

UPDATE

MEDICAL LAKE SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 326

Issue 2

February 2006



Maintenance and Operations Levy set for March 14th

On December 13th, the Medical Lake School Board of Directors approved a resolution and set the date of March 14, 2006 for a replacement maintenance and operations levy. The levy is set again for three years and will **REPLACE** the current M & O levy that is about to expire. For the past 15 years, since 1991, the M & O levy rate has remained at \$1.75 per thousand of assessed valuation. The School Board wanted to keep the levy at the same rate to avoid an increase to taxpayers. This rate will generate approximately \$588,813 for 2006; \$606,477 for 2007; and \$624,671 for 2008.

School districts are authorized by the State to run local M & O levies for up to 24% of the district's operating budget. Medical Lake School District's assessed valuation is considerably less than other districts due to the large amount of federal and state land that is exempt from taxation. The Board is aware of this and will offer a levy amount of less than 4% of our operating budget. The Board wants to continue to provide a quality education to our students at the best possible rate to our taxpayers. We use Federal Impact Aid funds to assist us in making up the difference so that we do not have to burden our local taxpayers.

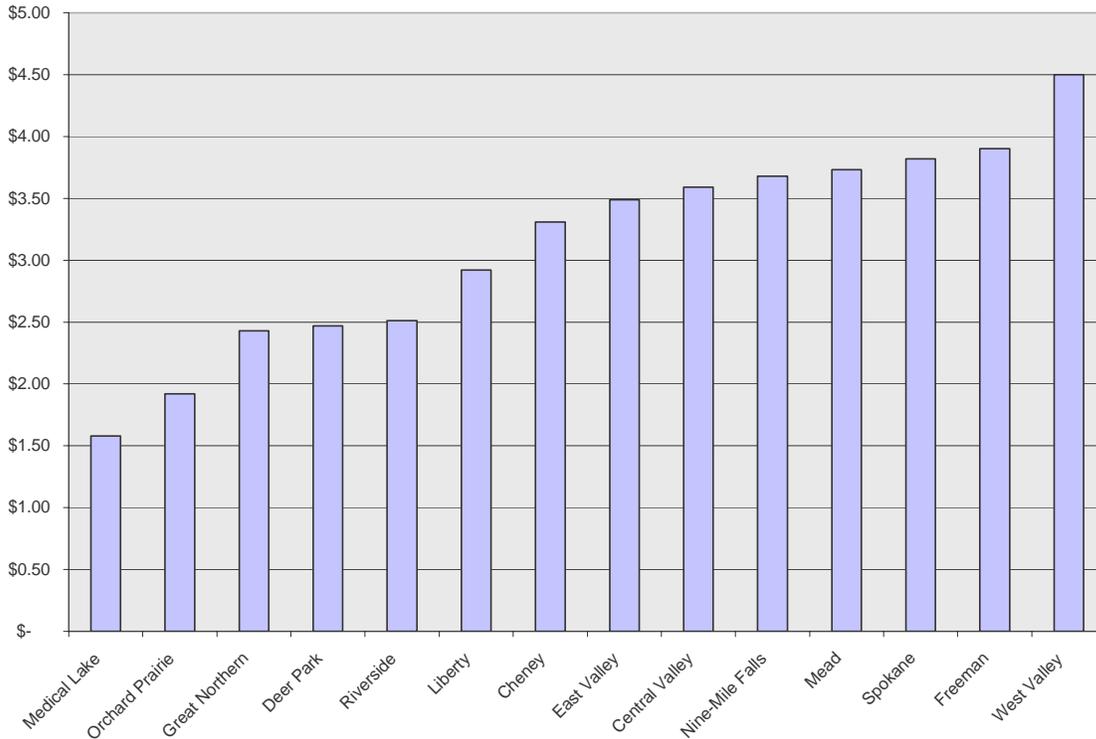
The following are additional facts regarding the upcoming M & O Levy on March 14th:

- ***With voter approval of the levy, the Medical Lake School District will be eligible to receive additional state levy equalization matching funds of approximately \$1.2 million dollars per year. That is double what the local taxpayers will contribute.***
- ***Of those school districts in Spokane County receiving local levy dollars, Medical Lake School District continues to have the lowest tax rate.***
- ***The levy is not intended to fund new programs or new buildings. It is to maintain our current programs, which are not fully funded by the State or Federal Government.***
- ***It is a replacement levy and NOT A TAX INCREASE.***
- ***Approval of the levy requires a super majority of sixty percent (60%) yes vote in order to pass.***
- ***This election will be 100% mail-in ballot. Voters will begin receiving their ballots around February 22nd and must return them by March 14th.***

(Please see the chart on the next page)

1.





