take an extra moment to reach out to those around you with encouragement and friendliness. I hope this is not only a lesson during the winter months but throughout the year.

What are the seniors doing? Some are ready to leave the nest, or at least they feel they are ready. Others are still finalizing plans and some are simply sitting in a desk worrying about leaving the security of what they have known for four years. It is, and always will be, interesting to watch seniors during their final year of high school. Several are taking their final ACT in February and others are filling out their dorm contracts. Many are anticipating the local scholarships, which will come out in March. I look forward to seeing what they have to write when filling them out. For those senior parents working on the FAFSA, good luck. If you need anything, please give me a call. Again, a big "thank you" to those who attended the Financial Aid meeting in early January.

Let's talk about the juniors. Many are making plans to take the ACT in February, April, or June. I have suggested to those planning on attending college they take the ACT on a national test date at least once before their senior year. The class of 2013 has also been informed about their college visit opportunities this spring. They are allowed two and have definite instructions for setting up their visits through me. This is a great opportunity for them to begin their after CHS search for what they want to do. The days can also be used for career shadowing as that is an importance piece.

As February and March roll around, planning for the 2012-2013 school year will begin. Pre-enrollment is high on the list and students need to start thinking about their plans for next year. Also, state assessments will play a big part of the upcoming months. It is hard to imagine another school year will be coming to an end, but we can't lose sight of what we can and need to do for our students. Preparing them for their life after CHS remains top on our list.

College Goal Sunday is on February 12th, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. It's a great opportunity for students who think finances will be a roadblock to their post-secondary education. High school seniors and their parents will receive FREE, personalized help in filling out the FAFSA form and learning about financial aid options. One of the best parts is that there will be **FOUR** \$500 scholarship drawings at the end of the College Goal Sunday event at the 23 locations across the state. Typically, event attendance takes about 30 minutes. Parents can either bring their 2011 income tax return or estimate their 2011 earnings and revise it later. www.CollegeGoal.org.

As always, please feel free to contact me with any and all questions you might have.

Debbie Hillman
CHS Counselor
dhillman@cheney268.com

Counselor's Corner, CMS

By Linda Patterson, CMS Counselor – lpatterson@cheney268.com or 542-0060

Wow! Where does the time go! It seems like we just put our Christmas decorations away and here we are planning for Valentine's Day and looking forward to Spring Break. It amazes me that our 8th graders are about out the door and soon we will be getting ready for a new bunch of 6th graders...both sad and exciting for me. It has been a complete joy watching all these kids grow and mature into fine young people.

Classroom Counseling

The 8th graders have been learning all year about the Kansas Career Pipeline and how to use it. This will be an important tool for them throughout high school. The students have currently taken the Interest Inventory, Skills Assessment, and Values Survey. They have also spent time exploring possible career choices. Next, students will begin learning how to build a resume' as they continue to do career searches. As a career project, the 8th grade class will be working together with a partner or small group to host a Career Fair to CES 2nd grade students toward the end of the year. The 8th graders will research a chosen career and develop an interactive presentation to give to their younger counterparts. This is a great way to learn, educate others, and understand the importance of being a positive role model.

The 6th and 7th grade classes continue to have counseling lessons and discussions on Bullying and the Six Pillars of Character...trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship. Treating each other with Kindness and Respect and developing Compassion and Empathy toward one another is always my goal!

CMS Ambassadors Still Going Strong

Ambassadors show great leadership with past and upcoming activities.

December 12-20 – "Christmas Dollar Days"

February 7-11 – Random Acts of Kindness Week

February 15 – Mix It Up Day at Lunch

February 21 – Assist with CPMSL Academic Day hosted at CMS

March – Assist with Parent/Teacher Conferences

Christmas Dollar Days

Ambassadors, along with CMS Student Council, sponsored "*Christmas Dollar Days*" to help raise money for needy senior citizens within our community. Students paid a dollar each day to participate in fun activities. What an amazing experience! Students would pay...then give some more. I truly believe they discovered the enjoyment that giving brings. What a great feeling it is to work with such compassionate students

CMS STUCO Happenings

February - Valentine Express – Purchas a Valentine to send to a special friend.

March – Pennies for Patients fundraiser

SODA Members looking to build their new organization!

SODA members will be working hard at organizing educational activities for the month of April which is Alcohol Awareness Month. Members will also be passing out literature during P/T Conferences to help educate our community on the harmful effects of alcohol and other drugs.

