



MATTERS

March 2012



**Mead School District
Maintenance & Operations
Levy Renewal
Approved!**

Mead, Thanks For Your Support!

Thank You Neighbors!

62% of Mead School District Levy Voters Say, "Yes"!

In a heartening victory for the Mead community and its schools, February's renewal of the three-year Mead District Maintenance and Operations Levy passed with flying colors.

Although renewal required only a simple 50% majority for approval, a 62% "yes" vote means we surpassed the "super majority" threshold. 17,658 votes were cast for a voter participation rate of 56%.

"Even in these tough economic times, voters have reaffirmed the value that high-performing Mead schools bring to our children, our community, our businesses and our homeowners," said Superintendent Tom Rockefeller. "The school community is very grateful for the strong support shown by February's vote."

This voter approved levy will not raise overall school tax rates. In fact, the present tax rate will continue to decline as bond measures passed in previous elections are retired.

We especially thank those community members who served on the Citizen's Advisory Committee, as well as all who helped carry the levy renewal message to neighbors and friends.

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Eye4Art +
Mead Centennial Reception
Saturday, April 21, 2012
Mead High School
noon – 6 p.m.



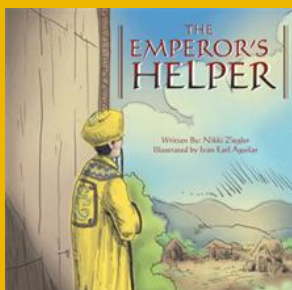
Inside Our Schools

WASHINGTON ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNER

For "overall excellence at the middle school level" **Mountainside Middle School** has been named a 2011 Washington Achievement Award Winner – one of only 35 regional schools to earn this honor.



State Champions! The **Mead High School Gymnastics Team** is the first Spokane-area school to win a state gymnastics title since 1970. The Panthers edged out three other talented squads at the 4A state meet held the weekend of February 10th in Tacoma.



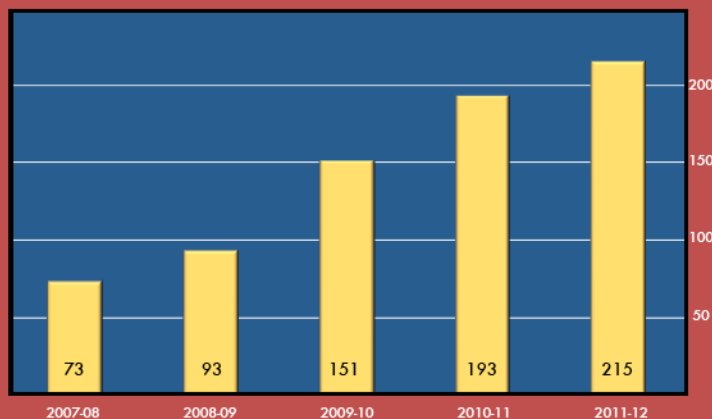
Mt. Spokane senior **Nikki Ziegler** is a published author! Beginning as an English assignment, Nikki wrote a children's story that is now a beautiful book entitled "The Emperor's Helper".

2012 Hoops for Hope



Played February 1st before a record crowd of more than 800, this charity event raised a record \$7,051 to help fight cancer, resulting in an 8-year grand total of \$35,290.

Mead School District – Homeless Students 2007-2012



A Local Look at Federal Homeless Legislation

Gunnar Hayward doesn't know a lot about the federal legislation known as the McKinney-Vento Act. He does, however, know quite a bit about homelessness. McKinney-Vento legislation has paved the way for this Mt. Spokane senior to complete his education in the Mead district, despite the times he has spent living with friends, or in his car, or with relatives.

Homelessness is increasingly common in the Mead District. Currently 215 district students are served under the McKinney-Vento mandate: 116 elementary students, 29 middle school students and 70 high school students including 30 considered youth living on their own. As the graph illustrates, the number of Mead students who do not have permanent housing has tripled over the past five years.

