



Year in Review

2023-2024

Composting

Cascade School District (CSD) was the first school district in Eastern Washington to start composting during the 2022-2023 school year. In partnership with Winton Manufacturing Compost Works, the CSD composting program continued at all main campuses. In 2023-2024, CSD received bear safe garbage cans from Winton Manufacturing and composted in a bear friendly format.



MTSS Cohort 2

CSD was accepted into Washington State's second cohort of districts implementing multi-tiered systems of support (MTSS). The second year of this process continued to focus on district-level processes, so a district-wide team met monthly. The team's efforts were led by principal James Swanson and teacher Lindsay Camp. As part of their efforts, they developed a schematic and vision for MTSS in the district.

The goals of the group were to:

- Identify the supports we are currently providing, identify the gaps (or where the cracks may be for students to fall through), and develop a district-wide system that ensures ALL students' needs are met.
- Create a sustainable system that functions with employees exiting and entering the district.
- Identify common language.
- And ultimately ensure: CSD – Comprehensive – Sustainable – District-Wide System

The purpose of the team was to bring a "district-wide" approach to responding to student needs and to ensure that each student had tools and knowledge needed to meet the vision and mission of CSD by creating a system, including common language & data, that meets individual needs.

Kodiak Cubs Demonstration Site

The Kodiak Cubs continued in its fifth year as a Preschool Inclusionary Demonstration Site for Washington State. This year, the University of Washington Haring Center also provided training on inclusionary practices to paraeducators. In addition, other organizations, such as the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), ESD 112, ESD 171, and the Methow School District were able to visit the Kodiak Cubs in person. Another special addition to the services provided at the Kodiak Cubs included an intervention day, in which Mrs. Camp, Ms. Tovar, Mrs. Astell, Ms. Christie, and Ms. Corbett continued to work together to support students who needed some additional time and attention.

Homecoming

The homecoming game took place on September 15 and the homecoming dance was on September 16. There was an annual booster barbeque at the game. The firework show was a hit!

Multilingual Resources Fiesta

The community came out to put on a Multilingual Resources Fiesta on September 22, 2023, at PD. Partners included Cascade Medical Center, Catholic Charities, NCW Libraries, Upper Valley MEND, Plain Valley Ski Trails, Winton Manufacturing, Chelan-Douglas Community Action, Molina Healthcare, Wenatchee River Institute, CAFÉ, Crunch Pac, the National Financial Literacy Campaign, and more. Families were invited to come for food, music, resources, and information.



Dancers in beautiful dresses perform at the Multicultural Resources Fiesta at Peshastin-Dryden Elementary School.

Middle School Backpacking Trips

Middle school academy students had a great opportunity to backpack with their teachers and learn leadership skills. This took place in the fall and in the spring.



IRMS students along with teachers Mrs. Ward and Mr. Merriman prepare to go backpacking at Valhalla.

Salmon Fest

Each year the fourth graders from Alpine Lakes Elementary School attend the Wenatchee River Salmon Festival. The event celebrates the return of the salmon to our northwest rivers. Students learn about the rivers that are home to the salmon and how they provide sustenance for birds, frogs, salamanders, foxes, deer, bugs, bears and countless trees, bushes, and flowers. The Festival has traditionally been held on the grounds of the Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery, located at the mouth of the scenic Icicle Canyon near Leavenworth, Washington but due to ongoing construction at the hatchery, the festival moved to the Rocky Reach Dam Discovery Center in 2022 and 2023. It is a wonderful event for our students!



Ellie Mae won the Grand Prize Poster Contest based on the theme "Salmon People".

