



# Chimacum School Matters

News from Your Chimacum School District

Volume Twelve, Issue Three

December 2007

## Parental involvement key to student success

Guided by our highly qualified staff, Chimacum Schools' students are working hard to achieve the skills necessary for their future successes. We started the 2007/08 year with 1,157 students: 244 at the primary, 260 in elementary, 254 at middle school, and 399 in high school.

Parental involvement is key to student success. If you were unable to attend your parent conference, please stop by the office to pick up your online access codes to our website. One password per family is needed to access information, such as attendance, grades, missing assignments, teacher e-mail, basic discipline, student scheduling, lunch money balance, and emergency contacts.

Codes were given out to most families at the midterm parent conferences. At the middle and high school, the arena conference was well-received. All of the teachers were in the commons. Parents came to pick up the midterm reports and met with teachers.

"At the elementary level we've always had conferences. But the only time we had parent conferences with older students' parents was when something was going poorly," said Principal Whitney Meissner. "We had a 50% turnout at both middle and high school. We've heard really positive things. We want to keep seeing that percentage of parents coming continue to rise."



**Eighth graders Tanner Smith, Griffin Hoins and Hannah Lawson are excellent role models for the younger students at Chimacum Middle School.**



**Mara Brownell  
CHS Lifeskills Program**



**COUPON**

Illustration by CHS grad Justeen Brown

**NEW TEACHERS**



**Garth Gourley  
Band Director**

**Sarah McNulty  
Occupational Therapist**



**Gary Perless  
CHS Spanish & History**

# Chimacum Schools' levies remain constant

By **Sandy Hershelman**

Each time I read a newspaper article on the recent property revaluations, I cringed. It wasn't the fact that the assessed value of my house took a major leap that rattled my cage. It was that each headline read something like, "Chimacum School District taxes skyrocket." I know how school levies work. I knew the local school tax portion of my taxes would barely budge. But I also knew the perception of 96% of the readers was that the school was going to be getting a ton more money. Let's set the record straight: It's not.

As far as property values are concerned, "Chimacum School District" is merely the name of the area the assessor revalued. In 1968, it became law that all properties must be revalued every four years. At the time, using the school district boundaries as the valuation areas made sense: Maintenance and operation levies would be fair to all, as all property values in the district would be adjusted at the same time. The four districts were divvied up with about 25% of the parcels each. (Today, CSD has about one third of the parcels.)

With my "Official Valuation Change Notice" in hand, I met with Jefferson County Assessor Jack Westerman. My cracker box on a postage-stamp-size lot in Hadlock went up 72.9% since 2003. Turns out that was the typical residential increase for the revaluation area; 2003-2007 had the greatest increase in market values in the 32 years Westerman's been assessor.

"Chimacum Schools is not receiving one penny extra from the revaluation. The amounts of money collected have already been

approved by the voters," Westerman said. "The revaluation will result in levy rates dropping significantly."

My 2008 local school tax bill will increase less than \$4 from 2007. The one-year transportation levy drops off before the 2008 tax bill comes. (For me, \$22.14 was for three new buses.)

For senior citizens and the disabled using a school levy exemption, the valuation was frozen the year they first got their waiver.

Timberland and open space didn't change much at all this last revaluation. Including commercial, the entire tax base increased 53%.

The amount people pay in 2008 for the state school levy will

be substantially higher than 2007, but CSD won't see a dime, Westerman explained. The money is not allocated based on what a county collects; the schools get paid per pupil—and enrollment is declining.

**"Chimacum Schools is not receiving one penny extra from the revaluation."**

**Jack Westerman, JeffCo Assessor**

When Dan Evans was governor (1965-1977), the state took over collection of federal forest funds. The logic was that the state pays for education and no district should get more than another. Well, the truth is that the state pays for about 68% of CSD's annual budget—and the kids in downtown Seattle now benefit as much from federal forest funds earned in our county, as do students in Quilcene, Brinnon and the Chimacum School District.



**Sandy Hershelman**

## College Night draws crowd

This year's College Night was the largest ever! The conference and display area filled the Chimacum High School commons and library. More than 230 visitors, from all area high schools, participated in event, cohosted by CHS and the Jefferson Education Center. The 26 colleges represented included all of the Washington four-year public universities, the U.S. Air Force and Coast Guard academies, Cornell University, five community colleges, and a variety of private and specialty arts colleges.

## New exit makes dismissals safer

Have you used the new exit by the elementary school? Our goal was to improve student and community members' safety by providing this new right-turn-only exit out of the main campus parking lot. The exit was paid for from

the Capital Projects Fund with money gained from renting space to the Tri-Area Teen Center and Sunfield School. Please continue to drive very carefully in the parking lot. Watch out for students!



