

# MEAD

# MATTERS

April 2014



## The BIG BUILD 354



## Build Generates 7,500 Weekend Meals

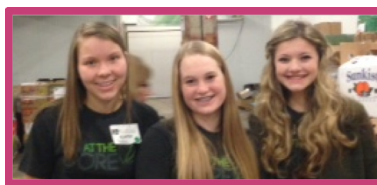
### Mead Community Comes Together to Feed Needy Kids

It was a huge success! More than 200 Mead School District students, staff, administrators and community members gathered at Second Harvest Food Bank on Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup> for the BIG BUILD 354 where they assembled 7,500 *A Bite 2 Go* weekend meal kits.

*A Bite 2 Go* weekend meals are the brainchild of Chris and Brenna Sloan. Their vision, back in 2009, was to provide weekend meals for hungry kids in Mead and Riverside who depend on free breakfast and lunch during the week. The plan was to invite local businesses, organizations and churches to adopt schools in their

community. In 2013 the non-profit **At the Core** was formed incorporating the weekend meals program that currently serves more than 300 Mead students.

Volunteers preregistered online for morning or afternoon sessions. This BUILD generated so much interest that worker spots were "sold-out" more than one week in advance! Volunteers included both the Mt. Spokane HS and Mead HS baseball teams as well as several students from M.E.A.D.



Big Build 354 Student Team Leaders  
Camryn Breneman, Gillian Hallock & Rylee Goff

Local business partners for the BIG BUILD 354, recruited by the student leadership team, were: Vandervert Developments, Evcoinc, Ed's Premier Auto Body, Hallock Consulting, Wendle Ford, Banner Furnace & Fuel, CashLinq, Windermere Real Estate, Rosauers, Pizza Pipeline and Blue Button Apparel.

To learn more about *A Bite 2 Go* meals visit **At the Core** on Facebook.

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*Featuring the Sale of  
Student and Community Art  
to Support Mead School  
District Art Programs*

## Eye4Art

Saturday, April 19, 2014

Mead High School

noon - 5 p.m.

\$5 adult, \$15 family, \$2 student





## Academic State Champions

Congratulations to the following teams who are WIAA Academic State Champions for the winter athletic/activities season:

- 3A Wrestling – Mt. Spokane HS Team GPA 3.448
- 3A Forensics – Mt. Spokane HS Team GPA 3.302
- 4A Cheer – Mead HS Team GPA 3.745
- 4A Drama – Mead HS Team GPA 3.542

## STEM Lighthouse School



Mead's Riverpoint Academy has been named one of seven STEM Lighthouse Schools in the state of Washington. The award was presented by State Superintendent of Public Instruction Randy Dorn and includes an \$18,000 grant.



## Capes for KEMO

Two Mt. Spokane High School  
Superheroes on a Mission  
to Help Others

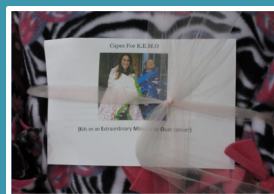
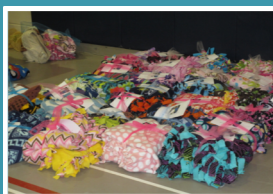
Olivia Prater and Lucas Morgan are best friends. Thankfully, their friendship has led to the formation of an organization that is focused on helping kids battle cancer.

When Lucas, born with Down syndrome, was diagnosed with leukemia in 2012, a special blanket comforted him during chemotherapy treatments. One day while visiting Lucas, Olivia draped the blanket around his shoulders like a cape and told him he was a superhero. That's how **Capes for KEMO** (Kids on an Extraordinary Mission to Oust Cancer) was born.

With donations from the Mt. Spokane community, an army of volunteers (students, staff and graduates) recently gathered in the Mt. Spokane Commons to make blankets . . . more than 60 of them! Each blanket includes a letter and photo from the blanket maker offering hope to those embarking on their own "Extraordinary Mission to Oust Cancer."

While Olivia and Lucas understand they can't cure cancer, they believe **Capes for KEMO** has the superpower to help kids feel better.

Capes for KEMO was the subject of a recent KHQ news feature.  
The story is linked under the *News* tab on the  
Mead School District homepage.