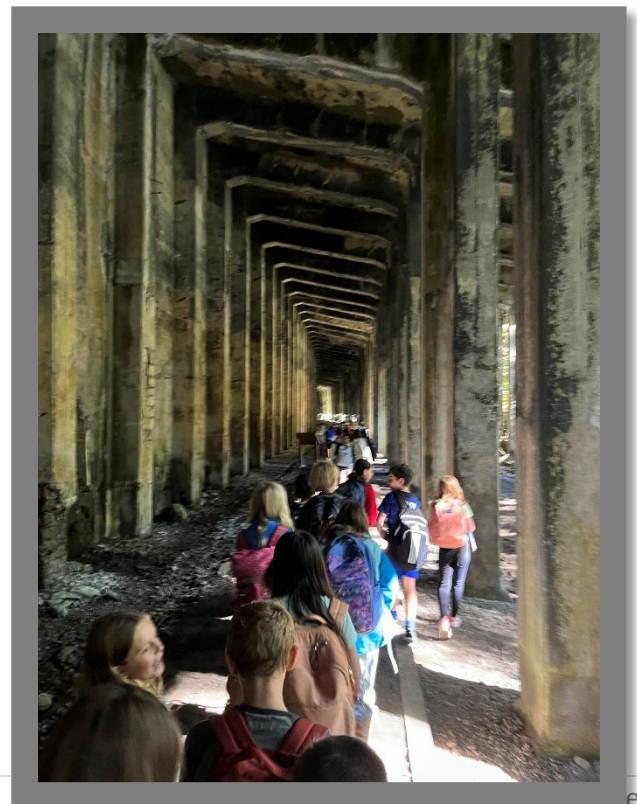


Alpine Lakes students touch raw salmon at Salmon Fest.

Wellington Experience

In the fall, 5th graders at Alpine Lakes Elementary School study the Wellington disaster—the deadliest avalanche in American history. In 2023, the team received a grant from the North Central Education Foundation for classroom sets of a book about the incident. Then students study the history, science, and literature of the Wellington Avalanche. The comprehensive unit culminates in all of the students traveling to and hiking the Wellington site. This is an example of teachers collaborating to develop meaningful and creative units for students.

5th Grade Alpine Lakes Elementary School students visit the Wellington snow shed.



Middle School Students Plant Demonstration Garden

CSD in partnership with Chelan County received a grant to put in a low-water demonstration garden in front of the middle school. During the 2023-2024 school year, students designed different options and selected how the garden would be planted. The garden was planted at the start of the 2023-2024 school year.

Cascade Selected as FieldSTEM District of the Year

The Pacific Education Institute (PEI) selected CSD to be the FieldSTEM District of the year for 2023 largely based on its implementation of outdoor learning throughout the school system. Board Chair Trey Ising, Principal Emily Ross, and Superintendent Dr. Tracey Edou attended the celebration in Lacey on October 6, 2023. PEI created a celebratory video found at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DyQIHsGapw>.



Trey Ising, Board Chair, Dr. Tracey Edou, Superintendent, and Emily Ross, PD Principal, receive the FieldSTEM District of the Year award.

Cascade High School Joins Washington Guaranteed Admissions Program

The Washington Guaranteed Admissions Program (WAGAP) supports a college-going culture and guaranteed admission efforts at Central Washington University, Eastern Washington University, The Evergreen State College, University of Washington Tacoma, Washington State University and Western Washington University. WAGAP is focused on students in the 11th and 12th grades. Through data sharing partnerships with Washington school districts and schools, the participating institutions engage with high school juniors and seniors to ready them for college and familiarize them with college admissions and high school seniors to apply through guaranteed admissions or, if not eligible, through the general admissions process. WAGAP guarantees admission to these 4-year colleges or universities if they meet and maintain a minimum grade point average of 3.0 and have met all college academic admissions requirements.



Middle school students dress up for the Monster Mash.

Icicle River Middle School Hosts a Monster Mash

IRMS held a spirit week in October and ended the week with the Monster Mash school dance. The newly formed Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) was very helpful!



2023 Kodiak Cross Country Team

Cross Country Team Heads to State

In November, the Kodiak cross country team competed in state in Pasco. Our girls' and boys' teams placed eighth at the state meet! Only 16 teams from the sixty 1A schools made it to state, and we beat half of them - a very solid performance. It was a rainy day, but fortunately the rain held off during our races. It was still, however, a squishy, muddy course. Brayden Anderson led the boys with a podium finish in 15th place with a time of 16:42.8. Caroline

Menna led the girls with a time of 20:32.3.

Congratulations to all our runners for their hard efforts.

School Board Honored

CSD's School Board was honored at the Washington State School Director's Conference in Bellevue, WA as a School Board of Distinction for the State of Washington. You can learn more about it in [this article](#) from KPQ.

The Cascade Drama Club Presents The Play That Goes Wrong

In November, high school students presented "The Play that Goes Wrong", which was a hilarious experience for all involved!



