



MEAD MATTERS

Volume 20 No.3
June 2010

Special Budget Issue

Dear Mead Community,

Once again, the spring issue of Mead Matters is dedicated to profiling and explaining the challenges our district faces in the current financial environment at our local level. This past December the Governor announced a \$2.8 billion budget shortfall for the State of Washington. It is important to remember that this follows a nearly \$9 billion state budget shortfall from the previous year. Fortunately, a considerable amount of last year's budget issues for education were addressed through federal stimulus money. Due to stimulus money, the reductions for Mead were cushioned from approximately \$5.1 million to \$2.8 million. A major challenge for the state, and Mead, is that the vast majority of the stimulus money is no longer available.

During the past four years, Mead School District has cut more than \$6.3 million from its operating budget. These cuts have happened because of decreases in state and federal allocations and increased operating costs. At this time, we are working to address an approximate \$1.2 million reduction in state funding for the coming school year.

Our state government is required by law to have a balanced operating budget. Government agencies in the State of Washington by law cannot spend more than they have in their budget. For your perspective, the approximate \$12 billion revenue shortfall over the past two years is over 30% of the state's budgeted revenue. This means that the state needs to reduce government services and school funding by approximately the same amount for the each budget biennium. Public schools make up nearly 43% of the state budget, so districts across the state will all be involved in substantial reductions until recovery happens.

There are positive signs that the economy is stabilizing and beginning movement toward recovery. But as most understand, it appears that due to the depth and factors related to the current recession, it will be a slow and arduous process to get back to where we once were.

Mead School District, like the state, must also pass a balanced operating budget every year. As we hope to explain in this special edition of the Mead Matters, a little more than 67.9% of Mead School District's budget comes from state resources. With the current reduction of \$1.2

million, we will definitely feel the impact. Our district will have to make some serious reductions to the excellent learning programs we have built, reduce needed staffing, and trim back on effective student activities.

Mead School District administration is currently working to develop a series of proposals to the Mead Board of Directors. Every



aspect of the Mead budget is being reviewed and analyzed. **Again this year, the challenge for Mead School District is that, although this a state problem, it will be up to us to fix it!**

Mead School district is still dedicated to providing the best educational program possible for "our" children. We are proud to represent our students, our staff, and our community!

Please take the time to read this publication and use one of several avenues to contact us if you have questions or concerns. In addition to this newsletter, the school district will be providing the community with information on our district website (www.mead354.org).

Tom Rockefeller, Superintendent

**Inside this Issue:
Questions and Answers
about the District
Budget**

Mead Matters

Mead School District #354
12828 N. Newport Hwy
Mead, WA 99021

ECR WSS
Postal Customer

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Spokane, WA
Permit No. 622

Mead School District Board of Directors

President

Ron Farley – 468-8133
RFarley@mead.k12.wa.us

Vice-President

Maureen O'Connor – 466-0505
MOconnor@mead.k12.wa.us

Directors

Denny Denholm – 466-2316
DDenholm@mead.k12.wa.us

Tom Hunt – 467-4331
THunt@mead.k12.wa.us

Robert Olson – 466-9340
ROlson@mead.k12.wa.us

Superintendent of Schools

Dr.Thomas Rockefeller

Mead School District Guiding Principles

As the Mead Community we are:

Focusing on students and their learning

Creating democratic structures for participation

Increasing the connections between parents, business, community and our schools

Published by

Mead School District No. 354
12828 N. Newport Highway
Mead, WA 99021 (509) 465-6000

Website

www.mead354.org

Editor

Mary Jane Thompson

Layout

Kim Osterback

Questions or Comments?

Questions, comments or news to share? Write to us at: Mead Matters, c/o 12828 N. Newport Highway, Mead, WA 99021 or e-mail us at: MeadMatters@mead.k12.wa.us

Class of 2010 Valedictorians

Mead High School Class of 2010 Valedictorians

Levi Basinger, Jennifer Choi, Kyle Courtney, Bryanna Dooley, Alexa Ellingsen, Katherine Fraser, Jamie Gable, Jami Hegg, Brandon Horan, Taylor Jensen, Mitchell Kayser, Svetlana Lapik, Rebecca Markley, Kelsey McQuilkin, Chelsey Pangborn, Jill Pecka, Bryce Peters, Katherine Rahn, Conor Reisman, Jonathan Rogers, Damiano Seghetti, Alison Smith, Abigail Sprenkle, Jacob Trotter, Kevin Tsuchida, Bo Tully, DeEstan Turner

