



Chimacum School Matters

News from Your Chimacum School District

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Sports teaches much more than competitiveness

As educators, our objective is to equip a young person with the necessary tools to thrive once they leave the protected world of childhood.

Reading, writing, and arithmetic are critical skills indeed. But, exposure to art, music, drama, sports, and other “electives” often allows a child to blossom. Many discover a passion that will follow them throughout their lives. Others learn life skills that, quite frankly, make them a better person — forever.

This year’s boys basketball season was a prime example. Our Chimacum High School Cowboys had an absolutely awesome season. For the first time in 24 years, a CHS team made it to the state tournament.

Their coach, Bob Thompson, is a dedicated man who commuted from his home in Carnation, Wash. to guide the team. The kids all knew he wasn’t doing it for the big bucks; Thompson loves the game and loves working with the teens.

That the boys basketball team were outplayed in two consecutive games didn’t diminish the experience. They may not have won the state title, but they learned an important life’s lesson: Life is indeed the journey, not the destination.

Port Townsend High School’s girls basketball team also made it to the state tournament. However, the PTHS cheer squad was unable to attend.

The rivalry between our two schools is legendary. Yet, the Chimacum High School cheerleaders didn’t hesitate for an instant to don red and white “uniforms” and cheer for the Port



Lucianne Pugh photo

For the first time in 24 years, a Chimacum team earned a place in a state basketball tournament. From left, Jesse Fischer, Jori Pearsall, Justin Peters, Reid Lawson, Robbie Andrus, Marcus Moug, Christian Goodwin, Pete Brazil, Dylan Hendy, Tanner Colton, coach Bob Thompson and Sam Evasick.

Townsend girls. Their fevered school spirit was caught by the Cashmere High School pep band, which played for the Port Townsend team while the Chimacum girls cheered.

Such behavior is the epitome of good sportsmanship — and it doesn’t stop there.

When Madison Moran, a senior on the girls basketball team, saw an injured player from Foster High School was having trouble limping off the court, she didn’t hesitate to help her opponent.

“I suppose some people might say it was no big deal, but I can tell you it was unusual to see this kind of unself-conscious gesture of helpfulness on the part of an opposing player,” wrote Lynn Conner, one of the two referees at the

game that night. He called the incident “remarkable”.

At Chimacum, participation in extracurricular activities is dependant on school attendance, grade point average, and proper behavior within our community. Sports participation, in general, builds self-esteem and camaraderie, all while developing problem-solving skills in a team setting. Some teachers believe the more exercise students get, the higher their test scores.

Funding for sports, the arts, and many electives are not covered within the “basic education” monies we receive from state and federal sources. These programs rely heavily — and sometimes totally — on levy dollars and fund-raising efforts.

CHS students do well

We're mighty proud of them!



Tyler Holtman, 16, formed a chapter of Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) following the death of a classmate earlier this year. The program addresses the issues of underage drinking, impaired driving, drug use, and other destructive decisions that kill.



Dan Beary, 17, took first place in Job Interviewing at the regional Future Business Leaders of America competition. He's currently finishing up the requirements to earn his Eagle Scout rank.



Krystal Huntingford, 17, has been selected as a cheerleading instructor for the United Spirit Association. Only two girls were chosen from the Washington/Oregon area.



Amanda Snow, 17, was chosen to attend the Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine, in Washington, D.C. In addition, the 2003 Taylor Publishing yearbook of yearbooks features a double-page layout this fastpitch softball player designed with her Chimacum High School classmate, Natasha Dupuy.



Robbie Andrus, 18, was named the Nisqually League's Most Valuable Player for an exceptional performance on this year's Chimacum High School boys basketball team. Robbie was also voted First Team All-State for 2A schools in the state of Washington.



Brandon Ellis, 18, recently earned the rank of Eagle Scout. Only four percent of all scouts reach the highest advancement rank in Boy Scouts. He is in our Pi alternative program.

Dr. Derrington leaves Chimacum School after 8 years

Since 1995, Dr. Mary Lynne Derrington has guided the Chimacum School District as its superintendent.

The official middle man between CSD staff, the school board and the community, Derrington developed a reputation as the district's head "cheerleader" and chief problem solver.

Effective communication has been central to much of what Derrington has accomplished while at Chimacum. Not only has she been willing to listen to her staff and the public, Derrington made sure they were well informed on the issues at hand.

The renovations of the Chimacum campus and the creation of Chimacum Creek Primary School were done on

Derrington's watch.

Complying to directives created by Washington State's school reform is indeed raising the bar for higher quality education.



To do so has required open minds and a lot of cooperation, as our staff continues to rework the curriculum.