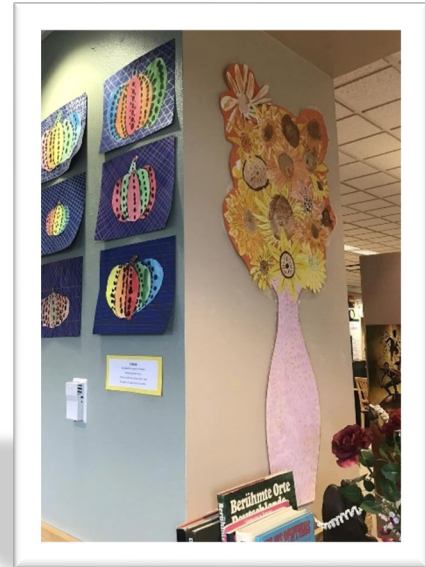
"The Play that Goes Wrong", performed in November 2023

CHS Student Selected in the 2024 Honor Choir

Congratulations to CHS student Renn P, who was accepted into the American Choral Directors Association Northwest SATB Honor Choir for the 2024 regional conference in Spokane! Auditions were submitted from all over the NW region including Alaska, Washington, Montana, Oregon, and Idaho.

Alpine Lakes Student Art Show

The Leavenworth Public Library displayed an art show by Alpine Lakes students. Amber Zimmerman, instructor from the Methow Arts Alliance, helped students express themselves through art at both Alpine Lakes and PD.



Alpine Lakes Student Art Show at the Leavenworth Public Library.

Kodiak Girls Soccer Competes in Postseason

The Kodiak Girls Soccer team competed in the postseason and finished second in the league and second in districts. As the season ended, seven students were awarded all conference honors, including 1st team Adi Casteneda, Teyva Dillon, Mya Herrera, and 2nd team: Cassidy Gillespie, Leslie Mata, Rayen Blue and Honorable Mention Maizy Groff.



Teachers receive their awards at North Central Washington Educational Service District in Wenatchee.

North Central Education Foundation Provides Classroom Grants for Six Teachers

The North Central Education Foundation was formed in 2008 to support classroom learning by providing small but meaningful teacher grants to creative and innovative teachers in North Central Washington. Teachers shown here are Eric Tiegel from Beaver Valley, Dina Anderson and Andrea Nilles from Alpine Lakes, Lindsay Camp from the Kodiak Cubs, and Angie Bates from PD and Alpine Lakes.

The Reptile Man Visits Cascade

The Reptile Man, Scot Petersen, from Monroe, WA came to visit CSD. Zoologist, educator, and author Scott Petersen presents 12 live reptiles in a 40-minute show that teaches the importance of all animals in nature.



A student stands with an alligator on his head, held by the Reptile Man.

High School Volleyball Grows Interest



Cascade Kodiaks Volleyball Team 2023

First and foremost, there was a notable increase in player participation from 20 players in the previous season to 31 players this season. This increase demonstrated a growing interest and commitment to the sport among students at Cascade High School. The coaching staff, led by Head Coach Tony Mora and assisted by Tashena Ashby and Lili Guzman, also played a crucial role in the program's positive aspects. Their dedication and guidance not only contributed to the increase in players but also in fostering a supportive and developmental environment for the team. Furthermore, the competitive schedule and matches against various schools provided valuable learning opportunities for the players. The perseverance and determination shown by

the players in facing tough opponents and continuing to compete reflected a commendable spirit that enhanced the overall character of the program.

The Cascade High School volleyball program, sustained by increased player participation, dedicated coaching staff, and a resilient team spirit, continued to build a foundation for success and growth in its athletes, both on and off the court.

IRMS Holiday Food Drive

IRMS held a Holiday Food Drive for our local Community Cupboard/Upper Valley Mend starting Monday, November 20th and ending Friday, December 8th. It was a grade level competition which ended in a reward for the entire class. 380 pounds of food were collected in the first two days. During the entire competition, IRMS students brought in 837 pounds. The 6th grade class won with 453 pounds of food donated.

Gambit Visits CSD

In 2023-2024, CSD started a partnership with the Chelan County Regional Justice Center in order to do K9 sweeps at our secondary schools. This partnership was positive and appeared to reduce the presence of unwanted substances in schools.



Left- Gambit visits Discovery School, Right- a child makes a piñata at the Posada

Posada

The migrant Parent Advisory Council (PAC) celebrated at Posada for families with a piñata making workshop, sweet bread and hot chocolate. Families also learned about upcoming state testing.

Winter Toy Drive

PD and Alpine Lakes collaborated with NCW Toy Drive in Wenatchee for a free holiday gift “Shop and Go” at the high school cafeteria on December 8, 2023.

