

# MEAD

# MATTERS

June/July 2014



Mary Himley  
Farwell Elementary  
6<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher

## Farwell Elementary Community Garden

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

A love of gardening began to bloom for Farwell 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher Mary Himley when she was a 5<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher Marcy Gallinger, set about to make the garden a reality. Gerahd 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, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

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## 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

## Achievement Award



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.

## Lifetime GSL Achievement Awards



With a combined 73 years of middle school coaching experience Mike Hare (middle L) and Jim Jenson (middle R) have been awarded Greater Spokane League Lifetime Achievement Awards – the only individuals to receive this award for the 2013-2014 school year.



## 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."

# Celebrating the Class of 2014

Congratulations and best wishes to the Mead School District Class of 2014! Starting May 29<sup>th</sup> with the Five Mile Prairie commencement exercises and ending on Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup> with the Riverpoint Academy ceremony, nearly 800 students graduated from one of our five secondary learning programs.



## Class of 2014 Valedictorians (4.0 GPA)

### Mead High School

Max Alley	R. Tanner Hardy
Jewelyn Bardwell	Emily Herbster
Emma Bortz	Thomas Kautzman
Rylie Carty	Deepika Kubsad
Anna Crow	Lauren Larson
Alyssa Degreef	Guilian Luchini
Mayson Douglass	Braiden Markham
Kylie Drynan	Dominic Martella
Samantha Duong	Elizabeth Northrop
Nolan Eldridge	Megan Peffer
Nathan Ellis	Theresa Sievert
Brianna Evans	Emma Voigtlaender
Kallee Goins	Cassidy Young
Graham Gustafson	

### Mt. Spokane High School

Lisa DePledge	Shannon McReynolds
Taylor Dinges	Chase Milligan
Sierra Dodd	Ashlee Pedersen
Kaylee Draine	April Sant
Carly Frank	Lindsey Sherer
Hannah Fry	Hannah Singleton
Peter Fullmer	Lisa Sponseller
Jack Gularte	Kayla Uplinger
Shannon Hurley	Kees von Michalofski
Rachael M. Jones	Ken Wilhelm
Pahton Larson	Joe Wilkes
Morgen Layton	Cecily Wright
Caroline Madill	Jack Zielinski

### Five Mile Prairie School

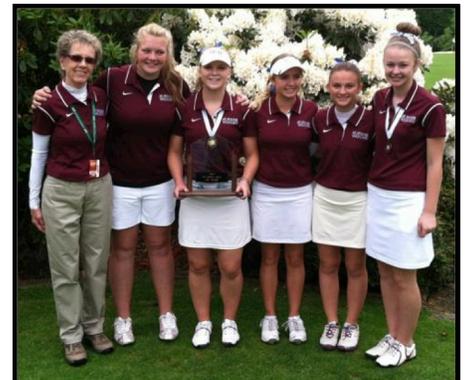
Vlad Elikh

## 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 Billeter, Hailey Warren, Brianna Jensen and Cailin 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.

"An idea for next year's 8<sup>th</sup> graders," says Mr. McComas, "is to plan a mission to Mars and design a sustainable habitat there." Students, building on their knowledge from 7<sup>th</sup> grade, will need to design and build rockets to get there. Once on Mars they will need to get around . . . rovers or racers or some mode of transportation, with the ability to be powered by an alternative power source (solar or fuel cells), must be investigated and designed. The study of weather patterns and growing conditions on Mars will help guide student development of sustainable food sources.

Northwood and Mountainside science teachers have spent hours developing, refining and fine tuning an exciting hands-on science curriculum for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Thanks to their efforts our middle school students are well prepared for high school science, which includes *Project Lead the Way* biomedical and engineering classes.

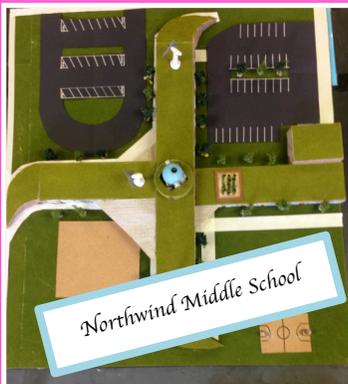


Emma Spurbeck & Sophia Madill  
Mountainside Middle School  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade Science Students with their Rocket

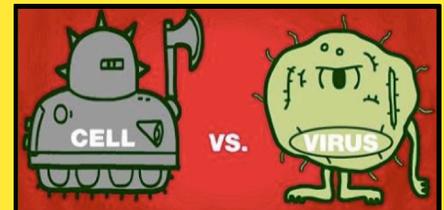
## Northwood STEM Club's School of the Future Windmill Design Takes Second at State Competition

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.



Competition Presenters: Katie Laurier, Kate Wright, Lauren Champin, Edward Lui, Maddie Gendreau, Meggie Rodewald, Kate Ward & Robyn Villines



### TED-Ed Video

Mountainside 7<sup>th</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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.

MEAD MATTERS  
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## Upcoming Events

Sept. 2	First Day of School
Sept. 6	“Show & Shine” Car Show @ Mt. Spokane HS
Oct. 10	Battle of the Bell Football Game
Dec. 22	Start of Winter Break
Jan. 5	School Resumes After Winter Break
April 6-10	Spring Break

## 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](mailto:tom.rockefeller@mead354.org).



## New District Website

The Mead School District has a new web hosting vendor. The new website features a simplified, flexible design and enhanced mobile responsiveness. To access individual school websites visit [www.mead354.org](http://www.mead354.org) and click “Our Schools.”

Staff will be working throughout the summer to assure all aspects of the new district and school sites are fully operational before the start of the new school year.

## 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. 