

## A message from Superintendent Rothlin



The 2017-2018 school year has featured some major accomplishments throughout the district. From continued work on the District's Student Achievement Initiative (SAI), to opening our new STEM wing at W.F. West High School, to watching our two new elementary schools being built, some amazing work has taken place.

Work has continued on our Student Achievement Initiative Goals of - **IMPROVE** student achievement by improving instructional practices, **MODERNIZE** those instructional practices through the use of technology, and **PREPARE** students for beyond high school through college degrees and/or meaningful certificates (college aware + college prepared = college ready).

A measure of progress of all of the good work our teaching staff is doing through the Student Achievement Initiative is the following information:

- Class of 2017 – 44% of graduating seniors received college scholarships worth a total of \$1.54 million.
- Class of 2018 – 64% of graduating seniors received college scholarships totaling \$2.56 million.

Our STEM Program at the high school level has been enhanced with the opening of our new STEM wing. This summer the District is partnering with the University of Washington and Centralia College to provide two STEM camps for high school students with focus on an Introduction to Engineering and Pre-Med activities. Registration is limited to 60 students (must be high school age, entering grades 9-12 and can include students throughout the Southwest region of Washington) - details may be found on the district's website - [www.chehalisschools.org](http://www.chehalisschools.org).

**Progress on our new schools continues.** A grand opening event for James W. Lintott Elementary School is scheduled for Wednesday, August 29. The ribbon cutting ceremony will be held at 5:30 p.m. followed by a barbecue. Students, parents and community members are all invited to come.

Orin C. Smith Elementary School will not open until Spring of 2019, and the district has a plan in place for its 3rd through 5th grades. 3rd graders will be housed at Cascade until they can move into Smith Elementary [in spring 2019]. Olympic will remain open for its 4th and 5th grade until next spring, as well.

**For your calendars** - The first day of school is the day after Labor Day (Tuesday, September 4).

Have a safe and enjoyable summer break!

Sincerely,

**Ed Rothlin, Superintendent**

## CTE programs give students an edge



*Welding is one of the CTE offerings at W.F. West.*

Chehalis School District's Career and Technical Education (CTE) program is going strong.

Thanks to a partnership with Centralia College, W.F. West students can earn high school and college credits for classes they take at W.F. West including: welding, early childhood, shop skills, and in the future, American Sign Language, at no cost to students.

Another plus from the partnership with Centralia is the smooth transition between high school and college. Wendie Balmer, Assistant Principal/CTE Director says this will give W.F. West students an advantage.

"It's important to have dialogue with Centralia college," said Balmer. "We both offer Robotics for students, for example, so they will know what W.F. West students are learning and capable of doing when they enter CC. Our shared information makes for a more seamless transition. And we can ask, 'what should we be teaching students in high school, so that they will be ready when they get to college?'"

Other CTE offerings at W.F. West include graphic design, screen printing, sign making, photography, welding, biology, entrepreneurship, botany and floral class, and shop (including the C&C machine).

Balmer says that W.F. West students who have taken these classes are often ready to enter the workforce with the skills they've learned.

"We have some amazing students enrolled in these programs," said Balmer. "It's a great opportunity for them and it's wonderful to see them get a head start on college or a future career."

*For details and registration on the W.F. West Three-day Summer CTE Camp, visit [www.chehalisschools.org](http://www.chehalisschools.org)*

# W.F. West student participates in International Science Fair, Earns Internship in Italy



Ashlynn Gallagher with her Zika Virus Project

W.F. West senior Ashlynn Gallagher won first place in the INTEL South Sound Regional Science Fair at Pacific Lutheran University, among 300 students from 50 high schools. She advanced to the international competition held in Pittsburgh, PA in May.

Gallagher's project was to develop a test strip that would detect the Zika virus and deliver results in under two minutes.