Alpine Lakes Students Sing at Mountain Meadows

Mrs. Northrup’s 4th grade class sang for residents of Mountain Meadows on December 14, 2023, much to the delight of all involved.



Residents from Mountain Meadows enjoy the students' performance.

Cascade Medical Center Adopts a Cascade Family for the Holidays

Cascade Medical Center purchased a plethora of gifts for one Cascade family in need with two children which were delivered to their home in time for the holidays.

Multitude of Opportunities in the Arts

Cascade students had many opportunities to be creative and perform. Opportunities included choir, band, and visual arts as well as community opportunities, such as the art show at the Leavenworth Public Library. The partnership with the Methow Arts Alliance continued at Alpine Lakes Elementary School and, to a lesser extent, Peshastin-Dryden Elementary School.



Cascade High School band marches in the Autumn Leaf Festival

Anatomage Table

Health sciences teacher, Jon Betz, and students taking health and sports medicine classes are using a new tool to aid their understanding of the human body. A seven-foot-long digital touchscreen table, made by the company Anatomage, brings to life anatomy and physiology concepts in a way that surpasses anything a skeleton model or textbook could do. The table comes loaded with 3D cadavers derived from five real human bodies and 1600 case study examples, helping students visualize various medical conditions. This table was purchased due to an \$80,000 grant that the Cascade High School Career and Technical Education (CTE) department won.



Teacher Jon Betz with a high school student demonstrate the Anatomage table.

Financial Challenges

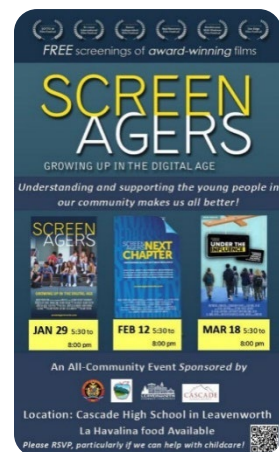
CSD started experiencing financial challenges in the winter of 2023-2024, largely due to inflation, decreased student enrollment, higher than expected expenditures, and lower than expected revenue. CSD implemented cost saving measures starting in the winter in order to finish the school year, and then put together a reduced staffing plan, right sizing the district to projected enrollment, for 2024-2025. The financial situation was updated on: <https://www.cascadesd.org/page/financial-situation-2023-2025>.

Screenagers Series

The middle and high school hosted a series of films and forums called *Screenagers: Growing Up in the Digital Age* to help families, students, and staff learn more about the impact of devices on our students. Food and childcare were available. The events were paid for from a settlement from a lawsuit against Juul.

Fourth Grade Choir Performs for the Kodiak Cubs

Ms. Bates worked with the fourth-grade choir to put on a memorable performance at the Kodiak Cubs!



Flier from the Screenagers series of films.



Fourth grade students visit and perform in costume for the Kodiak Cubs.

Stopfinder App

The Cascade Transportation Department released the Stopfinder app so that parents could receive student schedules for pickup and drop off times at their stop locations as well as real time messages, and updates in their app when there are issues with a route or late arrivals for their routes. Parents can also communicate directly with the Transportation Department via the app.

Sports Medicine Team Wins Fourth in State!

Congratulations to our Cascade High School Sports Medicine team for taking 4th place as a team in the small schools' division at our state competition. The work and commitment that all these students have put in to grow this program is AMAZING! It was a huge team effort from all and these students were also recognized for individual awards. Tori Umbarger: 3rd place in student forum as well as student choice award for forum. Kestrel Foley: 3rd place in medical terminology. Mac McLeod: 16th place in oral practical, Ankle speed taping top 20 finish, and wrist taping top 10 finish. Anatomage team top 10 finish: Mackenzie McLeod, Tori Umbarger, Julian Valdez, Trenton Holland.



Home Link students taking notes at Moses Breezley

Moses Coulee Breezley Preserve

Home Link students traveled to the Moses Coulee Breezley Preserve to study geology, cooking, and Native American culture and history. The Home Link teachers coordinated with elders from the Colville Tribe to allow students to learn from experts about the history of the region. The trip was an example of authentic, place-based teaching and learning.

Strider Bikes

Elementary physical education teacher Isabelle Auty received a grant for Strider Bikes for kindergarten students. Later in the school year, she taught



A kindergartener learns to ride a bicycle in the PD parking lot.

bike riding to kindergarteners with support from other staff members. It was a great addition to P.E. and helped students learn lifelong skills.