## Design Challenge: Create a 30-Second Video Seven Students – One Big Project

Each year students from the Digital Media and Entrepreneurship programs at Mead High School collaborate on a design challenge from a local business. This year's challenge came from Karen and Fred Etten, owners of Didier's Yogurt & More: create a 30-second video commercial for use in local theatres.

Seven students (Braden Barranco, Kaleb Hettinger, Keely Liles, Charlie Powell, Nick Peterson, JP Suender and Tyler Templeton) met the design challenge. The group spent two days on site conducting interviews, taking pictures and shooting video, followed by countless hours collaborating with the Ettens on the finished product that is linked under the *News* tab on the Mead School District homepage.

Local businesses interested in working with a group of talented high school students on a design challenge are invited to contact teachers Brandon Butler or Lee Chambers at Mead High School.



## Senior Presentation Panelists

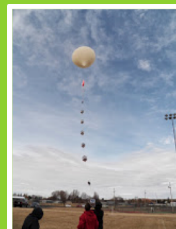
### Please Come Hear Their Stories

Senior Presentations are a wonderful opportunity to hear the stories and future plans of graduating seniors.

- **Mead High School**  
May 13 & May 14 (5-8:30 p.m.)  
Contact: Mike Phillips  
[mike.phillips@mead354.org](mailto:mike.phillips@mead354.org)
- **Mt. Spokane High School**  
May 21 & May 22 (5-8:30 p.m.)  
Contact: Joanie Pringle-Jones  
[joanie.pringle-jones@mead354.org](mailto:joanie.pringle-jones@mead354.org)

Learn. Lead. **Mead**  
School District





## Near Space Science Research

### Northwood Middle School & Whitworth University

In mid-March Whitworth physics students, Northwood Flight & Space class students and parents, along with science teacher Dave Gamon and professor John Larkin, traveled to Wilbur, Washington. Their task: conduct near space experiments by launching a helium-filled weather balloon carrying pods/experiments developed by Flight & Space students in partnership with Whitworth students.

The pre-launch design process included brainstorming potential experiment ideas, researching those ideas, deciding on a hypothesis to test, assembling sensors in a pod and, finally, testing the pod.

The launch took place at 11 a.m. Using GPS, the group tracked the balloon to Valley Chapel Road south of Cheney, where it landed in a tree 2.5 hours later.

Collaborating with the Whitworth students, Northwood students will analyze experiment data, reflect on their hypothesis and prepare findings for presentation at the Greater Spokane STEMposium taking place on May 28 at WSU-Riverpoint.



A \$500 grant from the Mead Education Foundation provided funding for this project.

## Modern Day Slavery Examined

### Relevant, Rigorous & Relational Learning

Tamara Kennedy-Gibbens and Chris Waddell team-teach Junior Humanities at Mead High School – a class where students study integrated U.S. History and American Literature. A recent class exhibition focused on the subject of modern day human slavery, including a look at the production of garments, chocolate, coffee, diamonds and fresh cut flowers.

**Relevant:** After studying the Civil War and the abolishment of slavery, students turned their focus to modern day slavery. Darrin Duty, from the Spokane-based non-profit Generation Alive, spoke to the class about the 30+ million people living in slavery today.



Junior Humanities Students: Emma Vasilj, Lunden Nugen, Callie Corkrum (top) & Christian Cebert

**Rigorous:** Focusing on 21<sup>st</sup> century learning skills, such as distinguishing the reliability and credibility of on-line sources, each student completed a research project. In addition to looking at industries that utilize slave labor, students also explored companies and organizations committed to combating slave labor through fair trade.

**Relational:** Using collaboration, creativity and design thinking skills, students designed their presentations with the help of prototyping materials purchased with funds from a Mead Education Foundation Grant.

Exhibition project titles included:

- *The Not So Cheap Price of Fashion*
- *Stop and Check the Roses*
- *Chocolate: Pleasure or Pain?*
- *A Cup of Misery*
- *Fair Trade Jewelry*

Reflecting on the learning experience Anna Haukelii said, “This exhibition wasn’t about memorizing or testing. It was about genuinely learning important material and sharing that information with others.”



The mission of the Mead Education Foundation is to foster excellence in learning for all Mead School District students through private fundraising.

