



# Parent / Student Bulletin

## December 2021

Hey Folks,

We are 3 solid months into the school year. Maybe it hasn't looked like school as we have known it, but it has been so refreshing to meet all day, every day. You can feel the energy, enthusiasm, and joy as you walk the halls. Orin Smith continues to be a great place to learn and a great place to be.

I'm new to Chehalis; trying to determine what this community values, who we are and where do we want to go. I have marveled at what I have learned. The people of Chehalis are persistent through adversity. Flexible and adaptable to keep our schools open. Willing to step up and support one another. And most of all, warm and kind as we navigate these times together.

At this time of year, it is so good to reflect and be grateful. We are grateful for our beautiful campus. We are grateful for a staff who go the extra mile (or two) every day. We are grateful for our community support and involvement. We are grateful for our students who give life to this place.

The reality is that the challenges of 2021 will continue into the new year. However, I am hopeful this is a place where student learning, safety, and well-being come first and the people of Chehalis will make it happen.

Warmest regards and seasons greetings,

Jonathan Fox - Assistant Principal

**PARENTS!** School begins at 8:50 AM. It is important that your student is on-time every day! First bell rings at 8:40 AM - students should be on their way to class at that time.

**Student morning drop-off**

**REMINDER:**

Please remember that outdoor supervision is not available for your children before 8:15 AM each morning.

Students need to be accepted and attending the morning math program in order to be dropped off before 8:15 AM. If you are interested in this program, please contact our office at 360.807.7225 and you will be added to the waitlist.

### DATES TO REMEMBER:

12/6-12/17	Food Drive
12/13	Spirit Week Begins (see inside)
12/15	Terrific Kid
12/17	Early Release - 12:05 PM
01/05	Terrific Kids
01/07	Character Award Assembly
01/16	School Board Meeting - 6:30 PM (WFW)
01/17	MLK Jr. Day - NO SCHOOL
01/19	Terrific Kids
01/28	Early Release - 1:20 PM
02/02	Terrific Kids
02/11	Character Award Assembly
02/15	School Board Meeting - 6:30 PM (WFW)
02/16	Terrific Kids
02/21	President's Day - NO SCHOOL
02/28-03/04	Spring Conferences - Early Release at 1:20 PM

\* A special thanks to Shop 'N' Kart for their generous donation of sheet cakes and to Jeremy's Farm To Table for free brownie sundae coupons for our monthly Cougar Card and Character Awards! \*


## Attendance: Make Every Day Count! On-Time, All Day, Every Day!

It matters. A single day missed can have a significant impact on student learning. Please make it a priority to come to school. However, sickness happens and safety is important. When a student has a clear symptom of illness, keep them home and call the office. **We need a call each time in order to excuse absences.** Our staff is also expert with the district COVID safety procedures and can help you navigate the next steps. The school telephone number is 360-807-7225.

"I want adventure in the  
great wide somewhere"  
-Belle

## PARTICIPATE IN SPIRIT WEEK!!

W.F. WEST THEATRE  
PRESENTS:



Tickets \$8.00

Disney  
**BEAUTY  
AND THE  
BEAST**

Dec 10th & 17th @ 7:30pm  
Dec 11th & 18th @ 2:00pm & 7:30pm

### DECEMBER SPIRIT WEEK

Orin Smith Elementary

MONDAY DEC. 13	TUESDAY DEC. 14	WEDNESDAY DEC. 15
Bundle up Day	Sock & hat Day	White Out Day
THURSDAY DEC. 16	FRIDAY DEC. 17	
Candy Cane Day	UGLY Sweater Day	

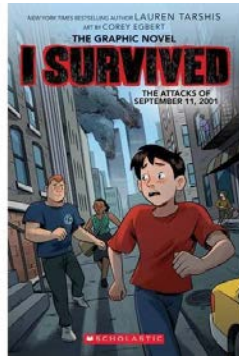
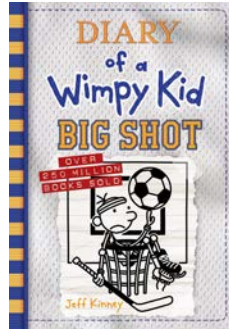


Looking for something fun to do as a family? Go see one of the performances by WF West students!