College and Career Nights

There were three College and Career Nights in the 2023-2024 school year, featuring amazing community members with lots of skills and talents to inspire students. There were College and Career Nights at Peshastin-Dryden Elementary School, Alpine Lakes Elementary School, and Cascade High School (which also invited 8th graders).



Students and families at Alpine Lakes Elementary School visit an exhibitor from Wenatchee Valley College at their College and Career Fair.

Bucket and Princess Cauliflower

Discovery students improved a pigpen and raised two pigs, Bucket and Princess Cauliflower, and then butchered them at the end of the year. The two main educational goals of their teacher Travis Blue were awareness and sustainability. The pigpen's walls were expanded by 4 feet to give the pigs plenty of extra space using a simple, yet effective combination of wire fencing and wooden beams attached to buried cement supports. To feed the pigs, students used food waste from Cascade High School lunches. To learn more about their project, see: <https://www.leavenworthecho.com/stories/cascade-discovery-program-serves-up-sustainability-with-student-raised-pork,83322>.



A student takes care of pigs at Discovery School.

Future Business Leaders of America Go to State

Multiple students qualified to represent Cascade in state competition in Spokane in the 2023-2024 school year. The regional results were: Business Calculations: Julian Valdez 5th, Gabe Payen 6th; Business Law: Julian Valdez 3rd; Business Management: Kaylee Lewis 6th; Computer Problem Solving: Nevada Allen 3rd; Cyber Security: Nevada Allen 2nd, Dylan Munly 3rd; Digital Video: Elliot Tiegel, Sally Fortney & Sully Fischer 4th; Hospitality Management: Xareny Guzman & Gabe Payne 5th; Intro to Event Planning: Hannah Henson, Emma Radach & Kaylee Lewis 3rd; Intro to Social Media: Hannah Henson, Emma Radach & Kaylee Lewis 2nd; Personal Finance: Julian Valdez, 1st; UX Design: Nevada Allen 5th, Sully Fischer 6th; Helpdesk: Elliot Tiegel 2nd; and Intro to Public Speaking: Breigh Ragsdale 4th. The top

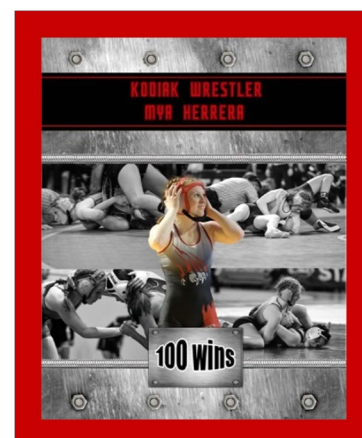


FBLA competitors are dressed for success at the regional

performer at state was Julian Valdez, who won 6th place in Business Law.

Kodiak Wrestlers Go to State

Congratulations to Mya, Tristan, Axel, Angel, and Damian who represented Cascade Wrestling at Mat Classic XXXV! Mya came in third place, Damian came in fifth place, and Tristan came in sixth place. In addition, Mya celebrated her 100 Wins. Mya had been wrestling since the age of 5. She was the first Cascade High School female wrestler to qualify for state, first girl to place at state, and first girl to qualify AND place three times at state. Congratulations, Mya!



Mya Herrera's 100 Wins Poster. Go Kodiaks!

Beaver Valley Celebrates the Chinese New Year

Beaver Valley conducted its traditional celebration of the Chinese New Year on February 13, 2024. 2024 is a year of the Dragon.

Math is Cool Champions

The fourth grade Math is Cool team won the championships! We had 5 kids place, out of 10. One student earned the highest score out of over 300 kids! Thank you to Coach Gilbert for coaching these champions! The fifth grade Math is Cool team also came in second in the highest division. Great job to the students and to Coach Merriman.



Math is Cool Championship Plaque

Knowledge Bowl Wins Regional Championship

For the 5th year in a row, Cascade's Knowledge Bowl team won the regional championship! They easily beat the second place Cashmere team by a score of 92 to 66. They also competed at state on March 23.

Congratulations to team members Adrian Renner-Singer, Ellie Holm, Izzy Menna, Caroline Menna, Savanna Rowles, and Caden Peterson.

