New Northwood Groundbreaking Ceremony

Students, Staff & Community Gather to Celebrate

On Tuesday, March 22, the groundbreaking ceremony for the “new” Northwood Middle School took place in the current Northwood gym before a capacity crowd that included the Mead School District Board of Directors, the entire Northwood student body and staff, as well as invited guests from Garco Construction, ALSC Architects and OAC, the project management company overseeing the Northwood replacement project.

The event was hosted by Northwood Principal Dave Stenersen and included 8th grader Kailyn Ward singing the National Anthem, remarks from Superintendent Tom Rockefeller and Board President Ron Farley, special music performed by the Northwood band, plus comments from teacher Dave Barnes who has been on staff at Northwood since 1978.

For their help in passing the February 2015 Facilities Improvement Bond, special thanks were extended to Chad Burchard, Kevin Bacon and Martin Kolodrub who co-chaired the Citizen’s Advisory Committee. Mr. Stenersen also acknowledged and thanked former Northwood principals John Keith and Joanne Reiberg who were both in attendance to celebrate the start of construction on the new facility.

A link to the Northwood Design Development Report is posted on the district’s homepage (mead354.org). This design is the result of one year of planning involving ALSC, OAC, Garco Construction, district personnel and the Northwood staff, plus two design Open Houses where the community was invited to provide input.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Celebrating the Class of 2016 2
Community Block Party 3
Summer Programs 4
Congratulations to the students and staff of Brentwood Elementary and Mountainside Middle School. Both schools have earned a 2015 Washington Achievement Award in the “High Progress” category.

They are two out of 27 schools located in our local ESD 101 region to be honored. Statewide 258 schools earned this award based on last spring’s state assessment scores.

Five Mile Prairie Earns Bronze Rating

U.S. News & World Report has released their 2016 rankings of the Nation’s Best High Schools and Five Mile Prairie (Mead’s parent partnership program), for the second consecutive year, has earned a Bronze Medal.

Class of 2016 Valedictorians (4.0 GPA)

Mead High School
Marco Ammarelli
James Baird
Angela Barthiger
Brian Boezean
Thomas Boezean
Heidi Bonkemeyer
Samantha Bresheer
Olivia Delger
Kaitlyn Engen
Haley Erwin
Megan Fraser
Michael Galeotti
Lanell Gillam
James Greiner
Sydney Hallman
Tristan Halfahl
Katharine Hoch

Jacob Jones
Jason Kistinger
Kevin Kistinger
Kasly Liles
Andrew Makley
Grant Miller
Maisy Newman
Lucas Parker
Alexandrea Peterson
Daniel Roberts
Julia Roth
Evon Sanford
Analia Schmidt
Tyler Weibel
Koby Williams
Rachel Zaiger

Mt. Spokane High School
Kaylan Carlson
Michael Cooper
Victoria Dart
Sarah Foster
Rylee Goef
Kathryn Grohman
Nicole Hams
Emily Hanson
Tony Hazel
Alex Hoover

Mr. Spokane High School
Andrew Hoover
David Hu
Rachel Lilienquist
Isabel Madill
Teana Olson
Madeleine Ouma
Sarah Parada
Rachel Pilgeram
Devon Savage
Bethany Walton

Five Mile Prairie School

Valliavaana (Liz) Skovonmaya

Riverpoint Academy
Rianne Elting
Annetta Laxton
Ashley Sanders
Dylan Steen
Liam Maddox

Celebrate STEM+ Education
Tuesday, May 24, 2016
Mead High School, 6-9 pm

Parents, students and community members are invited to come learn about the unique STEM+ education opportunities taking place in the Mead School District. Students, teachers and business community members will showcase their innovative work in the areas of Biomedical Science, Engineering and Entrepreneurship.
Mt. Spokane Community Block Party

2,000+ Students, Parents, Grandparents & Community Members Attended

To celebrate and bring together the entire Mt. Spokane High School community (Colbert, Meadow Ridge, Midway, Shiloh Hills and Mountainside), Mt. Spokane hosted a self-styled Block Party on the evening of May 4. Reflecting on the event, Principal Darren Nelson said, “Thank you hardly seems adequate when thinking about expressing my gratitude for the incredible community gathering that took place. While expectations for our first Block Party were few, the number of families who came to celebrate our community spoke volumes.”