Mount Spokane High School Class of 2010 Valedictorians

Chris Baldwin, Holleigh Bergstrom, Jaclyn Brim, Derrick Cunningham, Megan Erickson, Ryan Hervey, Courtney Kleckner, Mary Konis, Jessica Levy, Kaylie Madsen, Jill Pignataro, Adam Ropp

Spokane Scholars Recognized

At the 18th annual Spokane Scholars Foundation spring ceremony, the following district seniors were recognized for outstanding academic achievement in specific study categories:

- English - **Taylor Sims** MHS, **Nick Stewart** MSHS,
- Fine Arts - **Carrie Crosby** MSHS, **Michael Mortier** MHS
- Math – **Jennifer Choi** MHS, **Ryan Hervey** MSHS
- Science - **Mary Konis** MSHS, **Conor Reisman** MHS
- Social Studies - **Megan Erickson** MSHS, **Katherine Rahn**, MHS
- Fine Arts - **Carrie Crosby** MSHS
- World Languages - **Derrick Cunningham** MSHS, **Kaitlyn Kadel** MHS

National Merit Finalist

Each year, 1.5 million high school students take the National Merit Qualifying Exam commonly known as the PSAT. Only 8,400 students nation-wide eventually receive the designation at National Merit Scholar. Congratulations to Mead High's **Mitch Cain** for earning the honor as a National Merit Finalist.

District Scholars Recognized by State

The Washington Scholars program recognizes the outstanding academic and leadership accomplishments of high school seniors from each of the state's 49 legislative districts. Congratulations to **Ryan Hervey** from Mt. Spokane, **Conor Reisman**, **Jennifer Choi**, and **Katherine Rahn** from Mead for being honored as Washington Scholars for 2010.

Community Members Hear Senior Presentations

Senior high students spent the final weeks of May completing the Washington State graduation requirement of a senior presentation. Over 300 community members gathered over several days at Mead and Mount Spokane High Schools to serve as panelists. Students were expected to present the panel with information on their high school experience, their interests (both academic and personal), their education and career goals, and their post-high school plans to achieve those goals. The feedback from the community panelists gives students perspectives from the larger community making the event an authentic experience similar to the numerous interviews all students will have in their future. Students not meeting standard on the presentation have the opportunity to review the panelists' feedback, adjust their presentation accordingly, and present a second time before the end of the school year.

Our Grads are Amazing!

Mike Kraulik, Mead '95 and **Jerry (Parkinson) Holkins**, Mead '94 were named to **Time magazine's 100 Most Influential People in The World** list for 2010 in the May 10 issue of the magazine. Kraulik and Holkins host an online comic and commentary dealing with the video gaming industry. Called *Penny Arcade*, the comic has attracted 3.5 million readers since its inception in 1998. The pair have five published books, currently host two national conventions (with more than 60,000 in attendance), and have launched a charity with their business manager called *Child's Play*. *Child's Play* provides video games and other toys to sixty different children's hospitals around the world. Holkins and Kraulik live and work in the Seattle area. Jerry Holkins is married to Brenna (Holcomb) MHS'95. Mike Kraulik's wife Kara (O'Donnel) is a Mead '96 graduate.



Mike Kraulik, MHS '95 (left) and Jerry Holkins MHS '94 creators of Penny Arcade



Mount Spokane graduate **Whitney Patrick 04'** has been serving with the Peace Corp in Koudassi Togo, Africa since June 2008. Shortly after her arrival, a three year old boy died of malaria. Whitney began a program to educate the village about malaria and how to prevent it. Sleeping under mosquito nets is seen as a primary way to limit exposure. Purchasing the nets, costing \$10 each, was out of the reach of villagers who have an annual income of \$225 per year. Whitney asked friends and family to help with the cause. Whitney's father, Bill Patrick, is a teacher at Mt. Spokane High School. A campaign to purchase the needed nets by students and faculty at Mt. Spokane brought in enough funds to purchase 300 nets. Whitney's parents traveled to Togo to deliver and help distribute the lifesaving nets to villagers.