Speech and Debate State Tournament

Cascade High School participated in the district qualifier for the state tournament. Rhonan Allen and Kate Smith took second place in Duo Interpretation. Breanna Loomis and Cole Fiano took first place in Duo Interpretation. Rhonan Allen took second place in Impromptu Speaking. Ashton Weston took third place in Original Oratory and Cole Fiano took second place. Allie Ward and Georgia Holm took fourth place in Public Forum Debate. Mia Schons and Breanna Loomis took first place in Public Forum Debate. Mia also took second place in Dramatic Interpretation and Georgia Holm took fourth place. Cascade took second place overall in the 3A division. Our team advanced on to the State Speech tournament on March 9th and the State Debate tournament on March 15th & 16th.

Zachary Miller Resigns from the School Board

Unfortunately, Zachary Miller chose to resign from the school board for family reasons. Zachary had been on the school board since 2019 and served the region of Plain/Lake Wenatchee. During his tenure, Zachary represented the school district on the Parks and Recreation Service District Board. He also served as the Legislative Representative for our school board, then additionally joined the Legislative Committee for the Washington State School Directors Association. It was here that he was able to work with other school directors across the state, advocating for positive legislation around education in Washington. Zachary also volunteered for events in the school district. Pictured here, Zachary read to families at the PD Book Fair.



Zachary Miller reads to students at the PD Book Fair, dressed as a turtle to match the book.

Icicle Creek Center for the Arts Sponsors K-8 Art

Icicle Creek Center for the Arts (ICCA), Village Art in the Park and Cascade School District announced that ICCA will be sponsoring elementary and middle school visual arts in Cascade School District next school year. This endeavor will support the visual arts instruction previously provided by the Methow Arts Alliance with partial support from the Icicle Fund as well as the arts instruction currently in place at Icicle River Middle School. Visual arts instruction during the 2024-2025 school year in elementary and middle school is expected to be provided by Amber Zimmerman in grades K-5 and Lore Smart in grades 6-8. In addition, Teara Dillon leads a robust art program at Cascade High School.



Middle school art projects led by teacher Lore Smart

Trashion Show

Two Cascade High School teams participated in the Wenatchee River Institute Trashion Show, in which students designed costumes for the catwalk out of recycled materials. Team 1 (second place): Egyptian Goddess. Camila Valentin Marquez, Diego Cacho Avina, Daniel Guerrero Ramirez, and Chris Cacho Pulido, and (model) Superintendent Dr. Tracey Edou. Team 2 (first place): Dark Floral. Aliya Coronado (model & designer), Rowyn Bishop, and Rivers Wylie.

CSD Releases a New App

Cascade released a new app to go along with its new website. The app is available on Android and iPhone and features documents, events, news updates, and even emergency notifications. It's everything Cascade SD, in your pocket. See: <https://www.cascadesd.org/o/csd/article/1569789>.

Parenting Classes

Counselor Meche Grace and preschool teacher Lindsay Camp offered Love & Logic Parenting classes several times during the school year in order to teach parents practical tools and techniques to help them achieve respectful, healthy relationships with their children. Each session included instructional videos, workbook exercises, discussion, and reflection in a group setting.

New! 6th Grade Track!

One addition to our sports lineup this year was including 6th graders in track! For several years, we have included 6th graders in cross country in the fall and wrestling in the winter. This spring for the first time we were glad to open track to 6th graders as well. Twelve 6th graders turned out and participated in track and field events at three out of five of our track meets. Thank you to everyone who volunteered to help host our meet at Peshastin-Dryden, thank you especially to Eastmont Junior High for inviting our 6th graders to participate in both of their home meets. We had a total of fifty students turn out for track this spring. We are delighted to have one sport every season for our 6th graders to participate in.

Certificated and Classified Employees of the Year

The Excellence in Education Awards began in 1985 by the North Central Educational Service District and is a recognition program to honor, recognize and say “thank you” in a formal manner to extraordinary, dedicated certificated and classified individuals who give daily and unselfishly to the students in our schools. The Certificated and Classified Employees for this year were Shelley Vandel, 4th Grade Teacher, and Jenni Bunkelman, IRMS Paraeducator.

OSPI Highlights PD’s Outdoor Classroom

PD received a grant to put in an outdoor classroom at Kiwanis Park. The Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) sent out a team to film why we wanted the outdoor classroom and how it is working for students and teachers. See: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FvIifM-X4TY>.

A New Outdoor Learning Space is Created at IRMS

One new addition to the IRMS campus this spring was the outdoor learning space. Built into the small hill of the south bus entry is a new tiered seating area. Our facilities folks laid the blocks, backfilled it with soil and planted the grass all in just a couple of weeks. Students enjoyed it at lunch and teachers will be using it for outdoor teaching and learning in the coming years. It is a great space. Way to Go CSD Facilities and Maintenance Department! They did a fantastic job on the rock work and grass, and our staff and students love it!