CONGRATS USD 268!!!

In November, Ms. Long, Mrs. Hillman, and I submitted a nomination to be judged for the 2011 Kansas Red Ribbon Campaign for the educational activities that are planned during Red Ribbon Week. We were pleased to find out prior to Christmas that our school district was selected to receive a "Tying It Together" State Level III Plaque. Only one Level III Plaque is awarded to a school each year. The Red Ribbon Recognition Luncheon will be held on February 3rd in Topeka where we counselors will have the honor to receive this award for the district. This plaque shows that Cheney School District is working hard to provide drug education for our students and community.

Wellness Corner
By Charlene Lyons, Food Service Director

New Meal Pattern and Dietary Specifications. USDA has announced the new nutrition standards for meals served through the National School Lunch and School Breakfast programs. The new meal requirements will raise standards for the first time in fifteen years and will help improve the health and nutrition of nearly 32 million kids that participate in school meal programs every school day. The new meal pattern and dietary specifications, an implementation timeline and a comparison of current and new regulatory requirements are posted at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/Governance/Legislation/nutritionstandards.htm>.

Change can be a good thing when given a chance to work. With all the “New Changes” to come, it will be even more beneficial to your children, to talk with them about your own household “Wellness Goals”. Let’s get them to adjust time away from “some” of the modern day technologies, (cell phones, computer games, TV etc..) and try to introduce better things to assist in a healthy “Life Style”. It is not all about food and exercise. It is also a “Frame of Mind”.

January 25, 2012
Distributed to School Nutrition Program Authorized Representatives
and Food Service Directors via Email



MUSIC NOTES
By Layton Nance, 6-12 Vocal Music Director



Congratulations to sophomore Paul Frank in being selected to the Kansas Music Educator’s Association’s All-State Honor Choir! This is the highest honor a musician can achieve in Kansas and the second from Cheney! Paul will rehearse with the best from the state on February 26th and 27th and perform at Century II on Saturday, the 28th to conclude the KMEA workshop.

CMS is preparing for contest in Douglass on April 4th with 78 students in the 7th and 8th grade choir. Nearly 20 students are working hard to prepare a solo for competition as well!

CHS is preparing for league, regionals and state music contests in March and April. Choirs and Glee as well as 15 soloists are working towards perfection at that time. Good luck to all!

CHS had students travel to Concordia and Cloud Co. Comm. College’s “Youth For Music” Jan. 28th and 29th. More than 15 schools were represented and performed in The Brown Grand Theater, a restored national monument from the early 1900’s. It is always a tiring trip but a lot of fun for the kids!

“Music expresses that which cannot be said, and on which it is impossible to be silent.”
~Victor Hugo



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.....*Ron Traxson*

Spring Parent-Teacher Conference Changes

This year, in an effort to focus our attention on student needs, CHS will be deviating from its normal Parent-Teacher Conference schedule.

Currently, the school calendar shows these conferences to be on March 13th & 15th. We will still have a conference night on the 13th, but we WILL NOT on the 15th. Instead we are going to have a Special Parent-Teacher Conference Night on February 6th by INVITATION ONLY.

Letters were be mailed on Monday, January 30th, to parents of students we feel need more time to address issues now, rather than waiting until the grades are final.

If you did not receive an invitation and you have questions or concerns please feel free to call the office and make an appointment or contact the teachers directly by e-mail or phone. And remember, you will have an opportunity to visit with teachers at the scheduled Parent-Teacher conference on March 13th.

Revised 2012 Spring Conference Schedule:

Monday, February 6, 2012 – 5:30 to 8:30 pm

Parent-Teacher Conferences by invitation only, and/or by parent request.

Tuesday, March 13, 2012 – 5:30 to 8:30 pm

Parent-Teacher Conferences as scheduled.

Things You Can Do To Help Your Child Succeed In School

At Home

1. Continue to encourage your children to read. Don't let television, video games, or friends absorb all of their free time.
2. Talk to your children about their specific interests related to school-subjects or teachers they like, clubs or extracurricular activities, books they are reading, projects they are working on, etc.
3. Discuss their choice of courses with them so they are well prepared for different options after high school.
4. Begin discussing with them what they might like to do after they graduate from high school.
5. Know your children's friends, where they live, and, if possible, their parents.
6. If your children work part-time, make sure this doesn't interfere with schoolwork or getting a good night's sleep during the week.
7. Continue to celebrate school successes with appropriate rewards. Even though they may seem embarrassed, your children will appreciate your enthusiasm for their good work.