The chart above compares Medical Lake School District with other school districts in Spokane County. Medical Lake School District continues to tax at a lower rate than any other district in the county. The state allows a district to tax for maintenance and operations at 24% of the district’s operating budget. Medical Lake’s proposed levy represents only 4%, the lowest rate in Spokane County.

HOW TO REGISTER TO VOTE: It’s not too late!

🇺🇸 You may register to vote by mailing in the voter registration form which must be postmarked no later than 30 days prior to an election.

🇺🇸 If you miss the 30-day deadline, you can still sign up in time for the election, but you must register in person no later than 15 days before the election.

🇺🇸 You can download a form to register by going to: www.secstate.wa.gov/ and click on "Register to Vote."

🇺🇸 You may register to vote in person at Spokane County Elections Department, 1033 W. Gardner Avenue, Spokane, Washington between the hours of 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. The phone number is 477-2320.



Student Article from Hallett Elementary School

By Allyssa Sjolie and Savannah Shaw

Imagine how it would feel not being able to hear, needing to watch the lips of people talking, or needing an interpreter to know what people are saying. This is Logan Drinkard's world. When Logan was 12 months old, he contracted a virus that doctors think destroyed his hearing. He received his first Cochlear Implant, on his left side, when he was two. One part of this implant is placed inside his head and the other part is worn on his ear. When Logan was five, a second Cochlear Implant was put on his right side.

One week after his second birthday, JoBeth Deibel, a teacher of the deaf at Linwood Elementary School, started teaching him sign language. At the age of three Logan attended Linwood Elementary School, a preschool especially for deaf students, for two years.

He started kindergarten at Medical Lake Elementary School and now is a fifth grader in Mr. John's class at Hallett. His classmates are very respectful of his needs. Logan's class uses an f.m. microphone to bring sounds closer to and clearer for him. Mr. John's class is learning sign language from Mrs. Connolly, Logan's interpreter, here at Hallett. Students and Logan are enjoying being able to communicate with each other.

Mrs. Connolly is fluent in sign language. She received an interpreting degree in 1998 from Spokane Community College. She started working with Logan, in the Medical Lake School District in 2001. She enjoys watching Logan and his classmates grow in their ability to communicate. Logan has many friends, loves to play X box and has a very funny sense of humor. He has overcome many obstacles. We wish him well in all that he decides to do.



The Before School Intervention Program (BSIP) has been a rousing success at Michael Anderson Elementary. Nearly 60 students in grades 1 through 6 have had an extra opportunity to practice math and reading skills with the help of teachers and paraprofessionals from the school. Students are nominated to the program by their classroom teachers, who then work with the BSIP teachers to develop appropriate curriculum. The 45 minute to 1 hour sessions have meant about 16 hours of extra time for the students, which equals nearly 3 extra days of instruction.



Preschool Screening

Medical Lake School District provides an ongoing preschool screening for those who live in the Medical Lake School District. The screening will be offered at no cost to all children, birth through five years of age, in order to prepare for their future educational needs.



If parents would like more information about the screening, please contact the Educational Support Services office at 565-3408



High School AG/FFA Activities



Twenty one FFA members are busy preparing animal projects by purchasing and managing steers, lambs, and hogs for the Spokane Junior Livestock Show held May 2-7, 2006.

Eight Ag Communications students participated in the District V Agricultural Sales & Service Career Development event that took place in Reardan on February 8. Students tested their skills in product sales demonstrations, and sales practicums that included; customer relations, prospecting for customers, and taking orders for products. Students involved were Jessica Hamilton, Jenny Barber, Anna Snyder, Korianne Lybbert, Billy Sabatino, Mitchell Brown, Brandon McIlroy, and Sarah Warman. High scorers were Korianne Lybbert and Billy Sabatino.

Students are preparing for the Food Science contest that will take place in May at the State FFA Convention at WSU. Team members will include Austin Lowery, Sarah Warman, Anna Snyder, and Heather Whaley. This contest encourages FFA members to gain an awareness of career and professional opportunities in the field of food science and technology, marketing and management occupations.

Beginning Ag students are honing their speaking skills by practicing for the Rituals contest. Members Brett Moriarty, Kolette Lowe, Jade Adams-Haynes, Jordan Lynch, Greysen Danae, Kayla Tisdall, and Ben Brown are putting together a team effort to compete in speaking before a group and exercising team problem solving skills. This event will be held March 7 at Liberty High School.

