



MATTERS

January 2012



Local Maintenance & Operations Levy Renewal

Ballots in Mailboxes January 27, 2012
Vote by February 14, 2012

- Funds existing learning programs and maintains facilities
- Does not increase school taxes over current levels

Mead Schools – A Great Value!

**School Board Director
Bob Olson shares his thoughts
on the current efficiency
and effectiveness of the
Mead School District.**

Thank you for your continuing strong support of Mead Schools! As a community member, as well as an elected school board director for more than 26 years, I am both proud of this community's past and excited about the future. My three children and oldest granddaughter graduated from the Mead district, and our other five grandchildren attend school here. I know firsthand that Mead continues to offer outstanding learning and activities programs – cutting edge for the region.

As a retired banker, I am extremely proud of the district's wise financial management.

Mead spends less per pupil than 90% of Washington school districts (268th out of 295 districts), yet the Washington School Research Center ranks our district in the state's top 5% for performance. That's remarkable. In fact, the state auditor's office is currently studying the Mead district to see how we achieve so much with so little. We consistently show high performance at lower cost than nearly any other Washington public school district.

We are highly effective and efficient thanks to our administration, teachers and staff. Superintendent Dr. Tom Rockefeller has more than 33 years of experience in education, teaches school finance at the university level and, over the past few challenging years, has successfully navigated our district through \$12.3 million in reductions while maintaining nearly all of our student-learning programs.

I believe in paying for those things in life that show a good return on investment. Over 91% of Mead and Mt. Spokane students graduate on time and more than 70% of graduates go to college. SAT scores are higher than the state average – and Washington has the highest scores of any state in the nation where half of the eligible students took the test. Without question, Mead Schools are an outstanding value!

Mead School District
Elected Board Member

Bob Olson



Elected to the Mead School Board in 1985, Bob and his wife Fran have three children and six grandchildren.

**M & O Levy
Community
Forums**

Please Plan to Attend

January 10 -
Five Mile Prairie School 7 p.m.

January 24 -
Meadow Ridge Elementary 7 p.m.

January 17 -
Midway Elementary 7 p.m.

January 31 -
Farwell Elementary 7 p.m.



Quilts & Pajamas for Vanessa Behan Crisis Nursery



1st graders from Colbert Elementary organized a pajama fundraiser to benefit the Vanessa Behan Crisis Nursery. Students did extra chores at home to earn money. Enough money was collected to buy 40 pairs of pajamas. To celebrate, all of the students had a pajama party at school.

Prairie View 1st graders made quilts to donate to Vanessa Behan. On December 16 the beautiful quilts were presented to Amy Knapton from the nursery during a special ceremony.

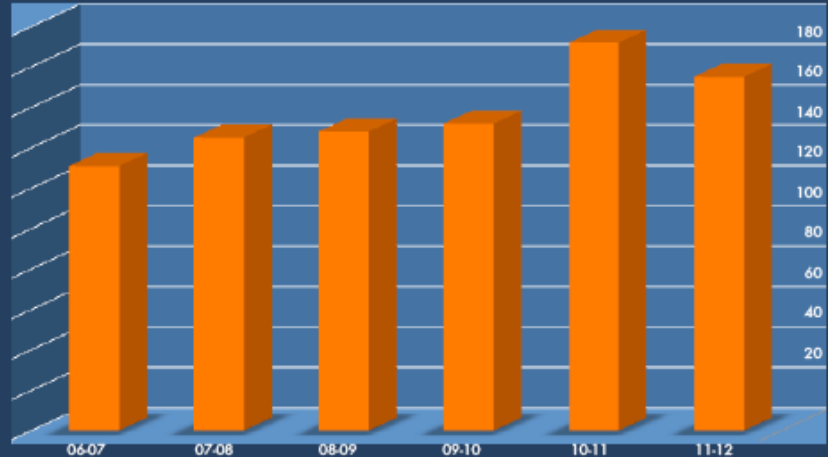


Centennial Celebration Postponed

The January 21 Centennial Celebration has been moved to April 21, 2012 and will be held in conjunction with Eye4Art at Mead High School. Mark your calendar – these are two events you won't want to miss!



Mead School District English Language Learners (ELL) Program



Global Learners Tackle New Skill: English

Imagine attending school where you do not understand or speak the language. ELL students (English Language Learners) arrive at our schools each year speaking and understanding little or no English. The district's ELL program, staffed with 2.5 teachers, helps these students as they make the challenging transition to life in the United States and classes taught exclusively in what, to them, is a foreign language.

The district's ELL program was started in September of 2006 with 75 students. By the end of the 2006-07 school year the program had grown to 131 students. As the graph illustrates, our ELL program served 192 students at the end of the 2010-11 school year.

The top three nationalities of origin for current ELL students are: Russian (38), Marshallese (30), Spanish speaking (15). In 2010-11 all district ELL students met standard in all tested areas on the state mandated AMAO (Annual Measureable Achievement Objectives) test.

