



# Parent/Student Bulletin

## Spring 2020



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Chehalis, WA 98532 F (360) 740-1952

Brett Ellingson, Principal  
Rachel Dorsey, Vice Principal

### A Message from our Principal, Mr. E

We are nearly at the time for Spring Break. Break is the week of April 6-10. Let's all enjoy a bit of time to rest and relax. Then it's back to work to finish this school year strong.

I can't help but think about how our Orin Elementary kids have "Sprung Up!" It has been awesome to observe the growth the students have made this school year. Some of them were so timid as they walked in the front door of our new building on the first day, and now they might be seen proudly giving a tour of the school. I have watched leaders emerge and take on roles they would never have thought possible before this year.

At Orin Smith Elementary we continue with our building theme of "We Choose Kindness." I continue to be amazed at how much kindness is shown at OSE. I believe that students really understand that being kind can be easy.



The seasons are changing on our "Kindness" chalk walls.



After Spring Break we will be thinking about next year's 2020-2021 class placements. There are many factors that go into developing class lists:

- Specific academic needs of students
- Specific behavioral situations of individuals and groups of students
- Student learning styles
- The balance of leaders in each class
- Equal balance of gender, race, and ability in the classroom
- Information from a student's current teacher

Classroom assignments will be made by a team that includes: classroom teachers, special education teachers, the principal, the assistant principal, and other staff as needed. This team will utilize all available information in order to carefully select the best placement for all students.

Should you have information about your child that you would like considered in making an appropriate placement for next year, you are required to complete a **Student Needs Consideration form**. These forms will be available in the schools office from April 1 through April 24. All completed forms must be returned to the school office no later than April 24. Please do not request a specific teacher when completing this form.

Let us all work together to ensure a strong finish to our 2019-2020 school year. My door is open, ideas are welcomed and I again look forward to a great finish.

**Mr. Ellingson**  
**Principal**

# Bits & Pieces...



## A note from your secretary...

Please remember to send a note with your child in the morning or call the school prior to 2:30 p.m. should your child's after school plans change. Changes in schedule will not be made after that time. As always, we appreciate your understanding and support for an efficient end of day experience.

## Fundraising

**Hats On Day** is more than a fundraiser: it is a symbol of the fight and the struggle of all kids who battle cancer and its devastating effects. It can be an enlightening experience for students who do not understand why one of their classmates lost their hair or misses extended periods of school. This fundraiser was an excellent way for the community to show support for these brave kids fighting for their lives while living them every day.



Students had a blast with this fundraiser. Thank you for all your donations!!  
~Mrs. Gallagher



## Sahara Pizza Nights

Please remember to watch for flyers from your children for our pizza night fundraisers. Sahara Pizza graciously donates a portion of the sales from these orders to our school. Remember to let them know that you have an Orin Smith student and give them the teacher name. Each class earns points toward their very own pizza party!

## News from the Library Corner...

As spring is quickly approaching and the sun warms us up – take your reading outdoors! Stop by our playground on the way home, spread a blanket and have your child read to you for a change of pace or you read to them and soak up some much needed Vitamin D – they will love it and so will you!

- Mrs. Ames

Some good reading ideas: **Visit our ON-LINE BOOKFAIR – starting conference week! March 2<sup>nd</sup>- March 18<sup>th</sup>.** No lines, no wait, just great books!! A flyer is headed your way.



efairs.follettbookfairs.com  
code: **ZWXOY** (opens on March 2<sup>nd</sup>)



## Rose Award

Our Rose Award winner is **Jesus Quiroz!** Orin C. Smith Elementary recognizes two students each year for the Rose Award in honor of the late Sheryl Rose. Mrs. Rose was a true 12th Fan of the Seahawks. Jesus is our winter winner! He received a personalized Seahawks jersey compliments of Mrs. Rose's husband, Scott Rose. Candidates are nominated and voted on by Orin C. Smith school staff.





# COUGAR CLASSROOM UPDATES



**Mrs. Duncan and Mrs. Donahue's** classes have been busy as bees! We just finished writing a narrative about taking a "Mission to Mars". We had to use evidence from articles about Mars to enhance the setting in our stories. In reading, we are challenging ourselves to read different genres. We love to read! In math we have continued to learn about all things fractions. February focused on breaking fractions into unit fractions, and finding equivalent fractions. Looking ahead we are comparing fractions and adding and multiplying fractions. We are having so much fun in math!

