



Riverpoint Academy Senior Rianne Ellingwood
with Colbert 4th Grader Addison Edmonson



The Hour of Code Global Movement

Designed to Bring Coding to Life!

The Hour of Code was a grassroots campaign to provide tens of millions of students from all over the world, the opportunity to experience at least one hour of coding during Computer Science Week (December 7-13). Why? Quoting organizer *Code.org*, "Every student should have the opportunity to learn computer science. It helps nurture problem solving, logic and creativity."

Students throughout the Mead School District, particularly at the elementary level, had the opportunity to take part in this global event. At Colbert, 4th graders in Linda Luiten's class spent

an afternoon exploring basic coding and deductive reasoning using the *Ozobot* system. Employing black, red, green and blue markers, students carefully created coded pathways for the *Ozobot* robot to explore. The combination of colors used in each pathway controlled robot speed and direction.

Riverpoint Academy high school students provided the coding instruction to Mrs. Luiten's class. This was a natural extension of the STEM+ curriculum offered at Riverpoint Academy, currently serving 11th and 12th grade students. The Mead School District Board of Directors has approved expanding the Riverpoint Academy program to include 9th-12th grades starting in the fall of 2016.

According to CTE Director Doug Edmonson, "middle school and high school student interest in computer science is very high." To meet this demand a coding class is currently being piloted at Mead High, Mt. Spokane and Northwood. Next year the course will also be offered at Mountainside.

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5th Annual Mead School District Robotics Competition

Saturday, February 27, 2016
Mt. Spokane High School Commons
8 am – 3 pm
Finals Start @ 1 pm



ExoWorld Contest Winner



Last year, 8th graders at Mountainside entered an International Astronomical Union contest to name an ExoWorld star and the exoplanet orbiting around it. They won with their entry “Ran” (star) and “AEgir” (planet). These two names were the brainchild of James Ott who is now a freshman at Mt. Spokane High School. James is pictured with Mt. Spokane Principal Darren Nelson (L) and Mountainside Principal Craig Busch (R).

School Board Members Relected



Denny Denholm, Bob Olson, Carmen Green & Ron Farley

Four of the five Mead School District Board of Director positions were on the November 3rd general election ballot. Denny Denholm (District 2), Ron Farley (District 4) and Carmen Green (District 5) ran unopposed. In a two-person race incumbent Bob Olson (District 3) was relected with a 60% winning percentage.

All four directors extend their sincere thanks and appreciation to the many patrons who supported them in their reelection campaigns.

Highly Capable Referral Window Open

The period for referring a student for K-12 Highly Capable (gifted) evaluation is open through February 19, 2016, for possible designation in the 2016-2017 school year. To learn more call 465-6025 or visit www.mead354.org.

Planetary Entry Capsule Project



*** Eggonaut Rocket Launch ***

Working in teams of four, Northwood and Mountainside 8th grade science students were assigned the following task:

Using the eight-step *Engineering Design Process*, design and create an entry capsule that will protect its cargo (a raw egg) on impact after being launched from a rocket.

Before starting the actual design work, students researched the science behind Newton’s Laws of Motion, how rocket engineers build structures to withstand the impact of landing and the forces of gravity and friction. Research completed, and adhering to maximum height and width specifications, teams produced two significantly different design concepts, which were further analyzed before a final plan was adopted.

Working with a maximum materials budget of \$1,000 play money, each team purchased building resources such as cotton balls (\$20/each), bubble wrap (\$200) and masking tape (\$100). One free *Eggonaut* (aka raw egg) was provided but replacements cost \$200!

On launch day the majority of entry capsules - confirmed by an intact *Eggonaut* after landing - were successful in their mission. Each team then evaluated its design/building process and formally presented reflections and findings. Teams that experienced an unsuccessful launch had the opportunity to reevaluate, redesign and rebuild.

Boundary Review Community Forums

The Boundary Review Committee has met several times since September preparing a recommendation for changes to current elementary school boundaries. The committee has carefully considered how best to adjust elementary boundaries while minimizing the number of students relocated.

Part of the process includes the opportunity for community input on the proposed boundary changes. Community Forums have been scheduled for:

- Wednesday, March 2 – Mead High School Theatre, 6:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 9 – Mt. Spokane High School Atrium, 6:30 p.m.