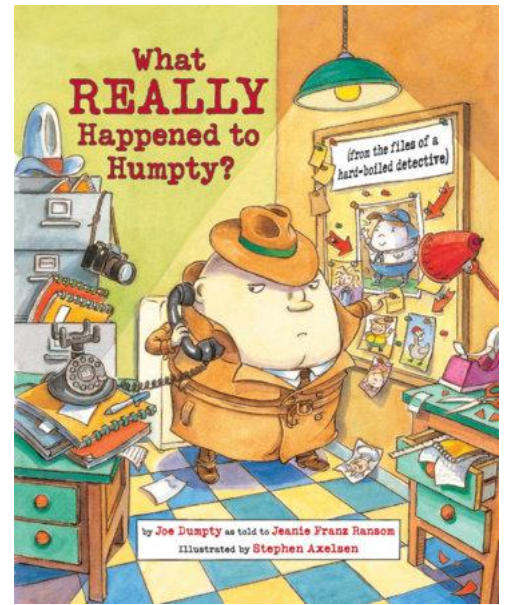
# Library Corner

## Book Fair

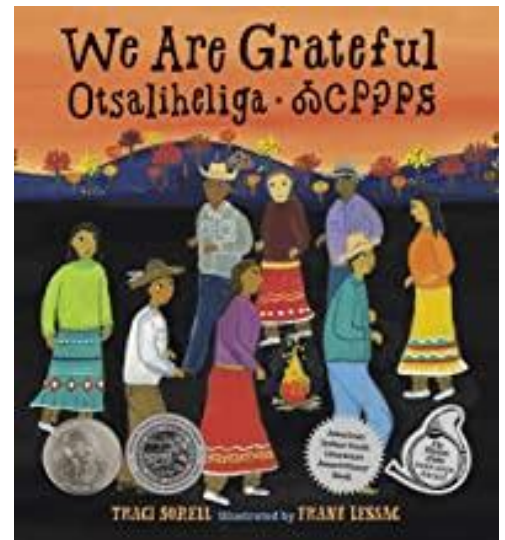
Thank you to everyone who visited the Scholastic Book Fair during conference week! We had a great turn out and were able to get a few new titles for the library including Diary of a Wimpy Kid Big Shot and I Survived 9/11 Graphic Novel.



October's genre focus was Mystery. Students loved practicing new vocabulary words associated with mystery stories, and trying to solve the mystery of What Really Happened to Humpty?



November is Native American Heritage Month. We read We Are Grateful: Otsaliheliga (oh-jah-LEE-hay-lee-gah), a Cherokee book.



## ADVENT READING



Color in each day you read 1 book or 15 minutes!

## READING IDEAS



- Read a book with a movie adaptation
- Listen to an audiobook**
- Read about a different culture's holiday celebration
- Read in bed**
- Reread a favorite book
- Read a book about a different country's winter holiday**
- Read a funny book
- Read to a grown-up**
- Read a nonfiction book
- Read a book about winter**
- Read and drink hot chocolate
- Read by the light of the Christmas tree**
- Read in pajamas
- Read a book about snow**
- Read a book about Santa
- Read about a cold weather animal**
- Read 3 books in a row
- Read a recipe and make it**

# Hello and...

# GOODBYE



Welcome to **Melissa Gist**, our newest fourth grade teacher. Melissa Gist will be joining the fourth grade team, officially, January 3, but she is no stranger to Orin Smith Elementary or the Chehalis School District. She has already spent many hours preparing for her transition into the classroom, as Mr. Gilham makes his retirement exit. As I've heard her share many times, she's "very excited" to be here. Mrs. Gist has also served as a long-term substitute in our building for the last two years and previously worked in our district as a paraeducator. She attended Centralia College and Western Governors University and has teaching credentials for K-8 General Education and K-12 Special Education. An Open-House was held December 9, 2021, and it was great to see so many families turn out to meet their new teacher and say goodbye to Mr. Gilham. As you can see, the 2022 school year is already ringing in change and we are pleased to officially announce Melissa Gist will be joining the Orin Smith Elementary team.

