



Chimacum School Matters

News from Your Chimacum School District

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Biographies come to life at Chimacum Elementary

“Cleopatra was ugly. She had a hooked nose and a hooked chin,” declared Heather King, age 10.

Having burst the bubble of everyone who thought Cleopatra VII, the last queen of Egypt, was at least attractive — or looked like Elizabeth Taylor, perhaps? — Heather just grinned.

Julius Caesar’s and Marc Anthony’s lust for power may have fogged their vision, but the Chimacum Elementary School student saw it all quite clearly. She had just finished reading all about the queen. And now, in costume, she *was* Cleopatra, telling the fifth grade class about her life as queen.

All dolled up in an oversized gold lamé Cleopatra costume, Heather later explained why she chose the ruler for her biography project, “My cat’s name is Cleopatra and I like to learn about Egyptian people.”

Mike Raymond’s, Marcia Crecelius’, and Shari Glessing’s fifth grade classes all do similar biography reports at some time during the year.

“After reading a biography of a famous person, students dress up and take on the role of that person in a short presentation about ‘their life,’” explained Ms. Crecelius. “These oral book reports are much more entertaining than written ones, and the students in the class get introduced to



Chimacum Elementary School welcomed some honored guests. From left, Jackie Kennedy Onassis (Alexis Schroader), Laura Ingalls Wilder (Chelsea Lindsey), Anne Frank (Sky Boné) and Cleopatra (Heather King).

many famous people they might not have noticed otherwise,” she added.

Instead of reading Anne Frank’s biography, Sky Boné chose to read Frank’s diary, which has been translated into English.

The Jewish teen wrote her diary

from 1942-44, when she and her family were in hiding from the Nazis. Arrested and taken from Amsterdam, Anne died in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp in March 1945.

“I thought her story was pretty inspiring and I really wanted to read her diary,” Sky said. “If I hadn’t done Anne, I would have done Sacagawea.”

The Native American guide, who was the interpreter for the Lewis and Clark expedition, would no doubt have been a good choice, as well.

True to form, Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy Onassis (a.k.a. Alexis Schroader) spoke with the poise and grace she learned at Miss Porter’s boarding school.

“She was the nation’s first lady. She was married to the 35th president,” Alexis explained. “She inspired women all around the world.”

Sparked by the “Little House on the Prairie” television shows, Chelsea Lindsey brought Laura Ingalls Wilder into the fifth grade classroom.

“My mom knew a lot about her and I used to watch her shows,” Chelsey said. From 1932-43, Wilder wrote of the pioneer period she grew up in on the Midwestern frontier of the 1870s and 1880s.

Also speaking that day were crocodile hunters, sports figures, famous civil rights activists, and many others.

Students head to college's Young Writers Conference

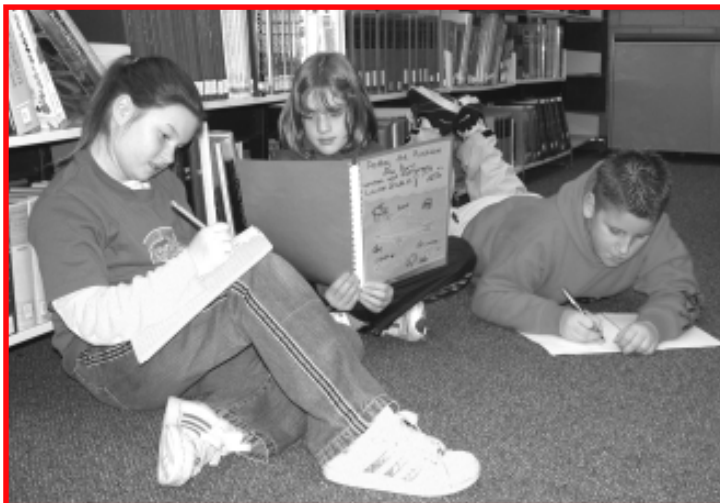
Chimacum Schools sent 25 students, from grades 3 to 6, to the Young Writers Conference at Peninsula College. The daylong conference is designed to inspire young writers.

The youngsters were selected by their classroom teachers. Their common bond? They all enjoy writing.

For the past month, each had been working on a manuscript, which they took to share with the others attending the conference.

Participants came from all over the Kitsap and Olympic peninsulas to take part in the Olympic Educational Service District #114's big event.

Port Townsend writer/illustrator Max Grover and teacher-turned-author Tom Birdseye were the guest speakers.



Chloe Robocker, Lauren Graham and Alex Guthrie attended the Young Writers Conference on Dec. 17.

During the small group sessions, each child learned a new writing technique to later share with their teachers and classmates.

"I love writing, but when I was a kid, I despised writing," declared Chloe

Robocker, 10. "What really got me started writing was that I read a lot. I asked Mom, 'How do they make these books?' She said, 'Well, people write them.' And so, I started writing books." She grinned.

"I like drawing more than I do writing," admitted Lauren Graham, 9. "I didn't like writing last year."

Lauren was, however, intrigued by her sister's stories of her visit to the Young Writers Conference a few years ago.

"I like writing about mythological stuff and putting drawings in the story," said Alex Guthrie, 12.

Many of the stories young Alex writes are based on the warrior games he and his friends play at home in the great outdoors.

Chimacum teachers honored as Grangers of the Year



Fran Gunn teaches first graders at Chimacum Creek Primary School.



Sue Phillips is a language arts teacher at Chimacum High School.

