I know it’s an understatement but we are ready for 2021! Is 2021 ready for us? Hopefully you had a great two weeks away from school and are recharged to finish the semester strong.

Here’s a few ways we can take advantage of the momentum we have been building since opening face-to-face schooling this fall:

- **Remain vigilant with our COVID safety protocols.** We did have several positive cases of COVID-19 reported to us over the break. We’re very grateful for the open communication we have with our families.
- **Thank you for completing the nightly electronic health attestation** that your child is symptom and fever free. This is going very smoothly each morning, keeping our school a healthy place to be and saving your Panther precious instructional time! If you do not receive the email / text reminder for any reason, you can also use THIS direct link to complete the survey.
- **Thank you for keeping your child home if they are showing any symptoms of illness.** We will be required to send them home to you along with siblings if they show any potential symptoms of COVID-19, and before they can return we will need a negative test for COVID-19, a doctor’s note, or a quarantine period to pass. We so appreciate your partnership with this and recognize the impact it has on families.
- **Finish this semester strong! Grades are wrapped up by February 12.** We have 6 weeks to go! Please reach out to your teachers and/or counselors if you need help!

Finally, the Mead School District will be running an **Educational Programs and Operations Renewal Levy.** Special election ballots in the Mead School District will include Proposition 1, an educational programs and operations levy that funds many different areas that fall outside of state-funded basic education. This is not a new tax, but would replace an expiring EPO levy with a cost of $2.00 per $1,000 of assessed property valuation. Funding from this levy covers items our community has come to expect of the Mead School District such as extra-curricular activities (sports, music and clubs), elective courses, staff for smaller class sizes, career-track and work-based learning opportunities and student support like nurses, para educators, counselors and social workers.

Want more information on the upcoming Replacement Levy? Check out **www.mead354.org/levy.**

As always, thank you for partnering with us as we make our way out of the pandemic. Together.

Jeff Naslund, Proud Panther Principal
GET INVOLVED @ MEAD?

We are currently looking for parent volunteers to replace our outgoing Panther Booster Club Officers. The current group of volunteers has been led by energetic and supportive parents of Mead student-athletes who have worked together over the years to raise thousands of dollars for Mead High School Athletic Programs and to support our entire student body. Please email John Barrington, Athletic Director, if you are interested in becoming a Booster Club Officer or just getting involved.

Mead is also actively searching for volunteers to help with our annual Mead/Mt. Spokane Golf Tournament - the Cat Scramble. We need 2 to 3 folks to represent Mead High School in one of the most important and largest athletic fundraisers of the year. The proposed date for next year’s event, held at Wandermere Golf Course is Saturday, September 18, 2021.

WHAT’S HAPPENING IN PANTHER TERRitory?

Wednesday, January 6 .......................... Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Art Contest DUE!
Wednesday, January 6 .......................... Levy Virtual Town Hall @ 6:30pm
Friday, January 8 .................................... Senior Yearbook Tribute Ads DUE!
Wednesday, January 13 .......................... Levy Virtual Town Hall @ 6:30pm
Monday, January 18 .............................. No School: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
January 22 .................................................. Ballots mailed out
February 9 ........................................... Deadline for in-person voter registration or updates
February 9 .................................................. Election Day*

*Note: Ballots must be postmarked / returned to a ballot dropbox by 8pm

February 12 ........................................... Last Day of 1st Semester / Half Day
February 15 .................................................. No School: President’s Day
February 16 ............................................. First Day of 2nd Semester

OUTDOOR WRITING CONTEST FINALISTS!

Congratulations to Maya Caballero for placing third in The Spokesman Review’s Outdoor Writing Contest for her essay on raspberry picking and to Chloe Maple who placed fifth for her essay on getting lost in a Green Bluff maze. Maya’s essay will be submitted to the national Outdoor Writing Contest.

Thanks to all who entered the contest and congrats for carrying on this Mead High School tradition, Maya and Chloe! Shout out to Mrs. Olinda Martin for the writing instruction and encouragement along the way. YOU belong!