The McKinney-Vento Act makes sure children and youth who do not have permanent housing, or who become homeless, can continue to go to school in a stable school environment. Gunnar Hayward knows the value of connecting with a school community when life doesn't seem too great. He left home at 16 and moved between a series of temporary living arrangements. For awhile he attended classes at Mead's alternative school M.E.A.D. and credits a teacher there with "keeping me together when everything else was falling apart." This past semester, Gunnar has been working 61 hours a week at two jobs and has still managed to complete the three courses he needs for graduation. Hayward hopes to join the military when he has his diploma in hand.



Gunnar Hayward

What If the Unthinkable Happens Here?

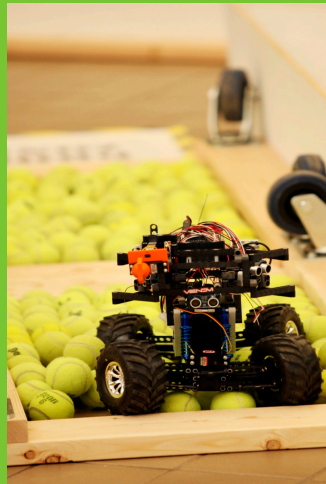
Families trust schools to keep their children safe. The good news is the vast majority of schools in this country are safe. However, despite our best efforts, a crisis may come our way. We are reminded of this harsh reality by the memories of Columbine, the hurricanes and flooding in Louisiana and the recent headlines from Ohio.

Mead takes the safety of students and staff seriously. We are continually reviewing and updating our procedures for handling emergencies, large or small.

We have a district-wide, comprehensive emergency/crisis plan in place to ensure quick response and student safety. Every school has been painstakingly mapped and photographed for the "Rapid Responder" emergency system, which provides essential information for emergency responders. Individual school crisis plans are updated annually and each school has practice drills designed to simulate a wide variety of emergency situations.

Because communication in a time of crisis is essential, we are pleased to announce the implementation of the *Black Board Connect System* designed to allow nearly instant communication with families via email, text message, and phone simultaneously. Information regarding this new system, as well as a request to provide updated contact information, will be coming home with students very soon.

Questions regarding school safety can be directed to Ralph Thayer, Executive Director of Students Services – 465-6008 or ralph.thayer@mead354.org.



Robotics Competition

On February 25th more than 200 spectators attended the first ever Mead School District Robotics Competition. 15 four-person teams – 6 from Mead High, 6 from Mt. Spokane and 3 from Mountainside Middle - competed in the following five phases:

- Autonomous Hallway
- Autonomous Elevated Plank
- Time Warp
- Black Hole Covered Maze
- Challenge Alley Obstacle Course

"Challenge Alley, the obstacle course, was the most challenging part of the whole day," reported Mt. Spokane teacher Bill Patrick. "There were suspension bridges, uneven planks and ramps, tight turns on a small platform, tennis ball obstructions, buckets to move and all kinds of cracks and crevices to fall into or get trapped in."



1st Place – Mead High
Keegan Jones, Gabe Hartman,
Colin Ward, Leah McLeod



2nd Place – Mead High
Nathan Ellis, Josiah Hopkins,
Mark Schwab, Austin Anderson



3rd Place – Mt. Spokane High
Jacob Krantz, Zach Allen,
Tanner Jordan, Brad Pardue



Riverpoint Academy Open for Enrollment

Igniting Passion, Producing Innovators

This fall the Mead School District will launch a new opportunity for students to spend their final two years of high school on the Riverpoint campus in downtown Spokane. Riverpoint Academy will open its doors in September 2012 to 75 juniors, featuring learning that blurs the line between high school and college.

Collegiate partners include WSU, EWU and the Community Colleges of Spokane. Students will have the chance to take college courses for credit on campus and engage in on-campus programs in health sciences, design, technology and education.

Located in the Innovate Washington Building, 665 N. Riverpoint Blvd., Riverpoint Academy's mission is to apprentice students in the art of learning through inquiry, creativity, critical thinking, responsibility and leadership. The Spokane science, technology, engineering and entrepreneurship professional community will partner with the Riverpoint Academy by

offering real-world challenges for students to grapple with, and by providing internships and field experiences.

