



Five Mile Prairie School

The Little Schoolhouse on the Prairie

As the Mead School District celebrates its 100th birthday, a glimpse of that rural past continues at the center of Five Mile Prairie.

Although Five Mile Prairie School is now a successful alternative school serving 250 (whose principal Bruce Olgard is the 2011 Washington Alternative Administrator of the Year), many remember this as the last of our country schoolhouses — a two-classroom classic in service until 1970, even as kids all around attended larger, modern schools.

"Until fourth grade you went to the 'Little Room'," remembers 1960s student Kerry O'Connor. "Moving up to the 'Big Room' was a rite of passage!"

Built by the WPA in 1939 to replace a shoddy older schoolhouse, the new building featured such modern miracles as indoor plumbing and a full kitchen. 35 years after the school closed its doors Five Mile citizens organized a successful Mead District bond vote to restore and reopen the school in 2006, listing it on the National Register of Historic Places.

While most neighborhood kids now attend larger Prairie View Elementary up the road, Five Mile School continues as

a thriving flexible education center for families across the district — and as a window deep into the district's history.

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Fall Theatre Productions

Seven Keys to Baldpate

Mt. Spokane HS Theatre - 7 pm
November 9-10 & November 15-18

The Comedy of Errors

Mead HS Theatre - 7 pm
November 9-10 & November 16-18



Inside Our Schools



Owl Watching . . . Art students at Mountainside Middle School spent a day observing, investigating and learning about owls, when a barn owl and great horned owl came to visit courtesy of the Outdoor Learning Center from West Valley. Using charcoal pencils, students spent the next week drawing birds of prey. "We all agreed that drawing the 'real thing' is the way to go!" says art teacher Robbie Anderson.

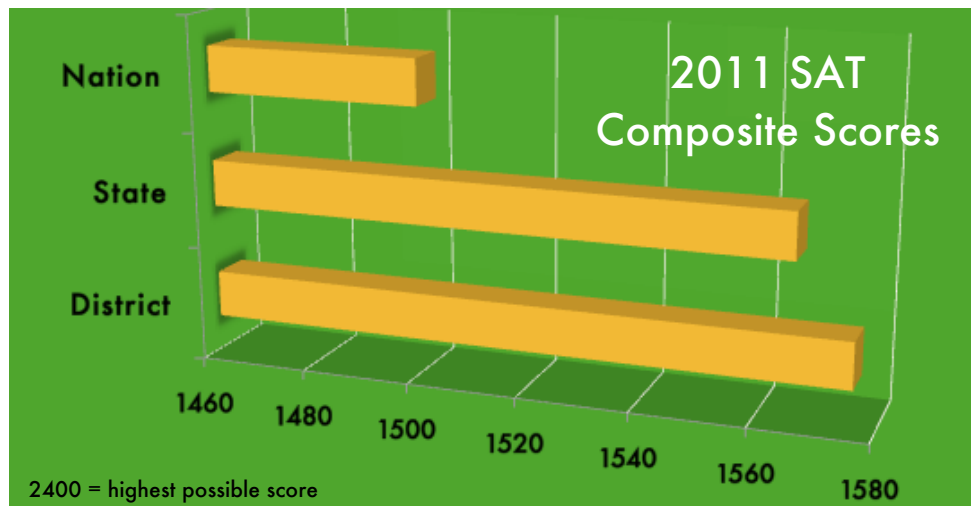


Mike Cunningham coordinates a Work-Based Learning Program at Mt. Spokane HS and was recently honored with the Paul Harris Fellowship from the Aurora Rotary Club. Presented by Rotary District Governor Rampur Viswanath, this award recognizes Mr. Cunningham's dedication and work on behalf of Mt. Spokane students.

Thanks Greenbluff Growers!



Greenbluff pumpkin patches were open once again for elementary tours this fall.



Mead SAT/ACT Scores Beat the State Average

Washington State SAT Scores Among Nation's Highest

Washington students' average scores on the three major SAT exams (reading, writing and math) were the highest in the nation among states in which more than half of the eligible students took the test, according to figures released by the College Board. Washington students also scored above the national average on the ACT test which measures college and career readiness.

Though the Washington State performance bar is set high, Mead District students continue to perform above the overall state average in all three tested areas.

We're Glad You Asked

Q: Did Mead District employees take pay reductions?

Yes. Certificated classroom teachers, counselors, social workers and PE/music specialists took a 1.9% reduction in pay. Central office administrators, principals and assistant principals took a 3% pay reduction. The superintendent took a contract reduction of 7.7%. Many classified personnel took benefit reductions via concessions within their collective bargaining agreements.

Q: Are we anticipating more budget cuts?

Yes. The Governor has called a "special session" of the Washington State Legislature that is to begin right after Thanksgiving. At this time the state has a "budget shortfall" of nearly 2 billion dollars. The reason it is a budget shortfall instead of a budget deficit is that there is a shortfall between the cost of state programs and the revenue to pay for them. The state cannot legally operate in a "deficit" and must, therefore, make immediate reductions in spending.

