

Cats Come Back

Celebrating Mt. Spokane's story, creating new traditions, connecting to our community and equipping students to not just survive, but THRIVE!



Students' Heart-Felt Expressions incorporated into Mario DeLeon's Creative Painting

Mt. Spokane High School Turns 18

Coming of Age Event Empowers Students

18 years ago this fall Mt. Spokane opened its doors. To celebrate this milestone and begin building a tradition of service all former and future graduates can be proud of, principal Darren Nelson and administrative intern Jeff Naslund began exploring the questions: *What can we do to help our graduates stay connected?* and *How do we empower students to give back?*

Cats Come Back is now a reality. The Tuesday before Thanksgiving was selected as an ideal date to invite alumni to reconnect with their alma mater

around the theme of giving back to the community. Invited alumni, including the founders of *Krochet Kids International*, a nonprofit that improves the lives of women in impoverished countries, met with students throughout the school day. They also took part in an evening celebration, along with all three former Mt. Spokane principals: Mike Dunn, Pete Lewis and John Hook.

To acknowledge the 'fingerprint' each student leaves at Mt. Spokane High School, three large canvases were provided for them to answer the question, *What motivates you?* Mt. Spokane graduate and artist Mario DeLeon (09) is now transforming these "empowering statements" into a work of art, which will

be displayed in the Commons as a reminder of *Cats Come Back 2014*.

Principal Nelson hopes to make *Cats Come Back* an annual tradition – a way of honoring distinguished alumni. "It's a perfect time to celebrate who we are and talk about where we are going," he said. "It is inspiring to hear how alums give back and present our current students with opportunities to get involved."

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Board Community Letter	2
Retirement Home Concerts	3
STEM+ Open House	4



2015 Hoops for Hope XI

Mead School District Teachers vs Cancer
Benefit Basketball Game
February 4, 2015 – 7:30 pm
Mt. Spokane High School
Admission: \$5 Donation

Mead School District Board of Directors



Ron Farley, President



Denny Denholm, Vice President



Maureen O'Connor



Bob Olson



Carmen Green



Board of Directors Letter to the Community

In a matter of days the Mead community will have an opportunity to vote on two critical ballot measures. The first is the renewal of our Maintenance & Operations Levy. The second is a Capital Facilities Improvement Bond. Both ballot measures are, in our opinion, vitally important to the continuing success of the Mead School District.

Our purpose in writing is to explain 1) how the proposed levy and bond fit into the District's current and long-range vision, 2) the cost to taxpayers and 3) the Mead community's expected return on this investment.

Vision . . .

A key function of school boards is to envision the future of a district's educational program, formulating goals, defining outcomes and setting the course for the school district.

TODAY: Speaking specifically about Mead School District learning facilities, we have identified, based on recommendations from the Facilities Planning Committee, several significant areas in need of modernization and/or replacement. Identified projects are a part of the current, February 2015, bond ballot measure and include:

- **Modernization of Shiloh Hills and Midway elementary schools.** Both are 34 years old and need extensive renovations to most internal operating systems.
- **Replacement of 56-year old Northwood Middle School,** adjacent to the current gym and weight room, both of which will be retained as part of the new Northwood.
- **Safety/Security Upgrades** including a single-point of entry for all schools.
- **Property Acquisition** for future school sites. The District currently owns no school building sites.

**In the past ten years alone the District has grown by 700 students –
an increase equivalent to the size of a typical middle school!**

LOOKING FORWARD: Our current school facilities are nearing capacity. In order to accommodate increasing student enrollment, particularly on Five Mile Prairie, as well as full implementation of all-day kindergarten, the District will soon need to consider adding a third middle school (moving 6th grade to middle school) or, in the alternative, building two additional elementary schools.

Cost . . .

LEVY: The proposed levy renews existing programs for three years (2016, 2017 & 2018). It is not a new tax. The current (2015) and proposed levy tax rates are identical - \$4.21 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

BOND: Total cost for all bond projects is \$101.6 million. "State Match" monies will cover \$32.1 million or 32%. If approved, the total bond tax rate for Mead taxpayers will be \$1.42 per \$1,000 of assessed value - \$0.66 for existing bonds (Prairie View & Mountainside Middle School) plus \$0.76 for new bonds.

Investment Return . . .

PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE: We are each long-time residents of the Mead School District. Our own children have graduated from Mead Schools. We know first hand the outstanding learning and extra-curricular opportunities Mead provides for all students. This is possible because of strong community support. Thank you for your ongoing investment in the education of Mead School District students. We collectively believe a vibrant school district pays short and long-term dividends for the entire Mead community.

Bond Tax Rates

The proposed bond tax rate of \$1.42 is 29% below the District's 10-year bond tax rate average of \$2.00 and 57% below the \$3.27 collected in 2005.

For a home with an assessed value of \$100,000 the estimated cost of new bonds is \$6.50 per month.