For many years, I have had the pleasure of knowing and working with Mr. Gilham who will be retiring from teaching at the end of December 2021. He taught for 33 years, all in the Chehalis School District, all in fourth grade. Mr. Gilham served on countless committees, has presented at state-wide conventions, and has taught college classes. He has had nearly 1,000 students pass through his classroom, including many siblings and even multiple generations of the same family. As Mr. Gilham stated regarding his impact on students: **"I hope I had a positive impact on them. I know they have had a life-long impact on me!"**

Mr. Gilham's reputation is one of leadership and service. I want to thank him for the impact he has had on so many families. He will be greatly missed here at Orin Smith Elementary, and we wish him well as he moves into this next chapter.



Rachel Dorsey  
Principal  
Orin Smith Elementary



Our school's annual canned food drive started on Monday, December 6th. Students are encouraged to bring in any non-perishable food items to school through December 17.

Let's get involved and help restock our community food bank for the coming season! Let's Rock, Cougars!

## Upcoming College Days:

01/05	Yale University	Navy + White
01/12	Central Washington	Black + Crimson
01/19	University of Hawaii	Green + White
01/26	George Fox University	Navy + Gold
02/02	Duke University	Blue + White
02/09	Eastern Washington Univ.	Red + White
	Western Washington Univ.	Blue + White
02/16	Columbia University	White + "Columbia Blue"
02/23	Princeton University	Black + Orange

Wear any college colors on WEDNESDAYS to show your school spirit!

Access our Student Handbook Here:

Scan the following QR code to access our full Orin C. Smith Elementary Student Handbook:



## DID YOU KNOW...

Central Washington University serves more students on-line than any other comprehensive university in Washington state.



Need help for your household?



NEED HELP?

# DIAL 2-1-1

- UTILITY ASSISTANCE
- FOOD ASSISTANCE
- HOUSING ASSISTANCE
- ... MUCH MORE

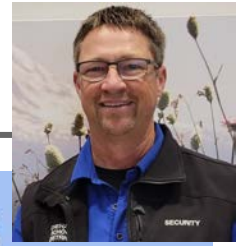
## Look at third grade's fun project!

We wanted to do a community building project where we had each student create a cube, and then connect all the students together to show 3rd grade unity. We also showed an informational video on a street artist named Thank You X. He does this style of cube art.

Thank You X got his name by accident. In 2009 Andy Warhol's spray painted portrait was spotted on a city street in L.A. It was signed, "Thank You X". The artist added this signature as a gesture of gratitude to Warhol's art. More and more "Thank You X" artwork was noticed around L.A. and Thank You X became the artist's identity. Soon businesses started commissioning him to paint murals and collaborations. He is now an internationally recognized artist with murals and galleries all over the world.



# Information from our School Safety Officer:



## THE AIRPORT RULE



## Online Threats

The vast majority of students who make online threats are good kids who made a bad choice with no desire of hurting anybody.

Schools and law enforcement take every threat very seriously. Students do not fully appreciate the potential consequences their threatening statement can have. In some cases, those consequences can have life changing effects.

## THE AIRPORT RULE

What is the one thing you cannot say when you are walking through airport security? "I have a bomb."

What happens if you say those words, even if you are not serious? You will be pulled out of line, miss your flight, have all your bags searched, and be interrogated for hours.

School is like the airport. If you say guns, bombs, knives, shooting, killing, or any other violent word while in school, you will be pulled out of class, have all your bags searched, be interrogated, receive school discipline, and possibly be charged with a crime.