Whitney Patrick MSHS '04 and Bill Patrick distribute mosquito nets in Koudassi Togo

Mead Schools to Offer More STEM Courses

In the fall of 2010, district high school students will be offered the first of four years of biomedical sciences courses. The course, Principles of Biomedical Sciences, is designed by *Project Lead the Way*, a national leader in preparing students to be productive leaders in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM).

Three instructors have been chosen to teach the course, and will attend an intensive two-week training this summer. They are gearing up to greet almost 300 students who have pre-enrolled this spring. In subsequent years, students will have the opportunity to take Human Body Systems, Medical Interventions, and a senior capstone course called Biomedical Innovation where they will apply their accumulated knowledge and skills to design innovative solutions for health challenges of the 21st century.

The Mead School District is working closely with WSU, EWU, Community Colleges of Spokane, and Greater Spokane Inc. to form academic and community partnerships to support and advise both the pre-engineering and biomedical programs.

At district middle schools, three new STEM courses will be offered as electives to 7th and 8th graders. The courses, or "modules," are *Project Lead the Way's Gateway to Technology* (GTT) program for middle schools. In them, students will explore design and modeling, automation and robotics, and energy and the environment. Three teachers from Mountainside and Northwood will attend their own two-week training this summer.

In 2011, three more GTT modules will be added to the middle school schedule: Flight and Space, Science of Technology, and Magic of Electrons.

2010-2011 Academic Calendar

September 7: Classes begin

December 20 - January 2:
Winter break

April 4 - April 8: Spring break

June 17: Last day of classes

Preschool/Childcare in Mead Evergreen * Farwell * Shiloh Hills



Now Enrolling

We offer an integrated curriculum focusing on themes and individual and small group hands-on learning centers.

Our teachers have credentials in early childhood education and experience with young children.

NEW
ESD 101

Tel: (509) 456-7086
www.esd101.net

Questions and Answers on the 2010 - 2011 Budget

What will the district reduce to make up for the lost state revenue?

Final decisions on district reductions will be made during the summer months as the district prepares the budget for the next fiscal year. We will have fewer teaching positions next year as positions open from retirements and resignations will not be filled. Classified staffing positions will be impacted the most. When addressing the shortfall from state revenues last fiscal year, Mead eliminated positions, eliminated the curriculum and training budget, cut back travel and summer building maintenance, and made adjustments to transportation routes. In addition to maintaining those cuts, the proposed loss of revenue for this coming year may call for additional loss of staff and programs. The Mead School Board has directed district administrators to specify up to \$1.2 million dollars in budget reductions for the next fiscal year (2010-2011).

Where does Mead School District get revenues?

Mead, like all school districts in the State of Washington, receives revenue from three major sources: federal, state, and local. As the diagram below illustrates, the majority of our funds comes from the state, followed by local and federal funds. In the past, state funding has been as high as 78% of our total funding. In the most recent year, federal stimulus money was used to replace reductions in state funding. However, overall funding to the district was decreased.

MEAD SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET \$81,163,101		
LOCAL 19.1% \$15,499,534 (\$123,000 in donations)	STATE 67.9% \$55,144,053	FEDERAL 13.0% \$10,519,514

I thought Basic Education was protected?

In response to a lawsuit initiated in 1976, State Superior Court Judge Doran directed the state legislature to define and fully fund a program of basic education. Funding was provided through a series of formulas and allocations for staff salaries and benefits. Subsequent court decisions in the 1980's expanded the state's basic education responsibility. Special education, bilingual

education, institutional education, learning assistance program, and pupil transportation are now considered "basic" and the state funds the formulas defined in law.

Over the years the adequacy of funding provided by these formulas has been the subject of much study and debate. Essentially the legislature has taken the position that funding is adequate because they have defined it as adequate. At the same time, they have continued to add responsibilities and mandates with little or no funding. They have done this in much the same way that the federal government mandates programs to the states. This forces school districts to use locally approved funds to pay for state and federal mandates.

Didn't the state just loose a court case on school funding?

Yes. In early February 2010, a Superior Court Judge found that the state was not meeting its constitutional duty to fund schools. The Judge reiterated many of the same findings from another lawsuit lost by the state over 30 years ago.

In **McCleary v. State of Washington** the ruling Judge found that:

- The state's funding formulas provide far less than the resources actually needed to provide for the education of all children.
- State funding is not ample, stable or dependable and that local district's must still rely too heavily on local levies and non state sources.