# CMS football finishes its season undefeated

Chimacum Middle School's football team had a perfect season, even without the fact they were undefeated through it all. They had a combination of talented players, a determination to succeed, a bit of luck along the way, levy dollars to fund the program, and two coaches who motivated the boys daily.

"Our success is a reflection of Dan Dankert's dedication and

commitment to our players. He builds positive relationships with all the kids and that helps him teach the game," Shawn Meacham said of his assistant coach. "Dan and I challenged them from the start to do what no team has done before them at the middle school: go undefeated.

"We were fortunate to get some plays to go our way during the season, but I believe we put ourselves in the

position to make our own breaks. It all starts with hard work and practice," Meacham said. "The players who were most successful and improved throughout the season were the ones who came to practice consistently and worked hard. That's the key for this group's future success. Every high school team has talent. It's the kids who work the hardest who are the most successful. The kids had motivational phrases to learn for the end of each practice that framed our goals as a team. The last phrase read, 'Hard work beats talent when talent doesn't work hard.'"

Photo by Gretchen Berg



The Chimacum Middle School Eagles: Back row (from left), Seth Ham, Justin Morris, Coach Dan Dankert, Nick Singleton, Casey Settje, Rusty Black, Quinn Eldridge, Coach Shawn Meacham, Daryl Settlemire, Lucas Dukek, Joe Modispacher, David Glessing, Carter Tjemsland, (middle row) Colin Corden, Austin McConnell, Victor Cienega, Landon Cray, Derek Ajax, Kyle Madayag, Michael Nordberg, Austen Maples, Trevor Hare, Ben Coulter, (front row) Ian McLaughlan, Rian Shelton and Stevie Caddell.

## Winter Concerts

December 6

Chimacum High Band/Choir

December 10

Chimacum Creek Primary

December 11

Chimacum Elementary

December 12

5th Grade Band/Choir

December 13

Middle School Band/Choir

All performances begin at 7 p.m.

# Voters support quality education for students

## Message from Mike. . .



Superintendent Mike Blair

I know this is a very busy time of year for you, but I do hope that you take the time to look over our district newsletter. I wanted to provide you with some information on the impact of the property revaluation and our M&O levy, as this has been a focus recently in the local press.

I would like to thank you for the recent passage of the simple majority amendment that has passed in the recent election. Do note that the 50%-plus-one only applies to the short-term levy and does not apply to long-term bonds, which will still require a super majority (60%) to pass.

To maintain the support of the community, I firmly believe that a

school district needs to communicate clearly that its programs are efficient and well run—and that it provides a caring environment and quality education for students. We will continue to do that as a matter of general policy in the Chimacum School District.

Thanks again for your continued support. Have a great holiday season!

**The man who doesn't read good books has no advantage over the man who can't read them.**

—Mark Twain

# There's lots more inside. Check it out!

- ★ CMS football ends season undefeated
- ★ CSD levies stay the same despite values

*Happy Holidays*

- ★ School year off to a grand success
- ★ Winter break is Dec. 19 ~ Jan. 2

## Chimacum School Board:

Quentin Goodrich  
Ted Friedrich  
Kevin Miller  
David Robocker  
Cammy Brown  
Superintendent:  
Mike Blair

*The Chimacum School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, gender or disability.*

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*Printing, in part, courtesy of Printery.com.*

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## Accounting software provides “real world” feel

No matter what paths our students take once they leave Chimacum High School, basic accounting skills will serve them well. Thanks to levy dollars, business teacher Brent White was able to purchase new accounting software, the Glencoe First Year Accounting course (McGraw-Hill).

The students have their own computers with the textbook on it. The course includes QuickBooks and Peachtree software, industry standards that allow the students a more real-world experience in accounting. There are direct links to the Glencoe website to provide outside resources for students and teachers.

The business class also has nine new Apple iMac computers. Nine more are being purchased with grant money. Since the central processing units of the iMacs are contained in the monitors, they free up a lot of room on the desktops for the students to more easily work.

White recently had the opportunity to take 30 Future Business Leaders of America to Seattle to attend a taping of KOMO TV's *Northwest Afternoon*.

“We were really pretty much the studio audience and got to tour the studios. The kids were all on TV. They were allowed to ask questions of the different presenters,” White said. “Audre Torgerson got to speak with Vince Vaughn, the actor who has that new movie, *Fred Claus*. Other interesting topics on the show were Escaping from Polygamy, big-time wrestler Chris Jericho, and a couple selling their wedding rings for charity. It was great fun.”



Seniors Chris Johnson and Colton Worley, and their classmates, benefit from new iMac computers.