



Northwood 7th grade science students, in partnership with GenerationAlive and 2nd Harvest Food Bank, prepared, in one day, 12,000 meals for local distribution.



Student Problem-Solvers Tackle Hunger

Everything we do starts
with a problem.

This fall the learning focus for 7th grade science students at Northwood Middle School was inquiry, photosynthesis and plant cells within the context of worldwide hunger. What are the demographics of hunger? How do plants grow? What kind of energy do you need to make plants grow? How do you develop systems that promote plant growth?

A key component to an integrated, STEM-based science curriculum is problem solving. With that in mind Northwood students discussed sustainability, built long-term systems and developed solutions designed to

make a difference in areas of perennial hunger.

To connect students in a tangible way to the issue of hunger, the entire 7th grade class, in conjunction with GenerationAlive - a nonprofit organization founded by Spokane native Jeremy Affeldt, a pitcher with the San Francisco Giants - made 12,000 meals in just one day for local distribution by 2nd Harvest Food Bank. Generous financial support from local businesses and the Mead community, including Ziggy's, STCU, Wendle Ford and Frahm Family Dentistry, helped make this endeavor possible.

This is just one example of how STEM-based education is making a difference for Mead kids. Students not

only learned science content but also learned how to problem solve and do something meaningful with that content. "One of the things I love about STEM education," says teacher Dave Gamon, "is that student learning can make a very real difference in our community. That is very satisfying!"

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

Eye4Art
Saturday, April 20, 2013
Mead High School
noon - 5 p.m.

\$10 per person, \$25 per family,
\$2 students with ASB card



Inside Our Schools



Superintendent Tom Rockefeller, along with Five Mile Prairie Principal Bruce Olgard and Facilities Director Ned Wendle (pictured left to right), accepted a 2012 School of Distinction Award for Five Mile Prairie School at a reception held at ESD 101 on January 8, 2013.



The Inland NW Wildlife Council recently made a \$500 donation to the Evergreen Elementary National Archery in the School Program. More than 200 Evergreen students participate each year in this nationally certified program.



Pictured with Deputy Superintendent Dan Butler (left), STCU President and CEO Tom Johnson presented a \$5,000 check to Mead's Riverpoint Academy to honor education innovation.

For the 2012-13 school year Riverpoint Academy has been the recipient of \$38,630 in private donations.



Mead School District 2nd Annual Robotics Competition

February 23, 2013 – 8 a.m.
Mt. Spokane High School
(Finals begin at 2 p.m.)

"THE INTAZZA PROJECT"



Eight Students – One Big Project

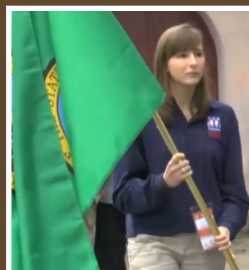
Challenge: Leverage the Capabilities and Brand of Intazza

Eight students (Matt Grimes, Andrew Simon, Brad Haubert, India Halliburton-Link, Toree Boutz, Shelley Clark, Katelyn Granum and Matt Nelson) were selected out of 80 applicants from the Digital Media and Entrepreneurship programs at Mead High School to collaborate on a design challenge . . . creating a marketable commercial video for *Intazza*, a coffee roasting company in southern California. The group traveled to *Intazza* headquarters in October, where they spent three busy days conducting interviews, taking pictures and shooting video. This project was the summer brainchild of teachers Brandon Butler and Lee Chambers.

Students then spent the remainder of first semester creating a 2.5-minute marketing video, complete with original music, promoting *Intazza* to potential customers. The premier showing of the finished product was held at Mead High School on January 23, with *Intazza* President Ryan Dalton in attendance. Commenting on the experience senior Andrew Simon said, "This is one of the best opportunities I have ever had in life, let alone high school."

You are invited to view this outstanding display of student work, as well as an 8-minute documentary on their learning experience. They are linked on the Mead School District homepage (www.mead354.org).