At School

1. Get a copy of your children's schedules each semester
2. Find out what guidance is available to your children in choosing a college or post-secondary training and applying for –and finding- scholarships and loans.
3. Volunteer for school activities – chaperone a school dance or field trip, help with sports events, etc.
4. Serve on school committees that involve parents.

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....

Things are back in full swing at CMS. I hope you all enjoyed some quality time with your families over the holiday break. It continues to amaze me how fast the year is flying by.

ASSESSMENT DATES

The upcoming months will be filled with State Assessment Testing. These assessments are very important and it is critical that your children be in school on test days. We ask for your help in scheduling appointments, etc. around these dates if possible. Your child will be taking their assessment during their normal class time on these dates. CMS testing dates are:

6 th Grade Math	April 10 and 12
6 th Grade Social Studies	April 9, 11, 13
6 th Grade Reading	April 3, 4, 5
7 th Grade Math	April 9 th and April 11 th
7 th Grade Science	April 12 th and 13 th
7 th Grade Reading	March 27 th -29 th
8 th Grade Math	March 30 th and April 3 rd
8 th Grade Social Studies	April 9 th , 11 th , and 13 th
8 th Grade Reading	March 13 th , 14 th , 15 th



CENTRAL PLAINS MIDDLE SCHOOL LEAGUE ACADEMIC DAY

On February 21, Cheney Middle School will host the fifth annual academic day for the league. We combine the annual science, math and art competitions into one massive day! All of our league schools will be here. More details will be coming out soon, but there will be NO SCHOOL for Cheney Middle School students that day. School will be in session as usual for CES and CHS.

In the Art division, each league school is limited to 25 pieces of artwork that is created in the classroom. There are 12 different categories that the work is judged on. The students whose work is chosen for the competition also compete as a team in the “Art Challenge”. Each school is given 2 hours to complete a 4x6 foot mural of a famous artwork. A judge will decide the first, second, third and honorable mention places for each category. They also judge the mural and decide on the “Best of Show” awards. Students and anyone attending the show vote for a “people’s choice award” and a medal is awarded.

SCHOLAR’S BOWL

Cheney Middle School’s 7th and 8th grade Scholar’s Bowl Season is in full swing. They began competition *January 19, 2012, at home*. On **February 9, 2012, they will travel to Conway Springs. This is a change from what is on the calendar.** The remaining locations and times posted in the Cheney USD 268 Activities Calendar are correct.

Eighth grade team members are Kristen Lechner, Sabrina Rich, Kaylee Womack and Kristina Zerger. Seventh grade team members are Haley Albers, Addie Dewey, Olivia Neises, Matthew Slusser, and Renee Sturchio.

More from The Middle....



BATTLE OF THE BOOKS

The Cheney Middle School Battle of the Books team is ready to start the 2012 season. During February, the team will compete in three regular competitions with two other area schools each time. Cheney will be the host school on February 15, 2012. The competition will take place in the auditorium. Starting time is 12:30 p.m. The league tournament is on February 22, 2012, at Norwich and will include six teams.

This year's team consists of Taton Bennett, Jordan Block, Kirstin Campbell, Gage Linnebur, Emily Monson, Arina Nuessen, Sam Reno, Mercedes Rich, and Jeff Thisius. Have a great season!

CMS FRIENDS

Is now collecting Box Tops for our school! Please clip box tops and send them to school with your child. We have a collection box in the office. This is an easy way to earn money for our schools.



8TH GRADE PLAY

"*The Doctor is IN*" is the title of Cheney Middle School's Eighth Grade play. If humor is the best medicine, get ready to feel tremendous. Slade, new to the hospital housekeeping staff, has just been given his cleaning duties in a patient's room when a lovely nurse mistakes him for a doctor. Even though he lacks medical knowledge, he repeatedly attempts to fool the nurse in order to win her affection. You will not want to miss this one act play as it is one laugh after another.

Mrs. Conrad is thrilled to have 28 students involved as either a cast or crew member of this year's play. The students will perform on Friday, February 24th at 2:15 for the elementary, middle school students, parents of the cast and crew and again at 7:00 p.m. for the parents of the cast and crew and the public. Please remember to save the date!