*Please don't forget about our upcoming conferences. Conferences will be student-led, so bring your student with you! Let's have a marvelous and magical month of March!*



"I enjoy reading to the kindergartners because they are very sweet and always listen while we read." -Violet Gorman

"I enjoy reading to the kindergartners because I like reading out loud to people. Reading to people helps me read fluently. That's why I enjoy reading to the kindergartners." - Aryanna Robles

We love to read! **Ms. Jeans'** 5th grade class has been visiting Mrs. Meller's kindergarten class for a few weeks now. We have enjoyed reading various types of picture books as well as books about animals to go along with their Science unit. We have recently exchanged letters and are planning on helping with some upcoming Math lessons. Above, a couple of our 5th grade students have shared why they enjoy reading with the younger students.

Students in Room 307 are as busy as bees. We have been studying figurative language in writing. Did you recognize the simile? Ask your student to explain various figurative language examples. We used some types in our narrative nonfiction we wrote about sailing up the Columbia River with Captain Robert Gray, an American explorer important to our region. We connect reading plus writing plus social studies. Geometry is a fun type of math we have been practicing – angles and lines and symmetry. Do you know how to use a protractor? Students in Room 307 sure do! Next up in math – fractions and decimals. - **Mr. Gilham**

Students in Room #305 have jumped into geometry! They have learned to measure angles with protractors, sort triangles based on the angle size and on the length of their sides, find lines of symmetry and draw lines, line segments, and rays. They are excited to be creating a type of powerpoint to share with their families at the student-led conferences next week!

- **Mrs. Blomdahl**



Students in **Mrs. Gallagher and Miss Blankinship's** class have just started fractions in mathematics! We are learning about decomposing, multiplying, and finding equivalent fractions. They have all been working hard on their goal setting slideshows for conferences. Students are excited and eager to share them with their parents. We also just started our sound and energy units in science! The photos show students working on their decomposing fractions posters.

# Orin Smith Elementary School

## Salmon in the Classroom Project

For nearly 30 years our Fourth and Fifth grade students at Olympic Elementary have been learning about the life-cycle of Coho Salmon. Mary Metzger (Gifted Program Teacher) initiated the Salmon rearing project the winter of 1990. Since 2010, Mrs. Jennifer Rogerson and Mrs. Traci Lienhard have taken over the responsibility of the project.

This continues to be a very successful project for our students. With acquired grant money, Lienhard and Rogerson have updated the tank set-up with new filters, pump and refrigeration unit.

Mrs. Lienhard and Mrs. Rogerson, along with some students, make a trip to the Skookumchuck Fish Hatchery (usually in February) to pick up the 300 eyed Coho Salmon Eggs.

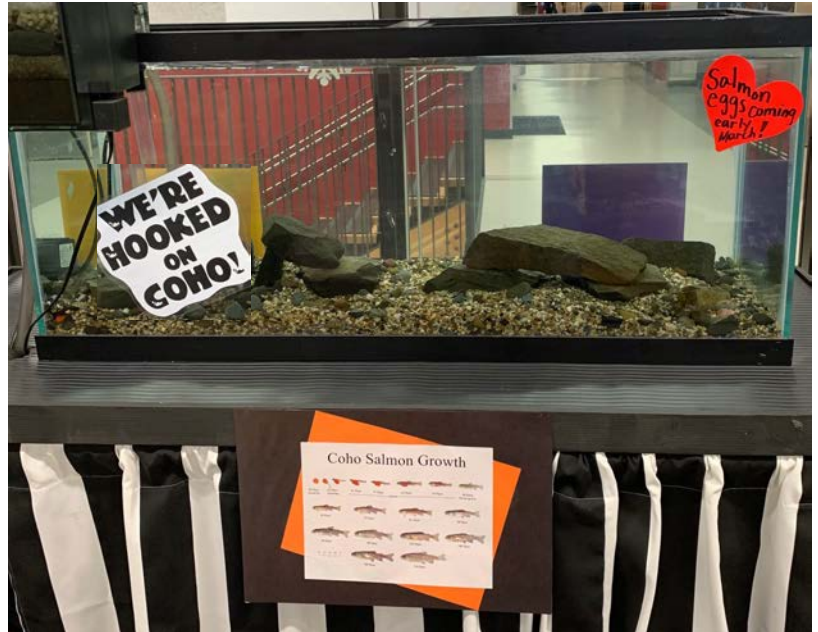
The hatchery personnel at the Skookumchuck Fish Hatchery are very cooperative and helpful. They always provide an educational experience.

