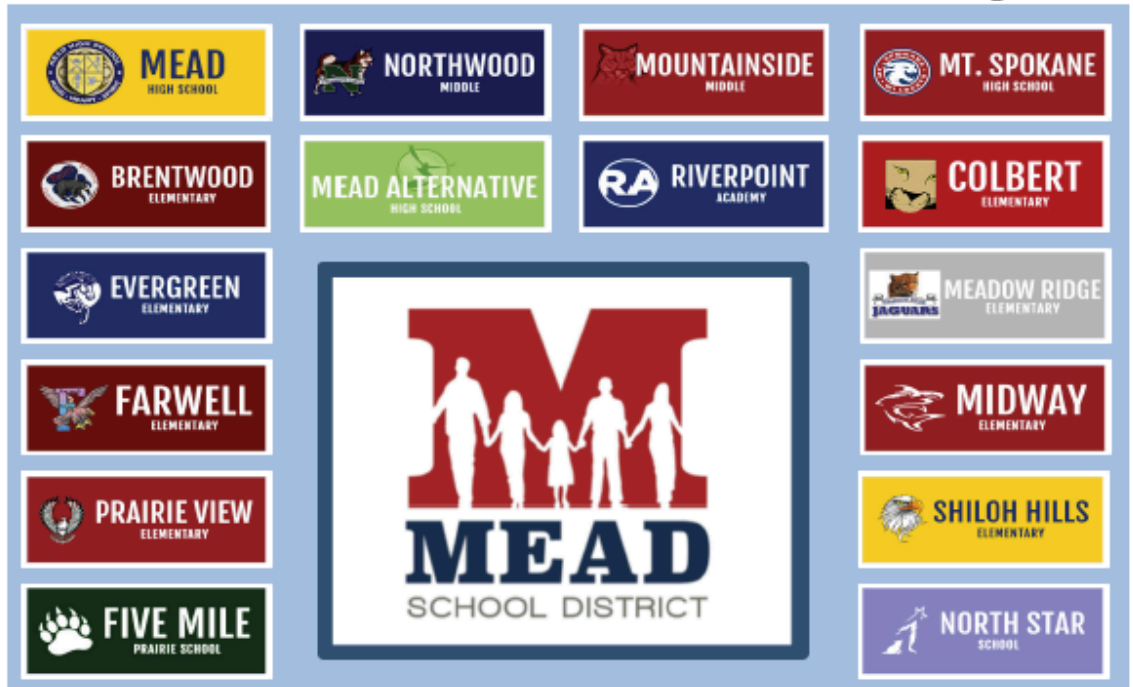


MEAD

MATTERS

August 2016



Welcome to the 2016-2017 School Year

Sixteen Schools Set to Welcome 10,000+ Students

On Tuesday, September 6, we will open our doors for the 2016-2017 school year and welcome an estimated 10,000+ students. The Mead School District has a long-standing tradition of providing the highest quality learning experience for each and every student. This year will be no exception. A few highlights for the coming year include:

New Curriculum

We have purchased new English Language Arts curriculum for students in grades 5-8. New reading materials were introduced at grades K-4 a few years ago and a language arts

committee will recommend new English curriculum for grades 9-12 in 2017.

Security & Safety Improvements

All district schools and buildings now have a digital access control entry system. This new technology includes an entry card similar to that used at hotels, plus a personal access code for each employee. Entry access controls, coupled with single points of entry during the school day and video cameras now located at all entry/exit points, will greatly enhance safety and security.

Construction Underway

If driving past Northwood Middle School is not part of your regular travel pattern we invite you to take a detour and check out the site work that has taken

place this summer. New sports fields will be ready for use this fall and a new bus loop between Northwood and Farwell has been built. Look for construction of the actual building to start in October.

We very much appreciate the ongoing support of Mead patrons. You are helping position our students for success now and in the future. Thank you!

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BATTLE OF THE BELL

Mt. Spokane vs Mead Football Game
Friday, September 30 – 7:30 p.m. - Albi

Beginning Sept. 12th tickets may be purchased in advance at any of our schools - \$5 students, \$7 adults.

CATMANIA VOLLEYBALL

Mt. Spokane @ Mead High School
Thursday, September 29 – 7 p.m.

See two of the state's consistently top teams battle in this annual district classic.

Mead Welcomes New Administrators



Christine Spinnell, Jay Tyus & Cari Trowbridge

The Mead School District is pleased to welcome the following outstanding educators to its administrative team:

Christine Spinnell – Evergreen Principal Assistant. Ms. Spinnell has worked as an elementary school social worker for the Mead School District since 2010.