Proposed boundary change information will be posted online in late February.

Northwood Construction Update

**New Northwood
Ground Breaking Ceremony**
Tuesday, March 22, 2016 – 10 am



The past few months have been very busy in preparation for site work to begin this spring on the Northwood Middle School Replacement Project. A public Design Open House took place in mid-November, schematic design work has been approved and a Value Engineering Study is nearly complete.

The new school will be built just south of the current 57-year old structure. A roughly 16,000 square-foot portion of the current school building will be upgraded and will become part of the new school. These areas include the current main gym and auxiliary gym, plus choir and band spaces. The new building is expected to have a footprint of approximately 118,000 square feet.

During construction students will continue to be housed in the current Northwood facility. Once the new building is completed (summer of 2018), the old Northwood may be used temporarily to host students from Midway and Shiloh Hills during modernization of those elementary schools.

COMING
SOON!

New Electronic Tools for Parents

In the coming months we will introduce the following new online tools designed to enhance, simplify and improve the sharing of information between parents and schools:



Online registration program that will allow new families to enroll students and current families to update information from the comfort of home.



A confidential and secure location for storing and managing student health, medication and immunization information (already being used by school nurses).



FREE Mead School District app for mobile devices that displays information from school and district websites such as news, events and menus.

Upcoming Theatrical Productions

*The Mead High School Drama Department
proudly presents*



by Tom Griffin

February 18, 19, 20, 25, 26, 27 – 7 pm

Students & Seniors: \$5
Adults: \$10

Mead High Theatre
302 W. Hastings Rd.

*The Mt. Spokane Drama Department
proudly presents the musical*



Book by James Lapine

Music & Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim

March 10, 11, 12, 16, 17, 18, 19 – 7 pm

Students & Seniors: \$7
Adults: \$10

Mt. Spokane Theatre
6015 E. Mt.S. Park Drive

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

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

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Mead School District 2016-2017

Kindergarten Registration

Tuesday, March 1, 2016
Mead High School Library
5:30 - 7 pm



Saturday
April 16

Mead High School
noon - 5 pm

Mead School District
Elementary, Middle & High School
Student Art Exhibition

Thanks to All Who Joined the Conversation A Message from Superintendent Tom Rockefeller



Mead School District parents, staff and community members were recently invited to take part in *ThoughtExchange*, an online engagement process. Stakeholders were asked to share what they think is going well, where improvements can be made, and what our schools and the school district might be missing.

3,864 thoughts were shared and then prioritized by participants. In total 1,908 individuals took part. I thank all who took time to contribute. Your participation in the process was invaluable. We have reviewed your thoughts and priorities and now want to share the results with you. Visit any school or district homepage and click the *ThoughtExchange* button to view results and learn about the top priorities in our schools and district.

On another matter, I want to draw attention to the upcoming Boundary Review Community Forums taking place March 2 (Mead High) and March 9 (Mt. Spokane). We are a growing school district. Since the last boundary change (September 2007) our enrollment has increased by more than 700 students. To address this growth, and reduce or eliminate the shuttling of more than 100 elementary students away from their home schools, the school board has authorized a committee to study and recommend adjustments to current elementary boundaries. Those recommendations will be presented for public input at the upcoming Community Forums.

Obviously adjusting boundaries is not something we want to do. We understand moving neighborhoods from one school to another can be difficult. I encourage you to attend one of the upcoming forums to learn first-hand about the proposed movement areas and the rationale for recommended revisions. Proposed boundary change information will also be available online in mid-to late February.



New Look & Upgraded Features Child Nutrition Services Website

The Mead School District Child Nutrition Services Department has upgraded its **Health-e Living** website and **My School Menus Mobile App**. The redesigned website provides quick access links to menus, meal applications and meal payments. The mobile app has all the same great information as the online desktop version.

Menus can be selected by school and meal. Each item has a description, nutrition facts and lists any of the eight

major allergens it contains. Other features include the ability to calculate the overall nutritional value of a meal based on student selection. This is particularly helpful in managing carbohydrates for diabetic students.

Questions? Please email Kim Elkins,
Director of Child Nutrition Services,
kim.elkins@mead354.org.