The Airport Rule doesn't just end at school.

Your online world is like the airport.

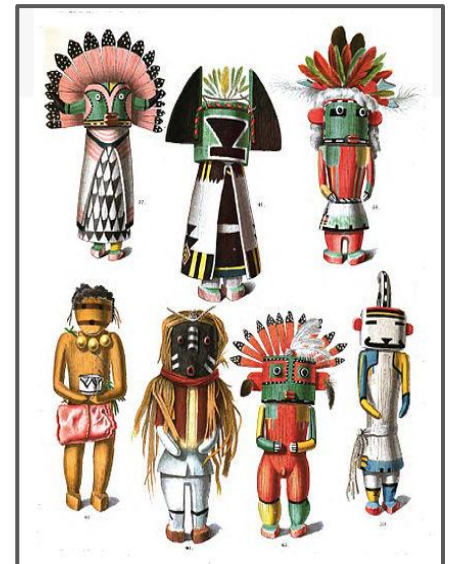
If you post images, comments, or directly message another person about guns, bombs, knives, shooting, killing, or any other violent word, you might end up with law enforcement knocking on your door.

Social media provides little to no context to our words.

## Mrs. Norman's class completed their Native American projects!



One of their creations (pictured above) were **Kachina Dolls**, which are gifts given in hope of future abundance and health, as well as tools for education. Kachina Dolls are a bridge not only between the spiritual world and mortals but also between Hopis and non-Hopis.



# Classroom News...



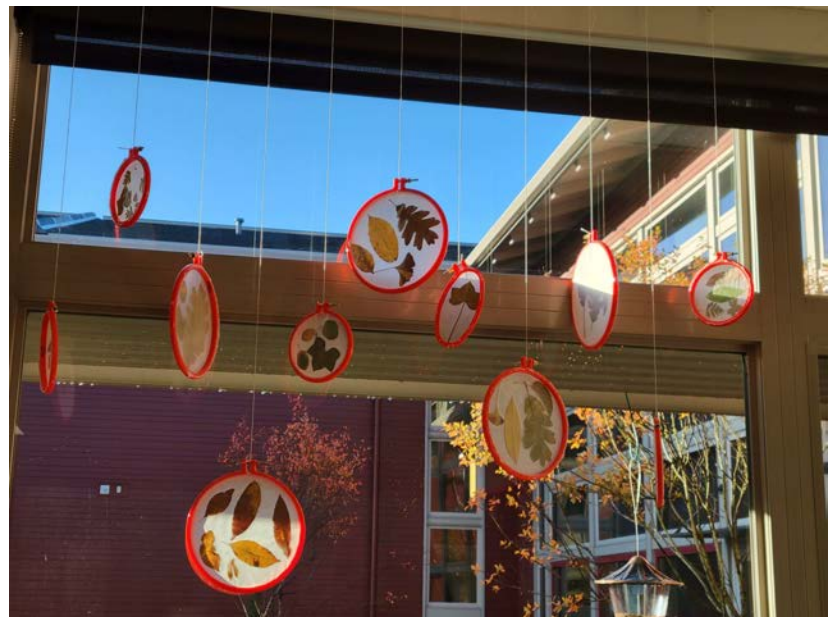
Mrs. Lince's 4th grade class created these colorful totem poles.

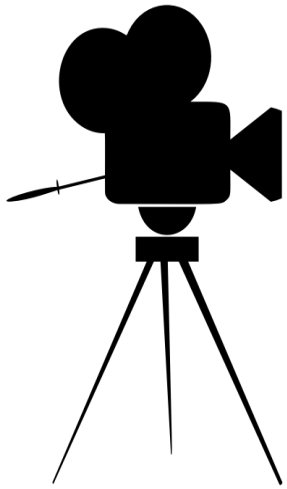
## DID YOU KNOW ?