Each year the foundation awards grants to staff members who have created interesting and innovative approaches to learning. 2014 grants, totaling \$6,437, were awarded to the following teachers:

- **Terri Peterson** – Northwood Electric Snap Circuit Kits (\$800)
- **Melva Pryor** – Prairie View iPads for learning (\$1,500)
- **Kate Campenella** – Shiloh Hills iPad minis for literacy/math (\$1,649)
- **Dave Gamon** – Northwood Near Space Experiments (\$500)
- **Teri Inman** – M.E.A.D. iPad Applications (\$658)
- **K-Gibbens/Waddell** – Mead HS Prototyping Materials (\$1,330)

Learn more about the Mead Education Foundation at [www.meadeducationfoundation.org](http://www.meadeducationfoundation.org)

MEAD MATTERS  
Mead School District #354  
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Mead, WA 99021

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Questions or concerns?  
509-465-6014  
[www.mead354.org](http://www.mead354.org)

## Upcoming Events

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| April 14 | School Board Meeting @ Mountainside 6 pm                       |
| April 28 | School Board Meeting @ DO 6 pm                                 |
| May 12   | School Board Meeting @ Meadow Ridge 6 pm                       |
| May 27   | School Board Meeting @ DO 6 pm                                 |
| June 5   | M.E.A.D. Graduation @ Mead HS 6 pm                             |
| June 5   | Five Mile Prairie Graduation @ Mead HS                         |
| June 6   | Mt. Spokane HS Graduation @ GU's McCarthy Athletic Center 5 pm |
| June 6   | Mead HS Graduation @ GU's McCarthy Athletic Center 8 pm        |
| June 7   | Riverpoint Academy Graduation @ Whitworth 11 am                |
| June 9   | School Board Meeting @ DO 6 pm                                 |
| June 12  | Last Day of School   |
| June 23  | School Board Meeting @ DO 6 p.m.                               |



Facilities Planning Committee Recommendations  
are available on the Mead School District Homepage  
[www.mead354.org](http://www.mead354.org)

## Instructional Hours

### A Message from Superintendent Tom Rockefeller

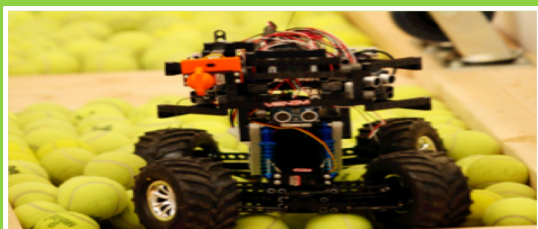


The legislature recently passed a new law requiring public schools in Washington to increase their instructional hours. The new requirements, scheduled for implementation in the 2015-2016 school year, call for elementary and middle schools to have 1,000 instructional hours each year. At the high school level the new requirement is 1,080 hours. Currently we are required to have an overall district average of 1,000 hours, grades 1-12.

What does this mean for the Mead School District? In the short run (2014-2015 school year) the start and end times for our elementary, middle and high schools will not change. Elementary schools will start at 9:15 a.m. and dismiss at 3:15 p.m. Middle schools and high schools will start at 8:15 a.m. and end at 2:30 p.m. The only change for next year will involve Wednesday/Thursday student access time at the high school level. While we are still working on specifics, I can report the amount of student access time (minutes) will be reduced at both Mt. Spokane HS and Mead HS next year to meet state requirements.

Going forward, I have asked Assistant Superintendent Ken Russell, working with district stakeholders (staff, parents, students and community), to lead the development of a plan to meet the additional instructional hours required by the new legislation. Prior to bringing a recommendation to the school board for their approval next spring, there will be several opportunities for community input.

Please feel free to contact me or Ken Russell if you have questions regarding the new instructional hours legislation.



## 2014 Mead School District Robotics Competition

The 2014 Mead School District Robotics Competition took place on February 21<sup>st</sup> at Mt. Spokane High School. A total of 16 teams, 80 participants, competed (three from Mountainside Middle School, six from Mead HS and seven from Mt. Spokane HS).

The competition involved driving all sections of the course including a line-following/ultrasonic sensing section, two different obstacle course sections and, new to this year's competition, a shooting gallery where the robot (controlled remotely) had to shoot targets with a modified Nerf gun. The Mt. Spokane team of Jin Kim, Zach Allen, Bradley Pardue and Austin Boschma took first place. Teams from Mead High School placed second and third.