The Academy will have a STEM+ focus. Danette Driscoll, the newly named principal of Riverpoint Academy, says course work will "combine science, technology, engineering, math and entrepreneurship in the way we find those disciplines linked in the world of work and innovation. The Academy will challenge students to apply their knowledge and creativity toward solutions and to gain experience and skill that positions them well for future careers."

Interested students and parents should visit www.riverpointacademy.org/riverpoint for information and an application.

Applications are due March 23, 2012.



Yes, a Farmer's Market!

It could happen, but we need your help. Join us for a one-hour meeting to gauge community volunteer interest:

When: March 29, 7 pm

Where: Mead School District Office (2323 E. Farwell Rd)

More Information: 570-8485 or david.camp@mead354.org

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

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Questions or concerns?
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Upcoming Events

March 19	Adv. Elementary Orchestra Concert, Mt.S HS 7 pm
March 20	Beginning Elementary Band Concert, Mead HS 7 pm Beginning Elementary Band Concert, Mt.S HS 7 pm
March 21	Spring Choir Concert, Northwood 7:30 pm Choir Concert, Shiloh Hills 7 pm
March 22	Northwood & MHS Band Concert, Mead HS 7 pm Mountainside & Mt.S Band Concert, Mt.S HS 7 pm
March 24	Jazz NW, Mead HS (all day)
March 26	Elementary Conferences (3/26/12 – 3/30/12)
March 27	Adv. Elementary Orchestra Concert, Mead HS 7 pm Chamber Choir Night, Mt.S HS 7 pm
April 14	Silent Auction, Five Mile Prairie School 6:30-8:30 pm
April 19	Project Jazz, Mead HS 7:30 pm
April 21	Eye4Art, Mead HS noon-6 pm Centennial Reception, Mead HS noon-6 pm

Thank You, Mead Patrons! A Message from School Board Vice-President Denny Denholm



A big "thank you" from the School Board to all district patrons and the hundreds who helped in passing our three-year Maintenance & Operations Renewal Levy. The percentage of "yes" votes was incredible considering the economic times we are all facing.

As a Board we want to continue to make Mead Schools the very best they can be. The Board wants to encourage all in our community to get involved with one of the finest school districts in the state and, for all who are already involved, we thank you for your time and talents.

I can attest to the fact that our parents, teachers, staff and administration are excited about this vote of confidence. We will continue to put kids first and do what is needed to assure Mead students receive the best learning opportunities possible. Our goal is successful students now and in the future.

We on the Mead School Board are proud to serve you and the kids of this great district. Thanks again for your support.



Eye4Art

April 21, noon-6 p.m.
Mead High School

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

Come and view outstanding art while you enjoy delicious hors d'oeuvres and listen to music courtesy of Mead orchestras, jazz bands and choirs. More than 200 works from approximately 30 local artists, such as Harold Balazs, Gordon Wilson and Jo Fyfe, will be on display and for sale, along with pieces from Mead School District teachers and students.

"The beauty of Eye4Art is the caliber of artists we are able to draw to this little one-day art show," says event chairman Mark Barnes. Mr. Barnes gives credit for the success of Eye4Art to renowned local artist Harold Balazs, who "gave the Foundation the vision for this event right out of the gate." 82 year-old Balazs was part of the first Eye4Art eight years ago and will have works on display again this year.

Proceeds from this annual event benefit the Mead Education Foundation, created in 2004 to support the teachers, staff and students of the Mead District with grants for projects, technology and needy students.

Centennial Reception



You are invited to stroll down memory lane.

Taking place simultaneously with Eye4Art, in the east entrance foyer at Mead High School, will be a Mead Centennial Reception. It was 100 years ago that Mead Consolidated Union School opened its doors. There is no charge for this event.

Yearbooks, pictures and other archives from the past 100 years will be on display.

The Mead Education Foundation is looking for community members to serve on their board of directors. Interested persons please email Ned Wendle at nedp64@gmail.com.