Orin Smith Elementary Students receive a quick intensive education about the life-cycle of a salmon. Mrs. Rogerson and Mrs. Lienhard teach fish biology and the process of growth and development, hazards faced by migrating salmon, and issues surrounding the preservation of salmon in Washington State. The students also monitor conditions in the fish tank, keeping track of temperature of the water, mortality rate, and increased size of the salmon. Students also keep a very watchful eye out for Siamese fish, or those deformed with a common Coho corkscrew backbone disability.

In this project, all students experience how cold the water must be for salmon to survive because they must get their hands in the tank to assist in the care-taking. There is great concern after the eggs hatch and disappear among the rocks in the bottom of the tank, and worry that the alevin will suffocate in the big "piles." Many students enthusiastically check on the fish every day. Furthermore, each class is assigned a week where they are responsible to sprinkle fish food in the tank.

By May, our salmon fry have grown to be two or three inches long and their number is outgrowing our OSE 55 gallon tank, so we release them into the Newaukum River. All students are invited on release day; students, friends, siblings, and parents come along. We gather up the fish and drive to our designated spot, where we have a brief Q&A and a farewell before releasing the fish into shallow eddies and quiet pools.

This is a fantastic and important project for science education. With the lead and enthusiasm of OSE staff members (Rogerson/Lienhard) the project continues to flourish.



# Chehalis School District Highly Capable Program

The Washington State Legislature passed a law (WAC 392-170) that requires all school districts to identify and serve their “most highly capable” students and to provide a continuum of services to those students in Kindergarten through 12th grade.

## Definition of Highly Capable Student

A student who has been assessed to have superior intellectual ability as demonstrated by one or more of the multiple criteria specified in WAC 392-170-040. These students exhibit high capability in intellectual and/or creative areas, possess an unusual leadership capacity, or excel in specific academic fields, thereby requiring services beyond the basic programs provided by schools.

## Program Design

The Chehalis School District Highly Capable Program is designed to meet the academic needs of our students in grades K-12 who fall generally in the top 2 percentiles for cognitive aptitude.

## Elementary Programs K-5

In grades K-5, highly capable services include placement in cluster classrooms with identified teachers who are provided professional development in differentiating instruction for highly capable learners.

## Middle School and High School Programs 6-12

At the middle and high school levels, highly capable support services generally include differentiation in all classrooms, Honors, Advanced Placement, and College in the Classroom offerings. In the middle and high school, all teachers are encouraged to use their knowledge of highly capable characteristics and needs to best support their students.

## Multi-Disciplinary Selection Committee (MSC):

The role of the MSC is to determine the final selection of students to be placed in the Highly Capable Program according to WAC 392-170. The MSC will be comprised of:

1. Classroom teacher with training and expertise in teaching Highly Capable students
2. Trained Assessment Proctor
3. District Assessment Coordinator
4. Building Principal

## Nomination

Nominations for all potential Highly Capable students for the 2020-2021 school year will be accepted from March 9th through March 19th, 2020. Nomination forms are available in each school office or can be downloaded from the Chehalis School District web site [www.chehalisschools.org](http://www.chehalisschools.org). All completed nomination forms must be returned to the school office before the end of the day on March 19th. The District Multi-Disciplinary Selection Committee (MSC) will notify parents of the nominations and obtain written permission for further assessing. Chehalis School District students that are currently identified as a Highly Capable student do not need to be tested again.

## Assessment

Parent and teacher forms are screened for examples of exceptional creativity, or other learning characteristics that indicate high intellectual potential. Nominated students will be assessed using the Cognitive Ability Test (CogAT) assessment. The CogAT assesses in Verbal, Quantitative, and Non-Verbal areas. This assessment will be administered during the week of April 13th.

## Notification to Parents

After the MSC's review of April's test results, a letter will be sent to parents notifying them of their child's qualifying or non-qualifying status.

## Appeals Process

An appeals process is available for the results of the April testing. If you would like to appeal this decision, your written request must be delivered to your student's building principal.