Cast and Crew Members:

Dane Brost, Kristen Lechner, Brandon Jones, Sabrina Rich, Darik Benson, Trevor Lies, Torrey Lonker, KD Riedl, Tiffany Henning, Annie Mathis, Quinn Veach, Madison Schneider, Kaylee Womack, Kaleb Clark, Sydney Dalton, Madison Campbell, Kara Dewey, Caitlin Greiving, MaKayla Hillman, Tamera Ukena, Evan Tackett, Tyler McAndrew, Chase McGuire, Sam Klausmeyer, Calvin Schell, Kristina Zenger, Brianna Deaton, and Sierra Lutz.



Cheney Elementary School - Jamie Rumford, Principal

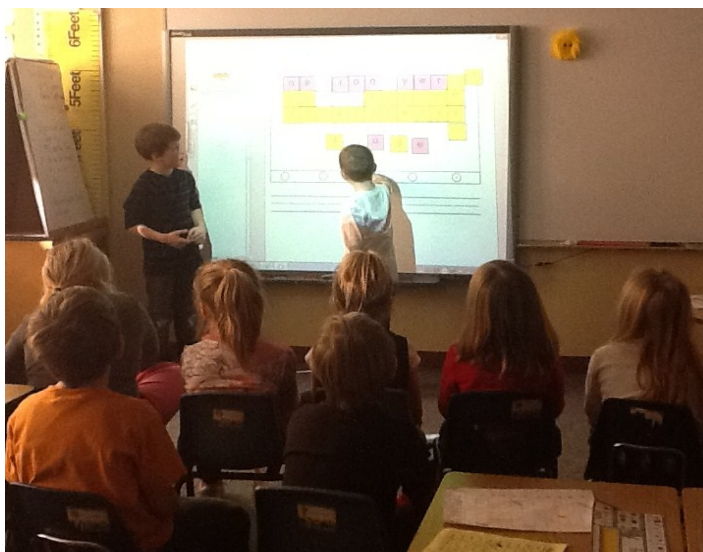
"There are no seven wonders of the world in the eyes of a child.

There are seven million."

~Walt Streightiff

Technology Updates

I'm pleased to announce that CES is getting Smart Boards in our classrooms! Classrooms from Pre-School through 5th grade, music, and art will be able to use this technology to enhance the educational process. Our goal is to provide engaging lessons and expose our students to the best technological devices available. The Smart Boards have arrived and will be installed during the last week of January and first couple of weeks in February. Our teachers have been researching ideas over the last couple of months and are mostly equipped with great ideas. We've got a lot to learn, but it's sure been a fun and exciting process!



Everyday Math

From time to time, questions are raised from parents and community members about our math program. A lot of the time these questions derive from the high school parents who wonder if the Interactive Math Program (IMP) is preparing their student for life after graduation. I get included in some of these conversations because Everyday Math, Cheney Elementary School's math program, is the starting point or foundation for IMP. Math in Context (MIC), our middle school program, continues the process of teaching math in an application format. All three programs work under the philosophy that students should be able to apply their math knowledge into problem solving skills.

One recent question intrigued me; "Why did Cheney Schools decide on Everyday Math over other programs?" My honest response to the question is, "I don't know." Not the response any of you are looking for, but it's the honest truth. After all, nearly half of our teaching staff, including me, has turned over in CES since it was adopted 12 years ago. A lot of us weren't here for this decision, so we cannot answer the question of why. I've been determined to research more into this philosophy of math instruction, and I was able to come up with a few answers to the "Why Everyday Math," question.

In brief conversations with staff members who were on board when Everyday Math was implemented, I heard the following comment:

“Everyday Math teaches multiple strategies to solve problems so our kids can choose what works best for them. For those who have a difficult time grasping more traditional methods, this gives them an alternate approach to problem solving and it makes sense to them. It’s also grade appropriate.”

~This comment is a Differentiated Instruction statement. Differentiated Instruction is an approach that is considered a best practice in 21st century instruction. Cheney Schools are encouraging Differentiated Instruction in all grade levels and subjects.

Another teacher told me:

“When we heard about the philosophy of teaching math from the experts at Chicago Math (where Everyday Math, Math in Context, and IMP come from), they said they had studied other countries who consistently score higher on math assessments than all other countries. Chicago Math used those instructional approaches to design this program. Kids apply math skills to everyday problem solving, and they learn multiple methods for coming up with answers.”