The legislature responded by passing new funding models that when enacted in full (by 2018) will fully fund education. However, there is no current revenue plan for these resources and the legislature's immediate response is to cut education funding further and raise the local levy lid from 24% to 28%, forcing further reliance on local levies.

In addition, the state has appealed the McCleary decision to the state Supreme Court. Although the state has passed legislation, conducted numerous studies and commissioned many reports over the past 30 years, the reality is they have not fully funded education as required by the state constitution.

Is the district going to raise the M & O Levy to replace lost state funding?

No. The district recognizes the need to tighten our belts the same as everyone else. According to state estimates, by increasing the levy lid to 28% the district could raise another \$1,144,209, if the local community voted to increase the levy. The district is grateful for past community support, but feels that this is a state issue that needs to be resolved at the state level.

The district will be asking for community support for other needs. For example, the Facilities Planning Committee recently completed their yearlong study and has recommended a future bond issue for modernization of three schools, Northwood, Shiloh Hills and Midway, in addition to other pressing projects. This bond issue is being deferred until February 2011 so district tax rates can be minimized.

What is Levy Equalization?

Levy equalization, also referred to as Local Effort Assistance (LEA), is state matching money provided to districts who have passed local maintenance and operation levies and who have above average property tax rates due to lower than (statewide) average assessed valuations. In the 2010-11 budget Mead expects to receive \$3,590,000 in levy equalization payments, which is slightly less than we received the previous year.

What is the K-4 Enhancement?

The K-4 enhancement is additional state funding provided to school districts to lower class size in kindergarten through fourth grade. To qualify for the additional funds districts must show that they are using the funding to lower class size. The formula currently funds 53.2 teachers for every 1,000 students in grades K-4. The recent legislative budget lowered funding for the 4th grade level. In Mead, this resulted in the loss of funding for over four elementary teaching positions.

What is I-728?

Initiative 728 was passed by voters in 2000. The intent was to provide school districts additional money to lower class size, provide extended day programs such as before and after school tutoring

programs, early childhood programs, and provide for professional development of the teaching staff. Mead would have received about \$4,200,000 in I-728 funds for 2010-11, but this funding has been completely eliminated.

We passed the levy, why do we have to make cuts?

As shown on page 4, the district’s revenue comes from local, state and federal sources. The renewal of our M & O levy provides continued local revenues for two years. As was mentioned in the campaign, this was a renewal of an existing levy, not a new tax providing additional resources. Passage of the levy allowed the district to continue many programs for students without further budget reductions. The funding issues we are now experiencing is related to state funding issues, not local funding. Mead schools have been strongly supported by Mead’s citizen’s through local funding.

What impact will the federal stimulus money have on Mead School District?

While the federal stimulus money helped reduce the level of cuts in 2009-10 it was a one time infusion of funds. These funds were planned as a temporary shot in the arm for state budgets. But, as the economy slowly recovers, school districts will

look to the return of state funding in order to hold off future reductions.

Will budget cuts be proportional across all school districts in the state?

No. School districts statewide have different characteristics in student demographics (poverty levels), property valuations, enrollment trends, bilingual factors, geographic size, etc. As a result, state and federal funding levels vary between districts. Local School Boards ultimately determine the level of program cuts. Many districts around the state appear to be cutting deeper this year to prepare for additional cuts in the future. Mead has chosen to continue to try to save as many jobs as possible. If state funding is cut in the future we will deal with it at that time. Our goal is to maintain as much of our program as possible while the state develops a new funding model for schools.

What about administration?

Particularly in these economic times there is a lot of focus on administration and the growth of administrative positions in organizations. According to state reports, from 1999 to 2009 the Mead’s certificated administrative staff has grown by 2.2 FTE (full time equivalent). One of these positions is the principal position at our new elementary school, Prairie View. Another of these positions is the

principal position, which was hired to manage Mead’s alternative education programs, M.E.A.D. and MEPP. Over the same time period, Mead School District has grown by approximately 1,284 students. There has also been a change of one classified administrator for the district, who supervises all custodial services throughout the district. Whereas the state allocation model funds 35.6 certificated administrators for our district, Mead currently has 29 certificated administrators. As recently reported in the Spokesman Review, Mead like other districts in the area are below the state average for administrative staffing.

What is happening with Mead’s Facilities?