Jay Tyus – Northwood Middle School Assistant Principal. Mr. Tyus replaces long-time administrator Sue Hogue who retired. Mr. Tyus has been a teacher and principal in Central Washington for the past 25 years. His father, Bob Tyus, is a retired Mead High/Mt. Spokane teacher.

Cari Trowbridge – Prairie View (.6) & Meadow Ridge (.4) Principal Assistant. Ms. Trowbridge comes to Mead from Spokane where she was a teacher and principal assistant for the past 18 years.

New Smartphone Application



The MSD has its own smartphone application which we hope will be a go-to source for easy, instant access to all things Mead.

The app provides news, notifications, content from the district website and social channels, as well as school-specific updates. Visit www.mead354.org to learn more and download this free app.

Fall Craft Fairs

Mt. Spokane Band Craft Fair

October 8, 9 am – 5 pm
October 9, 11 am – 4 pm

Mead HS Band Craft Fair

November 12, 9 am – 5 pm
November 13, 10 am – 4 pm



Environmental Award

Last spring when Northwood 7th grader Gabriel Kennedy-Gibbens learned an oak tree, estimated to be 135 years old, was going to be removed from the Northwood/Farwell campus to make room for new athletic fields, this environmentally conscious young man began exploring ways to save the tree. He researched petition protocols and collected more than 200 signatures in support of saving the tree which he presented to Garco Construction and ALSC architects.

After discovering there was no reasonable way to save the tree and still construct the new sports fields, Gabriel (with guidance from his mom, Mead High teacher Tamara Kennedy-Gibbens) came up with a good compromise plan to preserve a few relics from the tree.

In consultation with Northwood science teacher Dave Gamon, Gabriel initiated the establishment of an Environmental Award that will be presented to a deserving student at the end of each year. Gabriel's intention is to return to Northwood each spring and personally present the award. The name of each year's award recipient will be placed on a plaque made from round sections cut from the fallen tree. This plaque will be hung in the new school. Acorns were also gathered from the tree. These are being cultivated with the hope of planting them on the Northwood site once the new school is finished.

Gabriel is pictured with Kathy Westlake, on-site superintendent for Garco Construction, and his brothers Elijah and Noah who both attend Evergreen.



Introducing Northwood On-Site Construction Superintendent



Kathy (McCabe) Westlake is the Garco Construction on-site superintendent for the Northwood project. Her interest in construction started with a scheduling mistake at the beginning of her junior year at Mead High School.

A 1979 graduate, Kathy accidentally ended up in Dick Maroney's woodshop class . . . the only girl in the room. Mr. Maroney convinced her to stay and the rest is history - Kathy discovered her passion for building things. She worked with Mr. Maroney for two years, was the winner of the local HoHo Contest (sponsored by the Kiwanis Club) in the large furniture category her senior year and became a union carpenter in 1983 following two years at Spokane Community College.

Ms. Westlake started with Garco in 1983. She soon became a job foreman and in 1997 was promoted to the position of on-site superintendent where she has managed more than 25 jobs.

Kathy and her siblings, all Mead High graduates, grew up in the Fairwood neighborhood where her parents still live today.

STEM Academy



Culinary Arts Camp



Summer Camps Exceed Expectations

This summer the Mead School District offered two new Career & Technical Education (CTE) summer camps for students in grades 4-6. The STEM Academy included three weeklong sessions with attendance of approximately 60 students per session. Farwell 6th grader Luke Watts sent a thank you note after attending the STEM Academy writing, "Thank you for starting this amazing camp. It was just awesome . . . Next year I'm coming here again." The week long Culinary Arts Camp had 20 enthusiastic young cooks. Students and parents are already campaigning for an advanced culinary camp next summer.

STEM Academy

Northwood science teacher Dave Gamon served as Camp Director for the summer STEM Academy. In addition to STEM teachers from around the state, staff included Mead High student-interns Aislin Gamon, Levi Arnold and Emily Placzek. The offered modules were Space Camp, Tinkering, Near Space Experiments, CSI Forensics, Coding & Gaming, River Camp and Makers & Machines.

Each day started with a specific design challenge like the "Tower of Power." In this activity small groups were given three items – spaghetti noodles, tape and marshmallows – and instructed to build a tower. Students were reminded that when tackling any challenge it is good to "fail early and fail often." Students also sent experiments 110,000 feet into near space, raced Ozobots in the Ozobots Olympics, canoed on the Little Spokane River, flew drones and solved a variety of crimes using gel electrophoresis.