Those who attended enjoyed a free spaghetti dinner served by administrators from Mt. Spokane feeder schools and organized by Kim Elkins, Director of Nutrition Services. Other activities included a dunk tank, face painting, a dance routine performed by students from the Marshallese Islands and music in the Courtyard courtesy of the Mt. Spokane Pep Band. Student work from all schools was on display in the gym.

Thank You Director O’Connor

Maureen O’Connor, who has served on the Mead School District Board of Directors since 2005 representing Director District #1, resigned her position effective March 31, 2016. In her tenure on the board, Director O’Connor was a very strong advocate for Mead students. We extend district-wide thanks to Director O’Connor for her integrity, strong leadership and commitment to education.

The opening created by this resignation has been advertised and four individuals have expressed interest in filling the vacancy. The Board will interview the candidates and appoint a replacement before the end of June to serve until the next school board election (November 2017).

New for the 2016-2017 School Year

For the past year, a committee comprised of classroom teachers and administrators has been reviewing and piloting new reading curriculum for students in grades 3-8. This process included an Open House where the community was able to examine the recommended materials.

The School Board, on May 9, approved the adoption of the recommended curriculum for grades 5-8. New reading materials were adopted for grades K-4 within the past few years.

Brentwood will join Shiloh Hills and Evergreen as Mead School District elementary schools receiving federal Title dollars next year. Shiloh Hills and Evergreen already offer all-day kindergarten. Adding all-day kindergarten at Brentwood will provide consistency at all district Title schools. Title monies are used to provide extra support to students in reading, writing and math.

Prairie View 6th Graders Housed at Northwood

Next year, Prairie View 6th graders will be housed in unused portable classrooms located on the Northwood Middle School campus. Before making this decision, the district conducted a thorough feasibility study and hosted two parent meetings.

This move creates space at Prairie View for approximately 100 students and will significantly reduce and/or eliminate the need to shuttle overflow 1st-5th graders to other district elementary schools next year. It additionally provides the opportunity to initiate, with a small number of students, the transition to a 6th-8th grade middle school model, which the district hopes to move to over the next five years.
Looking Toward Summer
A Message from Superintendent Tom Rockefeller

Spring and summer are critical times in the growth and development of students. They are finishing one year of learning in preparation for the upcoming school year. Although summer is a time for relaxation and renewal, it is also important students continue to use their learned skills and knowledge. Here are some practical strategies for parents and students as we move toward summer:

- **Promote Literacy.** Visit your local library or bookstore. Take time to read together or set aside regular personal reading time. Help students set a summer reading goal or suggest they research a topic that interests them.

- **Promote STEM Learning.** Many school districts offer STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) related summer camps and learning activities. Check out the STEM Camp Mead is offering this summer or search local websites for information on other STEM opportunities.

- **Promote the Arts.** Look into participating in both visual and performing arts activities. Investigate art and music camps to enhance student interests and skills. Plan to attend summer concerts or visit museums.

- **Promote Health, Fitness & Athletics.** It is extremely important that children of all ages are physically active. Both Mead High and Mt. Spokane offer summer camps in a variety of sports. Take the time to go hiking, swimming and biking. Our region offers a wide range of outdoor activities.

As we near the conclusion of this school year, I wish each of you a relaxing and enjoyable summer. Remember to keep your children involved by promoting ongoing learning and physical activity.

---

**Culinary Arts Camp**

**July 18-22, 2016**

**Mt. Spokane High School**

9 am – 1 pm

**Current 4th – 6th Grade Boys & Girls**

Cost & Registration Info

[www.mead354.org](http://www.mead354.org)

---

**June 20 – July 22 @ Mead High**

Credit retrieval classes in English, history, science and math, as well as a number of enrichment courses, will be offered.

To Learn More Visit [www.mead354.org](http://www.mead354.org)