Totem poles are monuments created by First Nations of the Pacific Northwest to represent and commemorate ancestry, histories, people, or events.

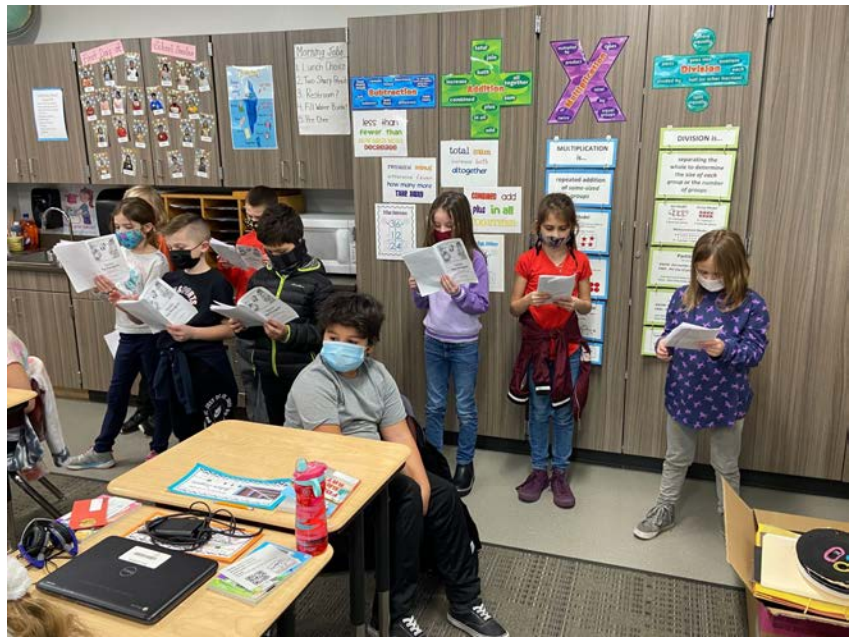
Most totem poles display beings, or crest animals, marking a family's lineage and validating the powerful rights and privileges that the family held.

Mrs. Sande's class used donated embroidery hoops and leaves that they collected on their class nature walks to make these beautiful leaf suncatchers. They have great morning light in their classroom windows that illuminates them.





Mr. Duncan's class performed our first Reader's Theater - Tacky the Penguin. Our kids had a THUMPIN' good time performing for a third and fourth grade classroom. We are already planning our winter holiday Reader's Theater!



Mrs. Veach's class made collages based on the art of Lois Elhert after reading her memoir.