# "Why We Sing"

## 3rd Grade Musical

"Third grade performed "Why We Sing" in early February. This music program showcased all the work they have been doing in music this fall, and incorporated many types of songs and instruments. The audience even had a chance to join in singing for a few of the songs! The students did an amazing job showing everyone why people have reason to sing." ~ Mrs. Wynne



# "The Elephant's Child"

## 4th Grade Musical

The 4th grade performed their music program "The Elephant's Child." This was a challenging program with complex songs and tricky lines and they did great! This program was a silly tale about how the elephant got its trunk long ago, and students did an excellent job making the audience laugh and telling the story in a musical way."

~ Mrs. Wynne



# EVENTS



5th Grade State Capitol  
3rd Grade Fine Dining  
3rd Grade Olympia Junior Programs  
& St. Martin's University  
Port Blakely Assembly (next page)



Our 5th graders at the State Capitol learning about the history of the building and touring each area - including where Congress and the state Supreme Court convene. They also got to meet Senator John Braun.



Some of our 3rd graders from Mrs. Veach and Mrs. Lince's classrooms participated in a Fine Dining event! They learned all about table etiquette and were invited to dress up and attend this special opportunity.

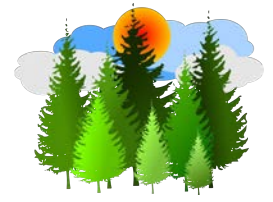
Below are some of our 3rd graders at St. Martin's University learning about the college after attending Olympia Junior Programs.



Our 3rd grade student, Jalen Amoroso, at Olympia Junior Programs. Jalen was asked to sit on stage during the performance!



# EVENTS Continued



Port Blakely shared forestry careers with Orin Smith Elementary students on Friday, February 7. Presenters included: Kelly Stanley, Colby Cooper, Josh Meek, Sarah Rice and Cavin--Port Blakely's forestry dog. This was an interactive assembly which shared the history of Port Blakely, forestry careers and educational requirements, along with forestry equipment used. Student volunteers showcased a variety of forestry equipment, along with educational requirements needed in forestry careers.

A big thank you to Port Blakely for an assembly that allowed students to better understand how they are preparing now for future careers and the types of forestry careers that are available, as well as the education and training needed for the different forestry jobs.



# Terrific Kids



The Kiwanis Club invests in our students by providing certificates, "Terrific Kid" pencils, and stickers to encourage "Terrific" student citizenship.

*In need of supportive services?*

**Need help but don't know where to turn?**

**Dial 2-1-1**  
to find social services like....

- ◆ Rent Assistance
- ◆ Counseling & Support Groups
- ◆ Food & Clothing
- ◆ Donations
- ◆ Transportation
- ◆ Emergency Shelter
- ◆ *and more.....*

Western Counties   
**2-1-1**  
Get Connected. Get Answers.  
Washington Information Network 211

2-1-1 Western Counties Call Center

Serving Thurston, Mason, Gray Harbor,  
Pacific and Lewis Counties

Toll Free: 877-246-1915  
[www.crisis-clinic.org](http://www.crisis-clinic.org)

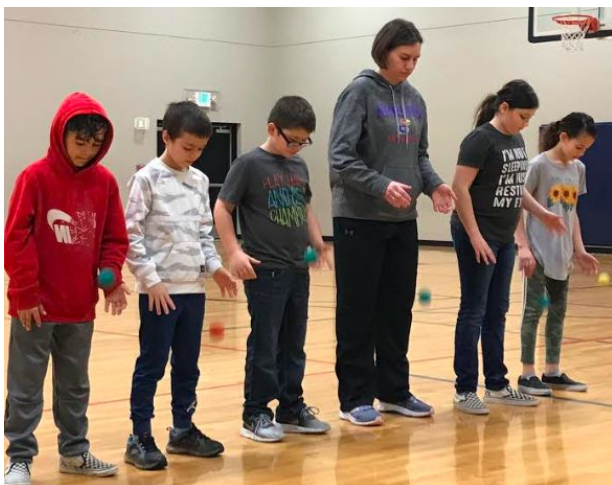
*Our school counselors, Kim Beattie & Kerri Anderson, can help to connect you to local services.*

# A few more fun things...

A couple of OSE students represented and showed off their Bal-A-Vis-X skills with Mrs. Walsh at a Bal-A-Vis-X Conference. Jordan even has some world records (as you see on the back of his t-shirt).

**- Mrs. Karnofski,  
Mrs. Walsh & Mrs.  
Spinnie**

Daniel Castro, Landen Tucker,  
Madison Bazemore, Kendyl  
Guenther, Jordan Peterson-Reeves.



