

LEARNERS TODAY, LEADERS TOMORROW.



*A message from  
Superintendent  
Rothlin*

**Generous business and  
community partnerships enhance  
district facilities and academic  
programs**

There's an interesting trend occurring during these tough economic times. As Districts, including Chehalis, are forced to make difficult program and staff cuts and delay facility improvements, the community has shown its unwavering support. It is evident that we live and work in a unique area.

Over the past year, community support for our schools has taken many forms, from facility improvements to allowing us to offer unique academic programs to purchasing pizza for student events!

Without the time and money investment from both the local business community and Chehalis citizens, these improvements and programs would not have been accomplished. This kind of service indeed leaves a lasting legacy for Chehalis students.

Our community also supports the classroom. It is imperative our students continue to learn critical skills that will serve them well in an ever-changing global environment. The first step in leveling the playing field for success is preparing them

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## How does your garden grow?

### At R.E. Bennett, it takes lots of care and attention from young students

R.E. Bennett Elementary is growing a garden and nurturing some eager youngsters to develop "green thumbs" as they learn about various plants and vegetables. The school garden is a science project and a product of the 2nd and 3rd grade classes. The students worked in the garden to gain a greater understanding of the various plants and flowers and what it takes to make them grow healthy and strong.



Pictured are Hunter Arnett and Raen Yarbrough, who took advantage of a sunny day to do some investigation work and record growth and other discoveries in their science journals.



Principal Ellingson leads the Olympic Elementary School Walking School Bus, October 5, 2011.

# Student-to-student mentoring programs help incoming students learn the ropes

Whether a student is entering middle or high school for the first time, the experience can be intimidating and somewhat overwhelming. However, when older students are there to provide friendship and mentoring, incoming students have an easier time adjusting – and enjoying – their new school environment.

Chehalis School District has implemented peer mentoring programs at both the middle school and the high school. This year at W.F. West, 55 “LINK” leaders welcomed in the new freshman class. During Freshman Orientation, they broke into small groups, toured the facilities, listened to a guest speaker and formed relationships that would last throughout the year. Many of the LINK leaders cite their own experience as a freshman for their desire to give back through this program. The benefits are many, from allowing the freshmen to feel connected to their school and student body, to enabling the leaders to hone their leadership skills, which will serve them well beyond their high school years.

“The positive experience for all involved is why it has become such an integral part of the W.F. High School environment,” said Heidi Fagerness, who is a Special Education Teacher and co-leader of the LINK program at the high school.

A similar group of students, called WEB Leaders, provide mentoring and guidance to new students entering Chehalis Middle School.



2011-12 Chehalis Middle School WEB Leaders welcome the new 6th graders and help during their before-school orientation. They serve as friendly faces and peer leaders throughout the year.



2011-12 W. F. West LINK Leaders work with incoming freshmen during their before-school orientation and throughout the school year.



Make-A-Wish —Nicole Beck gives a thumbs up to the work being done on the tennis courts.

## ***Focus on facilities! “Wish” for tennis court improvements becomes reality***

What started out as an \$8,000 Make-A-Wish request by W.F. West High School tennis player Nicole Beck actually turned into an \$80,000 renovation of the school’s tennis courts. Thanks to local businesses and community members who donated funding, materials and labor, the following was accomplished: new fencing and lights were installed at the tennis courts, a parking area was paved, and the courts are also in the process of being resurfaced.

*Thanks Chehalis Community!*

## A message from the Superintendent,

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for this challenge. A prime example of these efforts is the Molecular Genetics program at W.F. West High School, which has been funded through support from the Chehalis Foundation and Central Children's Charities. It is an advanced science program that is unprecedented in this region and one of only a handful that exists in the entire nation! This is only one example of many "gifts" that are replicated daily throughout the District.

As I look at what the Chehalis School District and the local community have accomplished together, I appreciate working where the partnership between the school and the community is so solid. As we see other districts throughout the state struggle to gain community support, the citizens in Chehalis have always made education their great passion – and it shows! From facility improvements to cutting-edge academic programs, you see the result

of teamwork, dedication and community involvement throughout the District.

I am grateful to be a part of a community that utilizes its resources to continually put public education first. We know that none of these programs or successes would be realized were it not for you, our creative, knowledgeable and dedicated staff and citizens.

We recognize the incredible gifts that we have been given. Our future is in good hands.

## Great things happening in Chehalis Schools!



TransAlta was recognized during half-time on September 9, 2011, for donating \$300,000 to the district for a complete track renovation.



Chehalis students testing out the new track at W.F. West High School.



This year's Olympic Elementary School Student Council.



New mural at W. F. West High School depicting diversity among students. It was created by Veronica Haworth as part of her Girl Scout Gold Award.

## Postal Patron

### the **LEARNING NETWORK**

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Cascade Elementary — Mrs. Heffner welcomes first graders, Charlie Carper, Lucas Fisher and Levi Fisher during the Before-School Barbecue/Open House, September 1, 2011.



Cascade kindergartener, Zoey Snodgrass receives a Kiwanis Terrific Kid Certificate.



Assistant Superintendent Bissett thanks Greg Bluhm (R.E. Bennett) and Linda Newberry (Olympic) for 25 years of teaching for the Chehalis School District.

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