



THE PANTHER PRESS

CAMPUS NEWS

ADMIN. MESSAGE

Dear Students, Parents, and Guardians

The first quarter of the school year has concluded, so we would like to take a moment to celebrate our achievements and look forward to what lies ahead. It has been amazing to see the progress our students have made in such a short time-- whether in the classroom, on the field, or in clubs and activities.

This quarter has been full of hard work, dedication, and a commitment to excellence. We are proud of our students for embracing challenges, collaborating with their peers, and showcasing their talents. Our teachers have also gone above and beyond to provide innovative learning experiences that spark curiosity and encourage critical thinking.

As we transition into the second quarter, students are encouraged to take full advantage of the resources available to them. Whether through seeking support from teachers, joining study groups or exploring new extracurricular opportunities, there are countless opportunities for growth and enrichment.

Let's continue to foster a supportive school environment where every student can thrive. Your ongoing support and engagement are invaluable to the success of our school community, and we thank you for being an essential part of it.

GO PANTHERS!

LOOKING HEAD

December 10 ~ Elementary Christmas Concert 6pm

December 23 – January 3 ~ Christmas Break NO SCHOOL

★ **January 16 ~ Battle for the Paddle**
(See Last Page for details)

January 20 ~ M. L. King Jr. Day ~ NO SCHOOL

2024 Cusick Graduate, Marine Colby White, pictured here with sister Ali White, was back to celebrate Veteran's Day with us!



CHARACTER COUNTS!

Anytime, anywhere.

Even when no one is watching!

CLASSROOM SPOTLIGHT

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION



Aaron Hoisington, Dalilah Littlecrow-Curtis, and Lex Swift show off the lettuce grown for our own salad bar!

This month, we are excited to highlight the remarkable work of Todd Strobel and our SkillsUSA program. With a passion for vocational training and student success, Mr. Strobel is empowering students to excel in their chosen career paths and develop critical skills for the workforce. We would also like to shine a spotlight on our Agricultural Education program and the inspiring work of Aubrey Markel. With a passion for agriculture and a commitment to hands-on learning, Mrs. Markel is making a significant impact on our students and the broader community. These teachers have 44 years of combined experience teaching in Eastern Washington. Their enthusiasm for hands-on learning and commitment to student development make a significant impact on our vocational programs.

Under the guidance of Mr. Strobel and Mrs. Markel, the SkillsUSA and FFA programs provide students with opportunities to participate in competitions that showcase their skills and craftsmanship. Whether that is running laser equipment, growing lettuce for our school lunch program, or leadership training and beyond, the students learn to compete at local, state and national levels. These activities offer invaluable experiences that prepare them for future careers.



Elizabeth Lyon works hard in shop class

HOMECOMING 2024

Seniors Edge Out Sophomores in Thrilling Homecoming Showdown

Homecoming week at Cusick High School reached a fever pitch as students engaged in a series of spirited competitions leading up to the homecoming game. With events ranging from cornhole to volleyball, the rivalry between the classes provided a showcase of school spirit, teamwork, and friendly competition.

The week kicked off with the hall decorating competition, where the seniors demonstrated that they were here to play. This initial victory set the tone for the week, but the other classes were determined to bounce back.

As the week progressed, all classes showcased their talents in various activities, including a putting competition and dress-up days; the sophomores surprised everyone with their creativity and energy here! The competition was fierce, with the scoreboard remaining tight.

The climax came during the final event: the relay race. Both teams lined up, the tension palpable as they prepared for the decisive showdown. The Race was a blur of motion, with the seniors and sophomores neck-and-neck throughout.

In the end, the seniors celebrated their narrow win, but the spirit of camaraderie was evident as both classes congratulated each other on a week well spent. This year's homecoming competitions not only highlighted the competitive spirit at Cusick High, but also fostered a sense of community among the students, ensuring that the rivalry will continue to thrive in the years to come.



High School Royalty

Pictured from left to right

Juniors: Dalilah Littlecrow-Curtis, Parker Lawrence, Jazzy Carrasco, Thomas Sullivan

Seniors: Alaina Hilborn, Roland Campbell, Bre Allen, Adrian Treetop, Annaka Pittsenbarger, Mateo Holmes.

Pee Wee Royalty: Harper Carson and Henry Pontius



Homecoming King and Queen: Roland Campbell and Alaina Hilborn

BETTER TOGETHER

Our District is very excited and humbled by this very generous \$50,000.00 donation from the Kalispel Tribe.

\$40,000.00 of this donation is earmarked for us to purchase additional equipment and gets us one step closer to our Career and Technical Education dream within our manufacturing and entrepreneur classes.

\$10,000.00 of this donation is earmarked to be equally distributed amongst our certificated staff to purchase classroom supplies and materials of their choosing.



Oakley Bluff, graciously accepts generous donation from Tribal Member, Curt Holmes



*Back row: Mateo Holmes, Roland Campbell, Richard Dionne, Skookum Barker, Bradley Chambers, Mr. Strobel, Dalilah Littlecrow-Curtis, Kambria Ochoa
Front Row: Curt Holmes, Oakley Bluff*

In closing, we are proud of the things we are doing at Cusick and a big part of that is because of the generosity of the Kalispel Tribe. They have been the best educational partner anybody could ask for. They do not do it for the recognition, but in our humble opinion, they deserve some for their commitment to ALL kids in the Cusick School District. In their own words and philosophy, we are “Better Together!” Truer words have never been spoken!