*IRMS
Outdoor
Learning
Space*



Dia Del Niño

Thanks to Flor Murguia-West for coordinating the Dia Del Nino at Alpine Lakes Elementary School. It had a very festive atmosphere with great attendance from diverse community members. Piñatas were shattered, lots of people ate and played games, there were musicians there, and it was also associated with a book fair. It was a very fun event.

High School Student Finalist in Photography Contest

Congratulations to CHS student Cordelia F! Her photograph was a finalist in the people category of the Washington State High School Photography Contest!



Cordelia F's winning photograph

Beaver Valley Play

In March, Beaver Valley School performed their annual school play at Mountain Springs Lodge. This year they shared "Jack and The Beanstalk" with their families and the Plain/ Lake Wenatchee community. All kindergarten through fourth graders sang, acted, danced, moved sets, played music, and had a great time making everyone laugh! They also built the sets, backdrop, and props.

Plant Sciences Hosts its First Plant Sale

The high school plant sciences class under the direction of teacher Mr. Conner held its first plant sale from the greenhouse situated between IRMS and CHS. In addition, plant science students grew vegetable plant starts for the Community Cupboard so that community members in need could grow their own produce at home.



Plants for sale!



Retiring teacher Mr. Phelps jogs with students at the PD Jog-a-Thon.

Jog-a-Thon

Alpine Lakes held their third jog-a-thon since the pandemic at the field behind their school, and PD held their second jog-a-thon since the pandemic at the football field. Both schools held successful fundraisers through the jog-a-thon. The jog-a-thons also promoted healthy activity and were well supported by students, parents, and staff alike.

Boys Tennis are District Champions

Congratulations to CHS Boys Tennis team for winning District Championships and securing a trip to State tournament in Yakima!

Boys Soccer Team Wins Third in State!

Kodiak Boys Soccer, coached by Jesus Sandoval, were district champions and won third place in state! It was a season for the history books. They were Caribou Trail League Champions, runner up District Champions, ranked #1 in WIAA power rankings throughout the season, 85 goals were scored, 13 goals against, and 13 shutouts. Angel Sandoval was the Caribou Trail League Most Valuable Player. 1st team honors went to Shane Slette, Karsten Bowles, Angel Sandoval, and Ryan Denega. Congratulations to seniors Karsten Bowles, Angel Sandoval, and Ryan Denega for committing to further their soccer career.



2024 Boys Soccer Team

Ezra Week Gets Second in Long Jump

Ezra Week jumped 21 feet and 10 inches during the 2024 time trial, getting second in the school record books in long jump. The reigning champion still remains Mark Bangsund from 1992 at 22 feet.

Blood Drives

Sports medicine and Interact Clubs hosted two Red Cross blood drives during the 2023-2024 school year. 92 blood donations were made. 💧

Smarter Balanced Assessment

CSD exceeded the state average on the Smarter Balanced Assessment in overall scores in almost every grade in both math and English Language Arts (ELA) during the 2023-2024 school year. Some highlights were:

- 3rd grade ELA exceeded the state average by 12% as well as multilingual learners by 23%, and in math by 10%;
- 5th grade exceeded state averages in ELA by 23% and math by 29% as well as multilingual learners in math by 5% and students with disabilities in math by 2%;
- 7th grade math exceeded the state average by 12% in math as well as students with disabilities in math by 12% as well as ELA by 4% and students with disabilities in ELA by 9%;
- HS students with disabilities exceeded the state average in math by 7%.

There were challenges in math in 6th grade due to a mid-year staffing turnover.

6th Grade Voces Exordium Choir scored a Superior Plus

This year, the 6th Grade Voces Exordium Choir scored a Superior Plus, which is the highest possible rank attainable. According to school records, the last choral ensemble from Cascade to score a Superior Plus at Large Group Festival was the 2016 CHS Select Choir!

6th Grade Camp

6th grade overnight camp at Tall Timber continued thanks to a grant by Outdoor Schools of Washington. 6th grade students, teachers and chaperones had a great experience with lots of learning, fun activities, skits, games, and food.

Fire Sciences

All cadets earned their Red Card certification during the 2023-2024 school year in their fire sciences courses. In addition, 5 of the 10 cadets were hired by the Forest Service to fight fires this summer. The fire science program also received a Perkins Reserve Grant for Non-Traditional Career Pathway for \$15,000. The funds were used to purchase additional protective gear and equipment. During the 2024-2025 school year, the program will expand to have 15 cadets.