This teacher also noted, *“Everyday Math also encourages and teaches primary-aged kids how to use mental math for two-digit problems!”*

As a principal coming in after the fact, I’ve taken more of a “big picture” approach to evaluating our math program. I spend a good amount of time looking at results. Here’s what I’ve seen:

3rd Grade

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Percent of students meeting the standard	96%	94.11%	95.6%	98%	100%	98.3%
Percent of students meeting the highest standard (Exemplary)	na	58.8%	53.3%	60.8%	59.2%	53.4%

4th Grade

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Percent of students meeting the standard	99%	92.98%	100%	95.5%	93%	94.4%
Percent of students meeting the highest standard (Exemplary)	na	64.9%	52.9%	75%	59.6%	53.7%

5th Grade

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Percent of students meeting the standard	94%	96.15%	98.4%	94.4%	97.9%	85.7% This score was lower than we expected, and we're looking closely at ways to get it back up.
Percent of students meeting the highest standard (Exemplary)	na	42.3%	60.7%	38.3%	59.6%	50%

I do want to be honest about these results. They cannot be credited to only a math program. The teaching talent we have in Cheney is outstanding and their efforts deserve most of the credit.

Honestly, I have no reason to be critical of a math program when we have these results. Cheney Middle School and Cheney High School have similar results as well. When you have questions about Everyday Math in Cheney Elementary School, I'd encourage you to contact us. There have been some negative comments made about it, even some who have chosen another school because of it. But I'd encourage you to find out the facts and make up your own mind. We'd be glad to discuss this with you



Physical Education is Awesome!

By Melanie Tolar, CES PE Teacher



Whew, we've made it through the holidays! We've been blessed with some nice weather lately and it's been great to be able to get outside and exercise with family and friends! I have enjoyed seeing all the students walking or riding bikes to school or just outside playing with other friends and family. Keep up the good work! Our bodies like that so very much!

We received a Power Panther Pals grant again this year. This is a grant to increase the awareness of our 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students of the importance of physical activity and healthy eating together. It is an eight week course with a lesson each week and then the students get to sample various recipes of healthy eating. We have changed over from the Food Pyramid to My Plate, with this being the first year to present this to our students. There will be newsletters going home soon, either printed or via Alert Now. There is some great information for your reading pleasure and also some great, quick recipes to try at home with your children. Be sure to read them! Thanks for your support of this grant!

On January 27th, our Cheney High School "Green Team" will help present for our January Fun, Fit Friday. We will have the students go through 5 different stations teaching them about the importance of recycling paper, plastics and aluminum and also composting vegetable scraps, paper, leaves and other products. We received a grant from Waste Management of Kansas to purchase the compost barrels and will be starting our composting at Cheney Elementary in the very new future! We hope to help reduce our carbon print.

We have just finished a big unit on Speedstacking (formally known as Cupstacking) and the students have loved the competition and working to conquer the activities. Speedstacking works to build right brain-left brain activities and help students to improve their cognitive functions. This is a great tool to use as our students work on the upcoming standardized testing. We will be doing more activities to promote clearer brains for the upcoming tests.



Healthy Facts:

The important benefits of getting at least 30 minutes of activity five days a week (from *American College of Sports Medicine*):

- ◆ **Heart Disease:** Exercise lowers your risk by 40%
- ◆ **Breast Cancer:** Exercise lowers your risk by 20%
- ◆ **Depression:** Exercise lowers your risk by 30%
- ◆ **Hypertension:** Exercise lowers your risk by 40%
- ◆ **Type 2 Diabetes:** Exercise lowers your risk by 58%

The #1 food for WEIGHT loss: People who upped their yogurt intake (eating at least one serving a day) dropped almost a pound every four years. Those who skipped a serving each day *gained* weight. Yogurt was the food most strongly liked with long-term weight loss.

—*Journal of American Medical Association*

Artists Corner

By Michaeline Kohler, K-8 Art Teacher

Cheney Elementary School...

Cheney Elementary art classes continue with their theme of "Illustrators as Artists". Our third artist is Leon Lionni. His book illustrations are entirely different than our past two artists. This will allow students to compare and contrast the work of Marcus Pfister, Jerry Pinkney and now Leo Lionni. His work will require the students to try new techniques and media. Projects with this artist will involve more collage and paper work. His simplified animals and stories have strong messages to children about sharing, being a friend etc...

