



Chimacum School Matters

News from Your Chimacum School District

Volume Seven, Issue Five

October 2002

New year begins for Chimacum's schools

Where did the summer go? It seems like only yesterday we said farewell to the Class of 2002 — and now we're back in the midst of a new school year!

As most of you know, the school year started on Sept. 9, a bit later than usual. Tell us: Did the later start work for you and your family? If you have strong feelings one way or another, do let us know.

Our teachers were in class the week prior for training and preparation.

The state's Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tom Kelly, welcomed the teachers back with an informational presentation on education reform in Washington.

He challenged the teachers to concentrate on building a "whole learner", one who is strong, not only intellectually, but physically and emotionally, as well.

Primary and elementary school teachers also had workshops exploring the National Reading Panel's findings and recommendations.

At the middle and high school levels, the teachers focused on "Discipline with Love and Logic", a powerful and well-received program.

Long range plan

Districtwide, we have been working diligently on a long-range plan to guide Chimacum Schools' future.

From 1995 to 2001, we focused on our capital facility needs. Once we fulfilled the promises made to the students and taxpayers, we knew it was time to refocus our direction.



Learning to write your letters can be tough work, but first graders Kristan Castillo, 6, and Nathaniel Maciejewski, 7, have it under control.

After much research and input, we have targeted an area: **Create a Clear and Shared Curriculum Focus in Reading and Math K-12.**

If students can't read, teachers can't do their job.

Enrollment

We've calculated our enrollment for the year to be about 1,250 full-time-equivalent (FTE) students. While the number continues to fluctuate a bit, the actual total should be within about 10 FTE of that figure.

The trend in declining enrollment is being repeated in rural districts throughout the state. Opinions vary on the whats and whys.

Figures from the first week of school showed 184 FTE students at the

primary school; 277 at the elementary; 339 at the middle school; 388 in high school; and 62 in our PI program.



Use our automated phone system

Chimacum Schools has an automated phone system that allows you to reach your party directly by dialing 732-4090 and, then, the extension they have previously given you.

At any time during the process, a real live person may be reached by pressing "0".

School closures and other important announcements may be accessed at extension 460.

New teachers: impressive résumés, great personalities

This year we have five new teachers at Chimacum Schools.

Debora Thomsen, a high school language arts teacher for this year, is a former associate professor from Central Missouri State University. She has a doctorate in health education and a master's degree in psychology.

Amongst her many credits is a Governor's Award for Excellence in HIV/AIDS Prevention Education.

Pete Schornstaedt, a new high school math teacher, taught last at the Wallkill Valley High School, in New Jersey. He is an active athletics coach (girls' soccer at CHS) and theater advocate. He also was a physics' competition advisor.

The former civil engineer has a master's degree in education.

Paul Pugh is our new band teacher, grades 5-12.

He comes to us from the University of Northern Colorado, the school from which he also received his doctorate in music education.

The professional musician and his trumpet accumulated quite an impressive performance résumé before he went back to school to earn his teaching credential.

Debra Knauss, our new librarian, comes to us from the Chewelah, Washington school district. There she



Chimacum Schools welcome new teachers Paul Pugh, Pete Schornstaedt, Susanne Whipple and Debra Knauss. Not pictured, Debora Thomsen.

was not only their librarian, but an elementary and middle school teacher, as well.

She earned her master's degree in education from Eastern Washington University.

Suzanne Whipple is a new special education learning specialist, working with students and teachers. She

has master's degrees in social work and educational psychology. Most recently, she was a learning support teacher in the Edmonds School District.

Previously, she spearheaded an impressive program in substance abuse and violence prevention, with offerings ranging from outdoor adventure-based experiences to school-based workshops.

Link Crew freshman orientation a great success. . .again

In the fall of 2000, Chimacum High School was the first school on the Olympic Peninsula to embrace the Link Crew training program.

The dynamic program links successful upperclassmen with incoming freshmen.

The transition from middle school into high school should be an exciting adventure. But, many students are totally unprepared for the greater responsibilities of high school. The teens may feel overwhelmed, yet be hesitant to admit it.