Middle school student enjoys 6th grade camp.

Blue Origin Returns to the Middle School

For the fifth year in a row, Blue Origin collaborated with 7th graders at IRMS on a mock project to Mars. Students were interviewed for various jobs, such as project manager, nutritionist, and marketing manager. Students were divided into teams and created elaborate projects which they demonstrated to judges who came from Blue Origin. All groups did an excellent job and were able to demonstrate their knowledge to community members at the Space Expo on June 6, 2024.



Students wait with anticipation to hear the winner of the competition from Blue Origin.

Kindergarten Graduation

The tradition of Kindergarten Graduation was held on June 7, 2024, earlier in the day before high school graduation. It was as cute as usual, featuring a great group song by the up-and-coming big kids.



Kindergarten graduates walk through a tunnel created by graduating seniors from the class of 2024.

Cascade High School Class of 2024

Commencement was held at the Peshastin-Dryden stadium on June 7, 2024, at 8:00 pm. The valedictorians were Isabel Menna and Julian Valdez, and the salutatorian was Breanna Loomis. The keynote speaker, chosen by the Class of 2024, was retiring teacher Bill Davies. Mr. Rudy Joya was also celebrated as the departing principal. Lorelai Ann Kinnear and Victoria Umbarger were also honored as a graduate with a 4.0 GPA. Other honors included honor cord, torch lights, Caribou Trail League scholar athletes, and the Seal of Biliteracy. The Seal of Biliteracy was given to students who attained a high level of proficiency in speaking, reading, and writing in one or more world language(s) in addition to English. Bill Davies also participated in graduation after 39 years of high school.



The annual graduation fireworks show was a success!

Cascade Choir Crescendo Benefit Concert

Due to budget constraints and the need to align staffing levels to the reduced student enrollment since the pandemic, Cascade School District needed support from the community in order to support secondary choir programs for the 2024-2025 school year. The Cascade Choir Crescendo Campaign was born from this need. A sold-out benefit concert was held on June 11, 2024, with a multitude of performers, including students, alumni, and creative community members. An anonymous donor also matched \$20,000 of donations, making it possible for the district to post a choir position in July 2024. For more information about the campaign, see:

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/peer-to-peer/f2667235-d3e9-4e65-a880-a4fd73316062>.



Students perform at the Choir Crescendo Benefit Concert under the direction of departing choir teacher Isabella Garcia.

Eighth Grade Transition

The tradition of the outdoor eighth grade transition that started during COVID continued this year. Students' names were called, and they were greeted with music, sound makers, high 5's and lots of celebration. There was also a picnic dinner.



Home Link students perform the play they wrote on the Cascade High School stage.

Home Link Theater

Middle school Home Link students wrote, directed, and performed in their own play on June 12, 2024. There was a question and answer session afterwards led by teacher Shanda Holm for family members to learn about the how the students wrote and edited the play.

Beaver Valley Trail Cam Highlights

Beaver Valley Elementary School children recorded wildlife footage near the school in a project supported by the Beaver Valley Parent Group. In 2024, they released two videos, the first of which features animal babies: 1) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fgV9qtLWWN8> and 2) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2rRUCeL5OWY>.

Icicle River Middle School Receives State Recognition

Icicle River Middle School (IRMS) was recognized for growth in student achievement for students with disabilities by the State Board of Education, the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the Educational Opportunity Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee as part of the Washington

School Recognition Program based on assessment results from the 2022-2023 school year.
Congratulations, IRMS!

Technology Student Association Goes to Nationals

Twenty-nine students participated in the Technology Student Association (TSA) state competition under the leadership of Jodie Tremberth, Jake Carvito, Shelly Forster, Teara Dillon, and David Harvill. Students competed with hundreds of other students from Washington with the top contenders qualifying for Nationals. The National Competition was held in June in Orlando, Florida. Two teams competed in Nationals for problem solving (CHS Kate and Cosimo and IRMS Phaedra and Bennett). CHS and IRMS Forensics and Tech Bowl teams competed too. Lily, Ben, and Ridley also competed for System Controller, and Marit and Piper competed for Technical Design. Mia, Ben, Ridley, & Lily all made it up on stage for top 10. Congratulations to Mia from CHS, who won first place in the nation in Children's Stories!