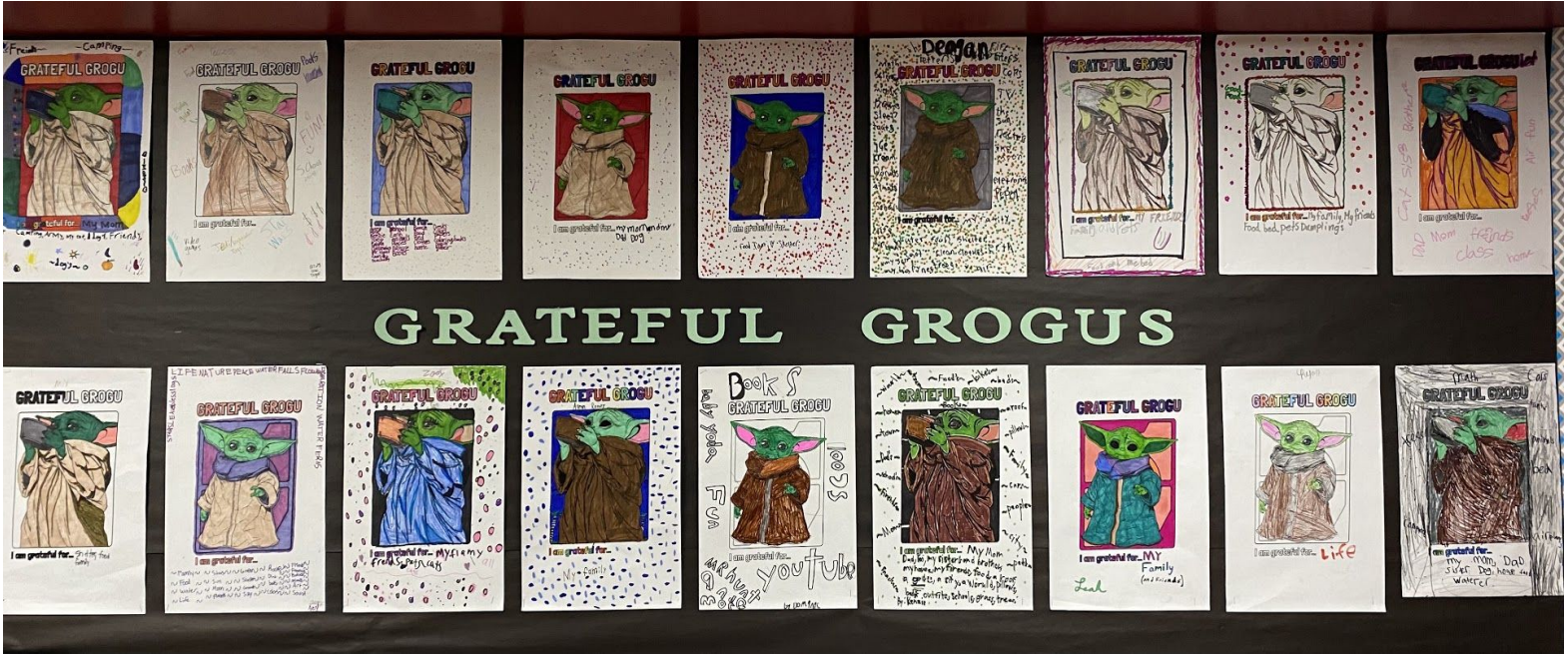




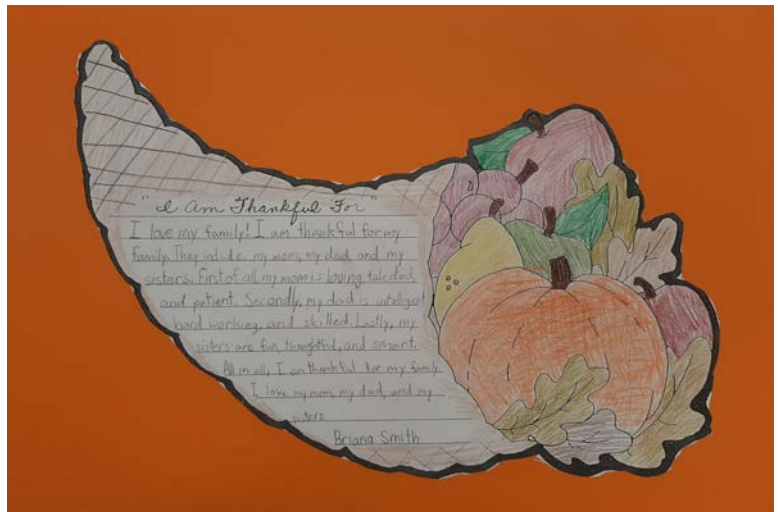
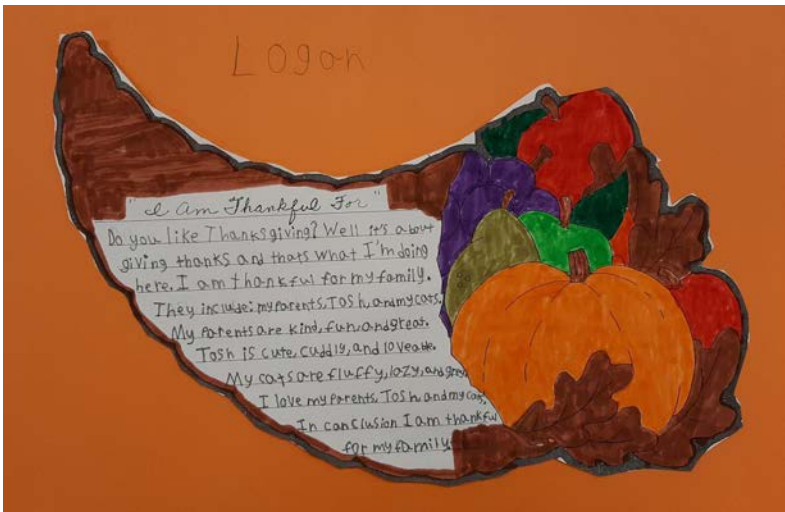
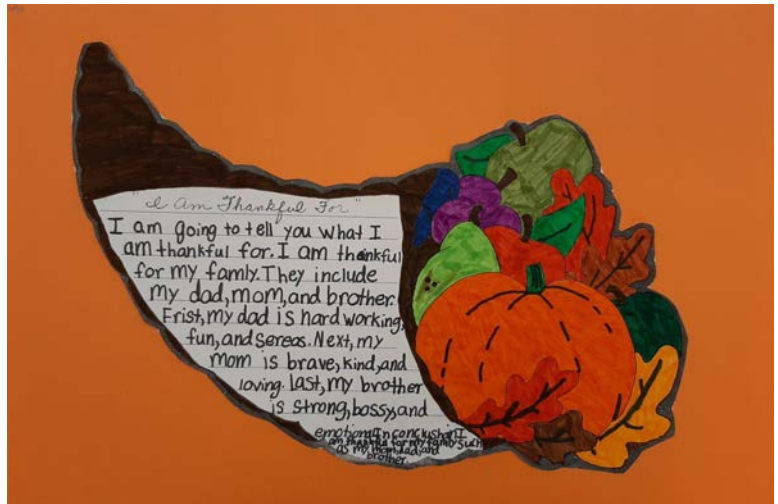
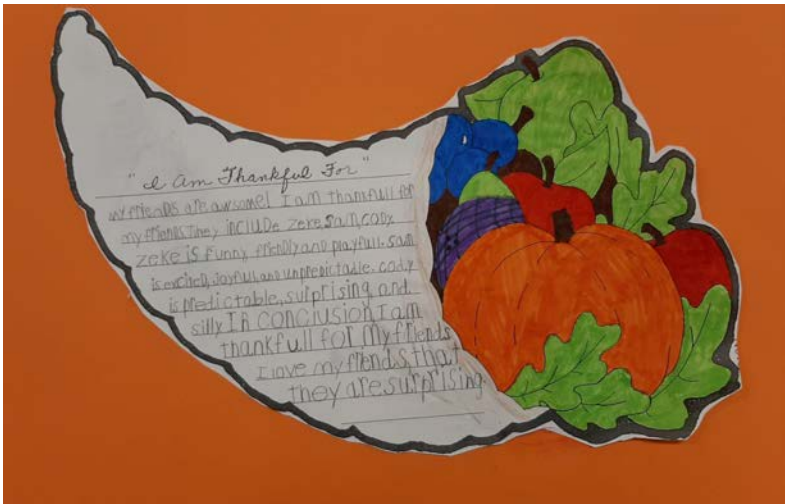
# Classroom News Continued...



In Mr. Hunt and Miss Wolden's classes, we are expressing our gratitude for our family and friends. Students described their favorite things to be thankful for this November. We want to share some examples of our Grateful Grogus and Thankful Cornucopias with you. Thank you for being great!



## GRATEFUL GROGUS





## BRING US YOUR RECEIPTS!

Box Tops earnings pay for books for our library. Our Box Tops Coordinator will scan your receipts for rewards! All you have to do is drop off your receipts in our vestibule at school. So reach out to your family members and start submitting your grocery receipts right away!