Our District is proud of the fact that we were able to complete two new learning facilities in the last three years. Prairie View Elementary School, our eighth elementary school, was completed in the fall of 2007. Mountainside Middle School, which replaced “Old Mead Middle School”, was completed in the fall of 2008. Both schools have helped to provide effective and efficient learning environments needed for today’s students, as well as addressing continued student population growth. In fact, at the present time, we are locating four new portable classrooms at Prairie View to address continued growth on Five Mile Prairie.

It should also be noted that “Old Mead Middle School”, which has been renamed “Mead Support Services” is nearly at total occupancy. MSS now houses our maintenance department, food services, transportation department, storage, and other affiliated organizations. The district has also signed a lease with the Boy’s and Girl’s Club for a portion of the building, which in its first few months is servicing over 300 students of need with afterschool programs.

Finally, the more than 60 year-old bus garage facility, which collapsed during the excessive snow loads last winter, will be completed on July 1st of this year and should provide an up-to-date bus maintenance facility for a long time into the future. With 96 buses in our district fleet, this new garage will enhance bus mechanics’ ability to keep school buses well maintained and safe for students.

Can’t we just spend down our reserves?

Mead has a long history of providing programs for students above the level of most all other districts in the state. We have been able to do this because of consistently high levels of community support for local levies and bonds. Mead continues to maximize the funds it receives through providing a robust, dynamic learning program for students. As a consequence Mead already operates with a lower level of reserves than all other districts in the area. Although this is an area we will be reviewing, a 2-3% cash balance is necessary in order to be able to make monthly payroll and meet expenses of unplanned or unforeseen events. Mead’s current fund balance is already within this range. Many district’s have reserves above 5%.

District Name	Enrollment	2008-09 Expenditures	Fund Balance	Fund Balance	
				Per Pupil	% of Exp
Wenatchee	7,351	69,833,467	11,562,223	1,572.87	16.6%
Richland	9,989	93,579,288	10,061,512	1,007.30	10.8%
Walla Walla	5,934	58,926,086	5,947,953	1,002.35	10.1%
Yakima	14,552	147,995,900	13,342,639	916.88	9.0%
Moses Lake	7,120	69,582,053	5,230,180	734.55	7.5%
Spokane	28,610	298,447,642	21,447,312	749.64	7.2%
Central Valley	11,925	110,763,894	5,236,587	439.11	4.7%
Mead	9,002	81,173,196	2,274,220	252.62	2.8%

Retirements

Best wishes to all the Mead School District staff members who have announced retirement this year:

District Office

Marilyn Wahlquist, executive assistant
Clarence (Skip) Mitcham, custodian

Evergreen

Monica Schrader, teacher

Mead High

Gary Baskett, teacher
Carla Nuxoll, teacher

Mountainside

William Rosell, custodian

Northwood

Helen Armstrong, teacher
Jackie Flanigan, teacher
Ann McKenna, teacher

Prairie View

Mary Driscoll, teacher
Lisa Greer, teacher
Bonnie Hagen, secretary

Special Services

Jim Ahasay, education specialist
Jo Clark, administrative assistant
Linda House, administrative assistant
Eileen Thorpe, Director of Special Services

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

This act affords parents and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's educational records. They are:

The right to inspect and review the student's educational records within 45 days of the day the District receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal (or appropriate school official) a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect.

The right to request the amendment of the student's educational records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate or misleading. If this the case, the parent or eligible student should write the school principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the District decides not to amend the record as requested, the District will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment.

The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's educational records, except to the extent the FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception that permits disclosure without consent is disclosure to school officials (a person employed by the District or a representative or contracted agency who assists another school official) with legitimate educational interest. A legitimate educational interest is when the official needs to review an educational record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility or has knowledge of information that is necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other individuals.

The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the District to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The address is: Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW; Washington, DC 20202-5901.

State Law Qualification: Although FERPA allows 45 days to honor a request, the state policy records law requires an appropriate response to a "public records" request within five business days. RCW 42.17.320

Kindergarten and New Student Registration

All school offices are open until June 25th for new student registration. Elementary building hours are 8:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. Middle schools and high schools are open from 7:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. and from 1:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m. From June 28th through August 12th, the district office, 12828 N. Newport Highway will take elementary only registrations from 8:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Secondary registrations (grades 7–12) will not be available at the district office but will resume again at the schools on August 24th. Please register your student as soon as possible.