Our Dec./Jan artists of the month were Junae Cape and Regan Gegen. Both girls are first graders. They designed their own ark after listening to the story of "Noah's Ark" and looking at the illustrations. They also cut out two animals to put aboard, along with a rainbow and waves.

Although each project is based on the National Visual Arts Standards; the emphasis this year is on Standard # 5. It reads:

"Reflecting upon and assessing the characteristics and merits of their work and the work of others." While we look at the literature of the books we study, our main focus is on the illustrations. Each child is looking at the work of an artist and then does a project in the style of or the media of that artist. It gives them appreciation for the difficulty of the work that the artist does and great pride in their own accomplishments.

Each year we host an elementary art show; this year's show is on Monday, April 16. Each child will have a minimum of two of their artworks on display for the evening show. To matt and hang over 600 pieces of artwork takes many hands. At the spring parent-teacher conferences, you will find a sign up list at your child's home-room. Please take the time to consider helping for an hour or two to make this show a reality. All children's artwork will be returned after the show. It will be exciting to see the progress they have made artistically this year.

Good news!!

Michael Montgomery, 5th grade student, will have an art project shown electronically in New York City! Artsonia, the on-line art gallery that our 5th graders currently use to display their artwork, is offering us a chance to show one piece of work. On March 2 and March 3 from 5-8 p.m. student artwork will be on display at 6th Ave between 29th and 30th street. The 30'X16' LED screen will display artwork just blocks away from the National Art Education Association convention. Thanks Michael for representing our school so well!



Cheney Middle School...



Five of our middle school artists have placed in the state wide Youth Art Month flag designs. All five students achieved honorable mention. This is outstanding considering there were 302 entries at all grade levels. The artists are: Madison Freund, Cheyenne Harper, Makayla Hillman, Emma Hays and Ashley Jackson. Congratulations ladies!

Please look for a middle school art display at Citizens State Bank in Cheney during March, which is Youth Art Month. The display will showcase art that has been exhibited in our Academic Day for the Central Plains League.

After Prom News

By Carolyn Riedel, After Prom Chairman

Dear Parents of Juniors and Seniors:



How fast the school year is going and now with Christmas behind us and a new year ahead of us, it is time to get ready for PROM and AFTER PROM. The next few weeks will go very fast and there is much work to be done and money to raise. For those of you who do not know what AFTER PROM is, let me give you a little insight. With AFTER PROM we are able to have a safe, sober, drug free evening/early morning for the students to enjoy. We set up games in the school and after the prom dance is over we lock the students in for the evening, playing games, eating food and winning great prizes. This takes place from about 12:30 A.M to 4:30 A.M. Each year we try to raise enough money to give great things away, like a computer to a senior, TV's, stereo's, fishing equip. etc.

In the past we have also raised enough money to give 5-\$200.00 scholarships!

We have several fundraisers during the year but our three greatest ones are coming up in the very near future. The first one is the chili supper, which will be held on February 14th. This is on a Tuesday night home basketball game against Wichita Trinity. In the past the chili supper has helped us raise around \$800.00. We ask parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, or anyone in the community who would like to help to just let us know. We will be calling and trying to get in touch with each of you about helping work the chili supper and donating hamburger and other things. We have wonderful cooks here at Cheney that are a big help when it comes to this fundraiser, so please make sure to give them a special thank you.

Following, a week later, we will be having the biggest fundraiser that requires every person we can get. It is the 5th – 6th grade basketball After Prom Tournament, which will be held on Sat. Feb. 25th and Sun. Feb. 26th. I ask that all of the junior/senior parents clear your calendars for that weekend and be ready to help. I will be meeting with the students at school because they are also asked to help....after all, this evening is really for them. This basketball tournament takes a lot of hard work and long hours but can raise close to \$4000.00 for us. We will need parents to help in the concessions, take money at the gate, and help the students keep score at the games. Students are required to work in order to be able to win some of the bigger prizes.

The third fundraiser is new this year. We are having an all you can eat pancake/sausage supper before the CHS Music Concert on the 5th of March. This will be held in the middle school gym. We will be needing parent volunteers for this fundraiser, so if you are able to help please let me know.

It takes a lot of hard work to put an After Prom together, but when all is said and done the kids have a great time and we parents know that our kids are safe and off the street. Thank you for all your help putting this event together.

I will try to keep you informed and will have a meeting in the next month. If you should have any questions or would like to volunteer, please give me a call at 316-651-7907 or 542-3512.

Thank you,
Carolyn Riedel