She got the idea for her project after reading a New York Times article about the drawbacks of existing test strips that were very expensive and required refrigeration. She examined the chemical makeup of these strips and set out to develop a less expensive option that would not require refrigeration, increasing convenience for end users.

With thorough research, testing and modifications, using the specialized equipment available to students in the cell culture lab at W.F. West High School Gallagher was able to reach a 99.9% success rate for her test strips. She also worked in a science lab at the University of Washington to do part of her testing.

## Salmon in the Classroom—an Olympic Tradition

For 28 years fourth and fifth grade students at Olympic Elementary have been learning about the life-cycle of Coho Salmon. Each February, students receive an intensive education about the salmon's life-cycle through a program called Hooked on Coho, which has been developed and designed to foster a deeper connection between students and their role in the ecosystem in which they live.

Teachers Jennifer Rogerson and Traci 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 are taught to monitor

*"Being surrounded by almost 1800 students from over 80 countries, regions, and territories is an enriching experience to talk about science and technology whether or not there are political or cultural differences."*

Gallagher is a student in the Advanced Molecular Genetics class at W.F. West. She also takes Running Start classes through Centralia College and will graduate with her AA Degree. Gallagher won fourth place in the Biomedical Engineering category as well as a three-week internship at FBK WebValley's Summer School in Trentino, Italy this summer. The internship focuses on using predictive models to improve pediatric cancer data.

*"I feel so fortunate to be able to use the advanced equipment at W. F. West High School. At the fair, I was chosen out of 70+ projects in my category for a grand award as well as out of hundreds of applicants for the opportunity to win the WebValley internship program in Trentino, Italy. Being surrounded by almost 1800 students from over 80 countries, regions, and territories is an enriching experience to talk about science and technology whether or not there are political or cultural differences."* Gallagher said.

This isn't the first time Gallagher has attended the prestigious international fair, she also qualified last year.

conditions in the fish tank: keeping track of temperature of the water, clarity, ammonia, pH levels, mortality rate, increased size of the salmon and basic tank management.

Students visit the Skookumchuck Fish Hatchery to pick up the 300 eyed Coho Salmon eggs and help take care of the salmon until their release in June into the Newaukum River. Students enthusiastically check on the fish daily, estimating the hatch date, observing hatching foam, and stunning developmental changes in physical appearance. By May, the salmon fry have grown to be one to two inches long and their number and size outrow Olympic's 55 gallon tank.

*"This is a fantastic and important project for science and environmental education,"* said Principal Brett Ellingson. *"We are so fortunate that this project continues to flourish in our school."*



# Outstanding Wildcats Recognized

Chehalis Middle School students were recognized for their social and academic skills with the "Committed to Excellence Outstanding Wildcat Award". In keeping with the school's motto "Committed to Excellence," the award recognizes students who exemplify those qualities. Each teacher picks only two students per quarter who they feel have shown the qualities of being an outstanding student.

"With the number of students that each teacher sees in a day, choosing only two is a challenging task. Considering the number of great kids we have at CMS, receiving this award is certainly an honor and says a lot about our students," said Principal Chris Simpson.

Award recipients are recognized in front of other students, staff and guests in an assembly held in the CMS Commons at the end of each quarter.

## Thank You Volunteers!

Cascade Elementary celebrated its amazing volunteers May 11 for their dedication to Chehalis classrooms. More than 40 parents, grandparents, great grandparents, aunts, uncles, siblings and community members volunteer their time on a regular basis.