The goal of Link Crew is to increase academic support through peer

support, develop leadership skills, and allow successful older students to pass on positive traditions.

By working together, CHS students can be successful and enjoy each other, which creates a supportive and positive atmosphere on campus.

Asking for volunteers from amongst a cross-section of its top juniors and seniors, CHS had the leaders trained in team-building activities, cooperative skill development and discussion skills.

Link leaders are encouraged to phone and check in with their freshmen throughout the year — especially during the first few weeks of school.

A Link Alert is a form for a teacher to fill out when he or she sees a freshman in distress. The form is routed back to the student's Link leader, who takes the appropriate action, before rerouting the note back to the teacher.

Link Follow-Ups are special lessons, taught in English class. Topics include making good choices, using resources on campus, dealing with peer pressure, and more.

Our goal is to get each freshman class off on the right foot, while making sure the upperclassmen's attitudes towards the younger students remain healthy and friendly.

Long-term WASL test scores show CSD improvement

The advent of the Washington Assessment of Student Learning tests raised the bar on education expectations within the state. That's a good thing.

But, these significantly more stringent tests sometimes leave us having to explain why scores aren't higher, or what in the world do those numbers mean?

Across the state, middle school scores have been lower than educators and parents would like.

They are learning!

Last spring marked the second year we've had a class that has progressed from the seventh grade through the tenth grade, and taken the WASL tests at both grade levels.

We were so excited to compare the scores of the same classes and discover significant improvement in their test scores between middle school and the tenth grade.

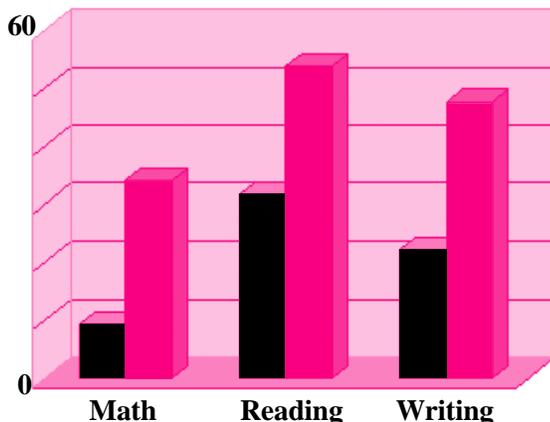
Our teachers have been trying to isolate the areas of concern. We're also working at better aligning our

curriculum to the tests. We want to make sure each Chimacum student is learning what is necessary to progress to the next level of his or her education.

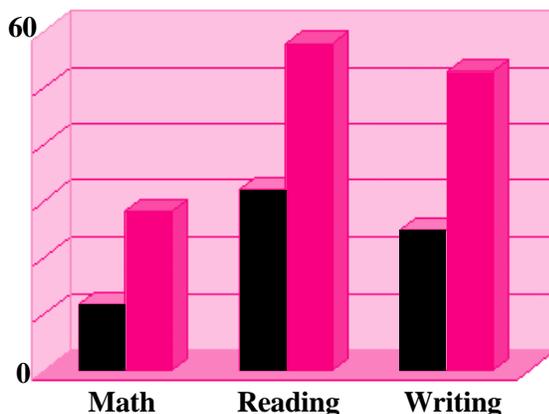
While we are pleased with the growth shown, we continue to strive towards more students reaching the state's higher standard.

Seventh grade scores
 Tenth grade scores

WASL scores of the Class of 2003

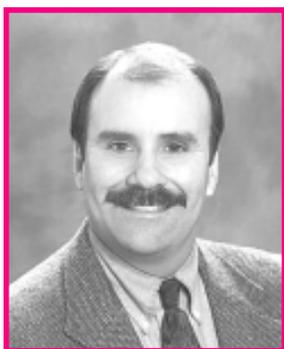


Class of 2004



These scores indicate the percentage of students who have met the standard. For further information about WASL testing for grades 4, 7 and 10, please contact Debra Gilbreath, Curriculum and Assessment specialist, at 743-4090, extension 276.

