



# *The Special Edition*

May 2025

## Message from the Director

As we near the close of the school year, I want to take a moment to thank each of you for the incredible work you've done to support our students and help them succeed. Because of your dedication, many of our students have not only made significant academic and social progress but are also preparing to walk across the stage as graduates, an achievement that would not be possible without your care, commitment, and expertise.

With just two weeks left, I encourage you to finish strong. Please take time to complete any remaining paperwork corrections and progress reports. These final updates are so important in communicating with families about the growth their child has made this quarter. Growth that you've helped make possible.

We hope to see you at the End-of-Year Staff Breakfast on Wednesday, May 22 from 7:45–9:30ish AM, where we'll gather to celebrate this year's accomplishments together. It's a well-deserved moment to reflect, connect, and enjoy time with colleagues.

Thank you for all you've done this year. I wish each of you a relaxing and rejuvenating summer break. We'll see you back at the end of July as we kick off another great year of professional learning and collaboration.

Warmly,

**Erica Bammes**  
Director of Special Education  
Wamego Special Services Cooperative

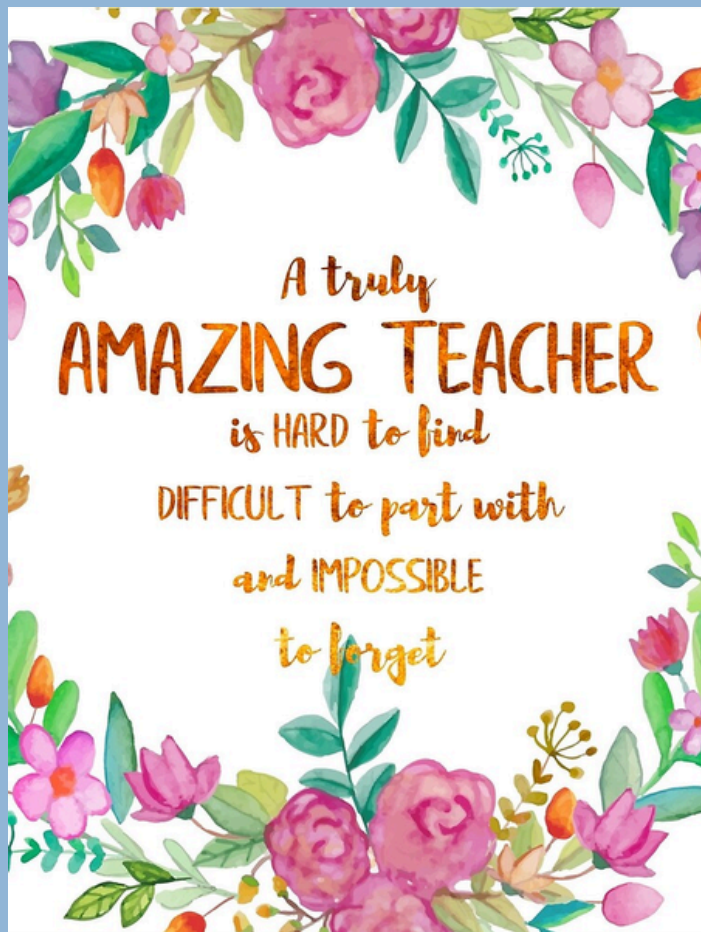


Happy  
May Day,  
Thursday,  
May 1



# TEACHER APPRECIATION

## MAY 5-9, 2025



## HAPPY TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK!

The world is a better place for our students because you are in their lives. It's not just during this week we salute you for all you do, you are much appreciated every day. We hope you are well loved and spoiled!

