

October 8, 2021

Dear Chimacum Families,

It has been a really great week in our schools, as our Junior/Senior High students have in-person Spirit Week activities and an in-person Homecoming Football game this evening! Homecoming is an important part of a high school experience for many of our kids, going back generations. The fun, the pageantry, and the break from the daily schedule are all hallmarks of this week across our country.

I get to spend a lot of my time as a leader thinking about and talking about the “Broad Horizons” that we want for our students and families. This is creating possibilities for each student by creating a safe, nurturing learning community for them to thrive and grow to be fulfilled.

I haven’t spent much time telling you what I think about “Deep Roots”.

For me, coming to Chimacum was about the connection we have to this place and the profound sense of culture and history here. Generations of families have attended our Chimacum Schools since the first class of five graduated in 1919. Although each new class takes us a little further away from those origins, the history and the spirit is still here, and we need to pay attention to it- especially because each new superintendent, staff member, or board member may be one more generation removed from that history.

I continue to try to learn about our Chimacum history and culture by way of connecting to this place and leading for place-based learning. It is not just about our indigenous roots or our farming and ranching history. It is also about multiple generations of Chimacum families- people who gave to our schools, built our schools, taught our ancestors, and built lives here. There are many stories.

A particularly important story for me that brings together many of the elements of this place is the life of Tommy Yarr. If you don’t know the story, Tommy was a Chimacum graduate and All American football player at Notre Dame under coach Knute Rockne and briefly a professional in the AFL. He was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 1987. He was born in Dabob and raised on a dairy farm in Chimacum. As a football hero, he received football accolades for us to be proud of. And, as a man who was Snohomish and Irish, he was at the intersection of different pieces of our *deep roots*- where indigenous people and white settlers raised families together. He overcame bias and racial stereotyping with hard work and persistence.

These are the stories of people that help me understand and love this place.

One last note- I want to celebrate our Chimacum Principals- it is National Principal month! I am proud of the work that Kyle, Jason, Kim, and Mark do each day on behalf of kids. It has been a very challenging start to a school year, and they have done a great job managing all the pieces and keeping our schools moving forward in positive directions. Three Cheers!

Warmly,

Scott Mauk, Superintendent

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