Click HERE to check it out!
2021 Educational Programs and Operations **Renewal Levy**

**What does this renewal levy fund?**

**Academics**
- Elective Course Offerings
- Advanced Placement Courses
- Elementary Specialists
- Staff for Small Class Sizes

**Extra-curriculars**
- Band, Choir, Orchestra, Art
- Athletics in MS and HS
- Speech and Drama
- Student Clubs

**Future Readiness**
- Work-Based Learning
- Career-Track Opportunities
- STEM Courses
- Technology

**Student Support**
- Nurses and Para Ed Support
- Counselors & Social Workers
- English Language Learning
- Student Intervention Support

**Is this a new tax?**
No. It is a proposed three-year renewal of the current levy that expires in 2021. The Mead School District has had a levy in place for more than 40 years.

**What are levies for?**
Levies provide local funding that bridges the gap between what the state and federal governments pay and the actual costs of operating our schools. Levies make up about 11.7% of the district’s total operating revenue.

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**What does this renewal levy cost taxpayers?**
If approved by voters on Feb. 9, the estimated levy tax rate for Mead School District would be $2.00 per $1,000 of assessed valuation.

For a $300,000 home, that equals $600 per year or $50 per month.

Strategic priorities developed through community feedback are the backbone of this renewal levy and are fundamental to the student experience. These improvements will continue to strengthen our schools and prepare our students for the future:
- Support for at-risk students K-12
- Mental health support for students
- Career-track opportunities for 9-12 students (internships)

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**Each student future ready. Empowered to dream, believe, achieve.**
GREAT AMERICAN RIVALRY SERIES HALL OF FAME TEAM

Congratulations to Mead High School’s Caleb Shawen and Mt. Spokane High School’s Cooper Miethe! Before Christmas Break, both were selected to the first ever Great American Rivalry Series Hall of Fame Team. They were 2 of 25 selected for the honor from an original group of 144 Scholar Athletes, and more than 700,000 votes were cast across the country. Caleb, the overall top vote-getter, is a Panther, Senior Fullback & Linebacker with a 3.56 GPA and a member of Mead’s Yearbook Staff. Cooper is a senior middle linebacker, on the Wildcat football team, with a 3.92 GPA and an AP course load. We wish Cooper the best as he recovers from a recent knee surgery. Both athletes received scholarship money from the Great American Rivalry Series Organization. Sponsors include the United States Marine Corps.

Former and Current Panthers Recognized on the Whitworth Track and Field All-Decade Team
Whitworth University recently released their 2010 – 2020, All Decade Team that included – Casey Monahan, Steven Acosta, Tonya Turner, Chibron Tomeo, Carter Comito and Chase Wright. All former and in Steven Acosta’s case, current Mead Panthers. Congratulations! - Whitworth Track & Field All Decade Team –

GOT PANTHER GEAR? Mead Staff, Students, Panther Fans and Families You can find our Online Store on our Mead High School Home Page under the Athletics Tab or go to
https://sideline.bsnsports.com/schools/washington/spokane/mead-high-school

WIAA / GREATER SPOKANE LEAGUE SPORTS STATUS UPDATE – With the Governor’s extension of the State’s Covid-19 Restrictions (through Jan. 11), much is still unknown about the future of Mead and Greater Spokane League athletic schedules. In December, the Mead School District approved our proposed student-athlete conditioning plans with a possible start date of early January. We will more than likely be on hold with those plans until any of those extended restrictions are removed. We are expecting that the WIAA Alternate Season Schedule will be evaluated this week and a decision will be made soon on whether we can begin athletics February 1st. The GSL has created a “Plan B” set of schedules that would have traditional Fall Sports Seasons beginning with Volleyball on 2/1. Football – 2/15, Girls Soccer and Cross Country – 2/22. Winter seasons would follow in late March with Spring sports set to begin 5/3. All Tentative at this point as has been the case for 9 months now.

We encourage any, and all prospective Panther Athletes to Register and confirm you have an Updated Physical on file with our athletic office to be ready for any opportunities – including conditioning and team sports. For more information and a link to our Athletic Registration please go to – Mead High School Sports Registration Link. -

Please take the time to read the Positive Messages our Coaches & Program Leaders shared with their groups in December - It’s Good Stuff! – Coach to Athlete Messages (Google Slides Presentation)