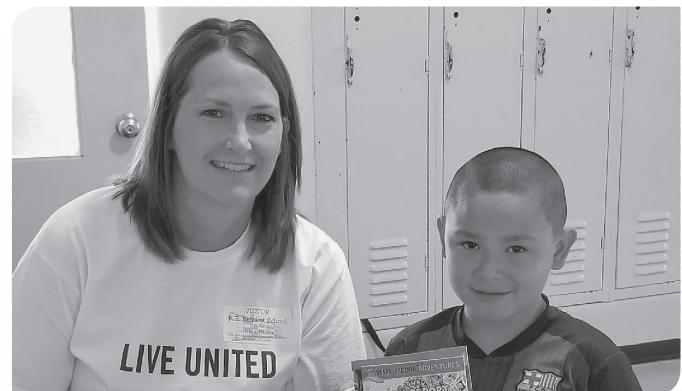


## Olympic students spell their way to S-U-C-C-E-S-S

On April 26, 2018, Olympic Elementary School held its 28th annual school-wide spelling bee, which is sponsored by the Chehalis-Centralia Kiwanis Club. Ten grade level spelling bee finalists participated. Mr. Richard Gilham, a 4th grade teacher at Olympic, was the pronouncer.



Pictured, from left to right with Brett Ellingson, Olympic Elementary's Principal, are the top five winners: Bryce Kuykendall, fifth grade, 3rd place; Hardit Dhudwal, fourth grade, 4th place; Shvitaj Dhudwal, fifth grade, 2nd place; Devan Cook, fourth grade, 5th place; and Sophia Myers, fifth grade, 1st place.



## Reading program supports elementary readers

A partnership with the United Way is benefitting students at R.E. Bennett and Cascade Elementary schools. Through the program, community members volunteer to read with students who need a little extra time to practice reading. Volunteer coordinator Tara Phillips helps match volunteers to readers within the school day schedule. Interested in volunteering? Visit [www.lewiscountyuw.com/content/united-way-reading-buddy-program](http://www.lewiscountyuw.com/content/united-way-reading-buddy-program) for more information.



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### TOP STUDENTS

## Congratulations to the W.F. West Class of 2018!

*The W.F. West Class of 2018 has many significant achievements of which to be proud.*



**KATHERINE AMRINE**

GPA: 4.00

Parents: Scott and Cheryl Amrine

Future plans: U of WA to study molecular, cellular, and developmental biology to pursue a career in laboratory research.



**ZIYUAN (TINA) CHEN**

GPA: 3.983

Parents: Baohong Tan and Guozhi Chen

Future plans: U of WA, then medical school to become a surgeon.



**MATTHEW AVERY**

GPA: 4.00

Parents: David and DeAnna Kreidler & Jeffrey Avery

Future plans: Western Washington University to study biochemistry and music.



**MEGAN WILKS**

GPA: 3.980

Parents: Mark and Christa Wilks

Future plans: George Fox University to major in elementary education.



**NATHAN AVERY**

GPA: 4.00

Parents: David and DeAnna Kreidler & Jeffrey Avery

Future plans: Western Washington University to study biochemistry.



**EMMA MOON**

GPA: 3.961

Parents: Dean and Amy Moon

Future plans: George Fox University to earn a degree in Nursing and to participate in cross country and track.



**HALEY SIMMONS**

GPA: 4.00

Parents: Ed and Shelly Simmons

Future plans: Centralia College to pursue a degree in elementary education.



**MYA DAVIS**

GPA: 3.948

Parents: Arny and Ellen Davis

Future plans: Seattle Pacific University to earn a Nursing degree.



**KYNAN GOLDSBY**

GPA: 3.988

Parents: Shawn and Trisha Goldsby

Future plans: Centralia College to pursue a career in math and science.



**BENNETT BULL**

GPA: 3.945

Parents: John and Alicia Bull

Future plans: University of Washington to study electrical engineering.

**Thank you, retiring teachers, for your service! Happy Retirement!**  
*We wish you the best!*

**Shawn Corrigan, 8 years in Chehalis, 29 years in education. Cliff Munroe, 19 years in Chehalis.  
Hank Norquist, 22 years in Chehalis. Les Vian, 25 years in Chehalis. Kevin Zylstra, 35 years in Chehalis.**

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 Board designated staff member who serves as Title IX / affirmative action compliance office is Jeff Johnson, (360) 807-7235. *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, Jeff Johnson, (360) 807-7235.*

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.