All registrants must submit proof of residency (3 pieces): 1. A mortgage statement, lease agreement or property tax statement; 2. A utility bill for the same address; 3. One other bill coming to the same address. Vaccination records are required for all registrants. Kindergarten registrants must also submit an official birth certificate.

Summer Sports Camps

Both Mead and Mount Spokane High Schools will be offering a broad range of sports camps this summer for elementary, middle and high school students. Sport offerings and full registration information is available on the district website: www.mead354.org. Look for the sports camp link on the home page for each high school.

Cat Scramble Golf Sign-Up Underway

The 10th annual Cat Scramble Golf Tournament and Silent Auction will be held at Wandermere Golf Course on Saturday, September 18, 2010. Proceeds from this annual event are split evenly between Mead and Mt. Spokane high schools and used to augment athletic program budgets for uniforms, equipment, etc.

The success of the Cat Scramble Tournament is dependent on the generous support of the Mead Community. **Businesses are encouraged to sign-up soon as a corporate sponsor or as one of 36 hole sponsors. To learn more about the tournament and silent auction, volunteer to help, donate to the event, or register to play, check the Cat Scramble website: <http://meadschooldistrict.schools.officelive.com> or contact the high school Booster Clubs. Deadline for entry registration is July 1.**

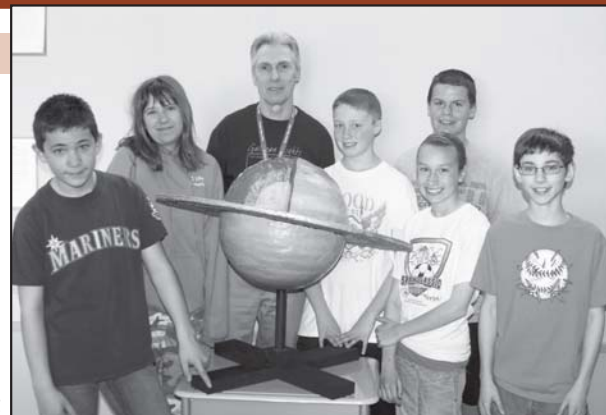
Galileo on the Prarie

More than 1,200 people gathered at Prairie View Elementary School recently to celebrate modern astronomy and the culmination of a school-wide science program focusing on Galileo and the solar system.

Students and their families, staff, teachers, volunteers and members of the Spokane Astronomical Society participated in an 'out of this world' night complete with an Astro-Dinner, entertainment by "Gali and the Leos," an educational Planet Walk, and star-gazing opportunities through telescopes provided by the Spokane Astronomical Society.

For the last six months, Kindergarten through 6th graders have been involved in solar-system learning activities. Each grade level was assigned a planet to study leading up to the big night. Tom Crocker, a civil engineer with a broad background in engineering research, design and development including work with NASA on the Apollo Program, serves as volunteer science coach at Prairie View. "We are so fortunate that Tom Crocker, has chosen Prairie View Elementary School to share his love of science with our staff and students. Every child and adult has been impacted by our science program. Tom, and his wife Debbie, are extraordinary volunteers!" said Principal Becky Cooke.

Four hundred years past the time Galileo pointed a telescope to the sky, star-gazers at Prairie View are still enjoying the "wow".



Science Coach Tom Crocker with Prairie View Students (l to r) Gabriel James, Bayloie Fletcher, Chase Soehren, Tyler Wetzell, Peighton Colliver and Nathaniel Kinney



Symphony Holds Concert with Mead High Musicians

Mead High School orchestra and band students enjoyed a rare opportunity to perform on stage with the Spokane Symphony in a Side-by-Side Concert in April at Mead High School. Created by Maestro Eckart Preu, the program was titled "The Power of Words vs. the Power of Music" and celebrated National Poetry Month.

Two daytime concerts for students were followed by an evening concert for parents and the public in the Mead High School Theatre. Mead musicians joined the Spokane Symphony onstage for familiar classical works by Beethoven, Barber, and Rossini as well as contemporary works by John Williams and Hans-Peter Preu (Eckart's brother). Drama students provided introductions to the pieces.