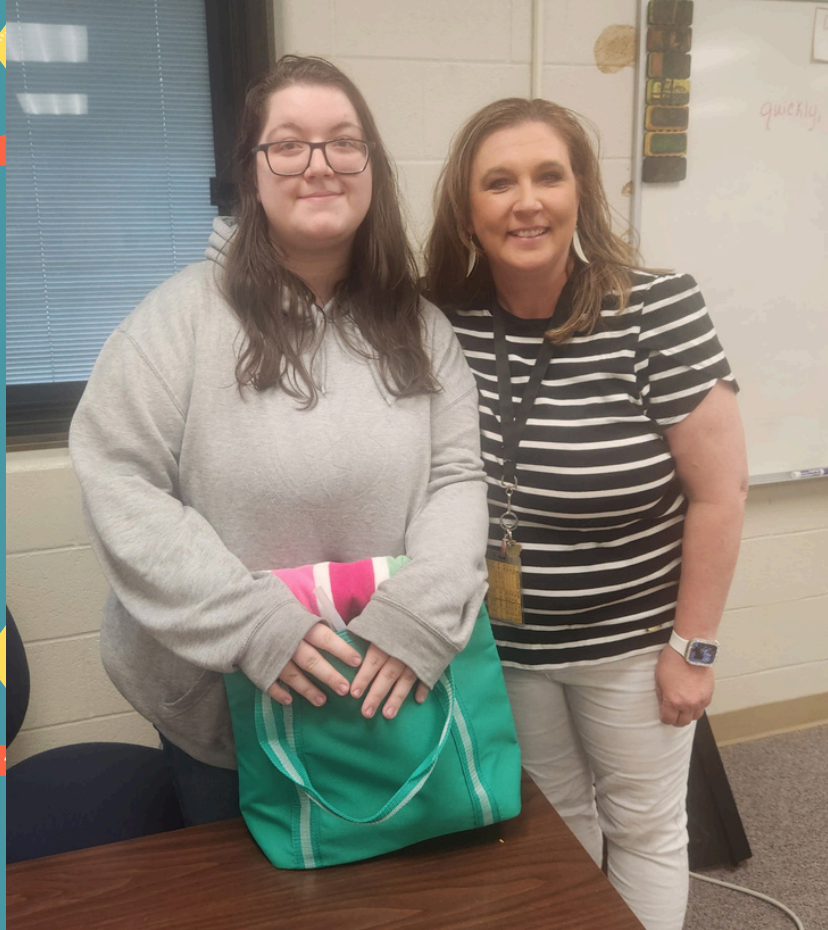
## REMINDERS

- ✓ **Medicaid Logs** are due on or before check-out. Please submit to Diane Miles.
- ✓ **Licensure** - Be sure to check to see if your license is expiring this summer. You will want to get that process started ASAP so it doesn't lapse.
- ✓ **ESY Dates are:**
  - June 2-5, 9-12, 16-19 (Mon.-Thurs.) - mornings only
  - Will be held centrally in Wamego
  - *USD 323 & 329 districts will provide transportation to their students to Wamego for ESY services*
  - If you are referring any students for ESY, **you MUST provide daily lesson plans and all materials for student learning for the whole duration of ESY.** These plans and materials must be turned in no later than your check-out time with the Coop, and can be left at the Coop for pickup.





# APRIL KUDOS WINNER



**CONGRATUATIONS TO...**  
**Cheyenne Calmes, para at WMS**

**NOMINATED BY...**  
**Jodi Hecht**



# KUDOS TO...

## **Cheyenne Calmes, para at Wamego Middle School.**

Cheyenne has come in and done so well with our kids. She has connected with some of our most difficult kids and has made a huge impact. Her heart for this job and our students truly shows! She strives to be her very best. Cheyenne goes above and beyond what she is asked to do without being told.

Our kids truly love and appreciate her as well! We appreciate all that she does and her TEAM (Together Everyone Achieves More) approach.

Thank you to the **Central Elementary Early Childhood team** for helping to support a building that is experiencing a number of para vacancies! We are very appreciative that **Carrie Ficke, Sarah Fiehler, & Terri Cragg** were able to share Sabine Ginivan, Katie Cantrell, Kimmy Sweet, & Heather Swiger with West Elementary Special Education Team when their newest paras needed to be gone for NCI training.

*May 18th is National*  
**SPEECH-LANGUAGE  
PATHOLOGIST DAY**

## **THANK YOU SLPs!**

Shout out to our **FANTASTIC  
SLPS:**

Megan Clark

Melissa Ginavan

Erin Moody

Renee Pachta

Theresa Pettay

Michelle Spillman

Shelli Panzer, SLP Para

Eden Anderson SLP Para

**You are the BEST!** We couldn't do it without you.





# SAVE THE DATES

## 2025-2026 Back to School Meetings

### Welcome Back - New Certified Sped Staff/Providers

Wednesday, July 30 - PLC Building  
8:30am-Noon & 1:00-4:00pm  
(lunch on your own)

### ALL Certified Sped Staff/Providers

Thursday, July 31 - PLC Building  
8:30am-Noon & 1:00-4:00pm  
(lunch on your own)

### New Para Training

Friday, August 1 in PLC Building  
8:30am-Noon: Orientation  
1:00-4:00pm: Required Videos

### ALL Para Training

Monday, August 4  
8:30am-4:00pm  
(1 hour lunch on your own)  
**\*\*Location TBD\*\***

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## Trainings for ALL Certified Sped Staff/Providers

Wednesday, September 10 - 8:30-noon (elementary) & 1:00-4:30 (secondary)  
Wednesday, November 19 - 8:30-noon (secondary) & 1:00-4:00 (elementary)  
Wednesday, February 4 - 8:30-noon (elementary) & 1:00-4:30 (secondary)  
Wednesday, April 15 - 8:30-noon (secondary) & 1:00-4:00 (elementary)  
**\*\*Location TBD\*\***

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## 2025-2026 NCI Training Dates

### Initial Trainings - 8:30am-3:00pm

- Tuesday, July 29 - PLC Bldg.
- Friday, August 1 - WHS Commons
- Tuesday, August 5 \*\*
- Friday, September 19 \*\*
- Friday, October 10 \*\*
- Monday, November 10 \*\*
- Monday, January 5 \*\*
- Friday, March 6 \*\*

### Refresher Trainings - 8:30am-Noon

- Wednesday, July 30 - WHS Commons
- Wednesday, August 6 \*\*
- Monday, September 22 \*\*
- Thursday, October 16\*\*
- Monday, January 19 \*\*

**\*\* Location TBD**



## END OF YEAR CHECK-OUT DATES FOR 2024-25

END OF THE YEAR IS ALMOST HERE!! Robin has emailed the check-out form and is scheduling appointments. If you still need an appointment time, call Robin at the Coop. Every sped teacher and provider **MUST** complete the check-out process at the Coop. REMINDER: You will meet with Coop office staff and do a final reflection meeting with Erica.