Evergreen Marimba Band



Band Members: Shae Doree (L), Jonah Rieder (M), Neyen Torres (R), Chloe Maple, Tianna Smith, Maya Peck, Quincy Iverson, Gabriel Kennedy-Gibbens, Dominick Macauley, Serra Aktimur, Sophia Walker, Taylor Langley & Adam Feryn. Directors: June Lamberd (Evergreen teacher) & Sklyer Lamberd (Whitworth University student)



Colbert students Karly Bowen (L) and Katie Montague (R) with Fairwinds resident Chuck Boos



Prairie View Kindergarteners @ Fairwinds

Local Retirement Communities Enjoy Holiday Performances

"I have only one complaint – it was too short – I wanted them to keep playing!" That's what one Fairwinds Retirement resident told School Board Director Denny Denholm following a performance by the Evergreen 5th and 6th grade Marimba Band, directed by teacher June Lamberd.

The same sentiment was voiced many times by those who enjoyed the seven mini-concerts performed by students from Mead High School, Prairie View, Colbert, Midway, Evergreen and Meadow Ridge. These December performances took place at Fairwinds, Fairwood, Hawthorne Manor and Fairwood Assisted Living.

Here's what principal Rob Haugen had to say following the December 11th performance by Colbert students:

"I appreciate the opportunity Colbert students had to perform for the Fairwinds community. Music teacher Drew Olsen did a marvelous job and School Board Director Maureen O'Connor joined us. It was very meaningful for both students and residents. One lady in particular was eager to share about her own two children who are proud Mead graduates with post K-12 degrees and successful careers on the west side of the state."

Students and residents hope these concerts become an annual holiday event.

Why Replace Northwood?



When the need to improve facilities arises, the cost-benefit ratio of upgrading versus building something new must be carefully considered.

Northwood is 56 years old and is in need of major renovations to nearly every internal operating system. Unlike Shiloh Hills and Midway, Northwood's footprint does not lend itself well to modernization as a learning facility. The current building includes the original school, built in 1958, plus several additions. Remodeling this disjointed space does not meet the cost-benefit ratio of upgrading versus building new.

If the February 2015 bond is approved, portions of the "old" Northwood will be retained for community programs, offices, storage and training centers.



Spokane Recycles Poster Contest Winner

Colbert 6th grader Jordan Kuhnkey (pictured with her brother Colton, principal Rob Haugen and Recycle Man) was the winner of the regional 2015 Spokane Recycles Poster Contest.

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

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Spokane, WA
Permit No. 622



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 Hoodley, Executive Director of Student Services and Activities - 509-465-6008 or jared.hoodley@mead354.org.

ECR WSS
Postal Customer

Mead School District Upcoming Drama Productions

Mead High School Theatre Arts
Department Proudly Presents



February 26-28 & March 5-7
Mead HS Theatre @ 7 pm
\$10 adults; \$5 seniors/students

Mt. Spokane High School Theatre Arts
Department Proudly Presents



March 4-6 @ 7 pm
March 11-13 @ 7 pm
March 14 @ 2 pm
Mt. Spokane Theatre
\$7 adults
\$5 seniors/students

Community Investment A Message from Superintendent Tom Rockefeller

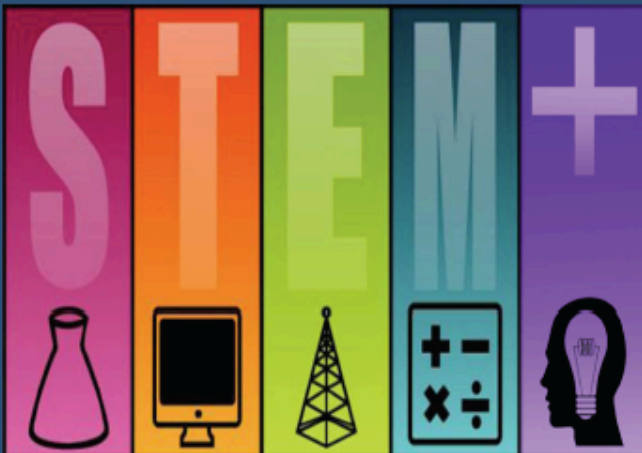


As taxpayers, we all seek top value for our investment in the community. I am thankful the Mead community acknowledges the value provided by the Mead School District and has a long history of positive support for our learning programs and school facilities. Mead is known statewide as a school district that is highly effective in student achievement, while maintaining financial efficiency. I firmly believe a strong school district is an important component of a healthy, robust community!

I invite you to read the *Board of Directors Letter to the Community* located on page 2 of this publication. It exemplifies a continued focus on quality learning, effective teaching and productive achievement for our students. As a consistently growing district, with over 200 new students this year, the Board and administration are keenly focused on today's work, as well as the needs and challenges of tomorrow.

One example of future planning involves Northwood. If the February 2015 bond receives voter approval the District plans to keep portions of the "old" Northwood to address needs such as professional development, training and office space. Additionally, by repurposing parts of Northwood, the District can support important partnerships with complimentary agencies such as the Boys & Girls Club and YMCA daycare that currently serve more than 1,250 Mead students annually.

Thank you for supporting the Mead School District. Teachers, staff and administrators work very hard to support all students and their learning. If you have questions regarding the upcoming Bond and Levy ballot measures please call the Superintendent's Office at 465-6014 or visit www.mead354.org/bondandlevy.



Celebrate STEM+ Education Open House

Wednesday, January 28, 2015
Mead High School, 6-8 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.