"This has been a personally and professionally rewarding eight years. I've enjoyed a supportive staff and community. Together we've been able

to accomplish a lot for the students," Derrington said. "I leave this district confident that it has a strong foundation, and that it is ready to move on to the next level."

Derrington promoted many ideas into being, such as patron tours of the campus, emergency plans between school and authorities, a community volunteer network, redirecting resources to improve test scores, and upgrading technology in all of the schools.

Effective July 1, Derrington becomes the first female superintendent in Whatcom County, when she takes her position in the Blaine School District.

Tapes teach the public about CSD programs

A Chimacum School District program is featured each month at one of the two school board meetings. These presentations are designed to explain, not only the purpose of each program and how students are served, but also how each program is funded.

Presentations are videotaped by the high school video production class.

To date, we have tapes on Vocational Education, Pi Program, Special Education, Highly-Capable Program, and the Chimacum Middle School Gates Grant Project.

These informative videotapes — and those to come — may be checked out at the district office, or by calling 385-3922.

CSD reorganizes its administrative duties

Due to declining enrollment, the equivalent of one administrative position will be cut next year. We have eliminated the Director of Curriculum, our athletic director has resigned, and we cut hours from our Special Services Director. Our administrators will absorb the extra work-load.

Other options included reducing a principal and reorganizing students. The option we chose should be the least disruptive to student learning.

State budget cuts will effect CSD

Budget woes are central to any state- and/or federally-funded entity. These days, that truth is even more evident here at Chimacum.

During the past several years, our school enrollment has been steadily declining. This trend has been seen, not only on the Olympic Peninsula, but in rural districts throughout the state.

Many families with young children have had to leave areas with few job opportunities.

Conversely, families are not moving to areas, such as ours, where the unemployment rate is high.

In the fall of 1999, we had 102 first graders. In 2002, we had 64. Unemployment in Jefferson County was 4.9 percent in 1999. It was 8.1 percent last fall.

School funding is based upon enrollment. In 1998, we had the equivalent of 1,423 students. This year, we have 1,244. In dollars, that translates to a cut of \$773,000 in state funding.

At the state level, a serious financial situation is facing legislators. Although, as of press time, the final

budget has not been determined, it is predicted that education freezes or cuts are inevitable.

Declining enrollment with decreased funding is a devastating combination. One or the other, we could handle . . . but both?

The Washington State Legislature once promised to fully fund its state's public schools; but, alas, those good intentions have yet to come to pass.

State funding constitutes 63 percent of our revenue. Federal dollars add another 13 percent; local sources add five percent more. The remaining balance, 19 percent, comes from the taxpayer, through the school levies you vote for every two years. (The 2005/2006 levies will be on the ballot in February 2004.)

Of our total revenues, 78 percent are allocated to hire staff.

Any decisive action will have to wait until all of the facts are in, and the numbers are evaluated and reevaluated. In the meantime, we wanted to keep you up-to-date on the situation.

We welcome your input!

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Chimacum students send hope to our U.S. soldiers

When Karin (Lowrie) Gambill was a teen, she baby-sat for young Jeff Hart. Both went on to graduate from Chimacum High School.

Gambill now teaches a grades 3-4 class with Russ Yates and Linda Cupp. Hart is a U.S. Army Green Beret.

Last December, when Hart was stationed in Afghanistan, he received a special letter from the class. Inside was a small laminated drawing of a colorful winged creature. It represented all of the students' hopes, support, and good wishes for peace.

This was the first of 280-plus "Hope Senders" sent out, to date, by these youngsters. Each is attached to a card that explains how the Hope Senders are symbols of hope and support for those performing their heroic duties away from their homes and families.

The Hope Senders are also sent to others who spread peace and a message of hope in their daily lives.



"Our Hope Senders are passionate for peace around planet earth and want to help you on missions," the card reads.

"They're from your heart," explained Chloe Robocker, 10. "The Hope Senders are sent to people who are in violence. They have to have a creature on them and they have to have wings. They can't be violent because they have to be from your heart."

**"I am a little Hope Sender,
I bring you hope and love.
My job is to cheer you up as
I flutter above.
When you feel down, put me
in your pocket or next to
your heart.
I will help you find your
courage when you and your
family are apart."**

The world geography and letter writing skills the students are learning almost seem incidental, when you look at the full scope of this project.

"Hope Senders have given the kids a sense of empowerment. This makes them part of the solution in a world in which they have little control," Gambill said. "Something like this is so big, it resonates. It goes on and on."

There's lots more inside. Check it out!

✓ **Derrington leaves CSD for Blaine**

✓ **Budget cuts force changes at CSD**



✓ **Meet a few CHS teens who do well**

✓ **CHS basketball goes to state**

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