ELEMENTARY SPOTLIGHT



*Jackson
Seuss
enjoying
a cup*

In September, Mrs. Shanholtzer’s second graders had a “barista bootcamp”. The Cusick Café had 20 new employees go through training. This included activities like editing the menu, adding new creative menu items, and the students got to unlock the cash box for an escape room style math activity. It was a great way to build community and celebrate the learning they have accomplished so far this year. Days like these keep learning fun and exciting. Go panthers!



Mrs. Shanholtzer’s 2nd Grade Baristas!

TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN

Our First Year of All-Day TK: A World Of Learning

What an exhilarating journey it has been in our first year of all-day Transitional Kindergarten (TK)! With a vibrant class of 16 eager learners, we dive into the wonders of school life every single day. Our little brains are like sponges, soaking up everything around us! From the moment we stepped into our classroom, we've embraced the routines and rules that help us navigate our exciting new environment.

One of the most thrilling parts of our learning adventure is exploring languages! We are not just learning English; we are also diving into Sign Language, Salish, and Spanish. Can you believe it? We can count to 10 in all three languages! Signing the alphabet letters A to J brings us so much joy, and we've even picked up a few other signs along the way. Identifying letter sounds from picture cards has turned into a fun game, where each day we grow more confident in our abilities! Our enthusiasm for science is through the roof! We've uncovered the mysteries of our skeleton system and even crafted our own skeletons. When someone asks us about the differences between insects and spiders, we are ready to shine! We explain that insects have three body parts, while spiders have two body parts and eight legs. How cool is that? But that's not all! Cutting and slicing fruits has become one of our favorite activities. Learning how to prepare and dry different fruits means we not only acquire practical skills but also enjoy delicious snacks made by our own hands! Our pumpkin exploration has been a highlight too, as we compared, dissected, and dried their seeds—what a sweet treat!



Storytime is a magical part of our day. We love reading, telling stories, singing songs, and doing finger plays. The joy of sharing tales and expressing ourselves through music and movement fills our classroom with laughter and creativity!

As we continue this incredible journey, our enthusiasm for learning grows every day. We are building a strong foundation for the future, and we can't wait to see where our adventures take us next! Here's to a fantastic first year of all-day TK, filled with joy, discovery, and endless possibilities! 🎨📖🌟



Our Terrific TK Class!

COATS 4 KIDS

Wow...such a generous donation from “Coats 4 Kids” in collaboration with the Kalispel Tribe. We received over 40 coats that will be distributed to our students. What winter blessings these gifts will provide. They will keep many Panther students warm this winter. Such a selfless act...Thank you!



*Kalispel Tribal Member: Curt Holmes,
Cusick Leadership members: Avalilly Revais, Jameson Cupp,
Lanice Piengkham, Kaylani Treetop, Thoren Holmes
Cusick High School Senior: Mateo Holmes
Channel 4 News: Kris Crocker*

WASHINGTON D.C.

The Cusick Social Studies Department is excited to announce its inaugural Civics Student Trip to Washington D.C. 25 students applied and 11 were selected to be a part of the trip based on grades, citizenship and essays. These students have been fundraising and are well on their way to achieving their financial goal. On Nov. 7th, with the help of Mrs. Bess Hardie, students hosted an exceptionally successful dinner and auction at the Cusick American Legion. The students attending this week-long trip would like to thank everyone who donated or attended the auction to help make this educational opportunity possible. Special thanks to the Cusick American Legion Post 217, The Cusick Sons of the American Legion and the Kalispel Tribe for their generous support.



Thank you to our auctioneer,
Miss Bess!

Washington D.C. students: Rylinn Chitwood, Jamieson Oaks, Raymond Pierre IV, Richard Sandwick, Michael Butler, Nick Sandwick, Judah Sutton, Kaden Person, Jezreel Coote
Not Pictured: Aaron Hoisington, Miley Duclos



SPORTS

2024-25 CUSICK BASKETBALL

SUBJECT TO CHANGE

12/3 at St. Johns Endicott

12/6 Home vs Springdale

12/7 Home vs Wilbur Creston

12/13 Home vs Curlew

12/14 at Republic

12/17 at Selkirk

12/20 Home vs Northport

12/21 at Inchelium

1/07 at Curlew

1/08 Home vs Tekoa Rosalia

1/10 Home vs Columbia

1/13 Home vs Oakesdale

1/14 at Northport

1/16 Home vs Selkirk

1/18 Home vs Republic

1/21 Home vs Inchelium

1/23 at Valley Christian

1/25 At Columbia

1/28 Home vs Selkirk



BRING HOME THE PADDLE!

Our annual rivalry game against Selkirk is scheduled for Thursday, January 16, in Cusick. Last year, Selkirk claimed the Paddle, but we're ready to bring it back! The event will include exciting competitions, such as a halftime line-dancing showcase and coordinated cheering to show our school spirit. In addition, we'll be holding our annual food drive as part of the rivalry event. We encourage everyone to join us and support our team—let's bring the Paddle home!