Blunt Can Be Beautiful

Mt. Spokane freshman Matt Mehring has a message and it appears to be reaching beyond the halls of high school: Cancer Sucks! Mehring gave a presentation for his Integrated Communications class focused on *Cancer Patient Care*. Matt's idea was to sell t-shirts that simply read "Cancer Sucks" with \$5.00 of the proceeds from each shirt sold going to *Cancer Patient Care* in the name of Lori Jo Knoles, the mother of his friend Mitch Knoles. Lori Jo Knoles passed away this fall after battling lymphoma. Matt wanted to honor her memory and do something for cancer patients in her name. KXLY News featured Matt's project and to date, t-shirt sales have topped \$3,900 with orders coming from as far away as Michigan.

Matt Mehring knows about cancer personally. His own mom, Lisa, was diagnosed with cancer ten years ago. The family has spent the years since involved in raising money and helping other survivors. Lisa's cancer has returned providing Matt's "Cancer Sucks" t-shirt project with even more motivation.

"It really doesn't take a whole lot of work to do something big" says Matt, "you just have to have the right motivation for it." Matt Mehring and his friend Mitch Knoles know all about that motivation.

If you would like to order a t-shirt and support *Cancer Patient Care*, contact Mt. Spokane counselor Jamie Goodman – Jamie.goodman@mead354.org.



Matt Mehring & his mom Lisa



Rachel's Challenge Comes to Northwood & Mountainside Middle Schools

Rachel Scott was the first victim in the Columbine High School shootings. Motivated by her journal writings, the mission of Rachel's Challenge is to inspire, equip and empower every person to create a positive culture change in their school, business and community by starting a chain reaction of kindness and compassion.

Mountainside and Northwood will have all school assemblies in January to introduce Rachel's Challenge followed by a Rachel's Challenge Community Night that parents, students and community members are invited to attend.



January 11	Mountainside Assembly
January 12	Northwood Assembly
January 12 Mead HS 7 pm	Rachel's Challenge Community Night

Holiday Concerts

Standing room only audiences were treated to thirty-two outstanding holiday student music programs during the month of December. Many Mead performing groups also visited local retirement and assisted living facilities in our community to provide holiday entertainment.

Mead's music curriculum includes instrumental, choral and performing arts instruction. These programs are supported, in large part, by local maintenance and operations levy funds.



2012 Hoops for Hope VIII

Mead School District Teachers vs Cancer
Benefit Basketball Game
February 1, 2012
Mead HS - 7:30 pm



MEAD MATTERS
Mead School District #354
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Questions or concerns?
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Upcoming Events

Jan. 10	M&O Community Forum, 5-Mile Prairie School 7 pm
Jan. 12	Rachel's Challenge Community Night, Mead HS 7 pm
Jan. 17	M&O Community Forum, Midway 7 pm
Jan. 18	STEM+ Education Open House, Mead HS 6:30 pm
Jan. 21	POSTPONED TO APRIL 21 - Centennial Celebration
Jan. 24	M&O Community Forum, Meadow Ridge 7 pm
Jan. 26	Evergreen Elementary Literacy Night 6:30 pm
Jan. 27	M&O Levy Ballots in Mailboxes
Jan. 31	M&O Community Forum, Farwell 7 pm
Feb. 1	Hoops for Hope Basketball Game, Mead HS 7:30 pm
Feb. 14	M&O Levy Election Day

Spotlight On Performance & Value A Message from Superintendent Tom Rockefeller



As taxpayers, we all seek top value for our community investment. Two recent reports recognize the efforts the Mead district has made to provide that performance and value during difficult economic times.

- The state auditor's office is currently writing a report that identifies efficient practices districts are using to maximize funds for classroom instruction. Mead is cited in this report as a district that is highly effective in student achievement while maintaining financial efficiency.
- A Seattle University study identifies Mead as a top 5% performing district for learning effectiveness and central office administrative support of teaching and learning. This study, "Washington State Effective District Practices" is dedicated to researching those administrative practices that help in creating the best learning environment for students.

Administrators, teachers and staff work daily to support kids and learning. It is always nice to have confirmation that others recognize the high level of performance and value we provide for taxpayers.



S

Science

T

Technology

E

Engineering

M

Mathematics

Celebrate STEM+ Education Open House - Wednesday, January 18, 2012 Mead High School Theatre - 6:30 p.m.

Parents, students and community members are invited to come learn about the unique STEM+ education opportunities taking place in the Mead district. Students and teachers, along with business community members, will showcase their innovative work in the areas of: Biomedical Science, Engineering and Entrepreneurship.

- Current 6th graders will learn about 7th grade STEM+ academic and after-school programs
- Middle school students will learn about high school STEM+ offerings
- High school students will learn about high school and beyond STEM+ opportunities
- Current sophomores will learn about the district's new Riverpoint Academy - opening Fall 2012 - located on the Riverpoint campus in downtown Spokane

Questions? 465-6014 or regan.drew@mead354.org