Farwell Elementary Community Garden

School Gardens provide a dynamic setting to Observe, Discover, Experiment & Learn

A love of gardening began to bloom for Farwell 6th grade teacher Mary Himley when she was a 5th grader. For the past several years she has become intrigued – actually fascinated – with the idea of an all school community garden. Mary’s passion for the project is contagious. “We, as a society, have become detached from where our food comes from,” says Mary. “It is important for kids to grow their understanding and interest in this area.”

This past school year Farwell 6th graders began researching school gardens. They examined the pros and cons, wrote research papers, held a debate and presented their findings to the Farwell PTO and principal Barb Pybus. The PTO was convinced of the many ways school gardening can meaningfully engage students and authorized $3,000 in seed money.

With seed money in hand and a “thumbs up” vote of support from the Farwell staff, Mary Himley, in collaboration with fellow 6th grade teacher Marcy Gallinger, set about to make the garden a reality. Gerald Pawluk (Mead HS Class of 2014), as part of his Eagle Scout project, built the garden boxes and, at a “Donuts with Dad” event, the boxes were filled with dirt donated by Wittkopf Landscape Supplies. Other businesses who generously contributed to the project are: Wandermere Hardware, River Ridge Hardware, Diamond Lake Lumber, Home Depot, Garden Springs Garden Center, Lowe’s and Fred Meyer.

The Farwell Community Garden has one garden box for each grade level plus a box that is wheel chair accessible. Items planted are tied to the science curriculum for that grade. For instance, 3rd graders learn about the anatomy of a seed. The garden will provide a living laboratory where students become active participants in the learning process.

What’s next? With a sparkle in their eyes, Mary and Marcy talk about school-wide composting, worm bins and a green house or two.

Neighborhood Harvest Sale @ Farwell
Check out the Farwell Community Garden and purchase garden produce or a Farwell Community Garden T-Shirt at the PTO sponsored Harvest Sale.

Saturday, September 27, 8:30 am - noon
Celebrating the Class of 2014

Shiloh Hills Principal Heather Havens, accompanied by Shiloh teachers Robin Placzek and Val Laiho, accepted the school’s 2013 Achievement Award for “high progress.” Shiloh Hills is one of 36 schools in the ESD101 region to receive a 2013 achievement award.

State Board of Education Student Rep

Nominated by Mt. Spokane Principal Darren Nelson, sophomore Madaleine Osmun is the new student representative to the State Board of Education from Eastern Washington. Madaleine was one of four finalists interviewed for the two-year appointment. Susan Fortin, of the State Board of Education says about Madeleine, “She is bright, articulate and insightful. She will be a wonderful addition to the board.”

Class of 2014 Valedictorians (4.0 GPA)

Mead High School
Max Alley, Jewellyn Bardwell, Emma Bortz, Rylie Carty, Anna Crow, Alyssa Degrefe, Mayson Douglass, Kyle Drynan, Samantha Duong, Nolan Eldridge, Nathan Ellis, Brianna Evans, Kallee Goins, Graham Gustafson

Mt. Spokane High School
Lisa DePledge, Taylor Dinges, Sierra Dodd, Kaylee Draine, Carly Frank, Hannah Fry, Peter Fullmer, Jack Gularte, Shannon Hurley, Rachael M. Jones, Paeton Larson, Morgen Layton, Caroline Madill

Five Mile Prairie School
Vlad Elikh

Spring Sports State Champions
Mt. Spokane Girls Golf Team State 3A Champions

This is the first state championship trophy for the golf program and the first state win for Mt. Spokane High School in any team sport! Congratulations to Coach Eleen Northcutt and team members Sierra Bezdicek, Megan Billiter, Hailey Warren, Brianna Jensen and Caillin Spencer. Other individual “State Champions” for the 2014 spring sports season are:

- 3A Girls 4x200 Relay – Mt. Spokane HS
  Winning Time: 1:42.25. Katie Nilsson, Ciara Bland, Cheyenne Konrad and Ashlee Pedersen
- Carlos Riojas (Mt. Spokane)
  State Champion 3A Javelin 185.0’
- Michael Hoyt (Mt. Spokane)
  State Champion 3A – four events (100, 200, 800, 1600) – Wheelchair Division
- Carrie Jacka (Mead HS)
  State Champion 4A Pole Vault 12.0’
- Jonah Jordan (Mead HS)
  State Champion 4A Shot Put 55.075’
Highlighting Middle School Science

Hands-On Learning a Top Priority

Seventh and eighth grade science in the Mead School District has been transformed over the past few years. A textbook teaching focus has been replaced with hands-on learning in cooperative groups where exploration and design thinking are the norm. Students no longer simply memorize facts but are taught and encouraged to find solutions to real world problems.