Meet our new director:



Kevin Miller

In mid-August, the members of the Chimacum School Board appointed Kevin Miller to fill the position vacated by our highly-respected director, Bill Eldridge.

Kevin and his wife, Susan, live on Marrowstone Island. They have two children in Chimacum Schools: Alyssa, grade 8, and Erin, grade 11.

The Millers' son, Christopher, is a 2001 Chimacum graduate, currently attending Pacific Lutheran University.

Kevin is an Associate Broker at Windermere Real Estate Port Ludlow.

He is a board member and past vice president of the Jefferson County Home Builders Association; and a past president of the Marrowstone Island Community Association.

Jefferson County College Night

Families and students: You're all invited!

The Jefferson Education Center will host a College Night for students and family members at 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, October 16, in the Chimacum High School Library.

This year's roster of invited schools includes: the University of Washington, Washington State University, Cornell University, Seattle Pacific University, Lake Washington Technical College, Peninsula College, Olympic College, Fairfield University, the Cornish College of Art, Evergreen State College, Pacific Lutheran University, Hampshire College, Central and Western Washington universities, City University, and others.

For additional information, contact Matt Lyons at 379-4034.

Earn a diploma with NovaNET

Young adults, up to the age of 21, may earn a high school diploma through NovaNET. The after-hours program allows current and former Chimacum High School students to work online to recover enough credits to earn a diploma.

No prior computer skills are necessary. The program is mastery-based and allows students to work at their own pace. For more information, contact Brent White, 732-4481.

Cooperative services save school districts money

Both the Port Townsend and Chimacum school districts continue to face obstacles prevalent in many schools. Tight budgets often hinder the desire to provide a wide variety of programs necessary to meet the needs of a diverse student body.

This year we've added a couple of new options to the growing number of services and programs we either operate jointly, or allow the other's students to participate in.

The high schools are extending the cooperative sports program they've had for wrestling. The new agreement adds cross-country, boys' tennis, and girls' swimming, as well.

"It is a win/win situation," declared Principal Rex Whipple. "It allows our students to participate in sports they might not otherwise be able to do."

Having teams filled by athletes from both schools should prevent either

school from having to forfeit matches because there were too few players on the team.

These sports were chosen because they are individual sports, rather than team events. If an individual makes it to regional or state competitions, the student would then wear his/her own school's uniform.

Port Townsend Athletic Director Russ Hickman noted the students would provide their own transportation to and from Port Townsend for practices. Port Townsend students seeking to play tennis with Chimacum would have to do the same.

In addition to sports, the Chimacum and Port Townsend districts share buses, food services, and some staff members.

Ever since the bus barn was built years ago, we have shared transportation facilities. Port Townsend's buses overnight in our yard. Diana Post is responsible for the routes, dispatch, maintenance, training and supervision for both districts.

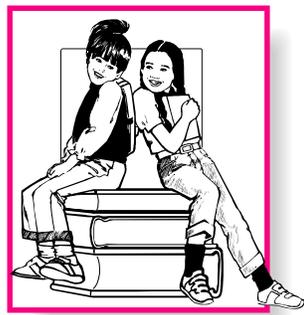
For the past three years, the two districts have also shared food service management and purchases. Having Mark Sperrazza oversee both programs has allowed the districts to buy foods in greater quantities for better prices.

Being creative with scheduling, and flexible when necessary, has allowed both the Chimacum and Port Townsend districts to not only save significant dollars through the years, but provide the best possible services to their students.



There's lots more inside. Check it out!

- ✓ **New school year begins smoothly**
- ✓ **WASL scores show class improvement**



- ✓ **College Night coming Oct. 16**
- ✓ **Five new teachers add to CSD staff**

Chimacum School Board:
Quentin Goodrich
Larry Smith
Ted Friedrich
Cammy Brown
Kevin Miller

Superintendent:
Dr. Mary Lynne Derrington
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