

CECEXPLORER

The latest news and updates from Chain Exploration Center



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ALWAYS STAY UP TO DATE:

www.chainexplorationcenter.org

CEC Principal, Rhonda Hare, shares her story.

My Story | by Rhonda Hare

I am proud to be serving as Principal for Chain Exploration Center, Chain Elementary School, and all the W4K sites. I serve the community by starting our youngest learners on the path to success, and encouraging middle aged learners to explore their interests.

A little about me: I moved with my family to the Waupaca area in 2012. I have degrees from Ripon College, UW-Oshkosh, and Marian University. I entered education after a short career in greenhouse/nursery work. I started as a first grade team teacher, have also taught Title 1 Reading, and was a district Reading Specialist for 15 years. I have worked in rural and impoverished areas as well as affluent. I have taught in a high minority district and more homogeneous. I have helped learners who struggle, and shown those to whom learning is easy how to reach further. There are things that are true no matter the background: I believe that learning to read and write is the key to the world of communication, growth, and expression.

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Continued, Rhonda Hare Shares Her Story...

Literacy is a ticket to go anywhere. Through my work with developing the Chain Exploration Center, I have come to believe in the power of two more things: the strength of community engagement and the efficacy of engaging students by using their interests... and then passing the responsibility for learning on to them.

I respect educators and enjoy empowering teachers to work their magic and allowing children to grow and bloom. Thank you for joining me in this endeavor!

Community Garden

A glimpse at the past, present, and future

Over the past ten years the Community Garden has produced tons of food for numerous community organizations and county organizations like the food pantry and WIC, to name a couple. Regularly, in the summer, flowers grown in the garden were delivered to the Veteran's Home and nearby nursing homes.

The hard work of a few brought so much joy, comfort, and nutrition to so many in our local community. Local organizations would discuss supply and demand before the next planning season and if you talk to the original team you will witness lots of laughs while sharing stories of the produce that they were politely asked not to produce in the following years, along with many success stories.

The planning phase for the upcoming year began in the summer of 2018 with district employees and representatives of the CEC. The decision was made to move the garden to the CEC and give the students, families, and staff the opportunity to develop our own idea of what a "community garden" should be.

Approximately one acre of land was tilled just before the first snowfall. The well was installed in November and is ready to be hooked up to irrigation in the spring. The next few months will define and shape the direction of the garden. All of this is made possible because of the dedication of our district staff and maintenance crew. If you would like to be involved in the future of the garden please reach out, all are welcome!



The new garden well on CEC property.

ENROLL FEBRUARY 1

Enrollment at the CEC opens February 1 for grades 2-6. The forms and more detailed information can be found online at our website. Email Mrs. Hare at rhare@waupacaschools.org with any questions you may have.

A lottery will be held late in spring if the applications exceed spots available. Student names will be picked at random to fill vacancies and to form the waiting list. Students currently enrolled and attending the CEC do not need to reapply, these students will automatically be enrolled for the following grade level.

**Informational nights are
January 14 and January 29, 6:30pm
at Chain Exploration Center.**



An updated look at the student mural.

Project Cycle

Next Project Night: January 17, 5:30pm

The students have been taking a look at citizenship over the last project cycle; what it means to be a citizen locally, state-wide, and nationally. Join us and our students as they present their findings in January.

The next project cycle has our students focusing on the Arts. Students will explore the many facets involved in producing a musical titled, "We are Monsters". Students will participate in all levels from stage direction, costuming, lighting, to acting. The musical will take place on February 21 and 22. Mark your calendars now!

S.T.E.M. Curriculum Project Lead the Way

by Holly Olsen, Advisor

The Project Lead the Way program is designed as an introduction of the S.T.E.M. field through hands-on, open-ended activities and projects. Launch is the program designed for Kindergarten to 5th grades. Each grade focuses on different modules to engage young minds. The curriculum for Grades 6-8 is called Gateway. Both programs focus on an introduction and exploration of the computer science, engineering, and biomedical science fields. Students collaborate using critical and creative thinking skills to solve problems. The learning model scaffolds students toward independence as they move through the program.

One favorite engineering module asks students to design and create a vehicle restraint system (seatbelt) to protect their passenger (an egg) from rolling down a ramp. We will be excited to start this program very soon in the upcoming weeks.

For more information visit <https://www.pltw.org/our-programs/pltw-launch>



PLTW curriculum arrived, advisors and volunteers are busy unpacking so students can begin in the next couple weeks.

GOVERNANCE COUNCIL MEETINGS:

4th Thursday of the month at CEC
January 24, 2019 (5:30pm)
February 28, 2019 (5:30pm)