Chimacum Grange #681 named three of our teachers as its "Grangers of the Year" for 2002.

We know we have some amazing teachers on our campus, and these are indeed three extraordinary women. Each of them has been nurturing students for more than 30 years!

It's an extra special pleasure for us when members of the community recognize the hard work and dedication of our educators. Thank you!



Nancy Wyatt teaches fifth graders at the Chimacum Middle School.



Advanced classes motivate our students to study hard

In April 2002, our teaching staff and parents were surveyed to determine the levels of support for various enrichment activities. Across the board, Advanced Placement (AP) college-level courses received the most support of any current enrichment offering, scoring 4.8 out of 5.

It is often difficult for a small rural school, such as Chimacum, to justify to the community the need for a course that only a few students will take. We are fortunate, however, to have teachers determined to provide advanced placement courses to those students who ask for it.

Since 1995, AP English literature and calculus have been offered at Chimacum High School. AP biology was offered last year, and will be offered every other year. In addition to the three official courses, students petitioned to take AP statistics and AP history independently.

It is now noted on the student's transcript that the course was AP.

Having the AP classes available has allowed Jori Pearsall, 17, to stretch his highly-capable mind — and be accepted to Harvard University.

“For a school like that, it's really expected of you to have AP classes,” Jori said. “They expect you to have high test scores and high grades, too.”

Indeed, when seeking candidates, colleges are looking for advanced classes, standardized test scores and grade point average, in that order.

Jori could have chosen to travel to college to take Running Start classes, or even gone to the University of Washington. Instead, the 4.0 GPA student wanted the social experience of high school.

“I feel there's no reason to rush through high school,” Jori said. “I want to enjoy the experience.”

Last year, 55 students completed the rigorous coursework; 29 took the final exam for college credit.

“That's a huge number for Chimacum,” said Barb Parent, Enrichment Program and Highly-Capable Coordinator. “In the last few years, there's been a real upsurge in the number of kids taking the class. It's just a real opportunity for all of those kids.”

One must earn a 3, out of 5, to receive the college credits. Now funded through a grant to help low-income

students, the \$78 tests are available for just \$5 for 31 percent of our students.

Research indicates completing the class (not necessarily taking the test) is a strong indicator that the student will complete a bachelor's degree.

Chimacum staffers support the state Day of Action

You may have read, or heard, about the statewide “Day of Action” to take place, in Olympia, on Jan. 14.

Our teachers have requested to participate in this Washington Education Association-sponsored “Education Rally”, supporting K-12 education and adequate funding for our schools.

The Chimacum School Board granted the request, “In recognition of the importance of fair and adequate compensation for all school employees, and in order to comply with the new federal mandate to ‘Leave No Child Behind’, and to provide ‘quality’ teachers for all our children, and, in consideration of the serious financial situation of the Washington state government, which is facing an operating deficit of over \$2 billion in the next biennium and will likely need to make significant cuts in the funding of basic education in our public schools.”

Chimacum's certificated staff will be in Olympia to remind our state legislators and the general public that the funding of public education is the paramount duty of the state government, as stated in our constitution.

Consider Jan. 14 our “Snow Day”. If we really do need to take another snow day this year, due to inclement weather, it will be added to the end of the school year.

Grant funds AP teachers' training

Seeking funding to cover the \$400-per-student cost to take an advanced placement college course online, Enrichment Program and Highly-Capable Coordinator Barb Parent ferreted out an \$18,000 windfall. She caught the last two years of a \$9,000 per year grant to increase teacher awareness on how to best serve the needs of the future AP student.

In order to encourage more challenging educational experiences, the district plans to establish “vertical teams”, teachers who work together across the grade levels to ensure continuity in the students' education.

This teacher training is a natural continuation of work that had already begun: communication between high

school and middle school teachers, and a better articulation of the curriculum.

It also adheres to the Chimacum School District's Initiative #1: Develop a clear and shared curriculum focus in reading and math.

“We will continue developing leadership in vertical teaming this year with English and language arts teachers. Four teachers from the middle and high schools, self-nominated and selected by the administration, will attend the AP English Vertical Teams Training at the Pacific Northwest AP Institute in Bellevue,” said Parent. “This will help provide support for high level instruction, as well as provide leadership for the future development of additional vertical teams.”

CHS students and staff feed Puget Sound blood bank

Did you know that only five percent of the population donates blood?

At Chimacum High School, 49.7 percent of the 191 eligible students gave blood at the last Puget Sound Blood Center drive. That percentage ensured Chimacum a spot on the Puget Sound Blood Center's "Top Five High Schools" list.

Chimacum's National Honor Society sponsors two drives each school year. The next one is Feb. 27.

"Kids always amaze me with their eagerness to have a needle poked in their arm," said Debbie Dodd, NHS advisor. "They are especially impressed with the fact that their one pint of blood has the potential to save three lives."

Students must be 16 to donate. Those under 18 are required to have parental permission.

The Puget Sound Blood Center serves 70 Western Washington hospitals and clinics.



If Christian Goodwin, 17, began donating blood at 16, and donates every 56 days until he is 80, he will have donated more than 50 gallons of blood.

There's lots more inside. Check it out!

- ✓ Teachers named Grangers of the Year
- ✓ Young writers head to Peninsula College



- ✓ "Jackie O" visits Chimacum
- ✓ AP classes ensure student success

Chimacum School Board:
Quentin Goodrich
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Dr. Mary Lynne Derrington

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