According to Mountainside Middle School science teachers David Neale and Darrin McComas, “It is important for kids to explore. An integral part of any design process is to design and then redesign again and again. We talk about failing often to succeed sooner.”

Subjects covered in middle school science include hunger, cancer, genetic anomalies, disease, environmental concerns, energy, and the physical dynamics of the earth.

Northwood STEM Club’s School of the Future

Windmill Design Takes Second at State Competition

STEM Club at Northwood is a fun after-school program all about science, technology, engineering and math. Advisors are science teachers April Beck-Friends and Dave Gamon. The club has a membership of approximately 50 students. In addition to listening to guest speakers (engineers, professors and principals) the STEM Club has, for the past two years, taken part in the School of the Future Project sponsored by the Council of Educational Facility Planners International.

Club members were divided into six design teams - Architecture, Athletics, Information/Technology, Energy, Academics and Community. Their finished product, aptly named Northwind Middle School because of the windmill design, placed second overall and featured artificial turf on an accessible roof. Components of the final competition presentation included the use of Prezi software tools, a physical model of the school, architectural floor plans and a written report.

TED-Ed Video

Mountainside 7th grade science teacher Shannon Stiles “loves TED videos.” In October she submitted a lesson plan on how cells work for animation to TED-Ed, the education division of TED videos. They loved her concept and assigned an animator and writer to help her create Cell vs Virus: A Battle for Health.

The finished product went live April 17th and is simply outstanding! It begins talking about the sneaky nature of viruses and how enzymes fight viruses while warning other cells about their invasion, which then results in the formation of anti-bodies.

Cell vs Virus is linked under “Community News” on the Mead School District homepage.
Celebrating Our Students!
A Message from Superintendent Tom Rockefeller

On behalf of the Mead School District Board of Directors and staff, I would like to extend sincere congratulations to each of our graduating seniors. This year Mt. Spokane, Mead, M.E.A.D., Five Mile Prairie and Riverpoint Academy graduated nearly 800 seniors! These graduates will begin their adult lives with a high quality education and a broad spectrum of learning experiences. The Mead School District is honored by each of our graduate’s academic, extra-curricular and co-curricular accomplishments. We are pleased to report more than 95% of the Mead School District Class of 2014 has been accepted to a 4-year or 2-year college or university program!

As we transition from one school year to the next, I want to thank the teachers, administrators, support staff and school volunteers who make the Mead School District a wonderful place for children to learn. I would also like to extend a special “thanks” to our students, parents and patrons for their continued involvement and support. The Mead School District is a great place for students because of a wonderful community that has high learning standards and considers education a top priority!

Looking toward next year, the district’s Maintenance & Operations Levy is up for renewal. I also anticipate the Mead School District Board of Directors will authorize a Capital Facilities Bond ballot measure that will include both facility and safety upgrades.

As always, I welcome your questions, comments or concerns. Please feel free to contact me at 465-6014 or tom.rockefeller@mead354.org.

New School Board Member Appointed

Carmen Green is the unanimous selection of the Mead School District Board of Directors to replace board member Tom Hunt, who admirably represented Director District 5 for the past 18 years. In early April Mr. Hunt moved outside the Mead boundaries and, per district policy, had to resign his position.

Six residents of Director District 5 – Leigh Drinkard, Shayne Goff, Carmen

Green, Mike Kight, Angela Murua & Steve Webbenhurst - submitted a Letter of Interest regarding the position. Each candidate was interviewed and, by roll-call vote, Mrs. Green was selected at the June 23, 2014 school board meeting. “It was a tough decision,” said Director Bob Olson. “It was heartening to see the caliber of individuals who applied. Any one of the six would have fit in well and done an excellent job.”

Carmen has a long-standing history of involvement in the Mead School District dating back to 1992. She has participated in many local school committees and district-wide endeavors including participation on a Facilities Planning Committee and multiple bond and levy efforts. She and her husband, Dr. Todd Green, have three children who all graduated from Mead Schools – two from Mead High School and one from Mt. Spokane High School.

Mrs. Green will serve as an appointee to the school board until the next regularly scheduled school board election in November 2015.

Learn. Lead. Mead School District