Culinary Arts Camp

Mt. Spokane Pro-Start teacher Joanie Pringle-Jones directed the Culinary Arts Camp. Kids learned to make a variety of yummy food items such as smoothies, cinnamon rolls, omelets, homemade pasta, calzones and salad-on-a-stick. At the end of camp participants received their own personal cooking kits that included an oven mitt, whisk, measuring cups and spatulas.

A big thank you to the Kalispel Tribe for their donation of \$3,072, which was used to help offset the cost of camp.

Evergreen Outdoor Classroom Transformation



Evergreen parent Lori Swan, in conjunction with SPVV Landscape Architects, wants to bring the Evergreen Living Classroom back to life. This outdoor area, located at the west end of campus, needs a general overhaul to serve once again as a viable learning space.

A community information Open House is scheduled for **Monday, September 19 – 6:30 pm** in the Evergreen Library. You are invited to tour the current space, hear about planned renovations, learn how you might help and meet Mike Danford, Principal, and Christine Spinnell, Principal Assistant, who are the new Evergreen admin team.

MEAD MATTERS
 Mead School District #354
 2323 E. Farwell Rd.
 Mead, WA 99021

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Questions or concerns?
 509-465-6014
www.mead354.org

The Mead School District does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Grievances or concerns should be directed to: Jared Hoadley, Executive Director of Student Services and Activities - 509-465-6008 or jared.hoadley@mead354.org.

ECR WSS
 Postal Customer

2016-2017
 School Calendar

Sept. 6	First Day of School
Oct. 14	Learning Improvement Day - No School
Oct. 19	Elementary Conferences – Early Release
Oct. 20-21	Elementary Conferences – Non-Student Days
Nov. 11	Veteran's Day
Nov. 24-25	Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 22	Winter Break Begins
Jan. 3	School Resumes
Jan. 16	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Jan. 27	1 st Semester Ends – Secondary Early Release
Feb. 3	Elementary School Early Release
Feb. 15	Elementary Conferences – Early Release
Feb. 16-17	Elementary Conferences – Non-Student Days
Feb. 20	President's Day
March 17	Snow Make-Up Day (if needed)
April 3-7	Spring Break
May 26	Snow Make-Up Day (if needed)
May 29	Memorial Day
June 14	Last Day of School – Early Release
June 15-16	Snow Make-Up Days (if needed)

Welcome to the New School Year
 A Message from
 Superintendent Tom Rockefeller



It is both an honor and a pleasure to welcome you to another school year. On behalf of the Mead School District Board of Directors, our teachers, administrators and staff, I want to let you know we are excited to continue our long tradition of providing an excellent education to all Mead School District students!

This year we will be focusing on our learning programs. In early October the Mead community will be invited to engage in an online *ThoughtExchange* where you will be asked to share your thoughts and ideas regarding student learning opportunities. Parents of current students will receive an email invitation to take part. For others, a participation link will be provided on the district webpage. Please plan to join this conversation . . . we welcome and value your input.

Regarding facilities, construction of the new Northwood is well underway. The Midway and Shiloh Hills renovations are in the development stages. Plans call for additional classrooms at both Midway and Shiloh Hills to help accommodate increasing numbers of students. For the most current information on the status of these and other bond projects visit www.mead354.org/bondprojects and click the *Bond Projects News* button.

As always, I invite you to take advantage of the many opportunities available to become involved with our schools. Being a classroom volunteer offers benefits to both the student and volunteer. Plan to attend a volleyball match or football game, a music concert or a play. I believe you will find connecting with our students and staff to be rewarding and fun. The Mead School District continues to be great because of the high value and support provided by our entire community. Thank you!



Mead School District
 6th Annual
 "Show & Shine"
 Car Show

Saturday, September 10, 2016
 9 am – 1 pm
 Mt. Spokane High School

New School Board Member Appointed



Chad Burchard is the unanimous selection of the Mead School District Board of Directors to represent Director District 1 replacing Maureen O'Connor, who resigned effective March 31, 2016.

Four residents of Director District 1 – Bruce Blohowski, Kris Forgey-Haynie, Chris Patterson and Chad Burchard – submitted a *Letter of Interest* regarding the position. Each candidate was interviewed and Mr. Burchard was selected at a Special Board Meeting held on June 8, 2016.

Mr. Burchard, who took the Oath of Office on June 13, 2016, co-

chaired the Citizen's Advisory Committee that was instrumental in helping pass the February 2015 Bond. Chad and his wife Tammy have two daughters. Both girls attend Mead High School.

Mr. Burchard will serve as an appointee to the school board until the next regularly scheduled school board election in November 2017.