## 4th Grade LOVES to read!



## Public Service Announcers



Wyatt Hoffman  
Public Service Announcement  
02/03/2020



Landen Cline  
Public Service Announcement  
02/19/2020



# MARCH 2020



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT/SUN
					1
2 Public Service Announcement Conference Week 1:00 PM Release Online Book Fair Open	3 Conference Week 1:00 PM Release Online Book Fair Open	4 4th & 5th Grade Future Chef 1:20 PM Conference Week 1:00 PM Release Online Book Fair Open	5 Terrific Kid Awards Conference Week 1:00 PM Release Online Book Fair Open	6 PTA Mother/Son Event 6:00-8:00 PM @ Lintott Conference Week 1:00 PM Release Online Book Fair Open	7/8 Daylight Savings Time - Spring forward 1 hour
9 Hi-Cap Nominations March 9-19	10	11 5th Grade STEM Day	12	13 5th Avenue Production	14/15
16 Public Service Announcement	17 St. Patrick's Day 	18	19 Cougar Character Trait Awards 5th Grade Media Talks Hi-Cap Nominations Due	20 NO SCHOOL First Day of Spring! 	21/22
23	24	25	26	27 Cougar Card Lunch 4th & 5th Grade Level Spelling Bee	28/29
30	31				

## Important Information from our Nurses...

We will soon begin our 5<sup>th</sup> grade AIDS education at Orin Smith Elementary School. The AIDS curriculum developed for use in the Chehalis schools is intended to provide basic information about AIDS. It is our hope that this educational presentation will provide a basis for further discussions about this topic within each home.

If you prefer to exclude your child from this unit of study, Washington State law requires that you preview the AIDS curriculum and materials before requesting non-participation for your child. If you would like to preview this material, contact Kaitlin Dykstra, R.N., Chehalis School District Nurse, at 807-7225 or 219-3370 (*cell phone*.) Mrs. Dykstra will be available at our Orin Smith Campus from 1PM to 7PM on Tuesday, March 3, to answer any questions on this topic and provide materials for your review.





Judy Bostwick, Kaitlin Dykstra & Sherrie Hail-Shea



# APRIL 2020



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT/SUN
		1	2 Terrific Kid	3 4th & 5th Grade School Wide Spelling Bee	4/5
6 SPRING BREAK	7 SPRING BREAK	8 SPRING BREAK	9 SPRING BREAK	10 SPRING BREAK	11/12 EASTER 
13 Public Service Announcement  Grades Distributed	14 PTA Meeting @ 6:30 PM	15 BEAD SHOP	16 Terrific Kid	17 DRESS UP DAY! Dress up as your favorite decade!  3rd Grade Yellow Card Reward  5th Grade Growth & Development Class	18/19
20	21	22  Earth Day  Sahara Pizza Night	23 Terrific Kid	24 Early Release - 1 PM	25/26
27 Public Service Announcement	28 5th Grade Science Testing	29	30		

**Nondiscrimination Statement/Equal Opportunity Employment Notice** - 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. 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. Los siguientes empleados han sido designados para manejar las preguntas y quejas de supuestas discriminaciones:

**Title IX/Affirmative Action Officer:**

Jeff Johnson, 342 SW 16<sup>th</sup> St.  
Chehalis, WA 98532 (360) 807-7235  
jjohnson2@chehalisschools.org

**Section 504/ADA Officer:**

Loretta Duncan, 2025 SW Salisbury Ave.  
Chehalis, WA 98532 (360) 807-7245  
lduncan@chehalisschools.org

**Civil Rights Compliance Coordinator:**

Ed Rothlin, 310 SW 16<sup>th</sup> St.  
Chehalis, WA 98532 (360) 807-7200  
erothlin@chehalisschools.org

**Title I Notification:** Parents can request the following information regarding instructional staff who work with their children:

- Whether or not the child's teacher has met state certification for the grades and subjects she/he is teaching.
- Whether or not the teacher is working with an emergency or conditional certificate where state certification criteria has been waived.
- The baccalaureate degree major of the teacher and any other graduate certification or degree held, including field of discipline of the certificate or degree.
- If the child receives instructional services from a paraeducator, the paraeducator's qualifications.

Printed copies of the annual school's report or newsletter may be obtained from the Chehalis School District Office at 310 SW 16<sup>th</sup> Street, Chehalis, WA 98532 (360) 807-7200. You may also log on to the district website at <http://www.chehalisschools.org> and click on the appropriate link to view each document.