If you are a local business owner looking to expand your product and would like to partner with a group of talented high school students in creating a marketing video please contact Mr. Butler (brandon.butler@mead354.org) or Mr. Chambers (lee.chambers@mead354.org).



Field Trip of a Life Time

As a result of her winning participation in last year's National History Day competition, Mt. Spokane High School senior Natalie Pilgeram earned the right to represent Washington State at the opening of the *US Freedom Pavilion: The Boeing Center* in New Orleans on January 12. This latest addition to the National World War II Museum takes visitors back in time to gain an appreciation for the weapons that helped win the war and the people who built them.

As part of this honor, each of the 51 invited high school students (one from each state and the District of Columbia) wrote an essay on the way their state influenced or was influenced by World War II. Natalie's article on Boeing is linked to the Mead School District homepage. Reflecting on her experience Natalie said, "Understanding the massive scope of the war left me with a whole new respect for veterans and engineers."



School Safety: A Top Priority

Using a three-stage approach we are implementing enhanced preventative safety measures at each of our schools.

"School safety is on the front burner in the Mead School District," says Executive Director of Student Services Jared Hoadley. "We are looking at what we can do immediately, what we can do in the next six months and what we can do long term."

Immediate measures include:

- Increased adult supervision and observation at each school
- Minimized points of entry before, during and after school
- Increased number of volunteers
- Required visitor sign-in
- Continued, regular and ongoing practice of emergency/crisis drills

Under direction from the Board of Directors and Superintendent Rockefeller, Mr. Hoadley is leading a series of activities focused on school safety. These include building safety audits, observing and analyzing school crisis drills and action plans, meeting with crisis response trainers and assembling task groups.



Visitor Sign-In Table
Mead HS Main Entrance

In the long term, Ned Wendle (Facilities Director) is working with administrators, maintenance staff, facilities designers and safety firms on proposals for future building safety modifications and facility upgrades.

We are also in conversation with state legislators on the issue of school safety. Specifically, we are seeking funding to assist with the implementation of security enhancements and changes to state laws related to public school safety.

Thank you for partnering with us as we work to enhance security at our schools. If you have questions regarding student or building safety please contact Jared Hoadley (jared.hoadley@mead354.org)

Teacher-Principal Evaluation Pilot

The opportunity to discuss high quality, effective instruction is powerful.

The Washington State Legislature, in the 2010 session, passed a broad education reform bill that includes the implementation of a revised evaluation system for certificated teachers and principals beginning in 2013-14.

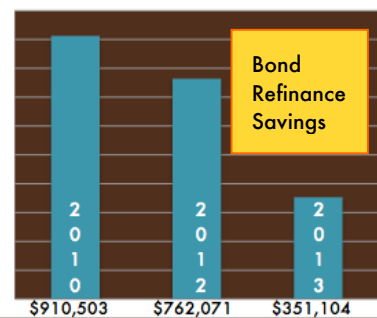
Led by Dorcas Wylder, Executive Director of Learning Services, 120 Mead School District teachers and principals are currently piloting this new evaluation system. "The learning that happens as we discuss high quality, effective instruction is powerful," says Wylder. "It brings common language, common vision and a very intentional focus to our instruction."

Our past evaluation system was two-tiered, "okay" or "not okay." It did not allow for the in-depth assessment the new four-tiered system provides. The new tool provides an evaluation that helps measure the continued growth of teaching skills throughout career progression from beginning teacher to master teacher.

The new four-tiered ratings are:

- *Unsatisfactory
- *Basic
- *Proficient
- *Distinguished

"As we use the same language and name the same instructional strategies, the door is open for our teachers to learn together and from one another," says Executive Director Wylder. "This means our teachers get better and our students have an enhanced learning experience."



Taking advantage of continued low interest rates, the District was able to refinance an additional 3.6 million dollars in construction bonds in January resulting in a savings of \$351,104 to Mead property owners.