**\*RECEIPTS MUST BE NO MORE THAN 1 WEEK OLD\***

**Receipt suggestions:  
Costco, Walmart,  
Safeway, Target, Fred Meyer, Albertsons!**

## Family Challenge: Letter of Gratitude



Everyone think of one person who lives with them that they are really thankful for. Write them a letter telling them all the reasons you appreciate them.

Get specific about how they've influenced you, why you look up to them, what sacrifices you know they've made, and why you are grateful for the role they play in your life! Seal it up and deliver it in person or through the mail.

"Gratitude turns what we have into enough."  
-Anonymous.

If you participate in either of these activities, swing by Mrs. Beattie's office and let her know what you thought!

### NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

Chehalis School District does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.

Chehalis School District offers classes in many career and technical education (CTE) program areas, including Agriculture, Business and Marketing, Family and Consumer Sciences, Skilled and Technical Sciences, Health Sciences and STEM. Lack of English language proficiency will not be a barrier to admission and participation in career and technical education programs.

The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination:

El Distrito Escolar de Chehalis no discrimina en ningún programa o actividad por sexo, raza, credo, religión, color, origen nacional, edad, estado veterano o militar, orientación sexual, expresión o identidad de género, discapacidad o el uso de un Guía de perros entrenados o un animal de servicio y proporciona igual acceso a los Boy Scouts y otros grupos juveniles designados.

El Distrito Escolar de Chehalis ofrece clases en varias áreas con programas de educación vocacional y técnica (CTE), incluyendo Agricultura, Negocios y Mercadotecnia, Ciencias de la Familia y del Consumidor, Ciencias Técnicas y Calificadas, Ciencias de la Salud y STEM. La falta de dominio del idioma inglés no será una barrera para la admisión y participación en programas de educación profesional y técnica.

Los siguientes empleados han sido designados para manejar las preguntas y quejas de supuestas discriminaciones:

**Title IX Coordinator**  
Athletic Director  
Jeff Johnson  
310 SW 16th Street  
Chehalis, WA 98532  
360-807-7235  
[jjohnson2@chehalisschools.org](mailto:jjohnson2@chehalisschools.org)

**Section 504/ADA Coordinator**  
Director of Special Education  
Katie Howell  
2025 SW Salisbury Ave.  
Chehalis, WA 98532  
(360) 807-7245 option 3  
(360) 748-8767 Fax  
[khowell@chehalisschools.org](mailto:khowell@chehalisschools.org)

**Civil Rights Compliance Coordinator**  
Debby Gregory  
310 SW 16th Street  
Chehalis, WA 98532  
360-807-7200  
[dgregory@chehalisschools.org](mailto:dgregory@chehalisschools.org)

**Career and Technical Education Coordinator**  
Rick Goble  
310 SW 16th Street  
Chehalis, WA 98532  
360-807-7235  
[rgoble@chehalisschools.org](mailto:rgoble@chehalisschools.org)

**STUDENTS!** Complete the crossword below and return it to Mrs. Cole in the office for a chance to win a fun prize! Check out our two drawing winners from our October bulletin word scramble:

**FINNLEY ROBISON + KENNADEE JEWELL**



# WINTER CROSSWORD

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



**Across**

- 1. Time off from school or work.
- 5. Used to decorate a Christmas tree.
- 7. It's a season for giving \_\_\_\_\_.
- 10. Holiday celebrated on January 1st.
- 12. Strap them on and go downhill on snow.
- 13. I'm dreaming of a \_\_\_\_\_ Christmas.

**Down**

- 2. Winter sport on frozen water.
- 3. African-American holiday celebrated in the winter.
- 4. Famous Snowman
- 6. Flakes that fall from the sky.
- 8. The month following January.
- 9. Jewish holiday celebrated in December.
- 11. Santa's Helpers