**\*All paperwork and files must be complete by your check-out appointment.**

**Check-out dates and times are as follows:**

### USD 320

Tuesday, May 20 - 8:30-11:30 am and 1:00-4:00 pm

Thursday, May 22 - 1:00-4:00 pm

### USD 329

Wednesday, May 21 - 1:00-4:00 pm

### USD 323

Thursday, May 22 - 1:00-4:00 pm

Friday, May 23 - 8:30-11:30 am and 1:00-3:30 pm



## MAY FUN FACTS

- May birthstone is the Emerald.
- May flower is the Lily of the Valley.
- The Empire State Building opened its doors on May 1, 1931.
- May 3 is Kentucky Derby Day. 🎩
- May 5 is Cinco de Mayo. 🇲🇽🇲🇽🇲🇽🇲🇽🇲🇽
- Lewis and Clark embarked on their expedition up the Missouri River on May 14, 1804.
- May 24 is International Tiara Day! 👑
- May 25 is the Indy 500. 🏎️
- May 26 is Memorial Day, a day for honoring and mourning the U.S. military personnel who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces.
- The Golden Gate Bridge: Opened in San Francisco on May 27, 1937.
- May 30 is flip flop day. 🩴

**The End-of-Year Staff Appreciation Breakfast will be Wednesday, May 21.** Paige has begun working on the annual PowerPoint presentation and wants to highlight all the special moments and milestones from our USD 320 and Special Education Co-Op families. Please use [THIS FORM](#) to share any significant events that have taken place this year so we can celebrate them together!







## **New Superintendent USD 323 Rock Creek**



**Welcome to Steve Splichal (SPLEE-kul), New  
Superintendent of USD 323 Rock Creek Schools effective  
July 1, 2025**

Mr. Splichal is currently serving as the Superintendent of Schools and Special Education Director at Fremont County School District #2 in Dubois, Wyoming.

Prior to his role in Wyoming, Mr. Splichal spent 27 years working in Kansas public schools, with his most recent tenure being the Superintendent of Eudora Public Schools for seven years. His career in Kansas also includes leadership positions as Assistant Superintendent, Middle School Principal, and Middle School Social Studies Teacher.





## **New Superintendent USD 320 Wamego**



### **Welcome to Mr. Josh Meyer , New Superintendent of USD 320 Wamego Schools effective July 1, 2025**

Mr. Meyer brings more than 25 years of experience in public education, including over a decade of successful leadership as Superintendent of USD 350 St. John-Hudson.

Mr. Meyer holds a bachelor's degree in Secondary Education from Kansas State University, a master's degree in Educational Administration, and a district leadership endorsement from Emporia State University.

We look forward to welcoming Mr. Meyer to the Wamego community and are excited for the leadership and vision he will bring to our schools.





# Happy Birthday

## May Birthdays

Dani Evans - 3  
Hailey Barry - 7  
Kelsie Hudson - 9  
Kattie Phillips - 9  
Anne Warner - 9  
Lisa Hartley - 10  
Cassidi Green - 13  
Cheyenne Calmes - 19  
Cayla Heckman - 28  
Ryan Willbanks - 29

## June Birthdays

Kylie Weber - 1  
Erica Bammes - 4  
Toree Hoobler - 4  
Laurel Barber - 10  
Michelle Stuhlsatz - 17  
Krystal Nelson - 20  
Kaylynn Henddricks - 22  
Amanda Marfield - 22  
Laurie Temple - 27  
Shawna Garcia - 29

## July Birthdays

Melanie Stone - 2	Tanji Cassatt - 21
Madison Short - 2	Erin Moody - 21
Heather Norris - 8	Emma Morris - 25
Stephanie Downs - 11	Heather Swiger - 25
Nichole Feldhausen - 14	Sarah Fiehler - 27
Esme Dillinger - 15	Noah Ficke - 30
Jennifer Nider - 18	Ivonne Barron-Gomez - 31



# Inspiration

"Life is like the ocean.  
It can be calm or still,  
rough or rigid, but in  
the end, it is always  
beautiful."

Sometimes in the waves of change  
we find our true direction.  
-Unknown

JUST KEEP  
Swimming



You can't stop  
The waves  
But you can learn  
How to surf