Anna Snyder and Korianne Lybbert competed in a public speaking contest held in conjunction with the Ag Expo and Farm Forum held on Jan. 12 at the Spokane Veteran's Memorial Arena. The Spokane County Cattleman's Group sponsored the event, which included six students from Eastern Washington competing in the event. Anna Snyder finished second and received a \$300 award.



Medical Lake High School FFA Students had fun selling Christmas trees again this year.

On January 21, 2006, Kaitlyn Lang was awarded 2nd place in the VFW essay contest. Her teacher is Mrs. Huffman at Hallett. Congratulations, Kaitlyn



IMMUNIZATION UPDATE:

Chickenpox (varicella) is more than just an itchy rash. It is one of the most common childhood illnesses. It spreads easily and can have serious complications especially for infants, adolescents and adults.

Chickenpox can lead to serious skin infections, pneumonia, meningitis and even death. Even in milder cases of chickenpox, it is uncomfortable and difficult to treat itchiness and there is potential for scarring.

The Washington State Board of Health has adopted a change to add immunity to varicella as a requirement for students who attend school and licensed child care beginning July 1, 2006.

Children affected by this requirement are:

- *Children 19 months of age up to Kindergarten entry attending licensed child care or preschools beginning July 1, 2006,
- *Children attending Kindergarten in school year 2006-2007 and
- *Children attending 6th grade in school year 2006-2007.

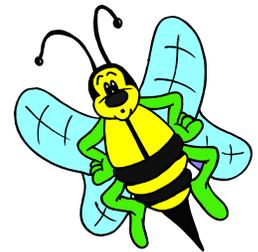
Please make sure you update your child's health records before the first day of school in fall 2006. A parent letter will be coming with more information soon.

MIDDLE SCHOOL GEOGRAPHY BEE

David Swanson—National Geography Bee Winner! Congratulations!! On January 11, 2006, the MLMS Geography Bee was held. Questions were very difficult, such as: To shop in the marketplace in Luanda, called the Rogue Santeiro, you would travel to which country in southern Africa? (Angola)

We are very proud of our students, and in addition to David, those who qualified to

participate were: Megan Redinger, Jake Schmehl, Jonathan Wightman, Brian Spracklen, Alex Julagay, Keith Walden, Myryda Johnson, James Sharr, Emily Lewan, Casey Sweet, Richard Aley, Kodi Hewett, Michael Besterci, Alex Haynes, Daniel Nelson, Joshua Stebbins, Nate Nichols, Trevor Dotson, and Christian Blasingame.



Substitutes Needed

*The Medical Lake School District is very much in need of paraeducator substitutes. If you are interested, please stop by the District Office for an application.**

**WSP background/fingerprinting is a requirement and the fee is \$65.00.*



MEDICAL LAKE SCHOOL DISTRICT

***P.O. Box 128
Medical Lake, WA 99022
Phone: 565-3100 Fax: 565-3102***

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POSTAL PATRON/RURAL ROUTE

Medical Lake Experiential High School
A Non-traditional Learning Experience

You might have noticed a new building has moved into the parking lot between the tennis courts and the Medical Lake School District Office. This building is where the Medical Lake Experiential High School is located.

Medical Lake Experiential High School is a non-traditional alternative learning experience designed for self-motivated, independent learners. Alternative education encompasses all who seek education through formats other than the traditional comprehensive school. By definition, alternative education is something different, something not the same as a traditional program. Different does not mean easier, nor does it imply that the rigor is less strenuous than the traditional school. Students must demonstrate that they have skills to work independently.

Students may attend full-time, attend both the Medical Lake High School and the Medical Lake Experiential School, or attend to recover credits for failed classes. It is a wonderful program for students who have children, or students who have to work, as it provides flexibility in their school hours.

The goal of the Medical Lake Experiential High School is:

- To support high quality alternative education options which contribute to improved outcomes for all students through diverse approaches to learning and instruction,
- To lift all barriers to learning for all students,
- To challenge all students, and
- Meet the needs of all learners.

Each student enrolled in the Experiential High School shall have a written student-learning plan designed to meet their individual educational needs with input from the student, parent(s) and teacher. Progress will be reviewed every four weeks. This review must be linked to progress made with the learning goals in the plan and will be adjusted as needed.

Oral and written communication skills, problem solving ability, self-management capacity, and a cooperative working style are focal points of the school. For more information about the Medical Lake Experiential High School please call Rocky Rissler, 565-3132 or Susan Duckett, 565-3136.

"Medical Lake Experiential High School is a Learning Community"