All state agencies and school districts are expecting reductions in their 2011-2012 allocations. We anticipate up to a 5% reduction, which equates to a potential 4 million dollar budget cut.

Mark Your Calendar for the Centennial Party

In the last issue of Mead Matters we referenced a party at Mead High to celebrate the district's first century. This celebration will take place:

Saturday, January 21, 2012

Look for specifics in the November issue of Mead Matters.





"Battle of the Bell"

More than 10,000 Mead School District students and community members took part in the annual football tradition between Mead and Mt. Spokane high schools, "Battle of the Bell" on Friday, September 23.

The evening saw record attendance (up from 8,000 last year), an excellent football game, tremendous school spirit, an outstanding marching band half-time show, and the presentation of a \$30,000 check from the Cat Scramble Golf Tournament to the athletic departments at Mt. Spokane HS and Mead HS. All that plus great weather!

The Mead Panthers were victorious this time around and the bell has taken up residence on Hastings Road, but if you encounter Wildcats they will tell you this is only a temporary home. They say the bell prefers the wide-open spaces of Peone Prairie.



2011 CENEX Zip Trip Cat Scramble

152 golfers, 10 corporate sponsors, 21 hole sponsors, plus one title sponsor equals a tremendous fundraising event that raised \$30,000 to be split between the athletic programs at Mead HS and Mt. Spokane HS. Thanks to all sponsors and event chairman Louanna Hamersky.



Sunset Concerts

Patriotic music filled the air on Saturday, September 10 as the Mt. Spokane marching band and colorguard entertained nearly 300 spectators on the lawn behind Midway Elementary. It was a terrific community event that not only showcased the talent of Mt. Spokane students but also served as a fitting memorial to the 9/11 ten-year anniversary.

The following weekend chilly temperatures did not deter community members of all ages from gathering at Sky Prairie Park where they enjoyed an outstanding instrumental and vocal concert by the Mead HS orchestra, jazz band and jazz choir. The caliber of the performances was particularly noteworthy considering the concert took place only 9 days after the start of school!



MEAD MATTERS
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Upcoming Events

Oct. 20	Fall Band Concert – Northwood MS 7:30 pm Fall Band Concert – Mountainside MS 7 pm
Oct. 24	Fall Choir Concert – Mountainside MS 7 pm
Oct. 25	Choir Concert – Mt. Spokane HS 7 pm
Oct. 27	6 th Adv. Band Concert – Northwood MS 7 pm Jazz Night – Mt. Spokane HS 7 pm
Nov. 2	Orchestra Concert – Mead HS 7 pm
Nov. 8	Jazz Band Concert – Northwood 7:30 pm
Nov. 9	Fall Play – Mead HS 7 pm Fall Play – Mt. Spokane HS 7 pm
Nov. 10	Fall Play – Mead HS 7 pm Fall Play – Mt. Spokane HS 7 pm Meadow Ridge Veteran's Program 1:30 pm & 6:30 pm
Nov. 12	Craft Fair – Mead HS 9 am – 5 pm
Nov. 13	Craft Fair – Mead HS 10 am – 4 pm
Nov. 15	Fall Play – Mt. Spokane HS 7 pm
Nov. 16	Fall Play – Mead HS 7 pm Fall Play – Mt. Spokane HS 7 pm
Nov. 17	Fall Play – Mead HS 7 pm Fall Play – Mt. Spokane HS 7 pm
Nov. 18	Fall Play – Mead HS 7 pm Fall Play – Mt. Spokane HS 7 pm
Nov. 22	Jazz Choir Concert – Mead HS 7:30 pm

Painting the Right Picture A Message from Superintendent Tom Rockefeller



A couple of weeks ago I was talking with a few senior citizens who said they were tired of hearing all the negative stuff about public schools, especially considering all the rhetoric, comparisons and analysis were about large city school districts on the other side of the country.

As the conversation progressed, these life-long district residents concluded that we — Mead parents, patrons, business and community members — all need to “paint the right picture” of Mead. I wholeheartedly agree!

- Our two high schools share a graduation rate of over 90%.
- Our 2011 senior class was awarded nearly \$8 million in college scholarships.
- We are the only district in the entire state to have received a STEM Lighthouse District grant.
- We provide one of the state's most robust K-12 activities and athletics programs.
- Newsweek and *The Washington Post* recently ranked both our high schools among the nation's best.

These are just a few of the many, many strong attributes of the Mead District — a district that operates on one of the lowest per student expenditure rates in the county.

Mead is a district that is highly effective in educating children and highly efficient in the use of resources. Please join me in painting the right picture of Mead.

~Tom Rockefeller



S

Science

T

Technology

E

Engineering

M

Mathematics

STEM Private Donations Top \$100,000: In the current calendar year the Mead School District has received \$100,000+ in donations from private companies and individuals. These funds are very much appreciated and will be used to help further the district's K-12 STEM initiative. For additional information on our STEM program visit www.mead354.org/admin.cfm?tab=0.