The Spokane Symphony's education program partners with educators to create interactive presentations which include music, theatre, and visual arts. April's collaboration between the Spokane Symphony and Mead High School was initiated by Dorothy Baldwin, director of the Mead High School Orchestra.

HSPE (High School Proficiency Exam) Retakes Offered in August

Students who did not meet standard on the High School Proficiency Exam (HSPE) this spring or did not take the exams this spring have another opportunity to pass the exams this summer. Students in the classes from 2010 - 2012 must pass the Reading and Writing High School Proficiency Exams or designated alternatives in order to earn a high school diploma. The math requirement is to either pass the Math HSPE, its designated alternatives, or continue to take and pass two high school math courses.

Registration for the summer 2010 High School Proficiency Exam is June 1-18. Students need their state student identification (SSID) number to register. This number is provided on the HSPE results document that will be mailed home the first week of June. If you need assistance during the registration window, please call (866) 400-9275. Students will receive testing times and locations when they register. Results from the summer HSPE will be available by mid October. The mandatory testing schedule for the Summer 2010 HSPE is as follows: August 9–Writing, Day 1, August 10–Writing, Day 2, August 11–Reading.

Secondary Summer School Program

The Mead School District will once again be offering summer school classes for secondary students. Classes will run from June 21 to July 23 Monday through Friday. Summer offerings include courses for enrichment, credit make-up, plus opportunities for completing required credits. All classes will be held at Mt. Spokane High school.

The cost for each class, if you register before June 18, is \$140 if you are an in-district student and \$200 if the student is out of district. The cost after June 18 is \$20 more per class. Students who qualify for the free or reduced lunch program are eligible for classes at a reduced scale. **Registration forms and a list of summer school offerings are available on the district website, www.mead354.org and each high schools web site as well as printed copies at all of the district secondary schools. For questions, contact Jim Preston at Mt. Spokane High School, 465-7200, or your student's counselor.**

New Immunization Requirements for 2010 - 2011

Varicella - Proof of immunity to Chickenpox is required of:

- **All children attending Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grades.** These children need **2 doses** of vaccine - parental documentation of disease is **NO LONGER** acceptable. Health care provider verification of disease or titer test is acceptable.
 - **All children in 3rd, 4th and 6th grades:** These children need **1 dose** of the vaccine - parental documentation of disease **IS** acceptable. *Recommended for 5th grade but not yet required.*
- Note: 2 immunizations or Dr. verification of disease/immunity are required during an outbreak.**

New - DTaP, DT or Td Requirement:

- As of July 1, 2010, **4 doses** are now required for students attending **1st through 12th grade** if the last dose is given on or after the age of four years (otherwise, 5 doses are required).

Reminder - Tdap Requirements Advance One Additional Grade:

- **Tdap:** proof of Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis) vaccination is **required of children who are 11 years old AND attending 6th, 7th, 8th or 9th grade, IF** it has been five years since receiving a DTaP, DT or Td vaccine.

The following information is being provided to you at the direction of the Washington State Legislature for all students entering grades 6-12:

1. Meningococcal Information

- Meningococcal disease is a serious infection of the brain (meningitis) and blood caused by bacteria. Adolescents and young adults are most likely to get meningococcal disease, especially those living in group settings such as college dormitories. About one in every ten people who gets the disease dies from it and many others are affected for life.
- Talk to your children about good hygiene (regular hand washing, covering coughs and sneezes, etc.) and not sharing items that may spread meningococcal disease and other bacteria and viruses: eating utensils, glasses, cups, water bottles, drinks, lip gloss or toothbrushes.
- Preventing the disease through the meningococcal vaccine is important for people at highest risk. This vaccine is recommended, but not required, for school attendance in Washington State.

2. Human Papillomavirus (HPV)

- HPV is a very common virus that is spread through genital contact. More than half of sexually active people will get HPV at some time in their lives. Some types of HPV can cause cervical cancer or genital warts. Both males and females can spread it to others without knowing they have it. Cervical cancer is the 2nd leading cause of cancer deaths in women worldwide.
- Most people with HPV have no signs or symptoms and health care providers do not routinely test for it.
- The HPV vaccine can prevent most cases of cervical cancer and genital warts, if it is given before a person is exposed to the virus. Two different vaccines are available. One of them is recommended for all girls age 11-12 years. It can be given as early as age 9 and up to age 26. The other vaccine may be given to both males and females. The vaccine gives the best protection if given before sexual activity starts. It is **not** a school required immunization in Washington State.