Since 2010 the refinancing of construction bonds has resulted in a total savings of \$2,023,678 for Mead School District taxpayers.

New Teacher Evaluation Criteria

1. Centering instruction on high expectations for student achievement
2. Demonstrating effective teaching practices
3. Recognizing individual student learning needs & developing strategies to address those needs
4. Providing clear & intentional focus on subject matter, content & curriculum
5. Fostering & managing a safe, positive learning environment
6. Using multiple student data elements to modify instruction & improve student learning
7. Communicating with parents & school community
8. Exhibiting collaborative & collegial practices focused on improving instructional practice & student learning

Facilities Planning Committee

Ned Wendle, Director of Facilities and Planning, is seeking community members to be a part of the Facilities Planning Committee. If you are interested in serving please contact him at ned.wendle@mead354.org.

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

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

ECR WSS
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Upcoming Events

Feb. 15	No School
Feb. 18	No School (President's Day)
Feb. 23	MSD Robotics Competition, Mt. Spokane HS 8 am
Feb. 25	School Board Meeting @ District Office 6 pm
March 8	No School
March 11	School Board Meeting @ Mt. Spokane HS 6 pm
March 25	School Board Meeting @ District Office 6 pm
April 1-5	Spring Break
April 8	School Board Meeting @ M.E.A.D. 6 pm
April 20	Eye4Art @ Mead HS noon-5 pm
April 22	School Board Meeting @ District Office 6 pm

School Safety A Message from Superintendent Tom Rockefeller



Although the Mead School District has many priorities, student and staff safety has been and will continue to be a primary focus. District administrators are evaluating past and present safety practices in order to improve our day-to-day actions and thinking when it comes to protecting students and staff. We are proactively addressing what we can do "now," in the "next six months" and "long term."

The most important thing we can do as a community is work together to watch over our children. Please stay vigilant and share any safety concerns you may have with school officials and law enforcement.

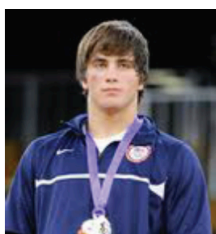
2012 SWAB Award Finalists

In early January, the nominees for the Inland Northwest Sportswriters and Broadcasters (SWAB) players, coaches and teams of the year for 2012 were announced. Included in this impressive list of nominees from Mead High School and Mt. Spokane High School are:

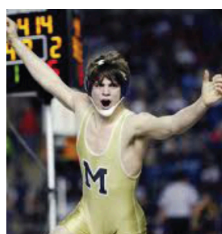
Junior Male & Female Athletes



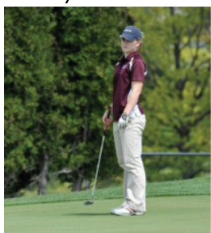
Andrew Gardner - Mead HS
State Champion Track & Cross
Country Distance Runner



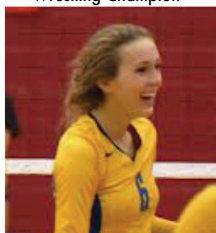
Jordan Rogers - Mead HS
Three-Time State
Wrestling Champion



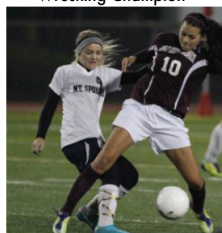
Chandler Rogers - Mead HS
Two-Time State
Wrestling Champion



Sierra Bezdicek - Mt.S HS
GSL Girls Golfer of the Year
State 3A Champion



Taylor Ellingsen - Mead HS
WSU Bound
Volleyball Standout



Riley Richardson - Mt.S HS
Leading Scorer for Mt.S's
3A 2nd Place Soccer Team

Junior Female Team



Mead HS Gymnastics Team
State 4A Team Champion
Only the 3rd Champion in State History from Spokane

Junior Female Coach

Laurie Chadwick
Mead High School
Gymnastics Head Coach