Discuss these conditions with your health care provider to determine if these immunizations would be beneficial for your child. Immunizations are also available at Spokane Regional Health District. More information is available at the **Center for Disease Control and Prevention** web site: www.cdc.gov/vaccines

Important Legal Notices

Medication

Any prescription or non-prescription medication may be given at school ONLY with specific written directions from the health care provider with prescriptive authority and with parents' signed consent. Medication Request Forms are available in every school office. Parents are urged to adjust the timing, if possible, of a child's medication so that it can be given other than during school hours. Medication must be supplied to the school in the original labeled container and should be carried to and from school by an adult.

Emergency Care Plan Law

If a student has a life-threatening condition, an emergency care plan, doctor's orders, and medication instructions must be signed and in the school records by the first day of school. If your student already has a health care plan on file, the school nurse will contact you for an annual review. Life-threatening conditions may include asthma, diabetes, severe food allergies, bee sting allergies, heart conditions, and seizure disorders among other conditions. Contact your child's school nurse for assistance with this procedure. It is the responsibility of parents to notify the school if a student has a life-threatening condition.

Equal Opportunity Guaranteed

The Mead School District complies with all federal rules and regulations and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, sex or disability. This holds true for all students who are interested in participating in educational programs and/or extra-curricular school activities and for all District employment opportunities. Inquiries regarding compliance procedures may be directed to Ralph Thayer (Title IX/RCW 28A640). Ralph Thayer 465-6008 is also designated as the District's Compliance Officer for counseling and guidance services required by Chapters 392-190-010.

Childfind

Mead School District's Childfind program is designed to identify children, ages birth through 21, who may need Special Education Programs. The District is committed to early identification of these children to provide them the opportunity to reach their potential. If a parent/guardian or other concerned person would like more information about Mead School District's Childfind program, contact Mead Special Services Department, 465-7600.

McKinney/Vento Act

The McKinney-Vento Act is a federal law that makes sure children and youth who do not have permanent housing can go to school and preschool. It gives children and youth rights to enroll in school, stay in school, get transportation to school, and gives these same children access to school lunch programs. If you become aware of students who may qualify for services under the McKinney-Vento Act, or are in need of services for students in your family, please contact the principal of your school with this information.

Tobacco Free Environment

The Mead School District is a drug and tobacco free environment. No employees, students, or other persons may use any kind of alcohol, drug or tobacco product in or on district property (Board Policy 3920, RCW 28A210310, RCW 69.50.435).

Weapon-Free Environment

It is unlawful for a person to carry weapons on to public or private elementary or secondary school premises, school-provided transportation or areas of non-school facilities while being used exclusively by public or private schools (RCW 9A.42.250 and RCW 9A.42.2880, Board Policy 3920, RCW 28A.600.420). Students violating this policy will be subject to expulsion.

Notification of Pesticide Application

If you would like to be notified prior to a pesticide application occurring on district property, please contact the Director of Buildings and Grounds at 465-6138, to add your name to the pesticide application contact registry. Mead School District Policy 6895-Pesticide Notification is available online at www.mead354.org.

Educator Standards and Qualifications

In accordance with the *No Child Left Behind* legislation, parents may request information regarding the professional qualifications of their child's teacher(s). Such information would relate to the type of Washington State Certificate held, areas of endorsements, college major and advanced degrees. Requests should be addressed to: Kelly Shea, Director of Human Services, Mead School District, 12828 N. Newport Hwy. Mead, Wa. 99021. All Mead teachers are certified through the state of Washington and meet the criteria of "highly qualified".

Spokane Regional Health Immunization Clinics

Mead School District is working with Spokane Regional Health District to host local immunization clinics for our students. **Immunizations are for all children and are provided for FREE.** Listed below are the dates, times, and locations for the upcoming clinics. If you have any questions please call Spokane Regional Health District at 324-1600. Parents must be present and must bring all children's lifetime or doctor provided vaccination records so that required immunizations can be identified.

Date	Location	Time
August 26, 2010	Farwell Elementary School	3PM-6PM
August 31, 2010	Shiloh Hills Elementary School	3PM-6PM
September 21, 2010	Farwell Elementary School	3PM-6PM
September 30, 2010	Shiloh Elementary School	3PM-6PM

FREE!!